

Exeter High School Music Department

30 Linden St., Exeter, NH 03833
775-8508

Dear Parents, Band and Color Guard Members,

I hope you have enjoyed your summer. The beginning of school is just around the corner and we have some very exciting plans in store for the new recruits and veteran musicians in the Exeter High School Band. I would like to welcome all of the new members of the band, color guard and parents to our organization. I am confident that the excitement we experienced this past spring with our successful performances in Walt Disney World will carry on into this year. We truly have a wonderful band and I'm positive that all of the new members will enjoy not only being part of a winning program but also the camaraderie shared by the terrific students in band. **Enclosed is a calendar for the fall and early winter.** Please look this over carefully.

Band camp is August 16-20 and will run from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday through Friday, at the high school rain or shine. Be sure to bring a pencil, snacks, water, and sunblock. Wear clothes that are comfortable but will also help prevent sunburn. You **must wear sneakers** when we are on the field. Sandals and open toe shoes will not be permitted on the field. Lunch will be at 11:30 – 12:30 each day. You may bag your lunch or choose to eat at one of the local establishments. On Friday, however, everyone will eat lunch together. No one should plan on leaving the school for lunch on Friday. Breaks will also be given periodically. During the camp we will rehearse music (in sectionals and combined band), and learn drill for the field show to be performed during half-time at football games and the Dover Band Show. We also have some fun activities planned. Our show this year is "Classic Soul and Rock", consisting of "I Want You Back" by the Jackson Five, followed by "When A Man Loves a Woman" by Percy Sledge, followed by "You Really Got Me" by the Kinks and concluding with "Hey Jude" by the Beatles. Leading us this year in the role of Drum Major is Jamie Prendergast and Steve Briden. Our color guard captains are Alicia Zani and Amanda Boyle. We also have an outstanding staff this year with Scott Kinnison returning to teach percussion. He will be assisted by Exeter alumnist Josh Picard. Also returning is Jared Cassidy who is a music major at UNH and former drum major of the UNH Wildcat Marching Band. He will be assisting in teaching music and drill. We are very fortunate to have Joe Meallo returning as the color guard instructor.

ATTENDANCE AT BAND CAMP IS MANDATORY. This is the only way to have a successful camp. It is not possible to learn a drill when people are missing from that drill. Our success during marching season will be a direct result of how successful our marching band camp is. We enjoyed a tremendously successful season last year with "Styx and Chicago" show and want to make this year even better. Those of you who have sports practices during band camp are expected to split your time as evenly as possible to accommodate both band and sports. This is the policy set by the athletic director, Mr. Ball, and music department. The coaches understand that band members will miss some practice. If any student has problems with attending any part of band camp due to sports, contact me as soon as possible, so that we can work out a schedule. **Call me at the phone number listed above.** Please leave a message if I am not in and I will return your call.

We are taking a bus to Canobie Lake Park at the conclusion of band camp. The bus will leave at 4:00 PM. This is not mandatory but a fun way to end the week. The cost is \$16 for entrance to the park and \$4 for the bus. If you are interested please inform me on the first day of band camp. I need to collect the \$4 during band camp. Students should bring the \$16 to the park for admission. We will return to the school at 11:00 PM. Parents are welcome to chaperone. Let me know if you are interested.

A uniform will be issued to you during band camp. **All students need to acquire a pair of black marching shoes and black socks. There should be no part of the shoes showing that is not black.** Hard dress shoes or boots are not good for marching. For your convenience, I am enclosing an order form for black marching shoes, which are very reasonably priced at \$21. Please return the order form by Tuesday, Sept. 7th along with cash or check made out to Exeter High School Band. **Band members, with the exception of flute players and percussion, will need to supply their own lyre to hold their music.** Lyres run in cost from \$4 to \$8 and can be purchased at "Exeter Music" on Front St. in Exeter. They also carry a full line of instrument accessories. Clarinet and sax players should use #3 reeds and have at least 4 reeds on hand. A reed can last for several months as long as it is taken care of.

We could always use some help at band camp. If any parents are willing to help out during band camp, please give me call at 775-8508. Don't hesitate to call if you have any questions. I know that with everyone's dedication, this is going to be a very fun and rewarding year. I'm looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Sincerely,

James Butka, Band Director