

# *JEB Stuart High School Bands*

Virginia Honor Band 2000, 2004, 2006-09, 2011, 2014

If you know someone else who should have received this packet but did not, PLEASE email Mr. Thomas at [bcthomas@fcps.edu](mailto:bcthomas@fcps.edu) or leave a message at 703-824-3971. If you feel you received this packet in error – that's okay! Read on, and you might be convinced the Marching Raiders are a part of your future anyway!

## **Welcome to the 2014 Marching Raider Band!**

Enclosed you will find important information about what is sure to be one of the most memorable experiences of your life – marching band! Enclosed you will find important forms as well as a TENTATIVE calendar; dates are pretty firm, but changes may occur.

This year's show is called "Space" and includes many popular melodies. The band for this coming fall looks strong and there are staff members both old and new who will bring a great amount of expertise to help us prepare for another great marching season!

While FCPS funds more than half of the cost of marching band, there is still a lot that the school board does not pay for; as a result the activity fee for marching band is **\$175**. Please return all forms and fees by June 24, 2014; if for some reason you do not make this date, please contact Mr. Thomas as soon as possible! Please **do not let the fee stop you from joining**; simply send in your form with whatever money you can - we will work with you.

Still not sure if you want to be in marching band? Yes, it takes a good deal of time, but the majority of students who make the commitment budget their time wisely. In fact, **students often get better grades during marching season than the rest of the school year**. It is hard work but that is what makes it great - that so many people are working together toward a common goal and being successful! The Stuart bands have achieved at high levels in recent years because of the steady flow of new students and we hope you will be one of them!

I am looking forward to this marching season and hope you are too. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and see you soon!

Sincerely,

Brian Thomas  
Director of Bands  
Stuart HS  
[bcthomas@fcps.edu](mailto:bcthomas@fcps.edu)  
(703) 824-3971

*IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are selected for advanced band (Wind Ensemble, or Symphonic Band) you **must** march, this is a Fairfax County Public Schools policy. If you are in Concert Band, you are **very strongly** encouraged to be a part of the marching band. Many members of Concert Band do march, and we hope you will too!!*

## **August Dates**

Monday **August 11<sup>th</sup>** 7pm (band room) meeting for PARENTS **AND** STUDENTS!

### **Band Camp/August Rehearsals**

**August 11**, 8:15-12 New marchers, section leaders, captains and drum majors

**August 12-15**, 8:15-12:10, 1:00-4:30

**August 18-22**, 8:15-12:10, 1:00-4:30

**August 25-27**, 3:00-7:00

August rehearsals are **required** for **all** members of the marching band. This two-week period is absolutely critical. If you have a problem or conflict with any time during that period, please do everything you can to get out of it! Doctor's appointments, for example, should be rescheduled so they do not conflict.

Early August rehearsals for percussion and guard before Band Camp are required for those students only (and student leaders). **Starting August 12, the entire marching band is to be at all events listed.** For those events where times are not currently listed, they will be announced as soon as possible. Check the website [www.raiderband.org](http://www.raiderband.org) for calendar updates!

### **IMPORTANT NOTES ON THE CALENDAR!!**

Please CAREFULLY review EVERY DATE on the calendar on the back of this sheet. Marching band commitments end with the Bell Game on November 8th. Let me know if you cannot make ANY of these dates, only AFTER you have tried VERY HARD to get out of whatever conflict you have! All marching band dates are included, EXCEPT for any extra summer percussion and guard meetings/rehearsals. We will be in touch!

### **MARCHING BAND FAQ**

**How do I get in to Marching Band?** If you are a member of advanced band (Wind Ensemble, or Symphonic Band) you are required by FCPS to be in the Marching Band. If you are in Concert Band, you may choose to be in the Marching Band (most students do). If you choose not to enroll in a band class at all, you may still try out for the color guard, but you may not play an instrument with the marching band. Completion of the forms in this packet is all that is required to sign up. (Percussionists have placement auditions in June)

**What if I play an instrument that does not march?** In some cases, one instrument can be substituted for another. In other cases, you may be asked to try a new instrument. Don't worry, if you want to march, an instrument will be found!

### **Charms Contact Info**

This year, we are asking all families to verify their student records in our "Charms" data management system, instead of filling out an additional form. Please follow the directions below and make any necessary changes. Thanks!

Go to [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com)

Roll over ENTER, click on "Parents/Students/Members"

School code is JEBStuartBand, click enter

Your password is your student ID number, click enter

Click Update Info

You can also change your password. The other tabs are essentially empty at this time, but we will use this system more as the year goes on. Get in touch if you have any problems, and thanks!

## **August 2014**

### *Week 1*

Monday 8/11 – Rehearsal 8:15-12:00 New marchers and leadership only  
7:00pm Pre-marching meeting all students and parents

Tuesday 8/12 – Friday 8/15, Rehearsal 8:15-12:10 and 1:00-4:30

### *Week 2*

Monday 8/18 – Friday 8/22, Rehearsal 8:15-12:10 and 1:00-4:30

### *Week 3*

Monday 8/25 – Wednesday 8/27, Rehearsal 3:00-7:00

## **September**

### ***Rehearsals***

Mondays 2:30-4:00

Tuesdays 5:30-7:30 INCLUDING THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Thursdays 4:00-6:00

Fridays of home games 4:00-6:00

### *Week 4*

Monday 9/1 Labor Day – No rehearsal

Saturday 9/6 Tag Day - All Band Members, 8:00-3:30

### *Week 5*

Thursday 9/12, Home Game

### *Week 6*

Saturday 9/21, Competition TBD

### *Week 7*

## **October**

### ***Rehearsals***

Mondays 2:45-4:15

Tuesdays 5:30-7:30

Thursdays 4:00-6:00

Fridays of home games 4:00-6:00

### *Week 8*

Friday 10/4, Home Game

Saturday 10/5, Evening Competition TBD (SAT Date)

### *Week 9*

Friday 10/11, Home Game

### *Week 10*

Saturday 10/19, Competition TBD

### *Week 12*

Friday 10/25, Homecoming Parade 2:45, Home Game

Saturday 10/26, State Marching Assessment/Competition

Sunday 10/27, Lake Barcroft Halloween Parade, 2:00 Start

### *Week 13*

END OF MONDAY, TUESDAY & THURSDAY REHEARSALS

Friday 11/1, Home Game

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## **STUDENT INFORMATION FORM & PAYMENT STUB**

J.E.B. Stuart Band 2014-2015

### **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

Please complete and mail the following:

- Pay stub - found below
- Field Trip Form (found on reverse side of pay stub)
- Emergency Care Form
- A check or money order made out to “**JEB Stuart High School**” to:

JEB Stuart Band Director  
3301 Peace Valley Lane  
Falls Church, VA 22042

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student email \_\_\_\_\_

Stuart HS Fall Sport \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent completing form \_\_\_\_\_ Parent email \_\_\_\_\_

Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$175** Marching Band Fee – make check payable to JEB Stuart High School

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$25** Marching Band Activity Fee (Color Guard members who are not in a band class)

\_\_\_\_\_ *Reduced fee for families experiencing financial hardship (Pay what you are able – contact Mr. Thomas with questions)*

\_\_\_\_\_ We are deeply indebted to the **Terry and Ryan Strobe Fund**, which allows partial scholarships for band fees, private lessons, and the spring trip. Please consider making a donation: \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50  
\_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

(Submission of this form and fee equates to a firm commitment to participate in all aspects of the marching season. There are no refunds, and you will be “counted” for planning purposes. Thanks for your understanding.)



# Band Syllabus 2014-2015

Mr. Thomas  
bcthomas@fcps.edu  
(703) 824-3971  
Office Hours 2:10-3:00

**Welcome to the J.E.B. Stuart High School Band Program! There are many exciting events planned for this school year, please take time to read through this syllabus and visit [www.raiderband.org](http://www.raiderband.org) for the latest information.**

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the development of skills and knowledge in the area of wind and percussion instrumental music; skills learned previously are strengthened and expanded. Students will perform music at appropriate grade levels set forth in the FCPS program of studies.

*All Fairfax County Music Programs conform to the same Program of Studies: <http://www.fcps.edu/is/finearts/music.shtml>*

## TOPIC OVERVIEW

Quarter 1 - 22%: Fundamentals of sound and tone production during warm-up and basic exercises

Perform the circle of fifths (memorized) in a comfortable range

Analyze, count and perform intermediate level rhythms in various time signatures

Quarter 2 - 22%: Further development of tone production during warm-up, basic exercises and sheet music

Circle of 5ths/major scales - perform a two octave range with characteristic tone

Analyze, count and perform intermediate and advanced level rhythms with subdivision

Group performance assessment in December

Quarter 3 - 22%: Development of consistent characteristic sound/tone production with an emphasis on pitch

Circle of fifths and the minor scale – continuation of expanded range, 2 and 3 octaves

Analyze, count, perform and sight-read advanced level rhythms with subdivision

Group performance assessment in February/State performance assessment in March

Quarter 4 - 22%: Consistent and mature tone production throughout total instrument range with good pitch

Major scales from memory (two octaves) timed

Analyze and perform advanced level rhythms with strong subdivision and musical awareness

Group performance assessment in May/June

Final Exam – 12%: Graduation performance and written music theory exam

## MATERIALS

Instrument in performance condition, pencils, reeds, neck straps, ligatures, sticks/mallets, valve oil and cork grease, book/sheet music

**Supports Available:** (Students are expected to use these supports to enhance academic achievement)

- After school enrichment, public/group lessons with director
- Private lessons (list available in band room)
- Internet (youtube, itunes)

## GRADING DESIGN

The course grade is made up of four quarter grades and a Final Exam. Students learn at different speeds, therefore this course does have a system in place for students to possibly improve their grades. All details are included below:

	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
FCPS Scale	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	64-66	below 64
Quality Points	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.0	0.0

### Grading Criteria:

40% Summative Assessment – Concerts/performances

30% Formative Assessment – Mostly assessed during after school rehearsals/tutoring sessions

30% Rehearsal Preparation and Classroom Engagement

### Assessment:

- Summative
  - Concerts and performance assessments (1-3 performances a quarter)
  - Quarterly comprehensive skills assessments (1-5 tests a quarter)
- Formative
  - Performance assessments designed to evaluate student/group progress and develop proficiency
  - Self-assessments/peer feedback of progress towards mastering concert music and other musical concepts
- Rehearsal preparation and classroom engagement
  - Warm-up exercises to strengthen established skills and prepare for the daily lesson objective
  - Preparation for class - students are expected to practice outside of class time 20 minutes a day

**Re-takes** for quarterly skills assessments may be taken after school up to two weeks after the assessment. The highest grade a student may earn on a re-take given within one week of the original assessment is 90%; within two weeks is 75%.

### CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- Students are expected to be on-time to all rehearsals/performances
- Students are expected to maintain instrument in concert performance condition
- Students are expected to adhere to the policy set forth in the FCPS co-curricular statement
- No food, or flavored drink in class, only water is allowed

### Instrument rental and ensemble fees due by 4<sup>th</sup> week of school:

- \$92 for yearly rental of a wind instrument, please make checks payable to J.E.B. Stuart HS
- \$52 for yearly rental/use of percussion instrument(s), please make checks payable to J.E.B. Stuart HS
- ***The following fees should be paid separately from instrument rental fees***
- \$25 for students enrolled in Concert Band, please make checks payable to **Stuart Band Boosters**
- \$175 for Marching Band, make checks to JEB Stuart HS

### ATTENDANCE

- Daily attendance in all classes and return times is imperative for academic success throughout each school year.
- Arrive to class before the bell rings and participating actively in learning each day.
- Each day of an excused absence affords one school day of make-up work opportunity.

### Absences and Late Work Policy

- Each unexcused tardy and unexcused absence means missed instruction, loss of work time, and ultimately leads to lower grades. These will lead to parent phone calls, detentions, and referrals as per school policy.
- Excused absence from a performance/rehearsal – students have one week upon return to school to complete the make-up assignment (i.e. performance of repertoire, or written evaluation) Excused absences – family death/hospitalization and personal illness, absences due to work, appointments, babysitting and transportation will be unexcused
- Unexcused absence from a performance - students have one week from the missed performance to complete the make-up assignment; the maximum grade earned will be a 50%

### Concert Schedule

Wednesday October 8, 7:00pm – Fall Concert Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble **at Stuart HS**

Wednesday December 10, 7:00pm – December Concert, **All Stuart Bands**

Thursday February 26, 7:00pm – Pre-Assessment Concert, **All Stuart Bands** along with Glasgow Symphonic

Friday March 6, Time TBA – District Assessment Performance Concert Band and Symphonic Band

Saturday March 7, Time TBA – District Assessment Performance Wind Ensemble

Wednesday June 3, 7:00pm – Spring Concert, **All Stuart Bands**

### HONOR CODE

All Stuart students must take the Raider Pledge: **As a J.E.B. Stuart student, I pledge to be: honest, trustworthy, fair, respectful, and responsible in all academic pursuits.** All consequences for violating the Raider Pledge will be dealt with in accordance with the Stuart Honor Code. Find a full description of the honor code at <http://www.fcps.edu/StuartHS/pages/about/honor-code.html>.