



May 18, 2026

Dear YPAS Band Students and Parents,

I am so excited to meet the 2026-2027 YPAS Band Program and look forward to the opportunity to facilitate your growth as musicians! The start of the 2026-2027 school year will be here before we know it! I am looking forward to providing a fantastic musical and educational experience for you and have high expectations for all of our ensemble members! With our summer break just beginning, I believe it is important to share some information with everyone regarding the beginning of school as well as other vital information.

The majority of the information needed by students and parents can be accessed via our website [YPAS/Manual Bands](#). The websites contain several great pages, including the calendar (a Google calendar which you can sync to your devices), forms, paperwork, important links, reference recordings for new repertoire, and much more. I hope you will find this to be a useful tool for staying informed about the program and your individual student's progress. We will not hand out hard copies of the YPAS Band Handbook (Syllabi), YPAS Band Calendar, or the forms to be filled out and returned at the beginning of the year. These documents have been uploaded at [YPAS/Manual Bands](#).

As I begin my 14th year of teaching (6th year at YPAS), I want you to know that I am excited about your participation in the YPAS Band Program. The repertoire for the ensembles this year contains some of the most influential works in the history of wind band literature, some contemporary and very challenging compositions, and some great orchestral transcriptions. We will also be performing brand new compositions as well as some works for ensembles of reduced size for one-on-a-part opportunities. Many of you will be assuming new leadership roles in your sections and I look forward to this being a truly rewarding experience for all of us as we learn and perform great music together!

The YPAS Wind Ensemble has been invited as a featured ensemble to perform a joint concert at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music on Thursday, October 15th. We will be performing Modest Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition" and will have the opportunity to hear CCM's Wind Ensemble, clinic with their Director of Bands, and meet other CCM faculty. This opportunity was made possible by our recent performances at the Midwest Clinic, the National Concert Band Festival, the CBDNA/NBA Conference, and the KMEA conference. Similar to how we handled unique performance opportunities in the past, students who are selected for wind ensemble will be required to participate in this trip. We have preemptively placed students in ensembles based on their current contributions in class, scores on assignments, participation in honor groups, attendance, attitude, etc... In addition, we will hold auditions for ensembles during band camp before the fall semester begins (7/30, 7/31, and 8/3). For all players (woodwinds, brass, & percussion), the audition music will be a combination of excerpts from pieces that we will be performing in ensembles. Hopefully, this provides incentive for dedicating time for practice, lessons, and listening over the summer. I have included more details about the audition process below. Fortunately, I have already been able to secure some funding for the trip. I will know more in the fall, but I can tell you that the cost of the trip will be no more than \$150 per student - this will help cover lodging and transportation costs. We will need chaperones for this trip. Since the Manual Marching band will be doing a spring trip to Disney/Universal open to all marching band members, I am doing everything that I can to bring down the cost of our trip to Cincinnati. I will be sending out additional details as we get closer to the beginning of school.

The accolades and accomplishments of the YPAS Band Program are recognized at the state, national, and international levels. Over the past several years, our ensembles have performed at the College Band Directors National Association/National Band Association Conference (2026), the Jazz Education Network Conference (2026), Midwest Clinic (2023, 2025, & 2026), Phi Beta Mu Concert Festival (2025 & 2026), the MFA Windfest (2024 & 2025), MFA Mid-Atlantic Regional Concert Band Festival (2024), KMEA Conference (2023, 2025), and the MFA National Concert Band Festival (2023). The expectations continue to rise here at YPAS as well as when we perform at state and national venues. The recognition of the school name and association with high quality students and performances pays

dividends for the students as well when they go to audition for admission and scholarships to universities and conservatories. Therefore 100% participation in these events is critical to their success. We can only perform at our highest levels if we have all our students working together with a complete instrumentation and everyone performing the parts they have prepared.

One year-round fundraiser all families should take advantage of is the Kroger Rebate Program. If you shop at Kroger anyway, this program is a “no brainer.” Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and USE CODE **11130** to support YPAS Bands. When you pay for your groceries, prescriptions, and even gas, the band will receive a monthly rebate which will go into an account to reduce the overall cost of trips. You will see even greater benefits by getting immediate family members as well as other relatives and friends who are willing to participate. No additional costs, nothing to sell, no products to hand out, no money to collect!

It is important that all band families become members of our school support group known as the Producers. The Producers support group is the main funding source for the band program. The Producers have helped purchase the instrument storage lockers, chairs, music stands, most of the school owned instruments, all the computers, much of our band library, and many other necessary items. They also fund the stipends for our instrumental specialists and accompanists who work with the students throughout the year. This is a vital aspect of the program and it could not happen without the financial support of the Producers. Joining does not mean that you have to attend meetings every month and “devote your life” to the group (although many do and that is why they are so successful). It does, however, allow you to support the artistic endeavors of all the events at YPAS. If you have any questions regarding the Producers, please check out their website at [The Producers @ YPAS](http://TheProducers@YPAS)

Senior band members need to be preparing for the Senior Band Feature auditions which will take place after school on August 6th. We have four slots to devote to senior features at our YPAS band concerts this year. Go to the website to get the audition form. Also, don't forget about the YPAS Concerto Competition, LYO auditions and Concerto Competition, the LO Young Artists Competition, and “From the Top.”

Manual/YPAS Crimson Day:

July 31st FRESHMEN 9:00am - 3:00pm Crimson Day

August 6th FIRST DAY FOR ALL STUDENTS (*7:30am start time)

You will be able to pay YPAS Band fees online via My School Bucks or at your orientations.

Music Fee: \$130

Instrument Rental Fee: \$50

Band Attire Fee: \$45 unisex top or \$80 dress (All new members)

Auditions:

All YPAS Band students (majors & non-majors) will audition on excerpts from next year's repertoire list. Percussionists will prepare materials that will be emailed out in June. Band auditions will occur live on 7/30/2026 (8:30am-4:30am), 7/31/2026 (8:30am-4:30pm). Makeup audition will occur on 8/3/2026 (2:00pm-5:00pm). Jazz auditions will occur on 8/3/2026 (2:00pm-5:00pm). All students must audition for placement within our ensembles. We will use these auditions to select students for Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band and determine chair placement within the ensembles. Students should only prepare excerpts from the following parts (flute 1, oboe 1, bassoon 1, clarinet 1, bass clarinet, alto sax 1, trumpet/cornet 1, horn 1, trombone 1, 3rd trombone or bass trombone, euphonium, & tuba). You will receive specific excerpts from the repertoire to prepare in early June, but you are strongly encouraged to start listening, studying, and practicing these pieces immediately. Links to jazz audition materials and concert band parts and conductor scores can be viewed in the Google Drive link below. You can find which pieces that your excerpts will come from by viewing your individual instrument folders. Reference recordings are included below.

 2026-2027 YPAS Band Audition Materials

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. During the school year, I can be reached at YPAS at 485-8355 (Main Office at YPAS) or (606) 923-6309 (Cell). If I am unavailable at the time of your call, please leave a message and I will get back with you ASAP. You may find it easier to contact me via email kevin.callihan@jefferson.kyschools.us

This is going to be an exciting year and I absolutely can't wait to get started. We accomplished so much as a group last year and I look forward to seeing what you are able to bring to the table this year! Enjoy your summer vacation and make sure you are practicing and keeping your chops in shape, as we will hit the ground running the first day of school (bring your instruments). As a reminder to all incoming and returning students; the motivation, work ethic, and dedication that you bring to class each day will be the most important factors to our success as a program and your success as a student musician! See you soon!

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin M. Callihan
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