



Greetings **High School** students and parents; welcome to the 2023-24 school year! One of Cuthbertson's goals is to go "practically paperless", so we will be communicating through our band website cuthbertsonbands.org and Canvas.

PLEASE READ ENTIRE WELCOME LETTER – LOTS OF NEW INFORMATION INCLUDED

Basic Band Information

- **Band Information Form** - please fill out and return by 9/1. The 2023-24 Band Handbook is available on our website - cuthbertsonbands.org
- **Canvas** - Student should check this weekly for announcements and assignments
- **BAND App** - Students can sign up for their class BAND App for up-to-the-minute information

Concert Schedule –all dates are for **High School** students. **Cut away this portion to post on your calendar or refrigerator!** All performances are considered mandatory participation and are graded events. It is impossible to have a truly successful performance unless each member is in attendance. Therefore, we always give advance notice for performances so all members can arrange their calendars accordingly. Please do not schedule appointments or make out-of-town trips when a performance is scheduled!

Required events for all students

Fall Concert (all HS students)	October 26th
Winter Concert (in conjunction with the Holiday Bazaar)	December 2nd (Saturday)
Concert Band Symposium (all HS students)	February 23rd and 24th
Union County Concert Preview "Works in Progress"	March 7th
NC Bandmasters District MPA Concert Band Festival	March 18-22 (one date chosen by district)
Spring Concert (all HS bands)	May 30th

All High School band students will be required to participate in the Fall, Winter, "Works in Progress", and Spring Concerts as well as the Union Concert band symposium, and the North Carolina Bandmasters District MPA Festival. Other required performances will be scheduled throughout the year as they become available. Band students are also eligible to audition for participation in District Honor, All County, and All State bands as well as a number of other University Honor Bands.

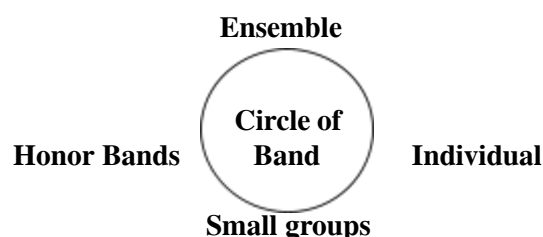
Optional events

District Honor Band Auditions (optional, but recommended)	January 13th
UGA Janfest, Athens, GA (selected students only)	January 18th-20th
Limestone Honor Band Clinic (selected students only)	January 25th – 26th
UNCG Honor Band Clinic	February 22nd-24th (recordings due Jan 18th)
Solo and Ensemble Festival (optional)	May 11th
Awards Night	May 31st

Enrichment Ensembles - offered based on student interest

Mighty Marching Cavaliers
Blue Note Jazz Band
Chamber Winds/small ensembles
Indoor Winds
Percussion Ensemble
Winterguard
Rock Band

"Be the change you want to see!"



Student Information Page

Homework

All band students have daily homework – to PRACTICE ☺ . Band homework is to review the material we covered in class that day and prepare music we will play the next day. Students may need more practice time on certain units to keep on track with the class. Progress will be measured with weekly “pass-off” quizzes, where students play individually on small portions of class music and receive teacher feedback, and also recorded assignments on Canvas.

Grading Policy

All band students will receive 3 co-curricular and 6 weekly participation grades per 6 weeks. All Co-Curricular class ensemble concerts are required. Students not signed up for enrichment ensembles or district/state events will take afterschool individual playing assessments to complete required Co-Curricular grades.

Co-Curricular Performances 70%

Weekly Participation/Canvas Recordings 30%

Instrument Repair

If a student's instrument is being repaired, please bring a note signed by a parent and make every effort to secure a “loaner” instrument to be used until the instrument is returned. Students will need to use their own mouthpiece for the loaner instrument until their instrument is finished with repairs. Students will still be expected to participate in class while repairs are occurring.

Smartmusic

This program is highly recommended from the band directors and is available to use on **CHROMEBOOKS**. It's an excellent resource to become a better musician and contains **thousands** of band AND solo music pieces to help make practicing music more FUN. Subscriptions are \$59 for a year - visit www.smartmusic.com to download.

Concert attire

High school concert attire is tuxes for the gentlemen, and the black blouse and pants for ladies. Attire is provided by the band program, however, students provide their own dressy black shoes and gentlemen need to provide a white long-sleeved dress shirt. Students will be allowed to keep their concert wear at home, however, if they fail to return it at the end of the year, there is a \$100 replacement cost.

Professional Instruction

Sessions are held once a week in either 30-60 minute sessions taught by professionals on the instrument. Lessons are designed for the upper level intermediate to advanced students and will go in depth to help students play at a higher level for the advanced band class and to achieve honor band placements and/or Solo and Ensemble performances. Students may sign up individually or share a lesson with another student of similar ability.

Private instruction is **highly recommended** in order to increase the advancement of performance skills on a musical instrument. It's the key to helping students become better players and to really make the most of their band experience!

Free Melodies

Free Melodies will be held 1 day a week after school (beginning closer to the end of September, date TBA). This is once a week, free 30 minute tutoring sessions run by our high school students designed to give enrichment for beginning to mid-level students.

To our parents, we want to thank you specifically for supporting this wonderful endeavor for your child. We know that it takes extra time to bring your children to rehearsals, make sure they transport their instrument back and forth, and just be a cheerleader at home during your child's hard work. Thank you so much for all of the extra things you do to help your child and our school. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us; the quickest way being through email.

Musically yours,

Todd Ebert, Director of Bands Todd.ebert@ucps.k12.nc.us

Katie Ebert, Assistant Director of Bands Katie.ebert@ucps.k12.nc.us

Samantha Liddle, Associate Director of Bands Samantha.liddle@ucps.k12.nc.us