



# The Bands of Susquehannock High School

## Be Part of an Award Winner!

The Bands of Susquehannock High School are composed of about 85 amazingly talented students. The band program provides all levels of musical opportunity for students in grades 9-12 regardless of prior instrumental experience.

### THE BANDS OF SUSQUEHANNOCK

The Susquehannock High School Band program is made up of 3 major and distinct performing ensembles, plus various other opportunities for students to play as part of smaller ensembles. Rehearsals and performances may be required as an extension of the classroom band classes for the purpose of honing performance skills:

**FULL YEAR BAND-1.25 Credit/Year:** Combines the musicality of the Concert Band, the precision of marching, the beauty of choreography and dance, the pageantry of the football season, and the fire of percussion to create a truly unique and special activity. Modern marching band shows are intense, athletic, and skillful. At Susquehannock, marching band is a SPORT! Marching band weekly rehearsals begin at the beginning of May to familiarize students with the music. Marching band camp begins the first week of August and the marching season runs through November. The band performs 5 or 6 weekend competitions, 5 home footballs games, 5 away footballs games, parades, and any playoffs games. August, September and October include approximately two after school or evening rehearsals per week. The remainder of the year is focused on concert rehearsals and preparing for public concerts.

### CONCERT BAND-.75 Credit/Year:

The Concert Band course is for woodwind, brass and percussion students who cannot fulfill the Marching Band requirements of the "Full Year Band." Emphasis is placed on the development of technical skills necessary for performance. After school rehearsals and performances are required.

**COLOR GUARD-.5 Credit/Term:** A *visual* performing ensemble that consists of students from all grades who have an interest in performing dance, choreography and synchronized and expressive movement and do not play a band instrument. It is an essential element to the marching band program. Color Guard has the same rehearsal and performance requirements that the Full Year Band has, but takes place only the 1st quarter of the school year.

**District Band Activities:** There are opportunities for our band students to audition for the District ensembles. These include District Band, Regional Band, District Jazz Band and All-State Bands.

**Jazz Band:** This ensemble is an extra-curricular activity. To be a member of this ensemble however, you must be enrolled in one of the Music offerings at Susquehannock.

### COMMITMENT

Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality. It is the words that speak boldly of your intentions. And the actions which speak louder than words. It is making the time when there is none. Coming through time after time, year after year. Commitment is the stuff character is made of: the power to change the face of things. It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism.

### PHILOSOPHY

It is the goal of the Susquehannock High School Bands to cultivate a life-long appreciation for music in each student. The Susquehannock High School Bands will foster musical, leadership, social, emotional, time management, and teamwork skills to carry students successfully into their future. Susquehannock High School band students will learn to perform in a variety of settings. They will learn the essentials of teamwork, self-motivation, self discipline, individual responsibility, and social skills that prove to be effective in any career, sport, or other activity, making Susquehannock High School band students better human beings as a result of their high school band experience.

### STUDENTS CAN PARTICIPATE IN:

MARCHING BAND

CONCERT BAND

INDOOR DRUMLINE

COLOR GUARD

INDOOR GUARD

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

THE PIT ORCHESTRA

WOODWIND QUINTET

BRASS QUINTET

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

SAXOPHONE QUARTET

## **BANDS OF SUSQUEHANNOCK**

### **MORE INFORMATION**

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*An Award Winner!*



### **I HEARD THAT MARCHING BAND IS TOUGH.**

Yes, marching band is physically and mentally challenging, but also a lot of fun! Marching band camp begins mid-August so that the band can memorize the music and choreography.

The Marching Warriors are prepared to perform their high energy show by September 1. Marching band is a great way for freshman to make new friends, form relationships with upperclassmen, and become familiar with the school. It eases the transition from middle to high school. You will never forget the exhilaration of that first night performing to a cheering crowd under the lights!

### **WILL BEING IN THE BAND AF- FECT MY GRADES?**

YES! Research shows that participation in band will affect your grades for the better. On average, students who participate in school music organizations score 89 points higher on standardized tests like the SAT than students without musical coursework. Also, 70% of the nation's major universities report that participation in a musical organization is a higher consideration than standardized test scores for admission decisions. In addition, many real world business concepts are explored and taught in band. Leadership, team building, inter personal relationship, and management skills are a regular part of the band environment. Regular training in these subjects are taught throughout the year.

### **HOW MUCH MONEY WILL BEING IN THE BAND COST?**

Unfortunately the school district doesn't provide enough funding for the band program. SYCSD Band Boosters was formed to support the band program, including collecting fees and fundraising. Part of the funds raised is credited towards the students' fund raising progress to offset fees or the cost of trips. Last year's trip fee was \$700 for Marching Band. Families are encouraged to participate in fund raisers to help offset or cover fees and trip costs. Dollars you raise through your fund raising efforts can significantly reduce the money that you, as parents, have to provide so that your students receive the best musical experience possible.

It is the intent of the Susquehannock Band Boosters, Inc. to give all students the opportunity to participate in the band / color guard activities.

### **WILL BAND FIT MY SCHEDULE?**

The band always has students who are planning to enter all fields in college. The class schedule at Susquehannock High School is made to allow these students to take a full schedule of classes (including A.P.) and play in band during all four years. Whether you are in activities, or not, at Susquehannock High School, good grades are dependent upon being a good worker. If you are conscientious and organized, band, or any other activity, will not adversely affect your schedule or grades. If you are not conscientious and organized, grades and scheduling will be a problem, even with no additional activities!

### **WILL I HAVE TO GIVE UP OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FOR THE BAND?**

No, many school club and activity conflicts can be worked out through planning by the student. If there is a game before or scheduled during rehearsal, it is the athlete's responsibility to inform the Director of Bands of this conflict as soon as it arises so that the student can be excused from the rehearsal. After the fall football season, there are fewer scheduling conflicts. Non marching band members can participate in athletics year round. It is not always easy, and does require some advanced planning, but most conflicts are worked out with good communication between students, parents, activity sponsors, coaches, and band director. The student must take initial responsibility for working out conflicts by communicating with the coaches/sponsors and band staff.

### **DID THE BAND REALLY GO TO DISNEY?**

The Marching Band attended its trip in December of 2008. All band students are offered the opportunity to attend trips. The Concert Band will attend a one day trip this coming year. Students will be provided with ample opportunities for fund raising to offset trip costs.

Yes, we really DID go to Disney and it WAS awesome!