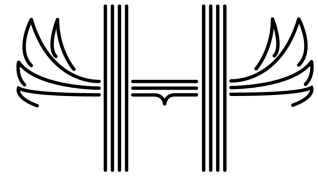


HAYFIELD BANDS

Middle School Course Recommendation

Mr. Rob Specketer, High School Director; rcspecketer@fcps.edu; (703) 924-2180
Mr. Andrew Clifford, Middle School Director; ahclifford@fcps.edu; (703) 924-7448



Dear Rising Seventh Grader,

Thank you for your interest in the Hayfield Middle School Band program. We take pride in offering band as an elective to all students, regardless of level. The Hayfield bands have a long history of success and continue to represent our school and community at our district festival and abroad through the Music in the Parks program. This year, the middle school bands will travel and compete in the festival at Busch Gardens theme park in Williamsburg, VA.

There are a number of fantastic ensembles from which to choose for your band course. Each course requires students to provide their own instrument or rent from the school (if available). Please use the following descriptions to choose the best course to enroll in for the 2020-2021 school year.

Beginning Band (Course Number 923210) is open to any student wishing to learn a woodwind or brass instrument in band. Previous experience is not required.

Percussion Ensemble (Course Number 925010) All percussionists should sign up for this class instead of "Band". Students will need to supply their own sticks and practice pads.

Intermediate Band (Course Number 923310) is for intermediate level woodwind and brass students (most rising seventh grade students). Students will perform VBODA (Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association) Grade II and III repertoire. Higher level musicianship is stressed.

Advanced Band (923410) is for exceptional third and fourth year band students. Entrance is by audition, or teacher recommendation. VBODA Grade II-IV music is played. Higher level musicianship is expected from all students. Please email ahclifford@fcps.edu to schedule an audition for your child.

The middle school band program also offers a number of extra-curricular activities for students. We are happy to offer performance opportunities such as Jazz Band, Percussion Camp, After School Extra Help, Marching Band Night, and Spring Trips. These opportunities are open to all middle school band members.

On the back of this page are frequently asked questions about the Hayfield Band program from rising seventh graders. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Mr. Clifford or Mr. Specketer at the email address or phone number listed above. We want your child to participate in our program!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Clifford', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mr. Andrew Clifford
Middle School Band Director

Rising Seventh Grader FAQ

"Am I good enough to play in the bands at Hayfield?"

All students are good enough to play in the Hayfield Band Program! Even if you just began this year, you are ready to play in the Intermediate Band. Some students might even be good enough to be in the Advanced Band. We also offer a beginning band class for any students who have not played in band before, or who would like to begin a new instrument. With different levels of bands, we truly have a band class for *every student!*

"How often will I have band at Hayfield?"

We rehearse every other day, as a part of your schedule. Since band is a regular class, you will have it as much as any other class.

"Do I have to audition in order to take band?"

Auditions are recommended for exceptional students as recommended by their elementary band directors. **Auditions are not required to participate in Beginning Band, Intermediate Band or Percussion Ensemble.** Percussionists wishing to play in a band class other than Percussion Ensemble must audition.

"How often do we play concerts?"

All of the band classes play on the Winter Concert (December), Pre-Assessment Concert (February), and Spring Concert (May/June). In addition, the Intermediate and Advanced bands take a one-day trip each year to perform at the VBODA District Band Assessment. All band students also have the opportunity to also perform in a contest at either Hershey Park or Busch Gardens.

"How do I sign up for band at Hayfield?"

All you have to do is request band on your Hayfield course selection sheet. Place it as either your 1st or 2nd choice.

"Do I have room in my schedule for band?"

Short answer, **YES!** Rising 7th grade students have a few elective spots in their schedule that band can fill. As a student gets older they will have more elective spots which can be used for other classes