

Parents & Guardians of EHHS Band Members,

Hello, and Happy Spring/Summer! I hope this letter finds you winding down from the school year and planning what to do once school is out. My name is Mr. Derek Smilowski & together with Mr. David Carlsen; we are the directors of the Eastern Hills High School Band. We would like to take a moment to talk about what an awesome year we have had with your kids as well as provide some information for new and returning members.

This past year the band has improved in leaps & bounds! At Marching UIL, we received a rating of 1-2-2, at Solo & Ensemble UIL, we had 8 students make a 1st division, & at Concert & Sight Reading UIL, we received a 1-2-2 on stage and a 1-1-1 in Sight Reading! This is the first time the EHHS band program has received a prestigious award in more than 10 years. As many of you are aware, our musicians work very hard, and these results come from all of our dedication to this program and the belief that music can inspire & change lives.

Now to the nitty gritty; we know summer is a time to relax and unwind, but we still have some band housekeeping things to take care of. Graduation is Friday 5/31/19 - then the following day, Saturday 6/1/19, is registration day for all new and returning members. Please see the attached summer band schedule for more information on this. The most important thing is that we meet every parent and student. Students are required to pay a \$40 band fee. Students are also required to have a yearly physical, and registration day is the day to turn that (and permission slips!) in. It is import that every students signs out an instrument and gets access to our music for the season.

Summer band officially begins on July 29th, but there are two "Mini" Band camp dates through the summer. Students are expected to attend all summer events. Now is the time to plan for ride sharing and car pooling, please make a plan with other band members if need be.

On the back of the summer band schedule, you will find a checklist of the items all students are required to have at all times during band camp. If you have any questions about these items, or where to get them, please feel free to contact me at any point and I will be happy to assist. Most items can be bought at the local music store with the exception of the Black Dinkle Marching Band Shoes - we will have used pairs for sale on registration day for \$10. New pairs price at just under \$30. These shoes will last four years and are a must for marching (students w/o the correct shoes will not be allowed to march), and they can be used during concert season as well!

We are very excited to to start the 2019 season right. We have a very exciting marching show, and lots of new and old stand tunes to jam out to in the stands. Thank you for letting me and my staff teach your kids daily - we would not be where we are without all of your support! I hope I get to meet every one of you on registration day. I am eagerly awaiting our first performance on August 15th! Remember to pack food, there will be a picnic outdoors to follow!

Musically Yours,

Derek C. Smilowski
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P.S. Sign up for our 'Remind' system by texting the #81010 with the message "@EHillsBand"!