

Thomson High School Bulldog Brigade Marching Band
Phone (706) 986-4260
www.bulldogbrigade.org

Dear Band Parents and Students,

It's hard to believe that the 2011-2012 Band Season is here. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. I am really looking forward to the new season and know that it will be our best yet.

Below is the Band Camp info. Please read through it with your child, fill out the necessary forms, and send forms/ band camp fee with your child the first day of their scheduled camp. In an effort to save paper, we will distribute the Band Hand book to all students on the first day of camp. REMINDER – All students will need a flip folder and Lyre for their instruments. (Exception – Auxiliaries)

Band camp for the 2011-2012 marching season will be:

- **August 1 thru 4 - 7:30 AM till 3:30 PM** – Percussion, Auxiliary (Flags, Dance and Majorettes), and leadership.
 - It is very important that we get this “one on one” time with you. Contracted (very expensive) instructors will be teaching special catered routines and cadences/ show music to the percussion. Leadership will rehearse music and learn drill so that they can help teach the band during full camp.
- **August 3 and 4 – 7:30 AM till 12:00 PM** – **Rookie Camp for all rising 9th Graders and first time marchers.**
- **August 8 thru 11** – Full Camp 7:30 AM till 3:30 PM – All Students
- **August 15 and 16** – Full Camp 4:00 PM till 7:00 PM – Regular practice schedule will resume after camp dates.
- **LUNCH FOR ALL CAMP DAYS WILL BE FROM 12:00 PM till 1:00 PM.** Lunch will be on your own. You may leave campus or bring a sack lunch to eat in the Band Room. If bringing a sack lunch, please provide your own small personal cooler. We do not have room to store everyone's lunch. Students may ride with other students to leave campus as long as we have a note from both parents giving approval. **If you do not have parental consent you may not ride with another student to leave campus. * Special Note – The Band Boosters will have a concession available for those wishing to purchase meals on the spot. A menu will be sent out at a later date.**

We are starting early in the morning to help avoid as much heat as possible. **Band Camp is mandatory** for all **Performance Band** members. Exceptions are THS football players, THS Softball Players, Competition ROTC Drill Team and THS cheerleaders. In order to be a competitive group, we must have 100% participation at every rehearsal and performance.

Just a friendly reminder, there is a **\$50.00 band camp fee** for all band students. Please have this fee ready to pay on the first day of Band Camp. Make Checks payable to the **THS Band**. This will help ensure that we get the best instructors and needed items for band camp. Students and parents wanting to fundraise the fee will be given the opportunity but will need to fill out a Band Booster consent form provided in the 2011-2012 Band Handbook.

Special Reminder:

All regular Booster meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the THS Band Room. We hope to see you there. (Our first Band Booster meeting will be 7:00 PM on July 26 in the THS Band Room- Not a regularly scheduled meeting)

PLEASE VISIT OUR BAND WEB PAGE. www.bulldogbrigade.org (Music will be handed out the first day of camp. It will not be available for download off of the band website.)

Sincerely,
Jessie Morlan
Director of Bands
morlanj@mcduffie.k12.ga.us

CHECK LIST OF ITEMS TO COMPLETE

1. Fill attached forms and sign all appropriate places. Return the enclosed forms and the band handbook forms to the band office by August 8, 2011. – Special note**** The band handbook will be given out on the first day of camp. You may also download the handbook from our website at www.bulldogbrigade.org on or after July 18, 2011.

Simply click on the **IMPORTANT INFO** tab for easy download in PDF format.

2. Bring your \$50 band camp fee the first day of camp. (Camp fee will also help in purchasing Polo shirts and band T Shirts for our performance wear.)

a. Make all checks payable to the **THIS BAND**

b. Just a side note – Students that went to past UGA summer band camps discovered that many bands in the state have a \$1200 band fee or more. We are fortunate to have a very supportive Band Booster Club and Board of Education. Make sure you thank members of these groups when you see them.

c. If you desire to fundraise this amount you and your parent will need to fill out and sign the Band Booster form in this packet.

3. Practice your instrument.

a. School owned instruments will be assigned the first day of camp. Before you can take an instrument home you will need to get the instrument contract signed and returned.

b. Make sure you have plenty of reeds, oils, etc and that your instrument is in proper playing condition before you arrive at camp.

c. Accessories can be bought on August 8 from Pecknel Music.

They will have a van in the parking lot. General prices are listed in the packet.

d. Items can also be bought from them ahead of time by calling 803-799-6860 or visit www.pecknelmusic.com

4. Get ready for a wonderful season! Bring a positive attitude to camp!

If you have any questions please email me at morlanj@mcduffie.k12.ga.us

The band room phone is 706-986-4260.

Band Camp Tips

1. Drink plenty of water before you come to camp. We will be outside a good bit.

2. Eat a good breakfast every day. Almost all of our illnesses are a result of not eating breakfast or lunch.

3. You **MUST** bring small water bottles, etc to keep with you during practice. Hydration packs are also highly recommended and can be purchased at your local sporting goods store.

4. Wear cooler colors (light colors) and loose comfortable clothes.

5. Wear comfortable shoes. We will be on our feet all day.

No sandals or flip flops.

(This includes upper classman and pit members!)

6. Students needing to stay through lunch are welcome to bring a sack lunch and eat in the band room.

We will have a few cookouts for the entire band. We will keep you posted.

7. Bring a pencil and small pad to record marching coordinates and rehearsal info.

8. Wear sunscreen and lip balm. ****Pay special attention to this area****

9. Practice your instrument before you get to camp. If your endurance is weak the whole band will suffer.

10. **BE A SAFE DRIVER IN THE SCHOOL PARKING LOT.** Your parking permit will be taken for the semester if you are caught not driving safe.