



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL BAND

THIS
ISSUE

SchoolPay

Class Schedules

Instrument Rental

Virtual Band Hallway

FROM THE DESK OF MR. BROWN

Teacher planning took place this week and it was an interesting experience as we prepared for “Launched” school. It’s important to note that “Launched” is not a platform or application; it’s basically a synonym for “distance learning” that refers to all the panoply of online resources available to OCPS teachers and students. Canvas, Google Classroom, Big Blue Button, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, Skyward, Performance Matters... it’s all “Launched.” I think the best way to explain it is to say that teachers have been provided with a frankly overwhelming number of resources and more or less left to decide how best to use them. For my part, I certainly prefer that over trying to look for one-size-fits-all solutions, especially since band is so different from a typical classroom experience.

Everyone will be tuning in virtually for the first week of school on August 10. You should expect each of your teachers to be coming up with a slightly different system, and for each class period you’ll need to adjust to a slightly different way of doing things. This is a good thing, even though it will inevitably come with some frustrations.

Universal Studios used to have a show based on the *Terminator* movies and it began with a funny but deeply frightening TV commercial for the evil Skynet computer, describing a world where technology had so taken over that every student received “exactly the same lesson from exactly the same teacher at exactly the same time.” What a nightmare! You wouldn’t want that.

So while I cannot speak for how any other teachers will be doing things, you’ll find in this issue some of the logistics about how we are going to handle our band classes for the beginning of the year. One thing I can promise is that, whether on the field, on the stage, or in cyberspace, the University Band is going to remain a leader in our activity and a program of which you can be very proud to call yourself a part.

INSTRUMENT RENTAL

Students who need to rent an instrument should take care of this during the first week of school.

We have a limited supply of **school instruments**. The cost of renting a school instrument is \$40/semester. Since we cannot share school instruments, our supplies are limited.

Students who would like to rent a school instrument should contact Mr. Brown by email during the first week of school.

We *strongly encourage* students to rent their own instruments from the **Band Room Orlando** music store located at 3233 Curry Ford Road, Orlando FL 32806. They can be reached by phone at (407) 897-7080. Prices vary but you will get a higher quality instrument with a great warrantee.

SCHEDULE SURVEY

All band students are asked to complete a quick survey about your class schedule. You can access this survey on the Members Page of the UHS Band website or by scanning the QR code to the right.



This will simply ask if your schedule is currently correct and ask you indicate any changes that need to be made. Please do this by the end of the day on **Monday, August 10** (the first day of school) so that we can begin making corrections!

BAND SCHEDULE

Many people have asked about this, so here are all the band classes and their official course names. For classes with multiple course names, the lowest number is used for freshmen and progresses each grade.

When communicating with guidance counselors, it's important to use the correct course name, period, and teacher. For example, a sophomore in Advanced Percussion would want to call the class "Band 4, Period 5, Willis" in order to avoid being placed in the wrong class.

	Mr. Brown	Mr. Willis
1	Music History (<i>Music Theory 1</i>)	Steel Drums (<i>Music Ensemble 1 – 4</i>)
2	Big Band (<i>Jazz Ensemble 1 – 4</i>)	Steel Drums (<i>Music Ensemble 1 – 4</i>)
3	Symphonic Band (<i>Band 3 – 6</i>)	Symphonic Band (<i>Band 3 – 6</i>)
4	Color Guard (<i>Eurhythmics 1 – 4</i>)	Intermediate Percussion (<i>Band 3 – 6</i>)
5	Wind Ensemble (<i>Band 3 – 6</i>)	Advanced Percussion (<i>Band 3 – 6</i>)
6	IB Music (seniors) (<i>IB Music 3</i>)	Jazz Ensemble (<i>Jazz Ensemble 1 – 4</i>)
7	Concert Band (<i>Band 3 – 6</i>)	Intro to Percussion (<i>Band 3 – 6</i>)
8	IB Music (juniors) (<i>IB Music 1</i>)	

BAND ACCOUNTS

Throughout the year, the band needs to make various financial assessments to keep our program running. Although these will be reduced this year, they are still important, and perhaps even more so.

Here are two ways to check your band account balance:

Method 1

- Go to www.UHSband.com, click “Parents,” then “Band Fees.”
- Enter the student’s OCPS ID into the tab and click “View Account.”

Method 2

- Go to www.UHSband.com and log in using your OCPS ID as the username and “iloveband” as the password (unless you have changed it.)
- Click “Members” and then “My Band Account.”

SCHOOLPAY

Band assessments can be paid using SchoolPay, which is now up and running for deposit payments and any overdue band assessments.

To find band payments, go to the UHS Band website, click “Parents,” and then “Online Payments.”

I know many families have been experiencing difficult financial situations in the last few months, and everyone’s situation is unique. If you are unable at this time to pay even our reduced band assessments, please make sure you are communicating privately with the band directors.

VIRTUAL BAND HALL

For the time being, students who have chosen the “LaunchED@Home” option will be accessing their band classes by using the *Virtual Band Hallway*. A link will be posted in all Canvas courses as well as on the Members Page of the UHS Band website.

All of Mr. Brown’s classes (including Music History and IB Music) will take place in the “Virtual Band Office.”

For Mr. Willis’ classes (including Jazz Ensemble), select the “Virtual Percussion Room.”

Please understand that this process may change but we will be using it at least for the first day of classes on August 10.

The new school year begins on Monday! Although it will be very easy to give into cynicism, sarcasm, and frustration about all of this, there are still many things we can and will accomplish this year, so keep a great attitude and we will see you soon!



Jon Brown
Director of Bands
University High School



Jeff Willis
Associate Director of Bands
University High School