

# Welcome to Oakton Band!

**There are many opportunities for students to participate in the Oakton Band and Color Guard programs**

**[oaktonbands.org](http://oaktonbands.org)**

**Concert Band:** Band members participate in a Concert Band as a class during the school day and for after school rehearsals in preparation for concerts. Each student is assigned to either Symphonic, Concert 1 or Concert 2 based on audition. Students in Concert 1 and Symphonic will receive credit for an advanced course. Students who participate in Symphonic must also participate in Marching Band. All concert band students will participate in Tag Day fundraising and State-Level Assessments. All band students are also invited to attend a spring band trip in April.

**Marching Band:** Marching Band begins July 31st and continues through the fall. By the time school starts, new marchers are already a part of the band family and have a large group of friends at Oakton. They also attend all home and some away football games on Friday nights. Marching Band Competitions, where area bands compete by showcasing different styles of music and marching techniques, take place several Saturdays during the season. It is important to register in May for marching band, as the show is choreographed and the positions are set in early summer.

**Color Guard:** The Color Guard is a section of the Marching Band that uses flags, rifles, and sabres along with dance to visualize the music played by the band. In Marching Band competitions, the guard is an essential component of the band and their performance is influential in the overall score. Concert Band students can choose to participate in Marching Band by being a part of the Color Guard instead of playing an instrument. Questions? Email [guardliaison@oaktonbands.org](mailto:guardliaison@oaktonbands.org)

**Jazz Band:** Oakton High has two jazz band classes that begin meeting in November, when marching band season ends. Students are assigned to either Jazz A or Jazz B by audition. Each class is held twice a week immediately after school, and students receive a course credit and a grade for participating. Students in Jazz Band enjoy learning a different genre of music and the opportunity to practice and perform more often.

## **How can you learn more?**

**Check out the Oakton Bands website at [oaktonbands.org](http://oaktonbands.org)**, especially the section for new or prospective families under the “New to Band” tab. If you still have questions about band, please contact Dr. VanValkenburg ([director@oaktonbands.org](mailto:director@oaktonbands.org)). If you want to know more about the parent or student experience, please contact the Boosters ([president@oaktonbands.org](mailto:president@oaktonbands.org)) for more information.

**Subscribe to the Downbeat.** The Downbeat is the weekly newsletter that provides all band-related information. To join, text BBOHS to 22828

**Join our Remind text thread.** We use text messages to deliver more urgent communications to our band family. To join, text @oaktonband to 81010

# Welcome to the Oakton HS Band Family!

[oaktonbands.org](http://oaktonbands.org)

**Why you should join marching band:** ~fun, ~friends, ~great musical experience,  
~become familiar with OHS before the school year starts, ~band kids are awesome!

## Key Dates for Rising 9th Graders

**April 17th & 18th:**

**8th Grade Auditions**

7pm, OHS Band Room

**May 1st-15th:**

**Marching Band Registration**

Online Registration: Forms will be available on the band website beginning May 1st at

[www.oaktonbands.org](http://www.oaktonbands.org)

**May 15th:**

Mandatory Marching Band Parent/Student Meeting, 7p

**July 30th:**

**Oakton Band Meet and Greet**

Student Social Event

Details TBD

**July 31st-August 11th:**

**Marching Band Camp**

OHS Band Room/Practice Field

Approximately 8am-5pm, weekdays

**Aug 14th-18th:**

**Marching Band Camp Half Days**

OHS Band Room/Practice Field

Approximately 1pm-5pm, weekdays

**Aug 22nd - October 21st:**

**Regular Band Practices Begin**

**Tues, Wed, & Thurs**

OHS Band Room at 3:15

Practice Field from 3:30-5:45p

## Marching Band

### 23-24 Football Home Game Schedule:

**August 25th**, 7pm: v. Langley, Cougar Kickoff

**August 31st**, 7pm: v. Fairfax

**September 22nd**, 7pm: v. Centerville, Sr. Night

**October 6th**, 7pm: v. W Potomac, Homecoming

**October 20th**, 7pm: v. Westfield, Future Cougar

**November 3rd**, 7pm: v. Away at Chantilly

### 23-24 Competition Schedule

*Save the entire day for each date below.*

*Specific times will be announced:*

**September 16th**, TBD

**September 23rd**, TBD

**October 7th**, TBD

**October 14th**, TBD

**October 21st**, State Marching Band Assessment

### Other Important Events (All Bands):

- Tag Day Fundraiser (September 9)
- Fall Concert (November)
- Winter Wonderland (December)
- Mass Chaos Winter Concert (December TBD)
- Jammin' Oakton (February)
- Assessment (March)
- Spring Concert (May)

For more information, contact Dr. VanValkenburg at [director@oaktonbands.org](mailto:director@oaktonbands.org) or visit: [www.oaktonbands.org](http://www.oaktonbands.org)