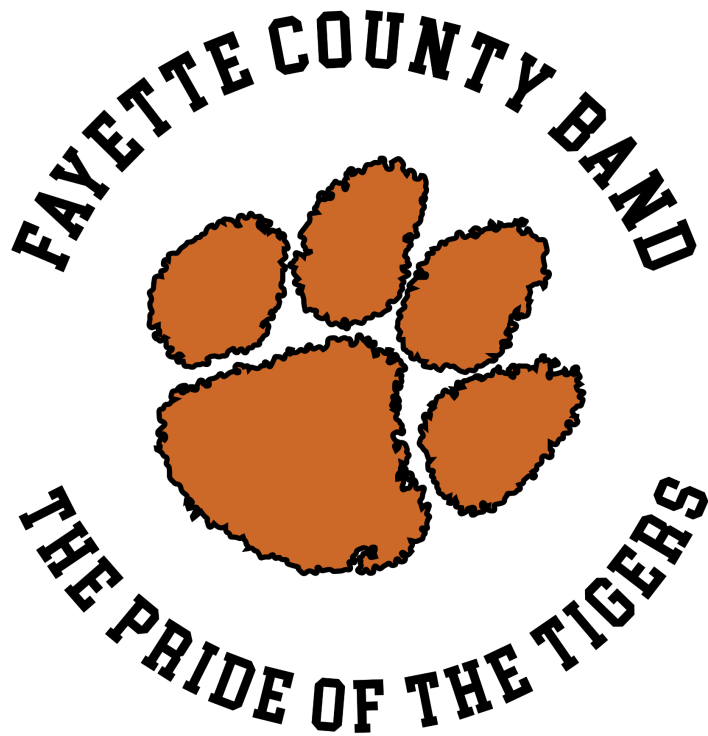


Fayette Middle School Band Handbook



2024-2025

Ms. Hunter Allen
hallen@fayette.k12.al.us

FAYETTE COUNTY BANDS STAFF

Mr. Sebastian Dobbins

Director of Bands

Ms. Hunter Allen

Assistant Director of Bands/FMS

Mrs. LeeAnn Nolen

Majorette Coordinator, FCHS

Mrs. Niki Holliman

Majorette Coordinator, FMS

BAND HANDBOOK POLICY

Both returning and new members are expected to read this information carefully before signing and committing to its contents. This handbook is designed to provide band students and parents with information concerning the band program at Fayette Middle School. It serves as an aide and guideline for all policies and procedures to be followed in the band curriculum and answers most questions you may have throughout the year.

Please become familiar with the band handbook and policies. All students must complete the handbook agreement and contact information sheet found on the last page. All pages that require completing and signing should be returned by **August 14th, 2024.**

BAND PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Music education is a partnership of director, parent, and student. Parents who take an active interest in their student's musical activities will motivate their student to develop their musical skills to the highest potential. Parents should provide firm and kind reminders to their students to practice daily, as well as encouragement to keep going when things start to get hard. Parents need to make sure their student is on time and prepared for all activities and that they follow through with all commitments.

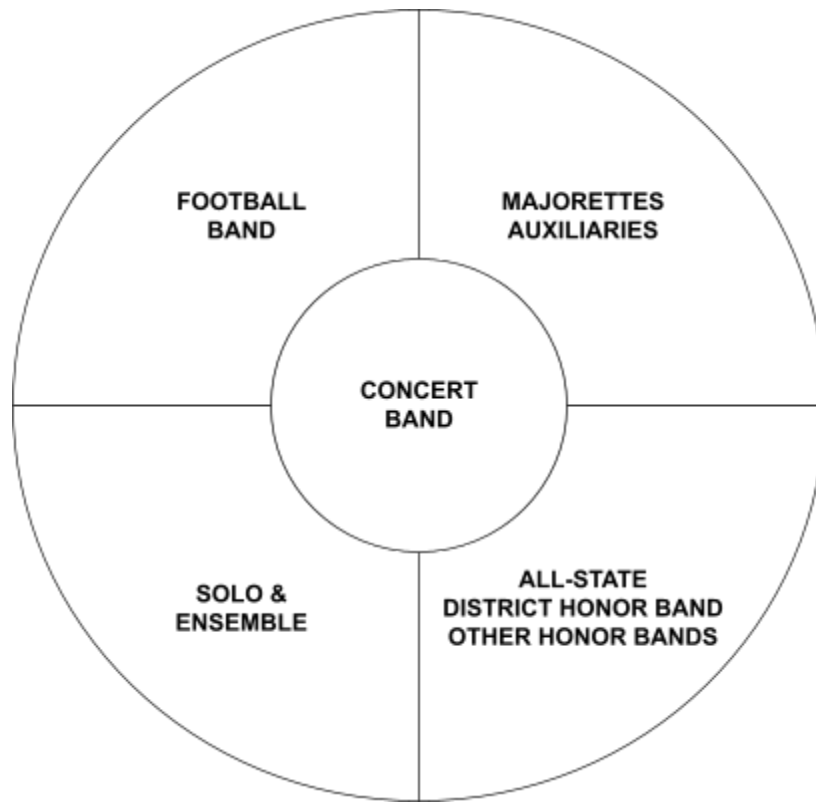
Regular practice time becomes more important as each student advances in their skills. Regular, quality practice time can be promoted if parents assume responsibility for providing favorable practice conditions. Those include:

1. Regularly scheduled practice time
2. Praise for work that is well-done
3. Instrument that is well taken care of
4. Avoidance of practice as a punishment

Practice is homework for band students. They will receive notes on practice techniques as the year progresses.

THE TOTAL BAND PROGRAM

It is the philosophy of Fayette County Bands to have a balanced, total band program with the concert band as the heart and foundation. Below is a graphic representation of the total band program. The graphic does not consider any one component of the band program to be more important than another; rather it is to show how the concert band is our source of fundamental knowledge for good musical growth that is required for the rest of the total band program to flourish as desired and expected.



ENSEMBLES

Beginning Band is offered for 6th grade students who have little to no previous musical experience performing in a concert band setting. Students will learn the fundamentals of music and performing on a specific instrument. The band will perform at winter and spring concerts and other performances as deemed necessary throughout the school year.

Concert Band is an ability based ensemble that students have been placed into by the director. This curriculum continues to stress the fundamentals learned from previous musical experiences. The band will perform at select football games, school assemblies, Veteran's Day, Winter, and Spring concerts, and any other performances as deemed necessary throughout the year. All members are strongly encouraged to participate in the Solo and Ensemble Festival held by the District. Interested students are encouraged to apply/audition for various Middle School/Junior High Honor Bands as well as Alabama Middle School All State and All District.

Symphonic Band is an ability based ensemble that students have been placed into by the director. This curriculum continues to stress the fundamentals learned from previous musical experiences. The band will perform at select football games, school assemblies, Veteran's Day, Winter, and Spring concerts, and any other performances as deemed necessary throughout the year. All members are strongly encouraged to participate in the Solo and Ensemble Festival held by the District. Interested students are encouraged to apply/audition for various Middle School/Junior High Honor Bands as well as Alabama Middle School All State and All District.

Chair placements are determined by audition. These auditions take place at the beginning of both semesters. Information for these will be provided closer to the audition dates. Majorettes will also be required to abide by the contents of the "2024-2025 Majorette Audition Registration Packet." Auditions and interviews for Majorettes will be held in the spring semester, usually in late March or April. Information for these will be provided closer to the audition and interview dates.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

In order to be a member of the Fayette County Band Program, students must meet the following requirements for participation:

1. Must be registered for appropriate band class(es)
2. Must be in good financial standing with both Fayette County High School and the Fayette County Band Program; this includes all band fees, equipment fees, and other charges incurred during membership (such as avoidable repairs)
3. Must complete **ALL** required forms
4. Must participate in **ALL** required activities the band program is a part of
5. Must demonstrate appropriate behavior, maintain the expectations of a member of the Fayette County Band Program, and adhere to all Fayette County Schools policies.

REMOVAL FROM BAND PROGRAM

Membership in the Fayette County Band Program is a privilege that has a high standard of excellence that all of its members must adhere to. Failure to do so may result in removal from the band program. If at any point the Director of Bands or Principal of Fayette County High School determines that a student does not meet the band program's expectations laid out in this handbook or in the Student Code of Conduct, said student may be removed from the band program.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is one of the most important factors in the success of the Fayette County Band Program. All members are required to attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances. This includes football games, parades, contests/festivals, and rehearsals outside of the normal school day. Band is classified as a co-curricular class, meaning that assignments and activities are graded outside of the ordinary school day. Failure to adhere to our attendance policy will result in a lowered grade for the course, and ultimately may result in removal of the Fayette County Band Program.

A tentative schedule for the year is provided attached to this handbook. Additional rehearsals or events may be scheduled as they come up throughout the year. This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the Director of Bands. Majorettes may have additional rehearsals in the fall at the discretion of the Majorette Coordinator. Failure to attend full band rehearsals may likely result in not being able to participate in halftime, or concert performances.

The only excusable absences are prearranged school event conflicts and those that would be excused by the school for regular attendance records (e.g. illness, family emergency, religious holiday, etc.). Individual needs will be addressed as they occur and ruled on by the Director of Bands. **Simply informing of an absence does not constitute being considered excused.**

For ***all excused*** absences, the following procedures must be followed:

1. The director must be notified via email in advance.
2. A band absence form (available on the band website) must be completed.
3. A parent note or doctor's excuse must be submitted if applicable.
4. Follow-up is the sole responsibility of the student.

Per school policy, members that are absent from school (including suspensions) are **not** allowed to participate in any activity that occurs outside of the ordinary school day that day. The absence will be considered either unexcused or excused based on the school's official record.

Being tardy is not a standard we want to have as a band program. Members are REQUIRED to be on time. Times indicated on itineraries and schedules are the **START** times...not the arrival times. Effective communication will always be the best way to work out any conflicts. *Non-school related sports are not an excusable reason for missing band rehearsals or performances/events.*

GRADING

As mentioned before, grades are assigned in class and during co-curricular activities outside of the ordinary school day. Per school policy, grades will be assessed using points. Below are the categories used as well as the points per grade and is not an exhaustive list of graded requirements.

Performances	200
Football games	
Concerts	
Assessments	200
Playing tests	
Self-assessments	
Rehearsals	100
In Class rehearsals	
After School rehearsals	
Pep Rallies	100
On campus	
Class Participation	50
Preparedness for class	
Remaining on task	

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES from PERFORMANCES will result in a lowering of 2 letter grades (20 grade points). **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES** from REHEARSALS will result in a lowering of 1 letter grade (10 grade points). Unexcused tardies to performances and rehearsals will result in lowered grade for said tardiness. Grades for semester exams (“X1” & “X2”) are earned using a predetermined performance set by the Director of Bands.

BAND FEES

All members of the Fayette County Band Program are assessed band fees used to offset the overall operation cost of the program. They include all routine band activities for the entire school year including transportation, music, etc.

Fees for all members is **\$60.00** (auxiliary members may have other fees associated).

Students that are using a school owned instruments have an additional \$40.00 charge for a total of **\$100.00**. This is to help maintain these instruments for future use.

While we prefer band fees paid-in-full up-front, band fees may be in \$20.00 installments due the last school day of each month. Fundraisers will be available to help offset band fees; however, the minimum balance of the installments are still to be due by the last school day of each month. Checks should be made to FMS. If you have any questions, please contact the Director of Bands.

Band Fee Installment Schedule

Installment Number	Due Date	Fee	Total Paid
Installment 1	August 30, 2024	\$20.00	\$20.00
Installment 2	September 30, 2024	\$20.00	\$40.00
Installment 3	October 31, 2024	\$20.00	\$60.00

Private Lessons

Private instrument lessons serve as a wonderful supplemental tool for students throughout their musical education. They enable students to progress more rapidly and can provide other playing opportunities outside the band classroom. While lessons are not mandatory, they are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED. If you and your student are interested in finding a private music teacher, please contact Ms. Allen to help you find an appropriate teacher for your student and their instrument.

UNIFORMS

While wearing any logo or branding of Fayette County Band Program, members are actively serving as representatives of Fayette County Band Program, Fayette Middle School, Fayette County School District, and the City of Fayette. It is imperative that members conduct themselves with appropriate decorum and understand that their actions are a reflection of those they represent.

Beginning/Concert/Honors Band

- Option A
 - Long Sleeve Black Button Down
 - Black Pants
 - LONG, PLAIN, BLACK Socks
 - Plain Black Shoes (no tennis shoes)
- Option B
 - Black Dress or Black Blouse/Black Pants (both School appropriate)
 - Closed-toed Black Pumps (up to two inches) or Flats
 - Jewelry: only modest earrings or sets of pearls may be worn

Football Game Uniform

- Band T Shirt
- Black Pants
- Black Tennis Shoes
- LONG, PLAIN, BLACK socks

Members are **not** to make alterations to any part of the uniform that is provided to them. If alterations are needed, please contact the Director of Bands.

Majorette uniforms for games, pep rallies, etc. will be determined on by the Majorette Coordinator. Please consult the “2024-2025 Majorette & Drum Major Audition Registration Packet” for more information.

Members will be expected to wear their uniform in the same capacity as other members (excluding medical and religious exceptions). The full band will appear “uniform” at all times.

No hats, bandannas, or non-approved headwear should be worn while in uniform. Per school policy, no facial jewelry or body art of any type may be worn/visible while in uniform. Modest styles of sunglasses will be permitted at the discretion of the Director of Bands.

BORROWED INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

Members of the Fayette County Band Program are required to appropriately use and care for equipment, including instruments, that are provided by the school and the Fayette Band Foundation. This ensures the longevity and functionality of these valuable resources, and promotes a sense of responsibility and respect for shared resources among students. Failing to take care of these resources can result in damage or loss, which not only affects the individual student but also impacts the entire band program. It is crucial for members to understand that they are responsible for the proper handling, storage, and maintenance of school-provided instruments and equipment. This includes following specific guidelines, such as keeping instruments in their designated cases, cleaning them regularly, and avoiding actions that may cause damage or wear. Failure to take care of school/foundation provided instruments and equipment will result in being held **FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE** for any necessary repairs or replacements. Those using school provided instruments **MUST** sign and complete the “Fayette County Band Program Instrument Check-Out Form.”

REQUIRED SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

Below is a listing of required supplies for the Fayette County High School Band Program. If you are considering purchasing a brand/model other than our recommendations, please contact us. Most of these items are available from a variety of local and internet vendors in a variety of reputable brands.

All Members

- Required: PENCILS, Tuner/metronome app, fully functioning instrument and case(s)
- Recommended: Physical tuner/metronome (Korg TM-60), portable music stand

Flute & Piccolo

- Brands: (Open-hole, outline) Gemeinhardt, Pearl, Yamaha, Armstrong
- Required: Swab (pull-through), cleaning/tuning rod, key oil
- Recommended: Hercules flute stand, piccolo

Oboe

- Brands: Selmer, Yamaha, Fox
- Required: Swab (pull-through), reed case, a minimum of 2 functional reeds (custom or Jones Artist Series), small container for water, cork grease, key oil
- Recommended: Hercules oboe stand

Bassoon

- Brands: Fox (Bassoons are school provided)
- Required: Swab (two piece pull-through as well as bocal swab), reed case, a minimum of 2 functional reeds (custom or Jones Artist Series), small container for water, cork grease, key oil, seat strap
- Recommended: Hercules bassoon stand

Clarinet & Bass Clarinet

- Brands: Yamaha, Buffet, Selmer, (Bass clarinets are school provided)
- Required: Swab (pull-through), reed guard or case, a minimum of 4 functional reeds (Vandoren or D'addario Reserve, strength 2.5 for beginners, 3.0+ for 7/8), mouthpiece cap, cork grease, key oil, mouthpiece (Yamaha 4C), ligature (Bb - Rovner 1R, Eb - Rovner 1E, Bass - Rovner 3RL)
- Recommended: Hercules clarinet stand

Saxophone

- Brands: Yamaha, Yanagisawa, Jupiter (alto only)
- Required: Swab (pull-through), reed guard or case, a minimum of 4 functional reeds (Vandoren or D'addario Reserve, strength 2.5 for beginners, 3.0+ for 7/8), mouthpiece cap, key oil, cork grease, mouthpiece (Yamaha 4C), ligature (Alto - Rovner 1RL, Tenor - Rovner 2R, Bari - Rovner 3R), neck strap (NeoTech)

- Recommended: Hercules saxophone stand, secondary horn (tenor, soprano, etc.)

Trumpet

- Brands: Yamaha, Bach, King, Conn
- Required: Mouthpiece (Bach 3C...step to 5C until honor band), mouthpiece brush, snake, valve oil (**NO** Blue Juice), slide grease (**NO** red, Bach tuning slide grease)
- Recommended: Dennis Wick straight and cup mutes, small black towel for mutes, three-leg trumpet stand, polishing cloth

Horn

- Brands: Holton, Conn, Yamaha (Horns are school provided)
- Required: Mouthpiece (Holton Farkas MDC), mouthpiece brush, snake, rotor oil, valve oil (**NO** Blue Juice), slide grease (**NO** red, Bach tuning slide grease)
- Recommended: polishing cloth, Hercules horn stand or Soft Stand, horn hand guard with strap

Trombone

- Brands: (open wrap F attachment is highly encouraged) Yamaha, Conn, Eastman, Bach, King
- Required: Mouthpiece (Schilke 51D at discretion of director or Bach 6½ AL), mouthpiece brush, snake, slide cream (Trombotine or Slide-o-mix), small water spray bottle, slide grease (**NO** red, Bach tuning slide grease), rotor oil (for horns w/trigger)
- Recommended: Dennis Wick straight and cup mutes, small black towel for mutes, three-leg trombone stand, polishing cloth

Euphonium

- Brands: Yamaha, Besson, Wilson (Euphoniums are school provided)
- Required: Mouthpiece (Schilke 51D or Bach 6½ AL), mouthpiece brush, snake, valve oil (**NO** Blue Juice), slide grease (**NO** red, Bach tuning slide grease)
- Recommended: polishing cloth

Tuba

- Brands: Conn, King, Yamaha, St. Petersburg (Tubas are school provided)
- Required: Mouthpiece (Conn Helleberg 120), mouthpiece brush, snake, valve oil (**NO** Blue Juice), slide grease (**NO** red, Bach tuning slide grease)
- Recommended: polishing cloth

Percussion

- Percussion instruments are school provided. A practice marimba at home is helpful.
- Required: Vic Firth SD1 concert snare sticks
- Recommended: practice pad (Evans RealFeel), practice marimba/bell kit, stick bag, hard yarn mallets (IP400), medium yarn mallets (IP240), soft yarn mallets (IP100), rubber mallets (Vic Firth M5), hard rattan mallets (Vic Firth M139)
- MARCHING PERCUSSION IMPLEMENTS: All marching percussion students are provided with **ONE** set of implements. Members are required to replace broken or missing implements.

EXPECTATIONS OF BAND MEMBERS

- Adhere to the "Attendance" section above by being on time to all rehearsals and performances - the time listed is the start time, not the arrival time.
- Know and understand the policies outlined in this handbook
- Exhibit good rehearsal etiquette.
- Have all of your materials ready before we begin rehearsals and performances - this includes, but is not limited to, your instrument, music, reeds, mouthpiece, batons, etc.
- Come to rehearsals and performances with a positive attitude.
- When a director asks for attention, grant that attention so we can work together expeditiously.
- Maintain a high standard of discipline on and off the field.
- There should be no excess playing out-of-turn (i.e. noodling).
- Make a real effort to improve your craft on a daily basis.
- Spend the necessary practice time required to maintain a high-quality musical contribution to the ensemble in which you are participating.
- Read and play music with thoughtful musicianship.
- Have respect for others, in words and actions.
- Have respect for the property of all participants, instructors, volunteers, and directors as well as the property of Fayette Middle School and any school we travel to during the year.
- Have respect for yourself.

EXPECTATIONS OF BAND PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Help make sure your child is on time for band rehearsals and performances.
- Know and understand the policies outlined in this handbook.

- Support and show an active interest in your child's musical studies.
- Direct any questions you have about the band program to the Director of Bands.
- Notify the Director of Bands if a member is to be absent ahead of time.
- Help encourage your child to practice outside of school.
- Help your child participate in private lessons from qualified professionals.
- Make sure your child has a quality, working instrument.
- Ensure band fees are paid on time.
- Support the Director of Band's vision for the program and not act in direct contradiction or opposition to said vision.

How Parents/Guardians Can Help:

- Join the Fayette County Band Foundation and help in a way meaningful to you.
- Volunteer your time and/or chaperone.
- Make faithful attendance to all band meetings and performances.
- Visit rehearsals occasionally.
- Participate in fundraisers.
- Purchase an ad for the football program or banner supporting your child.
- Donate to the Fayette County Band Program.

BULLYING & CYBERBULLYING

No student shall engage in nor should any be subjected to bullying, violence, threats of violence, or intimidation by any other student that is based on any of the specific characteristics set forth in the Student Code of Conduct. Students who violate this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary sanctions as specified in the Student Code of Conduct, subject to the investigating school administrator's authority and decision (BULLYING COMPLAINT FORM – located in the Appendix of Student Code of Conduct).

DISTRICT & SCHOOL POLICY

This handbook is to serve as the rules, regulations, procedures, and expectations for members of the Fayette County Band Program. This handbook in no way supersedes any policies set forth by the Principal of Fayette Middle School or the Fayette County Board of Education. Members of the Fayette County Band Program are expected to adhere to all board policies.

Fayette County Bands Handbook Agreement

GUARDIAN: I have received a current copy of the Fayette Middle School Bands Handbook. I affirm that I have read and understood the contents. In doing so, I have explained the contents of this handbook to my child. I acknowledge and agree to the rules, regulations, procedures, and expectations contained herein, and will require my child to comply with the contents of this handbook.

I also realize that during my child's time in the Fayette County Band Program, I may be informed, formally or informally, of various changes in these policies. I understand Fayette Middle School reserves the right to change policies at any time with or without advance notice. I understand that the Principal of Fayette Middle School and Director of Bands reserves the right to remove my child from the Fayette County Band Program for failure to adhere to the expectations herein.

Guardian printed name

Guardian signature

Date

STUDENT: I have received a current copy of the Fayette Middle School Bands Handbook. I affirm that I have read and understood the contents. I acknowledge and agree to the rules, regulations, procedures, and expectations contained herein, and will be required to comply with the contents of this handbook. I understand that the Principal of Fayette Middle School and Director of Bands reserves the right to remove myself from the Fayette County Band Program for failure to adhere to the expectations herein.

Student printed name

Student signature

Date

Fayette County Bands Talent Release Form

Student's Name _____

I hereby irrevocably give Fayette Middle School and its representatives the right and permission to publish, reproduce, or otherwise distribute my child's name, image and likeness, photographs, motion pictures, and audio/video recordings about my child for educational and promotional purposes in any lawful manner.

I understand that neither my child nor I am to receive direct compensation for these appearances. I also understand I waive any current or future claims to copyright of said photographs and video/audio recordings.

Your permission would grant the following:

- Photographs of my child participating in the Fayette County Band Program may be taken.
- Video/Audio recordings of my child participating in the Fayette County Band Program may be taken.
- Copies of these photographs or video/audio recordings may be copied to film, videotape, magnetic tape, digitally, or otherwise.
- Use of my child's photographs or video/audio recordings may be used for educational purposes and promotion of Fayette County Schools via news media outlets (both print and broadcast) and social media.

Consent from Legal Guardian: By signing this form, I acknowledge that I have completely read and fully understand the above release and agree to be bound thereby.

Guardian printed name

Guardian signature

Date

Contact Information

Due August 14th, 2024

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Student Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Grade: _____ Circle: Male / Female

Address: _____ City: _____

Phone Number: _____

Student Email: _____

T-Shirt Circle

Youth Size

Adult Size

S

M

L

XL

2XL(add \$2)

3XL(add \$2)

Parent/Guardian Information 1

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Information 2

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Fayette Middle School Band Schedule of Events

Date	Event	Location
8/7/2024	First Day of School	FMS
9/3/2024	Home Game against Gordo	JMB Stadium
9/9/2024	Instrument Night (6th Grade purchases and other upgrades)	FMS Band Room
9/10/2024	Home Game against Caledonia	JMB Stadium
10/8/2024	Home Game against Lamar Co	JMB Stadium
10/15/2024	Homecoming against Winfield	JMB Stadium
11/7/2024	Veteran's Day Program 8 AM	FMS
12/5/2024	Winter Concert	FMS
1/18/2025	All State Auditions	Muscle Shoals, Al
2/7-8/2025	District Honor Band	Russellville, Al
3/4-7/2025	MPA	Tuscaloosa, Al
4/10-12/2025	All State Honor Band	Mobile, Al
4/22/2025	Spring Concert	FMS

Dates subject to change. Times TBD. Additional dates may be added as necessary, including but not limited to after school rehearsals, trips, additional performances. Updates will be sent out in email updates and paper notices sent home.