

Frequently Asked Questions About the H.B. Plant Band Program

Why should I be in the H.B. Plant High School Band?

The H.B. Plant High School Bands have a long tradition of being one of the most outstanding band programs in Hillsborough County and the state of Florida. For nearly 90 years, the Bands have represented H.B. Plant High School with excellence at regional, state, and national performances. **The H.B. Plant Band represents some of the very best students at H.B. Plant High School.**

Along with the musical experiences that come with being a part of the H.B. Plant Band, this organization attracts some of the most outstanding individuals in the school. Over the years, some of the leaders among our students, including valedictorians and salutatorians, have been part of the H.B. Plant Band, and **being a part of the Band Program has an extremely positive impact on a student's high school experience.** Life-long friendships are developed here, and this band is truly a family!

The benefits of participation in a high school band program go far beyond the social and musical aspects:

Students of the arts continue to outperform their non-arts peers on the SAT, according to reports by the College Entrance Examination Board. In a recent report the College Board found that students in music performance scored 57 points higher on the critical reading, 43 points higher on the math and 58 points higher on writing than students with no arts participation.
- The College Board, Profile of College-Bound Seniors National Report.

The very best engineers and technical designers in the Silicon Valley industry are, nearly without exception, practicing musicians. *- Grant Venerable, "The Paradox of the Silicon Savior"*

Physician and biologist Lewis Thomas studied the undergraduate majors of medical school applicants. He found that 66% of music majors who applied to medical school were admitted, the highest percentage of any group. 44% of biochemistry majors were admitted. *- As reported in "The Case for Music in the Schools," Phi Delta Kappan*

At perhaps no other time have music and arts education been more important. Apart from their obvious benefits, music and the other arts produce critical thinkers, people who are decision makers. In the information age, our company needs people with these critical thinking skills. *- Susan Driggers, Bell South Corporation*

Band is a group effort. Members are required to shift from an I/Me mindset to a We/Us paradigm, extending themselves beyond their personal needs and desires. Instead of, "What's in it for *me*?" the question becomes, "How can I benefit *us*?" The values of cooperation, communication, concentration, correlation, and completion come into play each rehearsal and performance. *- Anonymous*

Band builds positive self-worth. Although we share many similarities with our athletic counterparts, BAND is a place for everyone. Rarely does anyone function as an alternate or substitute. Everyone in the band plays a starting role. *- Anonymous*

Levels of Membership:

All students are enrolled in a band class during the school day AND earn the REQUIRED Performing Arts Credit for Graduation regardless of which of these three levels below they choose.

Football Band

Description

The Football Band is an all-encompassing band consisting of band members in grades 9-12 (combines all of the band classes from the school day). All students of the band program are highly encouraged to participate in the Football Band!

Goal

The Football Band will provide entertainment focusing on enhancing school spirit.

Performances

The Football Band will perform at all home and 3-4 away varsity football games during the regular season, and at all playoff games during the month of November and December. This includes in the stands during the game and at halftime on the field in a stand still formation (no marching). Other performances include school pep-rallies, local parades, and other community events.

Rehearsals

There are **NO** after school rehearsals for the Football Band; all music will be learned during the school day. There will **ONE** camp day in August before school starts and on Fridays before the football games (*refer to calendar when released*).

Financial Obligation

The base band fee is \$150. The Football Band will require the district uniform rental fee of \$37.45. If you need to rent a school instrument, the district rental fee for the entire year is \$42.80. New members will have to purchase black marching shoes at the cost of \$30.

Competitive Marching Band

Description

The Competitive Marching Band is a 'state of the art' competitive marching band and explores the latest trends in competitive marching band. The Competitive Marching Band is an extra-curricular ensemble within the band program that meets outside of the school day. The audition requirement for incoming 9th graders is the commitment to the schedule and recommendation from your middle school band director. This ensemble is not required and is not for all band students.

Goal

The Competitive Marching Band provides an outlet for students interested in the realm of 'state of the art' design, performance, social, and competitive opportunities.

Performances

The Competitive Marching Band will perform at 1-2 home varsity football games in late October/early November. In addition, the Competitive Marching Band will perform at marching competitions in the Tampa area; usually 3-4 shows with one of those being the FMBC State Championships on Saturday, November 23, 2019. One of the other shows will be the FBA District Marching MPA, usually held the first Saturday of November. The other 1-2 shows will be held on

Saturdays in late October, between FBA and State Championships (*refer to calendar when released*). All members of the Competitive Marching Band will also participate in the Football Band.

Rehearsals

The Competitive Marching Band will strictly rehearse after school. Typical rehearsals will be Mondays after school (1 hour), Wednesday evenings (2 hours), and Thursday evenings (2-3 hours). There will be a mini camp in June immediately after school is out and a full camp in August before school starts. The mini camp in June is Monday-Thursday June 3-6, 2019 from 8am-12pm. The full camp in August will start Thursday, August 1. (*refer to calendar when released*).

Financial Obligation

The Competitive Marching Band fee is \$300. It will also require the district uniform rental fee of \$37.45. If you need to rent a school instrument, the district rental fee for the entire year is \$42.80. New members will have to purchase black marching shoes at the cost of \$30.

Non-Marcher

Description

A Non-Marcher is a student who can't participate in the Football Band and is for those who do not wish to participate in the Competitive Marching Band. Non-Marchers are enrolled in one of the four band classes and participate daily making music and perform only at indoor concerts. This option is perfect for those serious athletes/dancers who practice 5-7 days a week. ALL STUDENTS should participate in this level for at least their 9th grade year to see what high school band is about and earn your graduation requirement.

Goal

Non-Marchers will continue to learn their craft on the instrument they have been playing and perform a variety of concert music at four concerts a year.

Performances

Non-Marchers perform in 4 concerts a year, along with members from the Football Band and the Competitive Marching Band. Those concerts are the Veteran's Concert, held around Veteran's Day, Pre-MPA, held in late February, District MPA, held in early March, and Spring Concert, held in late April/early May.

Rehearsals

NO rehearsals after school.

Financial Obligation

The base band fee is \$150. If you need to rent a school instrument, the district rental fee for the entire year is \$42.80.

How do I Audition for High School Band?

There is not an audition to be a member of the H.B. Plant Band program. All incoming students will be placed into Campus Band (Band 1). If you wish to be considered for Symphonic Band and/or

Wind Ensemble, a short audition will be required towards the end of the year in May. The audition will consist of scales and a short musical piece. There is no audition requirement for percussion students; all percussion students will be placed in Instrument Techniques 1, which is the percussion class. Students may be in high school band without participating in middle school band.

Can I be in sports and band?

Yes! We have just about every sport represented throughout the band program, including varsity football players (3 currently). In addition, it is the policy of the H.B. Plant Band to be as flexible as possible with students juggling an extra-curricular activity and the band schedule. **We strongly believe that students learn incredible life skills by being in both activities, and experience has shown that band athletes tend to be some of the strongest musicians.** There are rarely events that occur outside of the school day that would conflict with an athletic event. Students involved with fall sports can still participate in the Football Band!

What about being in Chorus or Orchestra *and* Band?

We have several students each year who are shared between either Band and Chorus or Band and Orchestra (currently 10 students in band and chorus). Students will have to be enrolled in both classes, which means taking an online class to help free up space in the schedule. It is best that a student looking to do both should contact Mr. Bossert (Orchestra) or Mr. Yost (Chorus) along with Mr. Dell to coordinate schedules.

Band seems to take up a lot of time. Will I have time to study?

Nearly all students in Band are in the top of their class taking Honors, AP, Dual Enrollment, and Online classes. Band students learn to manage their time. With the three different levels of memberships, students can make a decision based on their busy schedule. There is ample time to complete homework – even if you have a very demanding course-load, as most of our students do!

It is important to understand that most students adjust to this schedule, and they enjoy the daily *break* from the traditional academic coursework. It doesn't mean that there isn't work to be done (practicing, sectionals, etc.), but it is "different" from the rest of the school day. It is also important to realize that just about any activity in high school requires some time commitment, and this time management discipline pays off great dividends for the students as they prepare for life outside of high school!

Why should I continue at Plant since I gave 2-3 years in middle school?

There are several reasons to continue in high school, especially in 9th grade. 1 – Helps ease the transition into high school. 2 – You will meet upperclassmen to help and mentor you. 3 – Meets your Performing Arts Credit required for graduation. 4 – Gives you an outlet/break from the intense academics at Plant. 5 – High School Band is just so different than middle school. 6 – The Ivy League schools value participation in music (or other fine arts). 7 – You get a "family" away from home to help you with anything you need. 8 – Because it is FUN!

Will being in band have a negative effect on my grades or scholarships?

NO! As a matter of fact, during your junior and senior year, you can take band for honors credit. You can earn an extra .5 credit just by taking band during your junior and senior years. There is also an A.P. Music Theory class offered to juniors and seniors. Former band students have been accepted into prestigious universities such as Yale, George Washington, Princeton, UF, FSU, Vanderbilt, etc...

Does the Plant Band take any trips?

Yes! Trips are one of the most fun parts of being in band. We offer trips throughout the four years in the program. Past trips include Orlando-Universal, Indianapolis, and other areas across the southeast. Future plans include a parade in London, and concert band performances in cities such as Washington DC, New York, Chicago, San Francisco and across Florida.

How Expensive is it to be in the H.B. Plant Band Program?

Every effort is made to keep participation in the Band Program affordable. The base band fee for all students is \$150. Other new member expenses include concert attire, which is \$65 for the concert dress for females (Wilson students may use the same dress at Plant, and Plant Chorus students may use that dress for band!). Male concert attire is not purchased through the band (solid black shirt and slacks purchased anywhere). School Instrument Rental is \$42.80 for the year. Football and Competitive Marching Band Uniform fee is \$37.45 for the year. For a 9th grade female student who is in the Football Band, owns their instrument, needs a concert dress, needs marching shoes, will pay a grand total of \$282.45 for the first year. The next 3 years, the grant total for this same student will be \$187.45 a year. A student in the Competitive Marching Band will pay \$150 more.

The Plant Band Boosters hold several fundraisers that allow students to earn credit toward their Band fees. With active participation in these fundraisers, it is possible to cut the Band fees by 50% or more. In fact, there are many students who have 100% of Band fees covered through their fundraising participation! These credits "roll over" from one year to the next until they graduate.

Most importantly, we never want a student to be kept from participating in the Band Program due to a financial limitation, and we can work to accommodate any situation.

What Band classes are offered at H.B. Plant High School?

There are several band/music classes offered at H.B. Plant High School. Incoming freshman may audition for the advanced classes, however no audition is required for Campus Band (Band 1). All classes are offered during the school day and will meet the Performing Arts Graduation requirement.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Information:</u>
Campus Band	No Audition. For freshman and new students to their instrument.
Symphonic Band	Audition for 9 th graders, 10-12 th graders who are not in Wind Ensemble.
Wind Ensemble	Audition required for all 9-12 th graders.
Jazz Band	Audition required for 9-12 th graders.

Percussion

Required for percussion students. No audition required for 9th graders. Students must participate in either the Football Band or Competitive Marching Band.

AP Music Theory

For advanced juniors and seniors only. Preference given to seniors.

What is Color Guard and Winter Guard?

Color Guard is an extra-curricular activity within the Band Program that uses props, flags, rifles, sabers, and movement, to express dynamic passages in music. Equipment choreography is layered over dance technique to create a new form of theatrical expression. Color Guard is separated into two areas: "Color Guard" takes place during the summer and fall, and performers are a section within the Competitive Marching Band, adding visual interest and helping to portray show themes and theatrics. "Winter Guard" rehearses during the winter and early spring, and they perform to prerecorded music in an indoor setting by themselves.

The Color Guard will meet strictly after school with their coaches. ALL students at Plant High School are invited to audition. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY to be a part of the Color Guard. The audition will be a chance for students to see if this is something for them. Wind players and percussionists can be in both Band and Color Guard.

When is Band Registration?

Current 8th grade students will "sign-up" for Band through their guidance counselor sometime in November/December. However, there will be a Plant Band registration form sent to you sometime during the second semester for parents to complete. In order for us to make plans for the following school year, we must know in advance who is going to be in Band. Our Competitive Marching show is designed far in advance and is charted for only the students who commit to this level of membership. An exact number in each section is necessary to design the show; therefore, we must require a commitment level from each individual student. The Football Band and Non-Marcher levels are not as critical for advance notice. There will be an informational parent/student night sometime in April or May held in the Plant Band room. This will be the opportunity for parents and students to ask questions about the program.

If I did not "sign up" for band can I change my mind; can I still be in band?

YES-- just have your parents email Mr. Dell with the class you would like to drop in order to add Band. As long as we have written approval, we can make the change anytime. You may also contact your guidance counselor; however, they may not know in which band class to place you.

If you have any other questions, e-mail Mr. Dell at planthsband@gmail.com, or Kathy Hill, Booster President at planthsbandpres@gmail.com