

# Douglas S. Freeman Bands

Douglas Southall Freeman High School • 8701 Three Chopt Rd. • Henrico, VA 23229  
[www.freemanband.org](http://www.freemanband.org) • (804) 282-5460

June 2009

Dear Band Parents and Students,

Welcome to a new year of great music with the Freeman band program! Time will sail by this summer and before we know it, Band Camp will be upon us. This letter contains a lot of important information, so please read it carefully and review all the information on the website. Parents, I hope you can take a few minutes on the first morning of full Band Camp, Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, to stop in and say hello from 8-8:30am. Students, you will start at 8 am *sharp*!

The Band Camp Staff, most of whom the returning students already know, is already preparing the 2009 Rebel Brigade Field Show. This year's show is titled "Synchronicity" and features music by The Police. Our website, [www.freemanband.org](http://www.freemanband.org), has the music available for you to download. If you don't have the music already, download the music and start familiarizing yourself with the piece. I am happy to announce that the drill for this year's show is almost complete! Everyone's role in this band is equally important, both musically and visually. The tentative calendar for the year is in the Handbook, also available online.

This year, we will rehearse music on Monday evenings in the band room. If you are in town, the expectation is that you come to rehearsal. Section Leaders and Drum Majors will be contacting their sections to remind them about these rehearsals throughout the summer.

#### **DSF 2009 Summer Music Rehearsal Schedule:**

July 6<sup>th</sup> - 6:00pm – 8:00pm

July 13<sup>th</sup> - 6:00pm – 8:00pm

July 20<sup>th</sup> - 6:00pm – 8:00pm

August 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6:00pm – 8:00pm

**Band Camp begins in August and is held at Freeman.**

#### **DSF 2009 Band Camp Schedule:**

August 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am **Student Leadership days**

August 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-3:00 – **1st Years, all Percussion, color guard, student leaders**

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-3:00 – **1st & 2nd Years, all Percussion, color guard, student leaders**  
August 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-3:00 – **1st, 2nd and 3rd Years, all Percussion, color guard, student leaders**  
August 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 8:00-5:00 – **FULL BAND and Color Guard**  
August 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 8:00-5:00 – **FULL BAND and Color Guard**  
August 31<sup>st</sup>, 5:00pm-8:00pm – **FULL BAND & Color Guard (Post-Camp Rehearsal)**  
September 1<sup>st</sup> – 6:00pm (t) – **Band Picnic and performance**  
**All Students (Band & Guard) Report at 5:00pm**

We will be using the outfield area of the baseball field to learn drill and we will be in the band room (and other portions of the school) for music rehearsals.

As you all know, marching band is an outdoor activity and a lot of time is spent outside, beginning with Band Camp. Even though we try to limit our outside time to the mornings when it is cooler, the weather in August will be hot and humid, so to ensure productive rehearsals, some precautions must be taken.

First, appropriate dress is crucial. Students should wear light-colored t-shirts, shorts of appropriate length, hats, sunglasses if desired and comfortable sneakers with socks. **No sandals or flip-flops!** A water-resistant sunscreen is *strongly* recommended. **Please keep in mind that the dress code stipulated in the Henrico County Code of Conduct does apply!**

Second, what you eat and drink (or don't eat and drink) will directly affect your ability to rehearse, and thus affect the overall band's productivity. The Boosters will provide coolers of water, though all students should bring their own water as well. **Keeping yourself properly hydrated is of utmost importance!** Also, be sure to eat a very good breakfast every morning.

All students need to bring their own lunch (lots of fruits and lighter foods). **No one will be allowed to leave school grounds during Band Camp hours.** And again, students should drink plenty of non-carbonated fluids.

Each student must be fully prepared for camp with the following items each day:  
**Please be sure to have these items on the first day of camp.**

1. Instrument and accessories such as reeds, valve oil, etc.
2. Pencil with an eraser
3. Sturdy three-ring binder with sheet protectors and loose-leaf paper
4. Red, White & Blue Poker chips (to help in learning drill)
5. Your music
6. Percussionists should have fully equipped stick bags

**ALL BRASS PLAYERS MUST HAVE A FULL SIZE BLUE OR GRAY BATH TOWEL.** (These will be used to lay your instruments on when we are marching outside without them). You should also have a polishing glove, or polishing cloth with you at all times. We want our instruments to be CLEAN for performances this year!

The fee for Band Camp 2009 is \$150 for all Band and Color Guard Students. This partially covers the fees for instructors for each section (not paid for by the County), drinks provided by the Boosters, and the main course for the picnic. There is a payment form online.

Please make checks payable to “DSF Band Boosters” and send by the rehearsal on July 13<sup>th</sup> or mail to:

Robin Dranoff, Band Booster Treasurer  
9408 Rhonda Dr.  
Richmond, VA 23229

If payment is not possible by the due date, please call Robin Dranoff at 967-9199 to set up an alternate payment plan. We are always more than willing to be flexible as long as a good faith effort is made. **Anyone who has not paid the Band Camp fee or has not contacted Mrs. Dranoff by August 12<sup>th</sup> will not be permitted to attend camp until this obligation has been met.**

Once you receive this letter, please send us your email address so we can be prepared to start sending you schedule changes, reminders, etc. – just send an email to [vobrien@vta.com](mailto:vobrien@vta.com) with your name and the student’s name.

Our goal for Band Camp 2009 is to have the show well under way for the performance and picnic **on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm**, so come ready to work hard and be successful. This is going to be a great year!

Musically yours,



Rob Blankenship  
Director of Bands

PS: As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 282-5460 or via email at [rpblanke@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:rpblanke@henrico.k12.va.us). I will be checking the voicemail several times each week, so please leave a message. You may also contact me through the main office at 673-3700. Please watch our website for any changes and updates – it is updated regularly even through the summer!