

FAQs about High School Band

- 1. Can you participate in athletics and clubs as well as band?**
 - a. Almost every band student is in another club or activity - it's a part of being a well rounded student! Most evening activities intentionally begin after athletic practices, but conflicts are a normal part of being an active student. Students should compare schedules at the beginning of their season and send an email about conflicting dates. From there, we can work as a team to find the best possible solutions and use our athletic/activity participation policy that sets up flexibility with schedules and possible conflicts.
- 2. How do I fit band class into my schedule with all of my other interests?**
 - a. Zero hour health & PE, summer school classes (depending on the class; these can be easier), 7 class choices PLUS a built in 45 min lunch & 35 min resource period/study hall.
- 3. What are the benefits of being involved in band?**
 - a. Qualify for the All-State Music festival, Travel to Disney World & California, friendships, theme days, band family, field trips (NU Band Day, NIU Jazz Day, Purdue Jazz Fest, Fitzgerald's Jazz Club, travel, etc), memories, success/rewards/excellence in performances here at FHS and at regional festivals!
- 4. Is band a class?**
 - a. Yes! It meets daily during the school day. It counts towards your GPA, graduation credit, etc!
- 5. What are some of the instrumental classes & extra-curricular activities associated with bands?**
 - a. **Classes:** Concert Band, Accelerated Concert Band, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Accelerated Symphonic Wind Ensemble
 - b. **Extra-Curricular & Co-Curricular:** Marching Band, Pep Band, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Lab Band, Pit Orchestra, Color Guard, Banda Club, & Solo & Ensemble contest
- 6. What if I am not sure if I want to do band?**
 - a. Remember when you wouldn't eat the food made for you by your parents? They always said, "Try it before you decide you don't like it." Band is the same way. You should sign up for band even if you are unsure. It is much easier to drop a class than to join late when you decide you miss it.
- 7. Which band should I register for?**
 - a. All incoming students should register for Concert Band, unless Mr. George decides a different class would be more appropriate.
- 8. How is band different in high school?**
 - a. While the actual act of playing your instrument is similar, the social network and safety net that high school band provides is very different from middle school/junior high. From day one, you will be musically and personally mentored by successful upperclassmen that have a vested interest in your success. You will have dozens of new and like-minded friends before school even begins and have experiences (Friday night football games and trips) that are unlike anything you have experienced in junior high/middle school.
- 9. Why should I be in Marching Band?**
 - a. Success at competitions, performances here and abroad, Friday night lights with friends, memories that will last a lifetime, new members make new friends before school starts, it looks great on a college application, Pep Band Wall of Fame opportunities, travel to California & other regional locations, Marching Band Themes, lettering awards, student leadership, end of year awards, and a great tan!
- 10. What is color guard?**
 - a. Color Guard is a visual representation of the music and combines movement, dance, and equipment performance (flag and other equipment). Anyone at Fenton can be in the color guard and this is a great way for non-band members (your friends) to be in a group with you at Fenton!