

To: All Eighth Grade Band Students and Parents
From: Dave Terrall, Head Band Director, Foster High School
Subject: High School Band

It's getting to be that time of year when all of the eighth grade students start to think about course selection for 2007-2008 school year. There is not a week that goes by that I am not asked questions from eighth grade students and their parents regarding the High School Band program at Foster High School. This letter is designed to answer many of your questions regarding the Foster Falcon Band.

When do I sign up for Band?

The High School Counselors will be passing out HS course selection material in the beginning of the second semester. At that time make sure you sign up for Band I. This is the designation for 9th grade Band.

What Band do I need to sign up for?

The Bands at FHS are Symphonic, Concert, and Cadet. At this time it does not matter which Band is selected. We give the counselors a list of what student make what Bands after auditions are held in May.

When are the auditions for HS Band?

We will be handing out audition material for the 2007-2008 school years the week after your UIL Concert/Sight-Reading Contest, in early April. We will come over to Briscoe JH during the Band periods starting early in May (you will have 2-3 weeks for practice). After we have heard everyone play (JH and HS), we will send a list to the JH Band Hall for posting and to the HS counselor's office for Band scheduling.

How do I get into the Marching Band?

The Symphonic, Concert, and Cadet Bands make up the FHS Marching Band. All students in Band at FHS participate in the Marching program. The students will be in their separate Band classes during the day and march after school.

What about the FHS Color Guard?

The FHS Color Guard is an organization that enhances the marching band through the use of flags, props, and dance. It is open to anyone at FHS. You do not have to be a player of a musical instrument to be a part of this organization. They have a separate class period during the school day. To become a member of this group, you must audition after you have completed a weeklong clinic. This clinic will take place in April. At the end of the first semester, all Color Guard members who play a musical instrument will be placed in a performing Band for the second semester.

Do I get PE credit for being in Band?

Yes, if you participate in the Marching Band, you not only receive elective credit but also PE credit. If a student stays in the Band program throughout their High School career, they will have all of their PE credit to graduate.

Can I participate in Band and sports?

Yes, we have members from every sport offered at Foster HS involved in the FHS Band program. The directors and coaches will work out a specific schedule for each student so that student can participate in both organizations. Remember, being in more than one activity involves dedication. We don't expect any less from our students that are involved in other groups.

What does it cost to participate in the FHS Band program?

The cost to participate in the FHS Falcon Band is very minimal. The **approximate** costs are as follows:

Band Shirt - \$20.00

Marching Shoes - \$30.00

Uniform Fee - \$20.00

Gloves - \$5.00

Flip Folder - \$5.00

Band Instrument Lyre - \$5.00-\$10.00 (depending on the instrument the student plays)

What about Band Uniforms?

We are very fortunate that the Lamar Independent School District has supplied us with some very nice uniforms. They will be issued to each student during the summer program.

What about school owned Band Instruments?

As with the Briscoe program, school owned instruments are provided to those students who play oboe, bassoon, French horn, baritone, bari sax, tuba and percussion. These will be checked out at the beginning of the summer.

What is the starting schedule for the Marching program?

We will have Freshman Band Fundamentals Camp on May 15-18 from 4-6 (this is after school on the Band Practice field). This is when we teach the in-coming freshmen the basic fundamentals we use during our marching season. Percussion / Color Guard Camp will be July 30- August 3 from 9-5. Summer Band is from August 6 - August 24 from 8-2. This is with **all** members of the FHS Marching Band. If freshman cannot attend the Freshman Band camp, **DON'T WORRY!** We will get those individuals caught up when Summer Band starts. Our official summer calendar will be posted on our Band Web Page (www.fhsband.net) prior to the end of the school year.

The Band program at Foster High School has established an outstanding record of excellence in a very short period of time. This is done by hard work and a lot of fun. Our Band students take pride in our accomplishments and have dedicated themselves to maintaining this high level of performance. When you walk through the doors of the Foster Band Hall you become a member of one of the finest organizations at FHS. If I haven't answered all of your questions, please feel free to call the Band office at 832-223-3937 and talk to one of the directors or you can e-mail me at dterral@lcisd.org. I will be happy to assist you in any way we can. See you in May.

