

ZEBULON B. VANCE HIGH SCHOOL BANDS
Robert W. Carrington, Director
7600 IBM Drive
Charlotte NC 28262
www.vanceband.org

MARCHING BAND 2008 INFORMATION

“STAND BY!..Band Ten-Hut!” I hope this letter finds you having a fun and relaxing summer. As you know the upcoming school year is approaching quite swiftly and therefore it is important that you get the needed information about upcoming events. As we enter our eleventh year of existence, we will be working to rise to challenges that await us. As many of you are aware, there is one band class offered this year. As we continue to use block scheduling it is important to realize that it is essential that everyone who wants to be in the band makes room in their schedule for the double block. This may mean that tough choices may be necessary. If you experience difficulty with scheduling, please let me know ASAP! With that in mind it is important that we step forward from this point “left” foot first so now here is the deal:

Band Registration

In order to guarantee you a spot in the band at Vance this year, you should either email or phone me of your intention. We will also be making phone calls in order to facilitate our effort. You may also go to our website and download the band forms. It is imperative to have all of your paperwork turned in and your \$100.00 deposit. Without either we can not order the correct number of shirts, flags, poles etc, nor have the drill written for the correct number of participants. Please take the time RIGHT NOW to complete these steps and mail the forms. All band members who fail to register for marching band will be removed from the band roster by late July (NO EXCEPTIONS!). SO DO IT NOW! As you can see it is VITAL for this task be completed in a timely manner. Additionally your will be given field placement as soon as we receive your \$100.00 deposit.

Our Show Concept for 2008

Our program this fall will consist of music from The Broadway Productions of West Side Story, Mamma Mia, Chicago, Hairspray and Rent. As we get into the show you will notice that a lot of effort has been placed on general effect. We will have three very different but exciting movements. The guard will be using a variety of equipment and there will be much movement on the field in general. There will be high velocity and much dependence on many of our marchers.

Marching Band Camp

Our annual marching band camp will occur in several phases so please read carefully. .

Monday 7/28 and Tuesday 7/29 Guard and Percussion report 7:30am-4pm

Wednesday 7/30 Leadership Team, Guard and Percussion report 7:30am-4pm

Thursday 7/31 Leadership Team, Guard, Percussion and FIRST YEAR/FRESHMEN MARCHERS report from 7:30am to 4pm. Veteran marchers may participate if they choose.

Friday 8/1 is Full (Everyone) Band Camp 7:30am-4pm

WE WILL NOT BE REHEARSING OVER THE WEEKEND!!!!

Monday 8/4-Thursday 8/7 is Full Band Camp 7:30am-8pm

Friday 8/8 is Full Band Camp 7:30am-8pm. We will have a Band Camp Performance that evening at 7pm! This performance will be for our parents, faithful alumni and fans.

What to Bring to Band Camp

Instrument, Tennis Shoes with SOCKS! (NO SANDALS), Sun Screen (SPF 15 or greater that protects from BOTH UVA and UVB Sunlight), HUGE Water Bottle, Hat, Sunglasses, Music Lyre, Flip Folder (Can get at music store), Supplies (Valve Oil, Reeds), Comfortable Clothes (Think Conservatively), Positive Attitude, Medications, Bug Spray, Lunch, Dinner and Snack Money, Towel, Paper, Pencil, All Forms, and Marching Shoe Money/Order Form (Veteran Marchers do not need to purchase new shoes).

Meals at Band Camp

It is imperative that all members of the band eat full meals while at camp. When students have problems during camp it is usually due to fact that they have not eaten enough food. You will be working quite a bit, so you will work off any extra calories that you may intake. It is also better not drink a lot of soda, but rather water and sports drinks that will replace much needed nutrients. As in years past, we will be collecting money each day for food to be ordered and delivered to you. It is usually around \$5.00 for each meal. Lunch will be provided by the school at NO CHARGE during band camp (Thanks to our awesome cafeteria). You may also bring your own meal or have your meal brought to you by a family member. For safety reasons, students will not be allowed to leave campus during lunch and dinner. We will also have snacks, water and sports drinks available for purchase during camp to assist in the nourishment of our members.

Payment Schedule for Band Lab Fee

The following payment schedule has been established to assist us in collecting the necessary funds for us to operate. Our lab fee covers less than 60% of our expenses. Understand that activities for the band will be contingent upon the collection of fees and fundraisers. Our Payment Schedule is as follows.

August 1st	100.00 Deposit due
September 1st	100.00 Installment due
October 1st	25.00 Installment due
Jan 1, 2009	75.00 due by members who do not sell at least 10 units of Fruit

First Day You Arrive At Camp

Band members should immediately report to the camp office to verify their registration information on their first day of camp. The camp office area will be in the Music Library at Vance (Not the director's office). Hours are 7-9am. Parents should escort their student to the registration area. For legal reasons, we can not have students participate until all paper work is complete.

Drop Off and Pick Up during Camp

Being mindful that most of our parents have full-time jobs, it is understandable that you may need to drop your student off earlier in the morning for camp. We will open the band room at 7am for early arrivals. When we release camp all students must be off campus immediately! Please be mindful that you should pick your child up at the indicated times upon release. Participants who violate this policy will be removed from the band program immediately.

Marching Band Shoes and Polo Shirts

Don Addis and Associates will be available at Vance during camp to take orders for marching band shoes. We will also be taking orders for our summer polo shirts that we wear during hotter parts of the season. You will be able to download the shoe and shirt order forms from the website in the upcoming month. Both items must be paid in advance. Students who already have marching band shoes (That fit and are in reasonable condition) from previous years need not purchase a new pair. Guard Members will also need to purchase new shoes at this time as well. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Carrington.

Schedules and Band Class

The basic schedule for the year is Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 2:45-5:30pm. Fridays call time will be determined week by week. At Vance, all band members participate in both the marching band and concert band. This allows us the time to maintain and develop an impressive program. We have found that the student and family become familiar with inner workings of the band program. It also allows for us to "bond" as a cohesive program thus furthering your student's musical and social development. In today's society, 13 and 14 year olds are going to "join" something. We all hope that they choose something that will be productive and for the better good of mankind. One common question I always get is what if my child plays football or participates in sports in the fall. Rest assured we coordinate our schedule to assist with the football team, cheerleaders, and some other popular sports at Vance. In return we ask that you work with your child with time-management in order for them to be successful in both endeavors as well as their academics.

BAND OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Snail Mail: Vance Band Boosters, 7600 IBM Drive, Charlotte NC 28262

Email: robert.carrington@cms.k12.nc.us

Website: www.vanceband.org

Phone 704.426.7650 (leave your name, number, and instrument on voice mail)

Items You WILL NEED for the Marching Season

In the warmer part of the season we DO NOT WEAR our NEW wool uniforms. We wear our golf shirts, Khaki Shorts, White Socks, and ALL WHITE tennis shoes (Inexpensive is preferred just no color). This allows our students to still have a uniformed look but be more comfortable. The alternative is to wear the uniform. Instrumentalists will also need to purchase a flip folder and lyre with extra flip pages. Flutes should purchase a "Flutists Friend" instead of a lyre. You can get these items at a music store such as Music and Arts (704.547.1616). Finally you will need a HUGE water bottle for water. Trust me; you will thank yourself for having enough water and then some.

School Instruments and Music

Any member who needs a school owned instrument may make arrangements with Mr. Carrington to pick one up at the band room any time during the summer. Student Leaders will also have the show music for those of you who might want to get started on the show before camp.

Final Thoughts

Marching Band Season is my favorite time of the year. Since it is only three months, it goes quickly. Take time to enjoy the whole process and create memories that will truly last a lifetime. Remember it's not the destination but the journey that matters. The best experiences are ones that force us off a planned path. Let's have totally unrealistic expectations and see what happens. A little crazy never hurts any group. I eagerly await your arrival in late July and please, please, please let me know of anything I might have missed. Finally, be safe and make good life choices and I will see you little over a month. "Band Dismissed!"

–Mr. Carrington