

FDHS Marching Indians July 23rd Update

Dear FDHS Band Families,

I am looking forward to our upcoming year of making music together and appreciate the flexibility and patience you've demonstrated throughout our ongoing changes . Below is our updated plan for marching band. Please keep in mind that the safety of our students was at the forefront of all decisions. I know that there are still many unanswered questions, but I wanted to share the most current marching band plans in an effort to keep everyone informed.

After the VHSL's decision to cancel football for the fall and to ensure the safest experience for our students, **Augusta County has officially postponed marching band season to the spring.**

As you'll see below, it's very likely that fall sports will be played sometime in the spring semester. I recognize that many marching band students play winter or spring sports, so the decision to align with fall sports was made to help maintain our current roster. Additionally, I am hoping that the spring will bring the opportunity for us to rehearse in larger groups and perform in public settings.

After the VHSL makes their decision and we receive a football schedule/information on potential competitions, I will be in touch with our new spring schedule.

Students, please be on the lookout for optional zoom "meet and greet" information! I am eager to meet all of you and brainstorm ideas together to continue playing virtually this fall!

Thank you in advance for your continued flexibility and patience!

Ms. Light

Below are the three VHSL Schedule Options and the tentative FDHS Marching Band Plans for each option.

VHSL Option 3 (fitting all 3 sports seasons into the spring semester)

Fall sports window: February 15- May 1

- Marching Band Schedule Structure:
 - 2 rehearsals per week- days TBD
 - Note: marching band and musical rehearsals will NOT conflict! This should mean that the same group of students who originally planned to be in marching band will still be able to participate. Mrs. Dull and I are committed to working together to make sure you can participate in ALL the music ensembles you're interested in (Marching Band, Musical, Bella Voce, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band). We'll take care of the scheduling on our end to make this doable for everyone!
 - We will rehearse music inside for the first month of the season (due to weather). We'll learn drill in the second month of the season.
 - If attendance restrictions allow, we will perform at football games.
 - We will also plan to do a parent performance, perform for the middle school, and potentially have the Valley Showcase of Bands.
- Show: Time (see links in previous COVID-19 guidelines)

VHSL Option 2 (switching the fall and spring sports schedule)

Marching band would follow the same dates as option 3, due to weather. *info below is the same as option 3*

- Marching Band Schedule Structure:
 - 2 rehearsals per week- days TBD
 - Note: marching band and musical rehearsals will NOT conflict! This should mean that the same group of students who originally planned to be in marching band will still be able to participate. Mrs. Dull and I are committed to working together to make sure you can participate in ALL the music ensembles you're interested in (Marching Band, Musical, Bella Voce, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band). We'll take care of the scheduling on our end to make this doable for everyone!
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 - We will also plan to do a parent performance, perform for the middle school, and potentially have the Valley Showcase of Bands.
 - Show: Time (see links in previous COVID-19 guidelines)

VHSL Option 1 (leaving the seasons “as is” but not allowing high risk sports in the fall).

I will be REALLY surprised if they select this option. But, if this is the chosen option we'll need to survey the band to decide what everyone's schedule availability is.

- Options could include:
 - Voluntary pep band to play at various spring games.
 - If enough people are available, it could include proceeding with a marching band season from February 15- May 1.

I will be in touch when VHSL makes their decision, so that you know which option we will plan to follow!

Thank you for your continued commitment to marching band!