



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL BAND

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From the Band Office

Thus endeth one of the strangest semesters in history. We have been experimenting constantly with different methods of instruction, rehearsal, performance, and logistics. We began with online lessons, cautiously fielded a Pep Band, and have finally launched into an indoor season that feels somewhat normal. Some of the new methods we've learned, like using web conferences for parent meetings, keeping online databases of music literature, and broadcasting virtual recitals, may remain in place as positive improvements on our modus operandi. Some of the old methods, like seeing each other in person, are beginning to return with a renewed sense of appreciation for what we may have taken for granted.

Please review this newsletter for information about school instruments, All County auditions, some important announcements, as well as a few things to smile about. On behalf of the University Band, we wish everyone a safe and restful holiday break and a very happy new year!

2020 in Review

Not to sound like a broken record, but through all the difficulties, 2020 was actually a great year for the University Band. Please check out www.UHSband.com/assets/press/2020 to see what the year has meant to our program and celebrate some of our students' accomplishments!

School Instruments

ALL school instruments must be returned to campus for inventory on Tuesday, January 5 and must remain on campus until Friday, January 8.

Happy Holidays from the University Jazz Band

The University Big Band completed our end-of-semester project this week, compiling a performance of “A Big Band Christmas” by Carl Strommen. Students recorded their parts individually at home while listening to a metronome and reference track. The audio was then extracted from each student’s performance, edited together, and synced with the video footage. The result is a great example of how band takes individual talent and puts it together into a group accomplishment. You can view the full performance at our YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/UniversityBand.



Indoor Ensemble Updates

Winter Guard – Video assignments will be due over the break. Please see the guard Facebook group for details. As a reminder, we are rehearsing as usual at Union Park Middle School on Tuesday, January 5, the very first day we return from break.

Indoor Percussion Ensemble – Please practice and memorize your show music over the break. Our first rehearsal when we return will be on Wednesday, January 6.

Indoor Wind Company – Please practice and memorize your show music over the break. Our next rehearsal is the very first day we return from the break, Tuesday, January 5. Please note that a rehearsal has also been scheduled from 10 AM – 6 PM on Saturday, January 9. You will need to bring your own lunch to this rehearsal.

 As a reminder, the first \$75 installment of indoor assessments for members of these groups was due on **Tuesday, December 15**. The next installment will be due on **Friday, January 15**. These fees help us to pay for instructional assistant staff, uniforms, staging, drill, choreography, show registrations, transportation, and everything else we need. Please make sure you are doing your part!

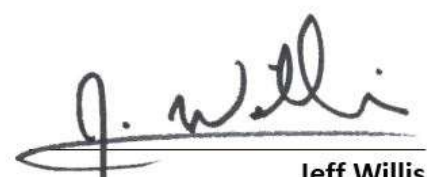
All County Auditions

Some limited information has been released regarding auditions for the OCPS All County Band and All County Jazz Band, including tentative dates and audition requirements. This information can be accessed on the Members page of the band website.

Thank you!

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself or Mr. Willis and we will do our best to make sure you have everything you need.


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