



Alexander High School

COUGAR BAND

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David White and Andy Daniel - Directors

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Welcome to the Alexander High School Cougar Band!

Eighth Grade Band Parents and Students:

Registration for Alexander High School is fast approaching. We are very excited about your future involvement in the Alexander High School Cougar Band. We have had an exciting year and are anxiously awaiting your participation in the program.

Registration for your 9th grade year should be a relatively simple process. To remain a part of the band program in high school, you will sign up for Concert Band (whether you are planning to participate in marching band or not). This is not your final placement for a band class - there are several levels of band placement that will be determined at a later time. Please understand that an audition is NOT required to be a member of the high school band program. The audition process is only for class and chair placement. We will determine what class best fits your needs (Symphonic Band, Concert Band I, Concert Band II) based on the audition. For now, all you have to do is select Concert Band as one of your electives.

As most of you know, the marching band is one of the most visible organizations in the entire school. Through performances at football games, competitions, parades, and other special events, our band students represent Alexander High School and Douglas County Schools with great pride. In order to be a performing member of the marching band, you must attend all sessions of summer band camp (July 13-17) and be enrolled in a band class. Please mark your calendars with the dates on our important dates that are attached to this letter. If you will be out of town during one of the summer music or marching rehearsals please email us. Band Camp is July 13-17 from 7:30AM-4:30PM. THE ENTIRE WEEK OF CAMP IS REQUIRED! Prior to band camp we will send paperwork through the Band app and Google Classroom that must be completed electronically through PRIVIT. This will need to be done by the beginning of camp in order to participate. Please note, a physical is required to participate.

We hope that you plan to be a member of the prestigious Alexander High School Cougar Band! We look forward to welcoming you into our band family at Alexander.

Andy Daniel

David White



Eighth Grade Band Information

It's that time of the year to start thinking about plans for high school! *Welcome to the Alexander High School Band Program.* I would like to encourage you to continue your instrumental music study when you reach high school. This paper explains your opportunities in the AHS Band as an incoming freshman. There are two opportunities for freshman students who play a band instrument: Concert Band and Marching Band.

AHS Cougar Marching Band is one of the most popular co-curricular activities at Alexander High School. The band performs at parades, football games, community events, and band festivals/competitions. The band practices after school and performs on most Fridays and two Saturdays in the fall. It is not possible to participate in fall athletics since rehearsals and performances conflict. Summer practices include Band Camp, and other practices at the end of July and beginning of August in preparation for early performances. **The week of Band Camp is required for all marching band members.** All marching band members must be enrolled in either a concert band class.

Some eighth graders are intimidated about going into the program. Please keep in mind that every year many freshmen participate and do very well. A special program of instruction, help, and encouragement will prepare you for the skills you will need. Participating in the AHS Band Program is a great way to make friends and become comfortable in the high school setting.

You can also check the Band website – www.musicofahs.com for more information about our program. If you would like to receive the email news, sign-up on the front page of our website.

There are typically various other opportunities to perform such as jazz ensembles and small ensembles. In order to be in these groups you must be enrolled in the Concert Band.

We encourage you to continue your instrumental music study by signing up for both the Concert Band and the Marching Band!



CURRICULAR OFFERINGS

Prior to beginning the school year, all students entering the Alexander High School Band Program will be required to perform a placement audition that will determine which ensemble they will be assigned to for the following year and chair placement. All students will perform set criteria and then will be placed based on the results of their performance.

The curricular band program at Alexander consists of three band ensembles:

Concert Band II
Concert Band I
Symphonic Band

Concert Band II and Concert Band I take one elective slot and Symphonic Band takes two for winds and one for percussionists. Placement is based on auditions.

Other Available Music Electives:

Guitar
(Open to grades 9-12)
Music Technology
(Open to grades 9-12)
Intro to Musical Theater
(Open to grades 9-12)
Intermediate Music Theory/AP Music Theory
(Open to Band/Chorus students in grades 10-12)

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Marching Band—The Alexander High School Cougar Marching Band is one of the school's largest co-curricular activities. This award winning band performs at parades, football games, community events, and band competitions and represents Alexander High School throughout the area. This group also takes trips to perform at places such as Disney World, Universal Studios, Tampa, etc.

Jazz Ensembles are offered when there is enough interest. The rehearsals for this group are typically outside of the normal school day.

Solos and Ensembles are opportunities for band members to play in small groups to improve their skills. Much of the rehearsal is on an independent self-study basis. There are opportunities to perform for students that are interested.



Fall/School Year Schedule

At the beginning of the school year, we have three rehearsals per week. After competitions have been completed in October, the rehearsal schedule will be reduced.

Mondays	3:40-6:30pm Full Rehearsal
Tuesdays	3:40-6:30pm Full Rehearsal
Wednesdays	No Rehearsal
Thursdays	3:40-6:30pm Full Rehearsal
Fridays	Football Games
Saturdays	Marching Band Competitions (two)

Possible Contest Dates

We will select two Saturdays in late September or early October to participate in a marching competition. We will most likely have a football game scheduled on the weekend of our Fall Break and could possibly have a competition during that time. We ask that you please not schedule trips that will interfere with the game or competition.

Varsity Football Schedule

The band attends all Varsity Football games (including away games).

Attendance at games is mandatory for all marching band members.