

Frequently Asked Questions about the *Timberview Band*

Q. How much time does Band take?

A. Band will meet during the school day on both A Days and B Days (called “double-blocked” on block schedule). In addition, at various times of the year, band rehearses after school in order to facilitate successful performances. From August through the beginning of November, marching band rehearses after school Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 4 – 6 PM and Wednesday from 3:30 – 5:30 PM or 5:00 – 7:00 AM before school if necessary due to the UIL Heat Guidelines. Every Friday evening, the band travels with the team to perform at football games. We also have some Saturday contest performances that occur later in the season. Fall is definitely the busiest time of year for high school band. In the Spring you generally have one required after school sectional per week. There are some Saturday contest performances such as Solo & Ensemble Contests. The band also takes a trip towards the end of each year where we will miss TWO days of classes.

Q. Can I be in Athletics (or another extra-curricular activity) and Band at Timberview?

A. YES! We work with all athletes, teachers, and coaches so that you can participate in multiple interests. Currently it is possible to participate in sports at all levels including football, volleyball, soccer, basketball, wrestling, baseball, cross country, track, swimming, tennis, and golf as well as other organizations such as cheerleading, theatre arts, choir, debate, journalism/yearbook, etc. Communication with Mr. Mullins is the key so call if you have any questions.

Q. What other Band classes or performance opportunities are offered at Timberview?

A. We encourage all band members to audition for Jazz Band if their schedule permits. Jazz Band offers the additional chance to perform a new type of music in a small ensemble environment. All Jazz ensembles perform several times each year. We also offer AP Music Theory as a higher-level academic course. This is usually taken by Juniors and Seniors.

Q. I play oboe or bassoon, what do I do about marching band?

A. We encourage any band member that plays an instrument that is not a “marching” instrument to play a percussion instrument in the marching band or sign up for the Color Guard, while still playing their “concert” instrument during band class and at home. There is a Drum Line audition, but EVERYONE that is in middle school band and plays a non-marching instrument is automatically in, and we will teach you everything you need to know. For now, all you will have to do is indicate that you are willing to play a percussion instrument when you submit your “concert” instrument audition online. *If you wish, you MAY audition for a Drum Line instrument, those camps will be held Tuesday, April 30 - Thursday, May 2 (5:00 – 7:00 PM) @ THS.*

Q. I have experience/am very good at the piano, are there opportunities to play in high school band?

A. Yes! Students that play piano have many opportunities to play in high school. Some band pieces call for piano, and we have used our piano players frequently. Additionally, we have opportunities available for students to play synthesizer in the marching band front ensemble. If you are interested in playing keyboard in the marching band, you need to attend the drumline audition camps April 30 – May 2. Finally, we have other groups that use piano: Jazz Band and School/District Musicals! If you are interested in playing piano for the Jazz Band there will be an opportunity to audition for that group in November.

Q. Will band interfere with AP, TCC, Ben Barber, or Honors courses that I want to take?

A. No. In band you will be associating with many of the top academic students at THS. The Wolf Band takes pride in having some of the very brightest and top performing academic students at Timberview as its members. The vast majority of our students enroll in AP, Pre-AP, TCC, Ben Barber, and Honors classes and are college bound. The band program has many of its graduating students receiving academic and music scholarships to further their college education. We are very proud of this facet of our program.

Q. Do I play well enough to be in the high school band?

A. You bet! There is a place for every student regardless of playing ability. The emphasis at THS is on having a healthy attitude and the effort to improve. As long as you are willing to learn and try hard, you can be a successful member of the THS Band. Our best band members are not always the best leaders and musicians.

Q. What will I get out of being in band?

A. You will have pride in the fact that you belong to one of the most successful organizations at Timberview High School. You will be pushed to improve yourself musically and realize your potential as a performer. You will have the opportunity to distinguish yourself within the band by making Region, Area, or All-State Band. You will be associated with and make friends with many outstanding students. You will get to perform in front of thousands of people every Friday in addition to many exciting concerts and competitions. You will get to travel to football games, contests, and out-of-state festivals. You will learn self-discipline and develop qualities for success in band, high school, college, and your adult life. Most importantly, you will have a lot of fun along the way and create memories for life.

Course Descriptions for the Timberview HS Band Program

Marching/Concert Band:

The Wolf Marching Band and Concert Bands consist of all students enrolled in the band program. Marching Band begins in the fall and continues to the beginning of November. Full-time Concert Bands commence after the end of football season. These courses will both be on your schedule in the fall. Therefore, you must be enrolled in Marching Band to participate in Concert Band or vice versa.

Below is a more in-depth description of each:

Wolf Marching Band:

The Wolf Marching Band consists of all students enrolled in the band program. During the Fall Semester, the full/combined band will meet before and after school. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 4 – 6 PM and Wednesday from 3:30 – 5:30 PM or 5:00 – 7:00 AM before school if necessary due to the UIL Heat Guidelines. Summer rehearsals begin 3 weeks prior to the start of the fall semester. The Wolf Marching Band is the most visible part of the THS Band Program and is *one of the most successful organizations at Timberview High School*. The group performs at all pep rallies and Varsity football games, as well as competing at UIL Marching Contest and various regional and national marching festivals. The marching band is comprised of Woodwind and Brass players, Pit Percussion and Drumline, Colorguard (Flags), and Drum Majors/Section leaders who serve as student leaders.

Concert Bands:

All members of the THS Band Program are placed into one of three concert groups through auditions held each Spring. Though the year begins with the combined marching band, these groups will rehearse separately on the marching music in their band classes. Towards the end of marching season, we will begin to focus on Concert Band literature. Each band's requirements and expectations differ slightly based on the level of playing and overall commitment of its members. The Wind Symphony consists of the most accomplished musicians and leaders in the band program. This band challenges its players by performing some of the most artistic literature available for band. Though members of all three bands are encouraged to audition for District & Region Bands, and participate in Solo & Ensemble Contests, these activities are required for members of the Wind Symphony. The Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Bands are dedicated to the continued development of quality students and their focus is primarily on the development of individual instrumental technique, the maturation of rehearsal skills, and the academic success of their members. The concert groups perform Winter, Mid-Winter and Spring concerts in addition to competing at Pre-UIL, UIL, and at a regional or national music festival each spring.

Colorguard:

Our colorguard is a dance and equipment group that visually augments our marching band halftime performance. **All 8th grade** students at Coble Middle School are eligible to audition for this group. If you are interested in being in colorguard you will need to sign up for the Colorguard Class (it meets during the same period), we will contact you with audition information later in the spring semester. WIND and PERCUSSION PLAYERS interested in colorguard will only be allowed to participate in the Colorguard IF they continue their study of their primary instrument. *Students are not permitted to quit band to be in the colorguard at any time.*

Jazz Ensembles:

The THS Jazz Program consists of a jazz ensemble selected through auditions. Students in ensembles must also be enrolled in Marching/Concert Band (contact Mr. Mullins for exceptions). The Jazz Program strives to foster an understanding of the jazz idiom and provide quality performance opportunities for its members. This band rehearses after school one or two days per week starting in November. This ensemble will perform at public/private gigs, band concerts, a dedicated Jazz Concert, and potentially at regional jazz festivals.