

**May 28, 2010**

**Dear Band Student and Parent:**

We are very excited about the 2010 Foothill High School Band and Drill Team. This year there are approximately 200 students enrolled in the program which will make for the largest band in Foothill's history. We are sure that the enthusiasm and talent of these students is going to make this a great year. We have many plans for travel and performances that should keep us challenged from August to June. Below you will find pertinent information to ensure your student's success.

**PRE-SEASON MARCHING ORIENTATION**

The Foothill Marching Band performs at all home football games and numerous field competitions during the months of September, October, and November. All students receive a 2<sup>nd</sup> credit in either Marching Band or Percussion Ensemble. Therefore, we must rehearse prior to the beginning of school.

**August 9-13 8:00am-5:00pm Percussion and Drill Team**

**August 16-20 8:00am-5:00pm Percussion, Drill Team, Brass, Woodwinds**

**August 23-27 8:00am-5:00pm Percussion, Drill Team, Brass, Woodwinds**

**REHEARSALS**

All Band students are to be registered in either Intermediate Band or Advanced Band. Students will be placed in the appropriate ensemble after a series of auditions during Pre-Season Marching Orientation. Also, students must be registered in either Marching Band or Percussion Ensemble. (Students playing a percussion instrument during marching season will be enrolled in Percussion Ensemble while all wind players and Drill Team members should be enrolled in Marching Band.) **All members will rehearse at 6:55AM Monday-Friday during marching season as well as 5:30 to 8:30PM on Tuesday evenings. Percussionists will rehearse Wednesday evening from 5:30-8:30pm. Drill Team will rehearse on Thursdays from 5:30pm-8:30pm.**

**GRADING**

**Daily Rehearsals 25%                      Playing Exams 25%                      Performances 50%**

There will be no written homework assignments in band. Instead, we ask that each student practice a minimum of 30 minutes per day, seven days a week. Grading will be based upon class participation, playing tests, performances and auditions. **Band is not an extra-curricular activity. It is a class for which out of school rehearsals and performances are required parts of the curriculum.**

**FEES**

Course fees are required for the purchase of instruments, equipment, transportation expenses, uniforms, specialized staff, clinicians, drill writers, and music arrangers. The fees and timeline are as follows:

**Advanced Band - \$40      Intermediate Band - \$40                      Marching Band - \$40**

**Percussion Ensemble - \$40 (2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Percussion Ensemble TBD based on travel)**

**Advanced Performance Techniques (Chamber Music/Pep Band) - \$40 2<sup>nd</sup> semester only**

**Jazz Ensemble \$40**

**Drill Team Members - SEE DRILL TEAM INFORMATIONAL PACKET**

**1<sup>st</sup> Semester Course Fees are due by 9/3/10**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Course Fees are due by 1/10/11**

*Fees may be paid in one installment if preferred.*

During the weeks of Pre-Season Marching each student is required to have white tennis shoes, a Micro Poly Fabric warm-up (pants and jacket with custom embroidery), a hat with the falcon logo, and Foothill Band T-shirt. These items will serve as the "Pep Band Uniform" and will be worn frequently throughout the year. The following items will be purchased through the Band Office.

**Band Warm Up (jacket and pants) - \$70      Falcon Band Hat - \$10      Falcon Band T-Shirt - \$10**

## PURCHASES

**BEFORE PURCHASING AN INSTRUMENT CONSULT WITH FHS BAND STAFF.** We can help you make a decision on the best instrument for you and we may also save you money! Your car rides better when all the tires are the same brand. Likewise, a band sounds better when instruments match and are of good quality. For your benefit and the overall program's benefit please seek our recommendations.

## FUNDRAISING

Band is one of the most popular and successful programs at Foothill High School. However, it is also one of the most expensive to operate. We strive to provide the very best instruments, music, staff, and instructional equipment possible for our students. Therefore, we ask for your cooperation in our fundraisers. During the summer we sell fireworks and at the beginning of the school year we typically sell Entertainment Books and coupon cards. Individual student accounts are set up in the Band Office. Often students are able to pay all of their course fees and travel expenses entirely through fundraising efforts. Thousands of dollars can be made from these very successful fundraisers.

## INSTRUMENTS and ACCESSORIES

Students who intend to use a school instrument will bring home a rental contract during of Pre-Season Marching Orientation. **There is no rental fee for school instruments.** However, students are required to pay for the annual service and cleaning of the instrument (\$50-\$150) and any damage incurred while in the student's possession. A limited number of instruments are available.

**Flutes** – Yamaha, Gemeindardt, Emerson, and Powell are preferred brands. Accessories should include a cleaning rag, tuning rod, metronome, and a digital tuner.

**Oboe and Bassoon** – Yamaha, Selmer, and Fox are preferred brands. Accessories should include cane reeds, cleaning rag, key oil, metronome, and a digital tuner.

**Clarinets** – Buffet, Leblanc, Selmer, and Yamaha are preferred brands. Accessories should include a Vandoren 5RV mouthpiece, a minimum of 4 good reeds (Vandoren) at all times (rotated daily they will last longer and save money), metal or plastic reed clip that holds 4 reeds, cleaning swab (used after each playing period), mouthpiece cover, cork grease, metronome, and a digital tuner.

**Saxophones** – Yamaha, Selmer, and Yanagisawa are preferred brands. Accessories should include a Selmer C\* or Larry Teal mouthpiece, a minimum of 4 good reeds (Vandoren) at all times (rotated daily they will last longer and save money), metal or plastic reed clip that holds 4 reeds, cleaning swab (used after each playing period), mouthpiece cover, cork grease, neck straps, metronome, and a tuner.

**Brass** – Yamaha, Bach, Conn, and Holton are preferred brands. Accessories should include a Bach mouthpiece, valve oil, slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning snake, soft cleaning rag, mutes, metronome, and a digital tuner.

**Percussion** - Large practice pad, metronome, stick bag, sticks, and mallets. (Wait until Pre-Season Marching before making any purchases – our percussion staff will advise you.)

All students should have a **music stand** and an open place to practice at home. Propping music on a case or chair promotes poor posture and will impede progress. Optional equipment includes a **metronome** and a small **digital tuner**. These devices are inexpensive and can be purchase at most of our local music stores.

We look forward to working with you and your family. Welcome to the Band that will set the standard!

Sincerely,

**Travis Pardee**  
**Director of Bands**  
**799-3500 ext. 4040**

**Nick Waters**  
**Associate Director of Bands**  
**799-3500 ext. 4040**

**Lisa Austin**  
**Instructional Assistant**  
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