

DeLand High School Band - Frequently Asked Questions

Hi and welcome to the DeLand High School Band family! We are so excited to welcome you to your musical home for the next four years and beyond. High school band will be one of the most fun and rewarding experiences of your life. This is where you will meet your best friends and make memories that last a lifetime. You will work harder than you ever have in your entire life. You will experience joy, pain, sweat, tears, love, and music beyond anything you could ever imagine. You will have goofy fun and also experience what it truly means when we say "Hard work pays off."

We have compiled this document to answer some of the questions asked most frequently about our program. If think of any other questions, please feel free to email Ms. Leimer at delandband@gmail.com.

Is Marching Band mandatory?

Yes, except in extenuating circumstances. Marching band is the one activity that brings all of our band students together for a common performance goal. This is where the best bonds are made within our band family. Ask any student in our band program and they will tell you how much fun they have in the Marching Bulldogs. The Florida Bandmasters Association believes that marching band is an important part of a fully comprehensive high school band program and we subscribe to that philosophy as well. Our Marching Bulldogs are extremely active in our community performing at football games, parades, and other community events.

Do I have to attend the Preseason Summer Band Camp?

Yes. Trust me, you DO NOT want to miss this! Band Camp is the time when you will learn how to march, how to play our show music and stands tunes, and start learning our halftime show. This is also the time when you get to know your section and the rest of the band – the time when our band family bonds are created. Band Camp isn't all work – we have lots of fun too!!! If you have any questions or have a conflict with those weeks, please email Ms. Leimer (delandband@gmail.com).

What is the time commitment for high school band?

The marching band rehearses two days a week after school – Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00-6:30pm. Performances are almost every Friday night at our home and away varsity football games as well as one major Saturday performance for FBA Music Performance Assessment (MPA). We also perform at four community parades on Saturdays throughout the year – DHS Homecoming, Veterans, Christmas, and Dog Parade. Marching season ends the first weekend of November with MPA.

During concert season, each band rehearses one day per week after school. Symphonic Band on Tuesdays 4:00-6:00pm; Wind Ensemble on Wednesdays 3:00-5:00pm. In addition to FBA District and State Concert MPAs, the concert bands perform 4 concerts per year – Veterans Day (November), Winter Prism (December), Pre-MPA (February), and Spring (late April/early May). Additionally, we feature our Jazz Band and percussion ensembles in early May at our "Night of Jazz & Percussion" concert at the Athens Theatre.

For all rehearsals and performances, please check out our band calendar (www.delandhsband.com/calendar).

Can I participate in other campus activities such as athletics, clubs, and organizations while being a member of the band?

YES!!! We have had students in our band involved with virtually every athletic team, club, and organization on the DeLand HS campus. Our students are also active in community organizations while being active members of the band. The key to making it all work is communication. As long as all conflicts are communicated well in advance, we can make compromises that allow students to participate in multiple activities.

As a general rule of thumb, we follow these guidelines:

- *Club mtg. vs. Rehearsal – split the conflicting time evenly*
- *Practice vs. Performance – performance takes precedent*

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- *Rehearsal vs. Game – game takes precedent*
- *Practice vs. Rehearsal – split the conflicting time evenly*
- *Game vs. Performance – work it out on a case by case basis (we've had many times where a band member performs in their game jersey to make it work – we can get really creative to help these hard-working students out)*

*There will be times when our rehearsals have to take precedents because we are really close to an MPA or concert. There will be times when your athletic practice has to take precedents because it is really close to a major game or districts. ALL of these things can be worked out as long as we keep the lines of communication open and honest. Being active in multiple activities looks **great** on your college applications!*

Can I work at job while being a member of the band?

Yes. As long as you utilize the band calendar when requesting your work schedule you will be fine. We have a large number of students that work jobs while being a member of the band. Again, it's all about communication. Please note – work is not an excusable reason to miss rehearsals or performances. Students are expected to plan ahead and utilize the band calendar to make sure that their work schedule does not conflict with band, just as they would for school.

Can I take Jazz Band only?

No. Jazz Band is a secondary band elective class in which we focus on the various genres of music within the jazz idiom. Students are required to take a concert band class (or percussion class) because this is where they will learn, develop, and perfect the fundamentals of playing their instrument(s) and these skills are necessary to successfully perform in Jazz Band.

Do I have to audition for high school band?

No. Students are not required to audition to be part of the band, however there are ensembles within the band program that require an audition to be a member. Students who would like to be considered for membership in the Wind Ensemble should email Ms. Leimer for instructions on submitting a video audition.

What is the difference between Drumline and Front Ensemble?

Both Drumline and Front Ensemble are part of the percussion section of the Marching Bulldogs. The Drumline is the part of the section that marches on the field with snare drums, bass drums, and tenor drums. The Front Ensemble is the part of the section that is stationary at the front of the field with keyboard instruments and other concert percussion instruments. The majority of the instruments in the Front Ensemble (also known as "Pit") carry melodic parts while the Drumline (also known as "Battery") is responsible for the more rhythmic and time keeping elements in the percussion section. Students will be placed within the percussion section. All percussionists will be contacted about this soon.

I've never been in band before. Can I still join?

Yes! As long as you are willing to work hard, we will teach you everything you need to know. We happily welcome beginners into our band family.

Can I take dual enrollment classes and still be in the band? What about IB, Advanced Placement, ROTC, career academies, etc.?

Yes. Yes to all of that. We have some of the best and brightest students at DeLand High School in our band program. Students that are involved with multiple programs, especially those that are academically rigorous, tend to be more successful in everything that they do.

If you have any other questions that were not addressed in this document, please email our band director at delandband@gmail.com. #goband