



Science Hill High School

# Topper Band

Directors: Dr. Carson Vermillion & Dan McGuire

1509 John Exum Parkway  
Johnson City, Tennessee 37604

July 17, 2020

Dear Topper Band Members,

Welcome to the 2020 edition of the 'Topper Marching Band. Everything is a 'new normal' these days, and band is no different. However, it is our pledge to make everyone's experience as true to the Topper Band tradition as possible. Due to the uncertainty of the competitive marching season, we have decided to shelve our original show, *The Harvest*, until 2021. It has such potential that we wanted to make sure that we are able to present it in its original context. Instead, we will use a show we performed in 2012, *The 70's Show* – featuring *Bohemian Rhapsody, That's the Way I Like It, Play That Funky Music, Carry On My Wayward Son and Stayin' Alive*. Our crowd loved it and we still get compliments to this day about that show.

This letter contains most of the information you will need for band camp. Other information can be found on the band website – [www.shhsbandboosers.org](http://www.shhsbandboosers.org) – including forms and a calendar for the fall. Please read over the following items:

- Band Camp Schedule
- Expectations for camp
- Band Camp Survival Guide
- Fall Marching Band schedule: All rehearsals / performances (make a copy and put on the fridge!)

You can contact either of us through our e-mail addresses below and we will respond to you in a timely fashion. If you have any conflicts with camp that may jeopardize your participation please contact us ASAP.

Here's to a great fall,

Dr. Carson Vermillion  
Director of Bands  
[vermillione@jcschools.org](mailto:vermillione@jcschools.org)

Dan McGuire  
Associate Director of Bands  
[mcguired@jcschools.org](mailto:mcguired@jcschools.org)

### **Band Camp Dates:**

#### **Week 1 - July 20-24**

M - 6:30-9:30 pm (all night blocks will be in stadium)

T - 9:30-12:30 pm, 6:30-9:30 pm

W - 9:00-1:00 pm

TH - 9:30-12:30 pm, 6:30-9:30 pm

F - 9:00-1:00 pm

#### **Band Camp Registration - July 26 (2-5 pm) - new date!**

#### **Week 2 - July 27-31**

M - 9:00-1:00 pm, 6:30-9:30 pm (all night blocks will be in stadium)

T - 9:00-1:00 pm, 6:30-9:30 pm

W - 9:00-1:00 pm

TH - 9:00-1:00 pm, 6:30-9:30 pm

F - 9:00-1:00 pm

#### **August 4 – First day of school, full day – no after school rehearsal**

#### **Preview Show/Booster meeting – TBA**

### **Band Camp Registration**

#### **July 26 (Sunday), 2:00-5:00 pm, Grand Topper Hall**

Students and parents will drop-in for registration in Grand Topper Hall. **Horton Sports** will be on hand for shoe and glove sizing. **Music Doctors** will be on hand for accessories including flip folders, lyres, reeds, valve oil, or any additional needs. Additionally, students will take care of any paperwork including:

**balance of camp fee (\$125)**

**Fair Share Obligation payment (FSO) - \$275**

**pick up band t-shirt (free for new students)**

**turn in completed field trip release form**

**Pay Stick and Mallet Fee (\$75) – percussion only**

**Colorguard uniform deposit – (\$75)**

**receive band locker**

**Instrument Rental (\$50)**

**purchase lyre/flip folders (if needed)**

**Woodwinds only – synthetic reed order (\$30)**

### **Fair Share Obligation (FSO)**

*This year's FSO will be \$275.* Students that qualify as Fee Waiver students (free and reduced lunch) will receive a discount. Families with multiple children in the band will also receive a discount for each additional child (equal to one FSO installment). By band camp registration, we would like for the remainder of the FSO to be paid. Payments may be paid online via PayPal through your child's Charms account. If you do not pay online, please be prepared to pay via check/cash at registration. We are asking that the FSO be paid in two installments:

1. ½ payment by June 1
2. ½ payment by July 1

**Topper Band Gear Store** (visit [www.shhsbandboosters.com](http://www.shhsbandboosters.com)) will open on July 17 and close on August 9. All orders will be delivered to the band room toward the end of August (TBA).

**Please see the Topper Band Gear Online Store for Prices (without tax):**

### **Camp Procedures to Mitigate Covid – 19**

- Students will report to their assigned rehearsal area (practice field/stadium) at the beginning of rehearsal block no more than 15 minutes prior to the start time (unless instructed otherwise, e.g., moving equipment)
- At the end of practice, students must leave campus
- Temperatures will be taken and recorded at the beginning of each rehearsal by a staff member
- Students with a temp of 100.5 degrees or higher will be sent home

- Students should not come to practice if they feel sick or have a fever
- Students that have been out of town to a COVID hotspot should not attend camp
- Any student that has been exposed to someone with COVID should not attend practice
- All practices will be held outside
- In the case of inclement weather, practices could be cancelled due to lack of adequate indoor space to accommodate the full band at this time.
- If students have to be inside, they must wear a mask/face covering (per Washington County Mayor).
- Wind players (except tubas) are to bring needed materials to rehearsal and take all needed materials home each day – they cannot store gear in the band room
- Tuba players will store tubas at the practice field in storage container
- Guard/Percussion members may store their equipment inside (must wear mask retrieving it or storing it)
- Students must practice social distancing at all times
- While executing marching fundamentals, students will be placed at 7 ½ feet intervals (it's what we do anyway)
- Face masks are not required outside since there is adequate room to social distance but if student wants to wear one they can.

### **Camp Expectations:**

*All students are encouraged to attend camp the entire day unless they are feeling sick or do not feel comfortable being at school due to COVID – 19.* Please do not schedule appointments during band camp or on regular after school rehearsal days (Tuesdays & Thursdays) during the school year. There are no after school rehearsals on Mondays and Wednesdays; they are open each week for appointments.

### **Things you need for camp:**

- hat
- sunscreen (you will get sunburned without)
- flip folder and lyre, reeds
- pencil
- **three ringed binder with ten (10) clear protective sheets that will hold your show music, coordinate sheet, and drill book**
- athletic shoes with socks (no flip flops, crocks, boots, etc.)
- 1 gallon Coleman (**red**) water jug **We do not supply water during practice**
- eat a good breakfast

### **Guidelines for camp:**

- Be on time each morning
- No visitors during the day
- You cannot leave campus or hang out in the parking lot
- Respect others including the staff and your fellow students
- Have your instrument in good playing condition
- Follow directions **the first time**
- The SHHS student handbook will be followed for all band activities.

## **Band Camp Survival Guide**

Band camp is a very exciting aspect of marching band. Subject to both horror stories and the occasional comedy, many new students express some fear regarding band camp and what it entails. Following is a summary of some of the most frequently asked questions and things that you can do to prepare for band camp.

### **Things I can do during the summer:**

#### **1. Acclimate to heat before camp begins:**

Many students spend the majority of their summer in air conditioned spaces. It is very important that their bodies acclimate to heat before they get to camp. This has a dramatic impact on how comfortable they are during those long days in the sun.

##### Things you can do:

- GO OUTSIDE
- Ride in the car with the windows down and no a/c.
- GO OUTSIDE
- Mow your grass during the hottest part of the day.
- Seriously....turn off the Xbox/PC and GO OUTSIDE.

#### **2. Exercise**

While many people are not sure what to do to really help themselves “get in shape,” the simple act of going outside and running or walking on a regular basis can help a student prepare for the rigors of band camp. As someone that was once a soccer player/coach, I can attest to the fact that some people do not consider marching band to be a physical activity. However, some preparation beforehand can have a tremendous impact on your student’s success and comfort in this activity that is indeed very physical, especially during the long hours at band camp.

If anyone is interested in specific things that they can do to prepare, please feel free to email Mr. McGuire at [mcguired@jcschools.org](mailto:mcguired@jcschools.org).

#### **3. Exercise immediately after waking up**

One of the most difficult things to get used to during camp is how physical one must be early in the day. One thing that can help is waking up during the summer, regardless of the time, and going for a jog immediately. This can help the body acclimate to being physical quickly after waking up, something that is necessary during camp.

#### **4. Finish Summer Work**

Many students enroll in classes that require summer work. It is extremely important that any and all summer work be completed before camp begins. Students will not have any time at all during the two weeks of band camp to complete these assignments, and the week following they will very likely be exhausted.

#### **5. Wean off of sodas**

While the vast majority of people in our society drink soda every day, it has been proven that it has a negative impact on individual health when ingested on a regular basis. The main negative side effect of soda for our purposes, whether regular or diet, is this: dehydration.

If your student drinks sodas on a regular day-to-day basis, we would strongly recommend that they attempt to lower their consumption going into camp. The process of weaning off of soda shares similar withdrawal symptoms with many other addictive substances. Getting that process out of the way

before camp can make things much more enjoyable for your student.

## **Things I can do during Band Camp**

### **1. Eating**

- a. Breakfast: This is by far the most important meal of the day. **Even if your student is not a person that typically eats breakfast, they must eat breakfast every day of band camp.** The type of food that they eat is quite important. Here are some general rules:
  - Do not eat/drink any dairy for breakfast! Your student will throw up during morning block.
  - A good breakfast has two main components: Protein and Carbs. Both are equally important. I prefer turkey bacon, eggs, and a piece of wheat toast in the morning...however you get those things is up to you, just make sure you get both.
  - Having pancakes, muffins, doughnuts, etc. for breakfast will leave a student feeling drained and run down after an hour. Please try to avoid these foods.
- b. Lunch: Something here that isn't too heavy, but still has some good carbs. Try to avoid things like white bread and sodas. Instead use wheat bread and focus on getting complex carbs. Perform a Google search for complex carbs to find a list of things that you might consider.
- c. Dinner: Dinner will be provided for students during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of band camp.

### **2. What to Drink**

- a. Breakfast: Orange Juice is a great drink in the mornings. Coffee can also be good. Avoid milk at all costs....your student will see that milk again in a very unpleasant way if they drink it.
- b. Lunch and Dinner: Water and Gatorade. Students should drink both. The military requires that all soldiers at boot camp drink water and Gatorade during meal breaks for a reason. The water is needed to replenish what students will sweat out during the day, and the electrolytes in the Gatorade will help give them energy and make them feel better.
- c. What to avoid: Soda. It will dehydrate your student, and the "down" experienced because of the sugar will cause them to feel terrible about an hour into the next rehearsal block.

It cannot be overstated that what a student eats has a direct impact on how they feel. Many times when a student tells us that they want to go home because they don't feel good, it is because they have not eaten appropriately. Please make every effort to ensure that your student eats and drinks well, especially if that is something that they do not normally do.

### **3. Sleep**

It is of vital importance that your student sleeps well during band camp. Luckily, most students do not have a problem with this during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of camp as they are exhausted when they go home. Students should avoid any type of evening engagements during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of camp. Once they go home, they should plan on going to bed quickly.

### **4. Waking up in the morning and not wanting to go to Band Camp**

Every year there is at least one student that wakes up in the morning and does not wish to attend camp because they feel sick. Unless that student has a fever over 100.0 degrees, the best thing you can do is get them to camp and push through it. Almost every time those student's bodies are simply unaccustomed to the level of physical activity that they experience at band camp. Their bodies will adjust, but only if they push through. Make sure they get a good meal and have plenty of Gatorade for the day, and let a director know so that we can keep an eye on them.

5. **Sunscreen and Appropriate Clothing**

Band camp happens outside. While we try to shield the majority of students from the worst of the heat, there is no way for us to avoid the sun and what it can do to the body if not properly prepared. All students should have the following:

- Sunscreen (This is not the week to work on your tan)
- A hat that will cover your face
- A water container (**Not optional**)
- Light colored clothing (Please be aware of the weather...white t-shirts can be a bad idea)
- Good footwear. Must have good ankle support. No sandals!

Even if you have spent most of the summer outside, the heat from the sun can zap your energy and leave you feeling drained. The days are quite long, especially during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week, so keeping the sun off your face and wearing sunscreen (and reapplying during breaks!) is essential to functioning at 100%.

6. **Blisters**

Given how much we are on the move, blisters are unavoidable. As soon as a blister starts to form, please do not pop it. Instead, put a piece of mole skin on the blister and cover it with duct tape. That should minimize any rubbing and allow the blister to heal. It is really important that students do this as soon as a blister starts to form. If they pop and bleed it can make life miserable.

7. **End of day activities**

At the end of each day, students should make sure they do a good stretch before going to bed. This will help work out any lactic acid that might still be in their muscles from the day's activities and will make them feel better the next day. Also, if anything is particularly sore, applying some ice for 10 minutes can help reduce swelling.

If you have any questions regarding camp, or the expectations for students, please feel free to email us during the summer. While we do not always check our emails regularly, we do make an effort to check them periodically and answer any questions we receive. We are excited to have you join our band family, and we can't wait to see you in July!

## **2020-21 Band Dates:**

*Due to COVID -19, all of these dates are subject to change.*

August 4 – First day of school (full day), no after school rehearsal  
August 13 – Preview Show – 7:30 pm, stadium  
August 21 – Football @ Elizabethton  
August 28 – Football – Crockett  
August 29 – Band Camp, 9-9 pm

September 4 – Football - Hardin Valley  
September 11 – Football @ Greeneville  
September 12 – Band Camp, 9-9 pm  
September 18– Football @ Jefferson County  
September 25 – Football - Knox Catholic  
September 26 – Marching Contest – Enka, NC

October 2 – Football - Farragut  
October 3 – Marching Contest – Tenn High  
October 8 – Evening rehearsal, 6-9 pm (During Fall Break)  
October 9 – Day Camp, 9-5 pm (During Fall Break)  
October 9 – Football @ Morristown West  
October 10 – Hilltopper Invitational  
October 16 – Open  
October 17 – Marching Contest - WCU  
October 23 – Football - Dobyons-Bennett (Senior Night)  
October 24 – Marching Contest – TBA  
October 30 – Football @ Beardon

November 6 – State Playoffs, TBA  
November 13 - State Playoffs, TBA  
November 20 - State Playoffs, TBA  
November 20 – Night of Percussion

December 5 – JC Christmas Parade, TBA  
December 11 – Winter Concert, 7 pm

January 9 – All East Auditions  
January 16 – Jr Clinic Auditions

February 4-6 – All East Clinic  
February 12-13 – Junior Clinic

March 1 – Concert Festival Concert  
March 4 – Concert Festival (TBA)

April 9 – Night of Percussion

May 14 - Band Banquet  
May 20 – Spring Concert

## **Weekly Rehearsal Schedule:**

Tuesdays and Thursdays – **1:15-5:30 pm (begins during 4<sup>th</sup> period)**

