

RAIDER BANDS

Monday 8/7/2017

FIRST-WEEK *things to consider, odds and ends:*

1. We will play instruments in class EVERY DAY - so always have your instrument at school. Don't forget reeds, valve oil, cork grease, slide grease... **NEED A SCHOOL INSTRUMENT?** There is a one-time usage fee of \$60 for the year, checks payable to ABBA; if you have already registered and paid band fees this was included. **NOTE:** *Percussionists, this fee does NOT pay for your sticks and mallets.* Those are consumable items, so you will purchase those on your own. We can often provide them for you at a discounted price. The \$60 you pay for instrument usage (at the time of registration) allows access to all of the many percussion instruments you will play over the course of the year. Maintaining those instruments is vital to your success.

School instruments will be checked out beginning Monday.

2. BRING \$10.00 for instrument locker, cash or check, checks payable to ABBA. Instrument lockers will be assigned this week before school, at lunch, after school. No time to get a locker during the day after your rehearsal.

3. Marching Band (MB) rehearsal is every Tuesday from 6:30-9pm and Thursday from 4-7pm until the end of football season. Rehearsals are required, so plan accordingly. Only 4 rehearsals until the first performance! Remember to bring your water jug on practice days. And yes, we practice RAIN OR SHINE!

4. We use CHARMS Office Assistant for info, SMARTMUSIC for performance-based assignments, and MS OneNote for written work and other assignments as needed. Detailed info will be sent home about these programs soon.

5. Get USED to looking at the band website calendar (see button at top of website). There are several ways to view content, PLUS the band calendar can be linked to your phone calendar.

ICAL: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/walshmi1%40comcast.net/public/basic.ics>

6. Make a habit of completing assignments (in all classes) when they are assigned and turn them in before or on the due date; this will make your year a lot less stressful and a lot more enjoyable!

7. TRAVEL!! Traveling with the band is perhaps one of the most memorable things you will do outside of performance. For high school band, combining travel and performance is a perfect combination! ***We take a major performance trip every two years. THIS YEAR (2017-18) is a TRAVEL YEAR – YEH!!!*** All Bands be performing at a Disney-sponsored National Concert Band Festival in Anaheim, California. Look for separate handouts or web info about our 2017-2018 travel plans.

8. Fundraising. There is a nagging question from parents and students every year that never seems to change – how do we find the kind of money it takes to create the amazing experiences we provide for our Alpharetta Band members? Band registration fees (\$1000+ for Marching Band and \$250+ for Concert Band only) creates roughly 60% of this budget. But guess what? Not all of that comes in at once, and the grand total from all registration still falls well short each year. So the answer to the question? We don't have a simple, one-size-fits-all answer. We fundraise. We solicit corporate sponsors. And our band boosters work VERY HARD to help provide support. PLEASE encourage your parents to get involved with our parent association. If everyone does a little then we ALL benefit from the sum of their efforts!