



Jasper High School Band Q & A

www.JasperHighSchoolBand.com

The Jasper High School Band is the largest student group on campus and counts among its members many of Jasper's top students. The band has earned an excellent reputation for demonstrating a high level of performance and our students take pride in always doing their best. Our students take AP and Honors classes and participate in many different sports, clubs, and other student groups at Jasper. This handout contains answers to the most frequently asked questions we receive regarding band at Jasper. I hope that it will be helpful to you. Should you have a question that is not addressed, please let us know. Contact information is included at the end of this packet. We look forward to having you as a member of the Jasper Jaguar Band!

Will I be in the marching band?

Yes! All members of Jasper band classes are combined in the fall to form the Jasper Jaguar Marching Band. The Jaguar Marching Band rehearses in the mornings, before school. Only those band members with a direct conflict with an official school activity (e.g. football, drill team) are excused from marching rehearsals and performances. The marching band performs at pep rallies, football games, marching festivals, including UIL Marching Contest and the Plano Christmas Parade. Students will also perform at a Plano West Senior High football game! The Jaguar Marching Band is awesome!

But I don't know how to march!

This is one of the biggest concerns we hear from 8th grade students. Don't worry! Each year over half of our band members are brand new marchers. Others will be learning right along with you. We'll have a band camp before school begins in August where we'll teach you all of the fundamentals of marching that you'll need to know. We will spend a lot of time teaching the basics of marching and will move very slowly at first. We want everyone to get off to a great start and feel confident about what they are doing. It is a lot of work, but it's not too hard, and we have **LOTS of FUN!** Like anything else - all you need is a great attitude!

How much time during the school year does band really take?

One of the biggest misconceptions that 8th grade students have about high school band is that it takes too much time. The daily marching rehearsals are scheduled from 7:00 to 8:30 AM and last about 8 weeks, continuing through our UIL Marching Contest in mid-October. Since marching rehearsals are in the mornings before school (during the coolest part of the day!), afternoons are free for studying, tutorials and other activities. After UIL we will relax the schedule considerably with fewer and shorter rehearsals, pending remaining football game performances. Marching Band rehearsals will stop after the final scheduled football performance, or UIL, whichever comes last. Beginning in January, each band member will have a traditional section rehearsal one morning per week for the duration of concert season.

What about summer rehearsals?

Our first camp for wind players will be Saturday, June 2. We'll meet at Jasper from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. This will be the first meeting/rehearsal of the 2012-2013 Jasper Band! Music will be the focus of this camp and we'll have small and large group playing rehearsals.

Our first camp for percussionists (drumline) will be June 18-22.

Summer band camp will be August 6-10 and 13-17. This mandatory two week camp is for all band students and it is vital to the success of our marching band. The focus of this camp will be music and marching. We will learn the necessary marching fundamentals for our UIL Contest show and also spend time on the music we'll be performing.

Does the rehearsal and performance schedule prevent students from doing their homework?

Students who are the most involved are also the most productive. Students do have to organize their time, but it is possible to be in band and also be very successful in school. **Most of our band students take Honors and Advanced Placement classes** – and they do very well! We are very proud of the high academic performance of our band students. Having marching band rehearsals before school leaves the afternoons free for students to do their homework, go to tutorials, and to be involved in clubs and other activities.

What is the typical schedule for football games?

We typically perform at 5 home football games per year. These football performances are on Wednesday or Thursday evenings and the games are at Clark or Kimbrough stadiums. The schedule varies from year to year. We will also perform at a Plano West Senior High School game with the Plano West Band.

When does the Colorguard (flag line) begin?

Students interested in colorguard membership will need to attend our guard workshop April 30-May 2, 2012. The workshop is designed for students with no prior guard experience. This camp will focus on the basics and will prepare students for guard auditions on Wednesday, May 2. Students selected to be in the colorguard will continue musical growth on their regular band instrument by playing daily in band class. During the marching band performances, guard members will spin their flag or rifle and enhance the visual appearance and overall excitement of the band's performance.

In addition to the regular summer band camps/practices, the colorguard will attend a basic technique camp at Plano West. They will also participate in an additional week of practice with a guard specialist one week in July. The July camp will be devoted to learning routine for our fall show. These camps are required events for guard members and there are expenses and fees that will be the student's responsibility. Camp dates and a fee list will be included with the guard audition packet available later in the spring.

What is involved in being in the drumline?

The percussion section (drumline) performs an important function as part of the marching band, providing musical interest, impact, rhythmic drive, and visual excitement to performances. They also provide marching cadences and "spirit" cadences in the stands. Drumline requires extra and specialized performance skills. After-school clinics will be held in April and May to aid in the development of the skills and fundamentals needed by these players. Auditions for placement in the drumline will be May 18, 2012. All percussionists will be members of the drumline.

I play oboe or bassoon. What are my options for marching band?

Because of the frailty of these instruments and their reeds, they are not used in marching band. Students who play oboe or bassoon have four choices: 1) audition to become members of the Colorguard; 2) play a secondary instrument, usually tenor saxophone; 3) audition to play keyboard percussion in the drumline; 4) march while holding, but not playing, an instrument.

How do I become a member of the Jasper Band?

Membership in the Jasper Band is by audition only. Auditions will be at Jasper HS beginning Thursday, May 3 and ending Saturday, May 5, 2012. The audition will include selected major scales, the chromatic scale, and two etudes. Performance on the audition material establishes band assignments for the fall semester. The music also establishes the minimum requirement for being in the Jasper Band; in other words, a student must play the required scales and etudes in order to be in the Jasper Band.

Can I get P.E. and Fine Arts credit for band?

Yes. By participating in marching band, a student is eligible to receive a Physical Education credit, thus fulfilling the PE requirement for graduation and creating more room in their schedule. Fine Arts credit, also required for graduation, is also given for participation in band.

Is Band at Jasper fun?

Of course!!! Band provides students with a large, positive peer group and our Jasper Band members have lots and lots of fun! You'll make many new friends, play a lot of great music, go on a fun trip, and much, much more!! Marching band is actually the most enjoyable time of year for many of our students. We work hard, but we have a lot of fun and take a lot of pride in what we accomplish.

Band will fit in every schedule!

Check out the Jasper High School Band website – **www.JasperHighSchoolBand.com**. It has our current newsletter, lots of great pictures, and a great deal of interesting information regarding the Jasper High School Band!

**If you have schedule issues or questions, please contact Mr. Digby.
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