

HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

***FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

***2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

***STUDENT & PARENT TESTIMONIES**

Is it hard to memorize the music?

Students are only required to memorize the half time field show music and the parade tune. Students do not memorize stand music and pre-game music. Students are given the music before summer begins and then have ample rehearsal opportunities throughout August to memorize the music. Between practicing and tons of rehearsal, most students don't struggle with memorizing the music. Additionally, while the field show is 8 minutes in length, each student probably only has about 6 minutes of notes after rests are factored into the production. If students pay attention in rehearsal and take advantage of some down time through band camp, memorizing music is not a big challenge.

Will I need to practice?

All students in band, orchestra, and chorus are expected to practice the majority of days every week from 4th grade to 12th grade. The practice expectation does not change between 8th and 9th grade.

Will I need to demonstrate commitment?

Of course – any participation in any group activity (musical, band, athletic, club) requires commitment and dedication. Marching Band is a little unique in the fact that every student matters the same. Every student has their own unique and individual spot on the field that no one can take away and no one can replace.

Can students participate in a sport/cheerleading and band?

Absolutely! There were 35 fall athletes in the band last year. In fact, many of the band's student leaders also participate in a fall sport! Most conflicts will involve an athletic game against a band rehearsal. In this case it is obvious that the students will attend their athletic game and miss the band rehearsal. There are very few athletic conflicts with Friday night football games and Saturday night band competitions. In these situations, the band understands that the students will miss band to attend the athletic game the large majority of the time. We even had a 10th grader on the JV football team play in band this year and have also had some cheerleaders in band in previous years.

of students in band and a fall sport: In Line Hockey (2 students); Boys Soccer (5 students); Girls Soccer (4 students); Ultimate Frisbee (10 students); Crew-Rowing (5 students); Golf Team (1 student); Girls Tennis (1 students); Cross Country (6 students); JV Football (1 student)

Can students participate in the Fall Play (and/or Musical) and be in the marching band?

Absolutely – there are no conflicts between marching band and the fall play (and musical later in the year).

What kind of assignments are given?

Honestly, there are more playing assessments in 8th grade band than there are in HS band (except for Honors Wind Ensemble). The "assignments" are this – please try to practice like you have from 4th – 8th grade, please have good attendance, please be friendly, supportive, fun, and responsible. Please understand that there is a time to work, a time to rest, and a time to have a blast! Hopefully, with the proper investment, students all begin to understand that working hard toward a common goal is a blast and very rewarding! Symphonic Band and Concert Band have about 1 playing assessment for each of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grading quarters.

What kind of events does the band do outside of school?

The full marching band performs at 8 out of 10 football games. We take a volunteer pep band to the other 2 games. Additionally, the band competes at 4 competitions and performs at only 1 or 2 local parades and an annual band trip parade. Some recent band trip parade performances have included

marching down Mainstreet in Walt Disney World, appearing on national television in the Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade, and marching down Pennsylvania Avenue in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington DC. The bands also perform at PMEA Adjudications and the Wind Ensemble has performed at 3 PMEA State Conferences in the last 10 years. The marching band is headed to New York City this March for the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Do most kids in band enjoy it?

Yes! The large majority of kids who register for band in 9th grade continue in band through their senior year. We graduated 44 seniors from the band last year – this is huge number for any school and especially for a school of Hampton's size (compared to all larger schools that border Hampton). 51 students didn't stay in band through their senior year if they didn't enjoy it. The HHS Marching Band has just about 20% of the HHS student population in the band – this membership percent is double that of most programs in Allegheny County. Yes, NA and PR have larger bands but NA graduates about 450 more students per year than Hampton and PR graduates about 200 more students per year than Hampton. When you look at the participation percent of a HS student body, there is no other school in Allegheny County that compares to Hampton regarding the percent of students in the band. The large majority of all students' best band memories come from marching band (as opposed to an inside band). Hampton HS has about 981 students this year and 206 of those students are in the marching band (21%).

Is Band Camp mandatory?

The simple answer is, yes, band camp is mandatory. Band Camp happens before the official start of WPIAL athletic camps and it is the time of year that we learn the most material. Every effort must be made to be at all of band camp. In the very rare event that an impossible conflict is unavoidable (after genuine attempts to eliminate it), please let Mr. Himmeler know so the situation can be handled on a case-by-case basis. Students who miss a week of camp get very behind. Additionally, while band camp is time-intensive and hard work, it is also the time of year that students develop many great friendships and camaraderie with their peers. Sections become little families and students develop an understanding and appreciation for true teamwork, putting others first, and persevering through challenging situations. Between theme days, ice-cream, breaks, leadership & team building games, and "attack the staff" competitions, we make every effort to have band camp be a time of fun friendship building while also teaching lifelong lessons such as teamwork, hardwork, and bottom-up servant leadership.

Do Dance Team and Color Guard go on the band trips?

Yes, the Dance Team and Color Guard are integral parts of the marching band and are included in all marching band activities and performances!!! They are SUPER important to the band's collective success!!!! They ARE part of the band!

Can you play a winter and/or spring sport and be in band?

Of course – besides the band trip, there are no conflicts with marching band and spring/winter sports. There might be an occasional conflict with Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band/Concert Band like a concert or PMEA adjudication, but these situations are very rare. There are MANY students in band and also in winter/spring sports and/or musical.

How much time does the band practice in the summer?

The Color Guard has 2 night rehearsals per week throughout June and July. The Dance Team has a mini-camp of 2-3 days sometime during the summer. Percussion rehearse one morning per week in June and July. The brass & woodwinds rehearse for 4 mornings during July. The previously mentioned practices are summer practices where we know that attendance will never be 100% due to many family vacations and camps students attend. This is no problem! These summer practices are different than band camp.

The main part of band is the first two weeks of August and the complete marching band rehearses from 8AM – 5PM each day with an hour lunch break and other breaks throughout the day. There are also 4 three-hour evening rehearsals between the end of band camp and the first day of school. Please see the schedule.

Is it possible to play in an inside band and not in marching band?

No, band in HHS is a co-curricular class/extra-curricular activity. Students are automatically in the marching band when they register for the band class. However, there is a jazz band that runs from the end of October until the end of March. Jazz Band is 100% extra-curricular and there is no marching band pre-requisite to be in jazz band. Marching Band and Inside Band have been co-curricular for 37 of the previous 40 years. The 3 years that it wasn't co-curricular (1990-1992) saw both the marching band and inside band shrink by well over 50%. Once it was joined back together, the band program experienced tremendous growth in both quantity and quality that set-up the success we have sustained over well over the last decade.

When does the marching band rehearse once school begins?

Students in marching band will have 2 evening rehearsals per week for most of the first 9 weeks of school. One rehearsal will just be with your section (percussion, winds, guard, dance team) and then other rehearsal will be a full marching band rehearsal. Evening rehearsals run from 6:00 – 8:30 PM. Some weeks will have 2 rehearsals and some weeks will have just 1 rehearsal. There is a short dress rehearsal prior to Friday football games and before the 3 or 4 Saturday competitions. While this may seem like a lot of rehearsal, compared to other activities, it is actually pretty limited. HHS sports, HHS fall play, HHS musical, and even the HMS musical, all practice far more during the school year outside of the regular school hour than the marching band.

Do band students fundraise?

Many band students choose to participate in one, two, or more of the many fundraisers the Hampton Band Association manages for the students. Fundraisers exist to help the band take trips and fund equipment and staffing needs. Examples include hoagie sales (4 per year), Enjoy Book sale, pie sales (2 per year), gift card sales, restaurant nights, Holiday Extravaganza, and the Craft Sale/Flea Market.

What other expenses exist?

Each member is asked to pay a membership fee. Membership fees have been \$100 the last 5 years. This fee covers custom drill and music design, about 8 extra supplemental staff stipends, complimentary band banquet admittance for students, reduced band banquet admittance for parents, and many other miscellaneous items such as the annual t-shirt, flip folder windows, flip folder rings, dry-cleaning, and uniform maintenance. Families who pay the membership fee are permitted to participate in the fundraisers designed to help the band take trips. Students who use a school-owned instrument are asked to pay a \$40 instrument fee to help pay for a portion of the repair bills. New students are required to purchase marching shoes for \$35. And color guard and dance team members pay a uniform fee that covers a show-specific uniform for each year – usually around \$125.00 (this uniform stays with the student after the marching season is over).

How is band graded?

Grades are determined primarily through attendance during the 1st grading quarter, which is the marching band part of the year. Students earn participation points by attending rehearsals and performances. Students who miss a rehearsal for an excused conflict (HHS athletic conflict) receive an "X" in the gradebook. All rehearsals and performances are graded for attendance.

Grades for the 2nd – 4th grading quarters are handled similarly to 8th grade, with classroom participation and playing assessments. There are no practice charts in high school.

Are Friday nights fun?

Based on a great deal of observation over many years and watching 20 years of band videos, it is obvious that the very large majority of students have a lot of fun at football games. Students create dances and chants that go with some of the stand music we play. Many students use this time to also develop deeper friendships with many of the new friends they have met through being in the marching band. The students get most of the 3rd quarter "off" while they enjoy pizza behind the band bleachers (at home games). Student leaders get to visit with members of the other band. The best description of the band bleachers is that of a controlled party that supports the football team by dancing, chanting, and playing pep music.

What do band trips look like?

Band Trips are wonderful opportunities for students to participate in a prestigious parade with a very large audience (sometimes over 200,000 spectators in addition to a TV audience) in addition to creating amazing memories with their friends. Students have lots of unstructured time on band trips, whether that being in amusement parks, on the beach, on the bus, at restaurants, on dinner cruises, or other activities. Students are "on their own," within the facility or general area of our location, 99% of the time throughout band trips. Students also enjoy rooming with their friends and playing games/talking well into the night in their hotel rooms. Parents, please know that we do hire 3 to 4 police officers to be on the hotel floors all night to ensure student safety. The band has a tradition of going to Disney World every 4 years – the next Disney trip will be in the spring of 2021. The last 4 band trips were: Virginia Beach (2018), Disney (2017), Indianapolis 500 Parade (2016), Washington DC (2015).

How do you choose the music?

A small group of staff members (director, assistant director, dance team director, and color guard director) spend a great deal of time searching for and designing a show each year. Our goals are to always balance something that is familiar/fun entertainment while also keeping in mind educational priorities and design elements that will put us in a position for success at competitions. Our shows have a horizontal concept (or theme) that helps unify and "connect the dots" from beginning to end. Some recent show concepts have included "James Bond," "Fantasy of Flight," "Back To The Future," and "Forrest Gump." Some music from these shows has included: Skyfall, James Bond Theme, Harry Potter Theme, How To Train Your Dragon Theme, Back To The Future Theme, Johnny B. Goode, Fortunate Son, Go Your Own Way, Forrest Gump Theme, and Turn-Turn-Turn. Last year's show highlighted music from the recent Academy Award winning movie, *La La Land*.

Do you have to try out?

Yes and No. Students who desire a position on the Dance Team or Color Guard must audition. Not all students make the Dance Team or Color Guard. The Dance Team and Color Guard are 100% extra-curricular activities. Percussion students must audition to determine which instrument they will play. Please note: percussion students don't audition to "make it" in the band; they audition for snare drum, for bass drum, for front ensemble, etc. Sometimes percussion students don't get the instrument they prefer. This can be normal for 9th and 10th graders while they "pay their dues" before landing on an instrument of their preference for their junior and/or senior years. Having said that, sometimes an 8th grader "nails" their audition and lands on the exact instrument they desire. Brass & Woodwind students do not audition for anything related to marching band other than occasional solo or small ensemble features. All instrumental students are automatically in the HS marching band through registering for the band class at scheduling time.

What does the marching band staff look like?

The marching band has a director, assistant director, 2 associate directors, 3 percussion directors, dance team director, 2 color guard directors, and additional section staff (for band camp). Example, each instrument section will have a staff member to rehearse the students in sectionals.

What inside bands exist in Hampton High School?

The high school has a concert band (proficient players), symphonic band (accomplished players), and Honors Wind Ensemble (for advanced players). All three groups are determined based on a placement audition (again – this is not an audition to be in band; it is an audition to determine which band students will be assigned to). The high school also has a percussion ensemble (pull-out from Wind Ensemble) and an extra-curricular Jazz Band and extra-curricular large percussion ensemble.

Is it intimidating to play with older students?

No, the older students are very friendly, supportive, and helpful. The older students want the new students to succeed. It is very common for older students to make friends with new students. Many 9th grade students comment on how comfortable the first day of school was because they already knew so many older students as a result of being in the marching band.

Is it worth the work?

Absolutely - please read the marching band testimonies from the current high school students! So many life lessons are learned in marching band: teamwork; responsibility; the more you put into something the more you get out of it (investment); time-management; how to properly draw upon your emotions; artistry; creativity; dependability; trust; friendship; patience; compassion; perseverance; diligence; detail-oriented; being "in" the moment with people around (as opposed to always being plugged into cyberspace); leadership; service; learning how to win humbly; learning how to lose maturely; learning how to be a part of the answer instead of part of the problem; the value of hard work; learning that both the individual, and the collective group, can achieve higher than originally thought possible; learning how to be an encourager; the list can really go on and on. Society continues to become more and more consumption-based. Marching Band, on the other hand, allows the students to be the makers-producers-creators.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 28 – February 8:	Concert Band/Symphonic Band placement audition in class for 8 th through 11 th graders
Wednesday, February 6:	Honors Wind Ensemble auditions after school at HHS
Tuesday, April 16:	Drum Major Auditions (10 th or 11 th graders) @ 3:00 PM
Wednesday, April 24:	Section Leader Auditions/Interviews (10 th and 11 th graders) @ 3:15 PM
Wednesday, May 1:	Percussion Assignment Auditions @ 3PM at HHS Band Room
April 30, May 1:	Dance Team Audition Practice from 3PM – 5PM @ HHS
Thursday, May 2:	Dance Team Auditions from 3 PM – 5PM @ HHS
May 6, May 8:	Color Guard Audition Practice from 6PM – 9PM @ HHS
Friday, May 10:	Color Guard Auditions from 6PM – 9PM @ HHS
May 22 & 23:	New Member & Percussion Mini Camp from 3PM – 5:30 PM @ HHS
Thursday, May 23:	Spring HBA Membership Meeting (great for new parents!!)
May 28 & 29:	New Member & Percussion Mini Camp from 3PM – 5:30 PM @ HHS
Summer Rehearsals TBA:	Color Guard usually holds practices 2 nights per week Dance Team usually holds a short mini-summer 2-3 day camp Percussion usually practice one morning each week Woodwinds and Brass (Winds) usually practice 1 morning per week the four weeks before Band Camp begins

BAND CAMP:

Week 1:	Monday, July 29 through Friday, August 2 from 8AM – 5PM Kennywood Fall Fantasy Parade on Saturday, August 3
Week 2:	Monday, August 5 through Friday, August 9 from 8AM – 5PM
Monday, August 12:	6PM – 9PM (rain date Tuesday, August 13 same time)
Wednesday, August 14:	6PM – 9PM
Monday, August 19:	6PM – 9PM
Tuesday, August 20:	6PM – 9PM

Percussion, Dance Team, and Color Guard typically have 1 or 2 extra evening rehearsals between August 13 and the first day of school (Thursday, August 22, 2019)

**SCHOOL YEAR SAMPLE WEEK – some weeks only have 1 rehearsal.
(details by week TBA later this spring):**

Monday, Color Guard	6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Tuesday, Percussion	6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Tuesday, Dance Team	3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Wednesday, Full Marching Band	6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Thursday, Brass & Woodwinds	6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Friday, Full Marching Band	4:30 PM dress rehearsal then the game

The band also performs at 4 non-football games per year. This is usually the AV Marching Band Festival and 3 PIMBA Competitions (Pennsylvania Interscholastic Marching Band Association). These performances are usually on Saturday nights with a dress rehearsal in the afternoon.

The Full Marching Band attends 8 of the 10 football games. A small volunteer pep band goes to the other 2 games, which gives about 80% of the band two Friday nights off.

WHAT ARE STUDENTS SAYING? These are just 19 of almost 200 positive HHS band student testimonies collected the last two years:

From Riley Howard (freshman flute player and a 16 hour per week gymnast):

"If you are willing to put the work into doing band, I would strongly recommend it. I wasn't sure if I wanted to join band, mainly because I felt like I would not have time for it. After just the first day of band camp, I fell in love with marching band! I managed to get through the marching season and 16 hours a week in gymnastics without much stress at all concerning time. I do not in any way regret my decision to join the band. It is all SO worth it! I, of course, will do it again next year."

From Michael Bacasa (freshman trumpet player):

"First couple of days of band camp are tough, but by the 3rd & 4th day you will make some good new friends. By the next week, band will be lots of fun. Stay in band! You will meet many new people before you start your freshman year. You won't feel alone in the high school. The friends you make will last. Your section will be good & trustful people."

From Kiana Kazemi (freshman in the front ensemble and flute player):

"Now, I try to not sound cliché, but band is pretty awesome, not gonna lie. And most definitely, MARCHING BAND. Due to some scheduling conflicts I decided to wait until concert band to play flute and instead joined the front ensemble in marching band. Everyone helped me learn a new instrument and I was ready by the first performance. All the activities we do are great! I am now a part of an amazing community called Band! You should give it a try, it's worth it, I promise you!"

From Quentin Romero Lauro (freshman trombone player):

"I know what you're thinking. You don't want to be called a band nerd. Well, that is exactly how I felt going to band camp. Going in and committing to something on that level is tough. But, are you going to quit something you have invested 5 years into just because of a label? The sense of community found in band is amazing! Before band I didn't have anyone I could trust with stuff. Now in band there's always someone I know I can trust. If you look at it the time you put in is so worth it for the friendships you can build."

From Grace Modlin (sophomore on the drum line):

"Last year, I completely talked myself out of band, but decided to just do one year. I had only 3 friends when I went in, and we became closer. I met so many new people, and me and my section became family. I have not regretted my choice to do band. I will be doing this all throughout high school, and I am so excited to meet new people and continue on this journey."

From Chris Coholich (sophomore trumpet player):

"Band Camp is not as hard as it looks, but it is more fun than it looks."

From Gabbi Michaud (sophomore french horn player and soccer player):

"I play for the high school soccer team, and I do band. I thought that it would be impossible to do both, but it is definitely possible. Band is soooo much fun, you meet new people, and make so many friends. I'm telling you, do band, at least try it for a year, it is worth it. Last year in 8th grade, I was 100% positive that I wasn't going to do band, but then I decided to do it for a year. I don't know how I would have survived without band!"

From Shane Hansen (sophomore on the drum line):

"Band is honestly the best opportunity I've ever had to get to know people. I have no idea where I would be without band. It has showed me that each and every part matters. I originally thought it would be too hard to balance a tough academic schedule with band, but IT WORKED! Not a moment goes by when I regret sticking with this amazing program. It definitely gets hard at times, but it is worth it in the end."

From Taylor Slate (sophomore trombone player and tennis player):

"I came into band thinking I was never going to have fun. I said that I really didn't want to do it but I was told to just do it for at least one year. That was the greatest decision of my life. I enjoyed every minute of it. During marching season, I also played tennis. Yes, it was hard but it wasn't impossible. I would come straight from a match to band but I got to miss some band practices. I would always come to band late because I enjoyed it. If you are thinking about not doing it.....Just Do It!"

From Allie Cook (sophomore clarinet player):

"Whenever I filled out my schedule last year I didn't have band down for a class I wanted to take. The day after the Pops Concert I went to Mrs. Parker and told her that I wanted to change my schedule because I didn't want to give up playing my instrument. Now going through one marching season and one concert at the high school I can easily say I don't regret my decision. It has been the most fun activity/class that I've taken."

From Matt Belch (junior bari-sax player):

"Band is a ton of fun throughout the year. In sectionals you build a bond with your section and often times you do things with them outside of band, like bonfires. The band trip is the most fun part of the year, where you get almost the entire time to do what you want with your friends."

From Griffin Ernyei (junior trombone player):

"You wouldn't believe how much I wanted to not to band. My mom signed me up to "try for a year." I brutally hated mini-camp, learning to stand still and what not. However, from the first day of band camp, I've made many people who I am now friends with today. I'll be honest, I really disliked band 5th through 8th grade. Marching Band has changed my attitude toward band. I enjoy it a lot, especially the marching band season. The trips are so much fun. On our Disney trip I became friends with many people who have graduated, and I still talk to them today only because of band. I love band, and will continue to stay for all 4 years. Every member counts."

From Logan Hoffner (senior saxophone player):

"I am a member of the band because it is very fun. I get to be with my friends all day, and in the end, produce something meaningful. Band is more than just an activity to me, it is an opportunity. Being a member of the band has truly inspired me to be a better person, and do something beautiful."

From Jason Hunkele (senior sousaphone player and ultimate Frisbee member):

"I'm in marching band because I was forced to be in it my freshman year. Now I'm a junior section leader and love the fun, friend-filled, and rewarding experience that band is! Also, I promised Mrs. Parker that I'd be in band through senior year because she let me sit in the front seat of the Jack Rabbit.)"

From Ethan Roahrig (senior saxophone player):

"Band is one of the best places to meet new friends and have a great time. Even if you just like playing music then you are going to enjoy band. If you feel nervous coming up into the high school, feeling like you don't know anyone, join band! It is a great place to be yourself and be with people who have felt just like you."

From Sarah Rock (senior flute player):

"As a senior, I wouldn't be who I am or have the wonderful memories I have today without marching band. So many of my non-band friends tell me how much they wish they had done band. Do band! Carpe Diem! Or you might end up looking back and desperately wishing you had given it a try."

From Anna Bailey (2018 graduate - flute player and cross country member):

"Band provided me with a way to get to know a lot of upperclassmen before even starting high school. I met some of my closest friends in high school through my participation in band. I was still able to run cross country and stay involved in other fall activities while doing band because the time commitment is not huge."

From Anna Dougan-Bacha (2018 graduate - flute player and dance team member):

"I have both marched as a flute player and been a member of the dance team. By staying in band, and even joining Wind Ensemble, I've been able to stay broadly involved in music on my instrument while dancing with some of my closest friends through the football season."

From Wyatt Spies (2018 graduate - clarinet player and 2-year drum major):

"Through my four years, I have had five extra-curricular activities every year and a job, along with taking 10 AP classes and several honors courses. Although it was a lot, I was able to participate in band and have a social life with time to spare. I have loved band more than any activity I have ever participated in. I will never forget the experience and the many friends I've gained from marching band. I hope you choose to enjoy this activity!"

WHAT ARE PARENTS SAYING? Here are 6 brief testimonies that talk about how HHS Band has enriched their child's life:

From Janet and Keith Gmitter (parents of a 2017 graduate and a current 10th grader who is also on the soccer team):

"We have had one child successfully participate in band her entire school career. We don't want to undermine her success but that's not who we want to tell you about. We want to tell you about our son, who is currently a freshman."

While many of his close friends were choosing fall sports over band, our son made the commitment to do both. We are not going to kid you... it is more of a challenge for your child to be in both marching band and a fall sport. But it is definitely doable, builds character, and is very rewarding! Consider it "cross training". While marching band is not considered a "sport" it is definitely an exercise in physical endurance, practice, persistence, and dedication to a team toward a common end goal.

With our support, our son has learned how to manage and prioritize his responsibilities and time quite efficiently. Not only did he participate in marching band and a fall sport, he also maintained a small lawn mowing business and brought home decent grades. He has kept his "old" friends and made "new" friends. He has worked hard and has felt accomplished with his efforts.

If your son/daughter is "on the fence" trying to decide between fall sports and band, encourage them to try doing both... at least for one year... before they decide to pass on one over the other. You will be pleasantly surprised at the results."

From Sheila McLaughlin (mom of a current 11th grader who didn't even play in band in 8th grade and is also a member of the soccer team):

"With everyone's cooperation, it is definitely possible for a student to be in band and participate in a fall sport. It is a crazy time and carpooling with others who may be participating in the same sport is a lifesaver. Mr. Himmeler is as flexible as he can possibly be with the students who are doing both, but communication is key. Try to find a parent of another student in band who is also doing the same sport as your child. If that parent has an upper classman, maybe they would be willing to do all the communicating to Mr. Himmeler for all students that are doing the same sport and band, since they likely have some experience with how the schedule will be and what works best. I personally like the idea of giving Mr. Himmeler a rundown of all conflicts before school even starts. All schedules will be available ahead of time. Certainly there will be things that come up last minute, but having a clear layout of the conflicts ahead of time is helpful to all.

Although it is a crazy time for the students they quickly learn how to balance and take responsibility if you let them. Also, my daughter had a very smooth transition from the Middle School to the High School and I credit that in large part to being in band and making new friends in all grades at band camp before school even starts. It's been a great experience!"

From Lee Bares (mom of a 2017 graduate, current 12th grader, and 9th grader):

1. *"If your child is very musical and you think band is probably going to be a waste of time, you are dead wrong! I had placed little value on band for my daughter who was considering music professionally; why waste all that time for band camp, marching practices, football games, and general-purpose concerts when what she really needed was to practice etudes and prepare for auditions? Well I couldn't have been more wrong. Marching band brought a balance and joy to her musicianship I couldn't have imagined, and working with Mr. Himmeler was one of the most important things she did to develop discipline, focus and devotion to her music."*
2. *"If your child isn't musical at all and you think band is going to be an insufferable waste of time, you are dead wrong! My son wasn't the least bit interested in music (it's his sister's thing) and had struggled to get much out of playing an instrument, but I required he try at least one year of high school band. For him the experience was an astounding transformation: in middle school he was socially reserved and rather isolated, with a substantial confidence issue. Band camp (which happens just before school starts) was an amazing experience for him where he was immediately part of a cohesive/healthy group, got "adopted" by many upper-classmen, willingly did something physically and musically challenging, and set him up for a very successful freshman year. He walked into the first day of high school knowing 200+ students from all grades and having an immediate focus for his time. He thrives under the discipline and enjoys immensely the social aspect of band. And this year, his third in band, he is now enjoying the musical aspect also as he is first chair of his section. He even practices his music and eagerly attends lessons! He has developed confidence throughout his life and I can see that much of it stems from time he spends in band; you can't help but be amazed by what the marching band accomplishes as you watch their performances and see the results of 200+ "kids" working together. Mr. Himmeler is the source of many things to many people and I have watched for 5 years now how his devotion to the students is unbounded and he has a deep impact on all types of students. There is no doubt in my mind that my 8th grader will get something great out of band next year!"*

From Kendra Eberly (mom of a current 11th grader):

"My daughter is currently a sophomore. As a mom I like seeing her involved in something especially when it brings her out of her shell. I have watched her grow as a musician and as a person. She enjoys playing which is wonderful but I think the friendships she has formed are phenomenal. They have something in common. Her section is very tight and they are always in communication.

As for me I have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know other parents. It is good to connect with people and this is a great way to do that. We all share the same feelings of pride for our sons and daughters. And we all want the best for all students. I also like the good feeling from helping the band through volunteering. I remember feeling a bit overwhelmed with everything in the beginning including band camp. After watching the shows and seeing the positive effect on my daughter I was able to see it was all worth it."

From Lisa Roahrig (mom of a current 12th grader and a 2016 graduate):

"I just wanted to share my experience with having a child who participated in an all year sport and in the band. During 8th grade Maddi was unsure if she would want to continue band and do a sport but after the first day of band camp she was hooked. Once her sport was in full swing with band she was able to keep her grades up, and always had her homework done. Maddi is a very organized person and I think that was key to being able to manage both activities."

From Peter Johnson (dad of a current 11th grader and a former boys soccer team member):

- "- Probably the most organized group at HHS*
- calendar schedules communicated many months in advance*
- You and your son/daughter will see and hear the incremental improvements that come from their hard work*
- (top level group) Wind Ensemble sounds like a professional orchestra (to my layman's ears =)"*