

UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL BAND

THIS
ISSUE
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FROM THE DESK OF MR. BROWN

The first week of school via LaunchED is now over! Although this was definitely an atypical beginning to the school year, it was good to see everyone again (or at least interact in some way) and get our year started. We have dealt with malfunctioning microphones, obstinate cameras, and Internet connections deciding to plod along at *molto adagio* whenever the population of a virtual room exceeds a dozen, but for the most part, the technology is working as well as could be hoped, and will provide a medium for us to have some worthwhile experiences.



Mr. Willis and I met with the student leadership team yesterday evening to discuss the first week and what students would like to get out of the upcoming quarter. The general consensus was that our online platforms lend themselves to a variety of different activities, including lessons in music theory, composition, music history, show design, etc. We also discussed video assignments being a good supplement to one-on-one sessions with the directors

(which would necessarily be limited due to time constraints.) Expect us to keep experimenting with different topics and methods of teaching over the next few weeks.

BAND FEES

Everyone's band account should be up-to-date, and should be updated every week moving forward.

As a clarification, band fees for the year have been amended as follows:

- Deposit (\$75) – **past due 6/5/2020**
- ~~Percussion Assessment~~
- ~~Color Guard Assessment~~
- ~~Marching Assessment 1~~
- ~~Marching Assessment 2~~
- ~~Marching Assessment 3~~
- ~~Transportation Assessment~~
- Spring Assessment (\$75) – **due 2/5/2021**

As a reminder you can always check your band account at www.UHSband.com by logging in and clicking Members → My Band Account.

CLASS SCHEDULES

Thanks go out to our guidance department and in particular our Assistant Principal Sherry Langston for helping Mr. Brown and Mr. Willis to correct the vast majority of our student schedules.

Getting nearly 3,000 students into all the correct classes is a monumental task in any school year, and with the added variable of Face-to-Face vs. LaunchED, our counselors have done a remarkable job trying to accommodate everyone.

If you still have any issues with your band schedule by the beginning of next week, please email Mr. Brown and we will see what can be done.

DRUMLINE AUDITION RESULTS

Before the decision was made to postpone the marching band season, we held auditions for the University Drumline. These students worked VERY hard to prepare their auditions virtually, and we thought it appropriate to recognize them. Please see the list below and extend your congratulations to the members of the University High School 2020 Drumline!

Snares

- Joseph Cassidy
- Louis Gonzalez
- Jayden Jordan
- Huy Ma
- Nate Thatcher

Bass Drums

- Andrik Molina
- Herbert Santos
- Carter Simeon
- Isabelle Cathcart
- Jason Crocker

Tenors

- Matthew Dehalt
- Kevin Juarez
- Diego Talavera
- Hannah Watkins

Flubs

- Devan Alexander
- Gilbert Colon
- Arnav Pawar
- Zachary Urmos

INSTRUMENT PICKUP

The UHS Band Room will be open on **Monday, August 17** and **Tuesday, August 18** from **2:30 PM – 5:00 PM** for instrument pickup. Please note the following:

- The cost of renting an instrument from the school is \$40/semester. This money helps to cover instrument acquisition, maintenance, and repair. The instrument rental cost is assessed *in addition to* the Deposit and Spring Assessment.
- Students who are picking up an instrument should enter the band room through the back door (by the practice field) and exit through the front door.
- Face coverings are required.
- You must email Mr. Brown **before 12 o'clock noon on the day of pickup** with the instrument you'd like to check out so that we can make sure one is available.
- Multiple students may not share the same instrument.
- If you check out an instrument, you are responsible for it.
- Some additional paperwork may be required in order to bring an instrument home.

Finally, it's important to make sure you are establishing a practice routine that actually involves picking up your instrument and playing it once in a while! We recommend a minimum of 30 – 45 minutes a day, and more if possible. Parents, please support your children in finding the best time and place to do this. It is our intention to come back together – whenever that may be – stronger than we left!



Jon Brown
Director of Bands
University High School



Jeff Willis
Associate Director of Bands
University High School