

Dear Future Big Red Band Parents,

Greetings from PHS! My name is Dan White, and I am the Director of the PHS Big Red Marching Band. I want to welcome you to the Big Red Band family, and to express how happy I am to have your child join us this Summer and Fall. Participation in marching band gives your student a real advantage in their transition to high school by establishing a friend group and having the mentorship of upperclassmen to give familiarity and support in their first year at PHS. Here are some dates that are very important for Summer Band, 2024:

May / June

**Tuesday, May 28 – Tuesday, June 4 after school from 4pm until 6pm
(we call this Freshmen Band week).**

The only things your students need for this clinic are tennis shoes and their instrument. There will be a parent meeting on **June 4th at 6pm** in the band room.

July

Summer Band begins Monday, July 8th - Friday, July 12th from 8 – 3pm
(Lunch will be from 12 to 1 and they will need to bring it or go get something from somewhere close by.)

Band Camp is Sunday, July 14 – Friday, July 19 at Cedar Lakes in Ripley
(you will receive more info and forms will be available online at Freshmen Band week)

Summer Band then continues July 22 – Aug 14th from 8 am until 3pm

Summer rehearsals are vital and necessary to ensure students learn our basic performance standards. To make this group what it needs to be it is especially important that students participate ALL DAY, EACH DAY. Please schedule Dr. appointments, vacations, and students work schedules around band rehearsals. Our progression is built upon rehearsal after rehearsal, and our show is constantly being tweaked and changed to make it the best it can be. Additionally, we hire special staff to assist us during summer rehearsals/band camp who are only available to us at those times. To reap the benefit of their expertise, students must commit to attending rehearsals.

Coming up this Fall, we will be celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the Big Red Marching Band. Plans are already underway for this monumental event which will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for your kids to participate in. What an exciting time to be a Big Red Band member!

This coming school year is also a big trip year. We are still in the early planning stages but intend to travel to Disney in Spring of 2025. The dates are not yet set in stone but at this point it looks like we will be leaving on March 20th in the evening and traveling all night. We will be spending 3 or 4 nights at Disney where the band will either enter a concert band competition or march a parade in one of the parks (to be determined).

Band Booster meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 6pm in the band room. If school is canceled, we do not have our meeting and will schedule a makeup date. All parents are highly encouraged to attend.

There are 3 places online to be aware of:

- 1) Visit our website where the calendar is kept up to date and even has a countdown to band camp! www.phs-bigredband.com
- 2) Many of our announcements are made on our Facebook page: [PHS Big Red Band Student and Parents Page](#). Please join and answer the questions to be approved!
- 3) You will be asked to join MyMusicOffice to be on our email list, have access to our linkable calendar, and view your student's account at any time. I will give you a login and a password if you don't already have one by the first of July. With My Music Office we email about upcoming events, it also has a calendar that is linked to our webpage. It keeps track of the amount you owe for Band Camp and any trips we take.

I'm sure you and your students have many questions, and I am available to you by email at dbwhite@k12.wv.us or you can call the school at 304-420-9595 ext. 181. My wife, Jennifer, also makes herself available for questions on her cell phone (text or talk) at (304) 699-8761. Yes, there is much to learn but our band family is here to support you and your students through this new and exciting chapter in your band member's life. Looking forward to your kids being part of The Big Red Band!

Daniel B. White
PHS Director of Bands