



W.T. Woodson High School Band

Aaron Morgan
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MEMORANDUM

To: Adam Entenberg, Assistant Principal, W.T. Woodson High School

From: Aaron Morgan, Director of Bands, W.T. Woodson High School

Date: Sept. 21, 2017

Subject: 2018-2019 Marching Band Policy

Mr. Entenberg,

Per the meeting with yourself, the principal, the Director of Student Activities, the Director of Student Services, and myself, I am writing to solidify and articulate the band's policy for marching band starting in Fall 2018. This revision will be communicated to all stakeholders, including current students and incoming students and families from middle school. This memo will be published on the band website and distributed through appropriate channels to all involved.

I. **FCPS Regulations and Course Descriptions/Requirements**

The FCPS Course Description for Advanced Band states that all students participating in this class are required to participate in marching band. FCPS Regulation 3386.2 states the students are required to fulfill the course's co-curricular requirements in order to receive credit for the course. The FCPS Course Description for Intermediate Band states that a student's participation in marching band may be required.

II. **Incoming Symphonic Band Students**

Starting in Fall 2018, incoming students into the top performing ensemble will no longer be presented with a choice about their participation in the marching band. All students who successfully audition into the top performing ensemble and enroll in that course will be required to participate in marching band. There will be no exemptions from marching band, barring extraordinary circumstances, for students incoming into the top performing ensemble. Students will complete their audition and band registration no later than June 1.

III. **Other Incoming Band Students**

Likewise, students incoming into any other performing ensemble are to be given a choice about their participation in marching band. Students choosing to participate in marching band will receive a set of grades in the first quarter based on their attendance and performance in marching band. Students choosing not to participate in marching band will be given an alternate assignment commensurate with the magnitude of the marching band participation. There are no restrictions or criteria for participation or non-participation in marching band, but a student may not change his/her participation status for any reason once the marching band season has begun. Students will complete their band registration, including a signed contract indicating their level of participation no later than June 1.

IV. **Current Students affected by the Athletic Exemption**

Students who are currently under the older practice of a full Athletic Exemption in the top performing ensemble will be permitted to retain their status of exemption until graduation. Should a student choose to participate in marching band, they will forfeit their athletic exemption and will not be permitted to regain their Exempted status in subsequent years. No new Athletic Exemptions will be allowed starting in Fall 2018.

V. **Current Students who are not affected by Athletic Exemption**

Current students who are full participating members of marching band and are enrolled in the top performing ensemble are not permitted change their status to an Athletic Exemption and remain in the top performing ensemble. Current students wishing to participate in other fall activities must change their course enrollment to Intermediate Band. No new Athletic Exemptions will be allowed starting Fall 2018.

Please contact me should you have any questions.

Aaron Morgan
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