

Dear rising 9th grader band members and parents:

I want to congratulate you on the level of achievement you have obtained on your band instrument. I know you have put a great deal of time, effort and money into this endeavor. Your band experience does not end with middle school! Our high school band program is one of the best in South Carolina! The Dorman High School Marching Band has made the state finals each of the last five years. The DHS Jazz Band is one of our school and community's favorites, performing several times each year. The Dorman Winter Guard has earned high honors in state, regional and national contests. Our Indoor Drum line finished fourth at the WGI World Championships! Our concert bands have consistently earned superiors at state events. This year we have 25 students in Region or All State Band!

We want your student to be a part of our continuing successes! Being a Dorman High School Band member is an important undertaking, and the rewards are well worth it. The time, money and effort that go into the Cavalier Band helps members learn advanced music skills, discipline, time management, and build friendships that last a lifetime. Many parents worry that the time spent in marching band negatively affects academic achievement but actually the opposite is true! Band students typically have some of the highest averages in their classes because they learn to work efficiently and to work ahead. Band members also have higher attendance rates and lower disciplinary rates!

So where do you begin? The first step is to get signed up for band classes during registration. Band is an all year course. Students interested in marching should sign up for the Marching Winds or Marching Percussion Classes. Non-marchers students should sign up for Concert Band or Percussion Ensemble. 2nd Semester classes are filled by instrumentation and ability level. Final placement into all of these groups will consist of two memorized scales, the chromatic scale, and a short prepared piece or Region Band solos. Percussion will perform rudiments and the long roll. **That is all you need to do to get started!**

Our Dorman High School Band program will not maintain its successes unless you are involved. Parents please encourage your student to stay in band. Be assured that we want each student that wants to be involved to have a chance at participating with our group. Our band calendar for the spring and summer is posted on our web site, www.spart6.org/band/ . If you have any questions that need to be answered you can contact me at the high school or by email bruced@spart6.org .

I look forward to working with your student as they continue in the Dorman Band program!

Musically,

Dave T. Bruce
Director of Bands
Dorman High School

