

Joplin Eagle Band 2025

Guard/Drumline Camp (July 28- Aug 1) from 9am-6pm
Leadership Camp (July 28 - Aug 1) from 10am-1pm
Brass/Woodwind Sectionals (July 28 – Aug 1) from 2pm-6pm
Full Band Camp (Aug 4-8) from 8am-8pm
Full Band Camp (Aug 11-13) from 8pm-8pm
Parent Performance (Aug 13) at 8pm
Full Band Camp (Aug 14-15) from 3pm-6pm

Dear Band Parents and Students (please read carefully):

I hope you are having a great summer!!! It's time for the 2025 edition of the Joplin Eagle Pride Marching Band!! I am excited to have such a strong group of returning bandmen as well as a talented group of incoming freshmen! **PLEASE READ THROUGH THIS CAREFULLY! There is a lot of important information to go through that will help us navigate the upcoming season together!**

First, I'm excited to announce that our show will be called "**Color Theory**"!! The music will include: "Rainbow Connection" by Jim Henson, "Rhapsody in Blue" by George Gershwin, "I Guess That's Why They Call It The Blues" by Elton John, "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" by Elton John, and an arrangement of "El Tango de Roxanne" by Drum Corps International's Carolina Crown. In order to put this together, we have hired Steve Vento to write our Wind Book. For those that don't know Steve Vento, he has had arrangements and compositions win over 50 state titles around the country and has also been very successful at the national level at Bands of America events. Steve's awards and accolades include 18-time BOA Class Champion, 3 BOA Regional Champion, 70-time BOA Regional Finalist, 18-time BOA National Semi-Finalist, and 8-time BOA National Finalist. Steve also has 20 years of drum corps experience. Since 2011, Steve has been on THE BLUE DEVILS brass staff and beginning Summer 2017 is the brass arranger for Legends drum and bugle corps as well as The Academy. Steve and I have been working together for the past 11 years and he does a great job at writing and arranging shows!!

Secondly, we are using Dr. Tim Allshouse to write our drill again. Dr. Allshouse is the Director of Bands at Blue Springs. Once this process has started, please understand that if a student drops, it takes a lot of extra time to go back and make changes. (Plus, it will slow down the learning process for everyone else) AND, because it is such a tedious process, drill writers, especially, will typically charge extra fees for their time. Unfortunately, these fees will be passed onto those that have dropped after July 1. When looking through the Band Handbook, the "Band Contract" is the last couple of pages. Please make sure you have read through it carefully. Side note – if the drill, choreographer, and/or music writers don't charge extra fees to make these changes, there will be no additional cost to you.

Thirdly, we need to set the 1st movement drill or more at camp this year!! Students are expected to have the full show memorized by the first week of Full Band Camp. We will be having memory check tests, starting on Monday, August 4th. Please don't let this scare you...this is not a one-time opportunity. Students will have as many opportunities as they need to get it done. However, I can tell you from experience that the more you have done before camp starts...the better the band will be and the more detail work we will be able to get out of the band. These memory checks will be your first test(s) of the year. Practice in small sections and practice slowly. If it's still possible, I highly encourage you to get together over the summer with others from your section to hang out and have fun (Bond with each other and practice a little). The other point is that **YOU MUST BE AT CAMP**. So, if you miss camp, you will have a very difficult time catching up and your spot on the field may be pulled and you would then shadow another spot for the season. Don't forget that Camp is for a grade!

Lastly, I do plan to have early morning rehearsals that will start at 7:30am during the Marching Season. With that, morning rehearsals do figure into the student's grade and tardies/absences will be reflected in that grade. Please remember that these rehearsals are a required part of the class. In addition to morning rehearsals, we will have one night rehearsal a week, which will be on the first Thursday of the school year and then we will switch to Tuesday for the remainder of the season. We practice from 5-8pm or 6-9pm depending on the availability of the turf field. We may have an opportunity from 5-6pm or 6-7pm to utilize Sectionals and/or Tutoring. Thursday/Tuesday nights also go into the grade book and are also be a required part of the class. Students that participate in Sports will be expected to communicate those conflicts. I can't stress enough how important it is to have the full group there as much as possible.

A quick reminder...if any student is interested in trying out for All-District/All-State Band that music (as well as the Show and Parade Music, etc...) is on the Joplin Bands website - (www.joplinbands.org)

Here are a few reminders for marching season:

1. Sectional/Night Rehearsal Dates - **8/21, 8/26, 9/2, 9/9, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21** (make sure to ask off work)
2. **Morning Rehearsal Times - 7:30AM Daily (August 20th--October 24th) and 7:30AM for concert season, as needed.**
3. **Be working on your All-District Band/State audition materials. Auditions for District Band are Tuesday, November 4th, 2024.**
4. **Equipment.** Keep everything in good working condition. Flip folders for marching music may be purchased/ordered through Ernie Williamson Music. *We can provide some, but at cost.* Pencil for marking music and charts.

Please refer to both of these resources: Joplin Bands website (www.joplinbands.org), and "Joplin High School Bands" Facebook page. We will also utilize Parent Square to help with our Important Dates and reminders throughout the year. Itineraries will be handed out and/or posted the week of an event. As always, students should also know the information and are expected to communicate with you! As the year progresses, we may add and/or remove events as needed, but students should know well in advance. **If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out! We look forward to seeing you at camp and hope that you enjoy the rest of your summer!**

Sincerely,

Philip Soule, Director of Bands
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