

*The Bands of Union Grove*  
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[www.ughsband.org](http://www.ughsband.org)



Dear UGHS Band student and parents:

In approximately two weeks, the marching season will begin for the members of the 2016 edition of the UGHS Marching Wolverines, and I hope that all of you are as excited about the upcoming season and year as I am. Woodwind and brass players should be learning the materials from the Foundations For Superior Performance book (the blue book: page 4 exercises 1A-1D and pages 6-8 paying careful attention to chromatic fingerings for the woodwinds and valve/slide combinations for the brass-this book was mentioned in the previous letter). Also, in preparation for camp, all woodwind, and brass players should make sure that they are familiar with and working towards the memorization of the music included with this letter. The audio files of the show music should be on the band's website by the time you receive this mailing. Please use them as a reference for proper tempi, style, dynamics etc. I realize those of you that use school instruments do not have access to those right now. Students without school instruments should work to make yourself as familiar as possible with the music: unusual accidentals; tough rhythms; fingerings etc. I expect each student with an instrument at home to be familiar with and on the way to memorizing his/her music prior to arriving at the first rehearsal. We will begin the music pass off process during camp.

\*\*\*Helpful Music Hint: For those of you with little or no experience with the time signature of 12/8 time, you can drop the dot after the note and play as if it is in 4/4 time. There are a few exceptions to this, but if you will use this as a basic guide, the sound files can help you fine tune things regarding the exact rhythms.

\*\*\*Please Be Reminded\*\*\*

**Physicals**: All students participating in marching band at a Henry County school must have a physical in order to participate. Colorguard members and percussionists must have a physical form on file in the band office by Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> and all other marching band members must have a completed physical form on file by Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. I advise parents to keep a copy of the completed physical form for their records. Physical forms can be downloaded from the Athletics section of the school's website (Athletics→Athletic Forms→Physical Form). Physicals are considered valid by the school system for one calendar year, so any student that had a physical to participate in a school sport this past spring may use a copy of that form (I will need a copy for my records). You may visit your primary care physician for a physical, or there are several clinics and locations that offer lower cost sports physicals. The other forms on the Athletic Form page are not required, but it is a good idea for parents to be familiar with the information

**Band Fees and PayPal:** Information has been distributed regarding the fees for marching band throughout the spring and in the letter mailed earlier this summer. One thing I forgot to mention is that the UGHS Band does accept payment through PayPal. There is a link to our PayPal account on the band's website should you chose to make a payment using this method. Please be sure to include your child's name in the payment description/subject along with the reason for the payment.

**Band information:** Parents and students should check the UGHS Band website regularly for the most up to date information concerning the UGHS Band program. The band's website has a great new look, and we will continue to make adjustments to make it as easy and informative as possible to navigate and use. During the past several years, the UGHS Band has been moving away from paper communications and is working to rely more heavily on digital forms of communication to get information to everyone: band website, Remind 101 and Facebook. All calendars and vital information concerning the band will be on the website. Please do not always wait on me to send something home. Make sure to add [www.ughsband.org](http://www.ughsband.org) to the favorites list on your computer's browser. The band boosters and I will continue to use Facebook as a method of communication with our band members and parents. The listing is Union Grove High School Band Boosters. The UGHS Band is now also on Twitter and Instagram: @ughsband Please like/follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

**Parking/student drop off during all camp activities and practices for the season:** UGHS will be a very busy place during band camp. We will not be the only group at school conducting summer activities, so parents please drop off/pickup your student(s) in front of the school, and parents please help make sure that your child(ren) arrive on time (early) to rehearsals/performances/activities and are picked up in a timely manner afterwards. Students who drive need to park in the front parking lot. Please follow these procedures throughout the entire school year. Please allow for traffic and/or area construction like East Lake Road at GA 20.

**Volunteers:** Parents your help is needed and appreciated in order to have a successful camp, season and school year. Volunteers are needed for each band activity including camp, football games, competitions and other events throughout the year. All parents will receive a volunteer form at the band camp meeting Tuesday, July 12th. There will be a band camp specific sign-up sheet at the meeting on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, there will be a meeting of all volunteers for the Fall/football season in August sometime prior to our first football game. We need help from ALL parents in order to make sure that the students have the best possible experience.

**School owned instruments:** Mellophones and marching baritones can be picked up beginning Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00p.m. Should the date for instrument availability change, I will notify the affected students.

Here are some things to take care of prior to and during camp:

- The letter that was mailed out in June as well as this letter can be found via a link on the band's website. Please make sure that you and your child(ren) are familiar with the summer rehearsal/camp schedule as well as the other information included in the letters.

- The band handbook is on the band's website. The handbook contains a lot of information about our band including operational and procedural expectations. All parents and students should make themselves familiar with this document.
- Please schedule non-emergency medical appointments, driving tests and other activities at times other than during scheduled practice times. This includes summer rehearsals and once school starts.
- Students who spend most of their time indoors should gradually increase the amount of time that they spend outside prior to the beginning of band camp. The band is usually outside during the cooler morning and evening times, but it can still be hot during these times.
- Clothing- Please dress in light colored clothes. Remember all clothing items must be appropriate for a school activity. Tennis/athletic type shoes and socks are required. You can't march your best with sore feet. Bring a hat and sunglasses.
- Sunscreen- We will be spending time in the sun, so be smart. Take care of your skin. Also, please do not wear excessive amounts of perfume/cologne. They tend to attract insects.
- Re-sealable water bottle/thermos- It is important to drink a lot of water in order to stay hydrated. There are times when water may be provided for the students, but ALL students should bring their OWN container for water. Maintaining proper hydration is an on-going process. Drink water prior to, during and after rehearsals even if you don't think you are thirsty.

ONLY WATER in a re-sealable container will be allowed in the band room.

- Students should eat something each morning before they come to practice.
- Instrument- Make sure that your instrument is in working order and that you have your reeds, valve oil, drumsticks, mouthpiece, pencils, etc.
- Lyre- Each instrumentalist will need to have a music lyre for their instrument. These can be purchased inexpensively at one of our local music stores. If you have questions regarding what type of lyre is best for your child's instrument, please let me know, and I will be glad to assist you. Flute lyres are optional and percussionists do not need a lyre. I will provide lyres for all school owned instruments. Please let me know if you have questions about which type of lyre is best for your child's instrument.
- Identification- Please make sure that all of your personal items (instrument, lyre, water bottle, hats, sunglasses etc...) are labeled with your name. Many of these items look alike.

I am very excited about the upcoming season and school year, and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sincerely,

Stan Kramer, Director  
Union Grove High School Band