Dear Band Students and Parents,

As the band directors at Centennial High School, it is our pleasure to welcome you to CHS and introduce you to the many wonderful performance opportunities our school has to offer. Please note that any details in this letter are subject to change depending on course enrollment, county policies, etc.

COURSE OFFERINGS

The following ensembles are available to incoming band students as a class during the school day. A placement audition is required for all courses. Placement is based on the audition and instrumentation needs. Course offerings are subject to change.

Concert Bands (Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band, etc): Instruments in concert bands include flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, horn, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba, and percussion. Placement is based on audition and instrumental needs of the ensembles.

Percussion Ensemble: A separate class for percussionists. Percussion Ensemble performs as an independent ensemble in concerts and serves as the percussion section of one or more concert bands.

MARCHING BAND

Marching band is required for Wind Ensemble students and optional for Symphonic Winds and Symphonic Band students. If a student is in marching band, it is a co-curricular component of their band course. An audition is required for Symphonic Winds and Symphonic Band students and space is limited. More information will be available in March and auditions will be held in May. It is possible to participate in both marching band and a fall sport. In fact, more than 25% of our members participate in a fall sport at CHS.

Marching band students (and ALL Wind Ensemble students) are required to attend all marching band rehearsals and performances. Marching band rehearses two weeks before school starts for students and rehearses/perform on Fridays after-school through the fall. Occasionally, a football game will be scheduled on Saturdays. There are typically five football games a season plus an additional marching band event with other high schools in Howard County. In 2020, Marching Band will rehearse August 10-14 and August 17-21. Specific times TBA. Rehearsal attendance is REQUIRED for all Wind Ensemble students and students in Symphonic Winds and Symphonic Band that elect to participate in Marching Band.

In 2019, the CHS Marching Eagles had over 130 members. It is a strong and supportive community of students. Marching band is an outstanding opportunity for incoming students to meet people and make friends prior to the school year beginning. For more information about marching band, visit www.centennialmusic.org. An information letter from the fall 2019 season that includes required dates and policies is posted for your reference.

JAZZ BAND

Jazz band is an extracurricular activity that meets before school everyday. An audition is required and students must be enrolled in a band course except for pianists, guitarists, and bassists. More information will be distributed in May.

PLACEMENT AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held January 21-24, 2020. Specific times and locations TBA. Students will be asked to perform selections from their current band music, major scales up to 4 flats and sharps, a chromatic scale demonstrating their full range on the instrument, and sight-reading. Students wishing to be considered for higher-level concert bands must perform a solo/etude in addition to the requirements above. Students should perform a solo at the highest level of difficulty that they can play well.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working with you!

Centennial High School Band Directors

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