

UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL BAND

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From the desk of Mr. Brown

After four performances at home games, that's a wrap! Compared to a 20-performance marching band season, our 2020 "Pep Band" season flew by in an instant. It may not have

had the same thrill as FMBC Finals, but even this year we managed to put out a quality product and do some pretty cool and innovative things. First of all, this small group probably sounded better than we ever have in the stands! Now part of this might be that we had no field how to practice, but Mr. Willis and I remarked a number of times that every single member of the group was really contributing.

We have some excellent musicians in this program and it bodes very well for what the University Band will do in the years to come. On top of that, we continue to benefit from **John Marsden's** audio expertise: I can't think of any other band enhancing their sound with synthesizer or electric guitar parts! Thank you to everyone who participated and especially our parent volunteers who chaperoned the events, hauled equipment, and kept the concession stand running. It's always risky to make a list so please forgive me if I left anyone out, but thank you to Mary Ambrose, John Bailey, Elaine Barnes, Minerva Caquimbo, Anna Gonzalez, Kim Knarr-Soto, Tracy Lau, Marlene Martin, Nick Martucci, Kim Roman, Manny Roman, Zuly Talavera, Neil Thatcher, Zaida Torres, and Debi Urusky! We will be seeking out new challenges and experiences for the second half of the school year, and it's good to know we are blessed with such a dedicated team to support our students as we move forward.



Benjamin Le (10) playing synthesizer with the Pep Band

Indoor Season

The University Band is planning to field three “indoor” groups during the Spring 2021 semester. The basic idea of an “indoor” group is to take one section of the “outdoor” ensemble (i.e. the Marching Band) and create a show for just that section to perform at an indoor venue like a gymnasium or sports arena. These groups would begin rehearsals after Thanksgiving Break and perform competitively next spring. The FFCC (Florida Federation of Color Guards Circuit) is planning to host at least 3 – 4 live regionals in February and March, plus a championship event in Daytona Beach.

The three groups University is fielding will be:



Winter Guard

Indoor Color Guard, including flag, rifle, and saber



Indoor Percussion

Indoor Drumline and Front Ensemble



Indoor Winds

New Group! Indoor Woodwinds and Brass

All of these groups will be taking precautions to keep everyone safe and healthy. Despite the name “indoor,” these groups will generally rehearse outdoors. Masks and bell covers will be required. Social distancing will be maintained to the maximum extent possible. Health exams and temperature checks will be conducted at every rehearsal.

At this time, it looks like the indoor groups will have the following rehearsal times:

Winter Guard | Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5 PM – 9 PM, Union Park Middle School

Indoor Percussion | Mondays and Wednesdays, 5 PM – 8 PM, University High School

Please note that the first few rehearsals for Indoor Percussion will be on different days and times may vary after that. This is a general guideline. A detailed rehearsal calendar for Indoor Percussion will be available soon.

Indoor Winds | Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4 PM – 7 PM, University High School

Shows would be mostly local, so transportation would be brief and carpooling is a possibility. FFCC has events tentatively planned at Cypress Creek High School, Lake Howell High School, Oviedo High School, and two shows hosted right here at University High School. Championships, as noted, will be at the Daytona Beach Ocean Center.

Right now, we are just assessing interest, and so we are asking all members to fill out the interest form, which you can find here: <https://forms.gle/E5XFmxgpzbEgWej59> or by scanning the QR code to the right.



Recital Consortium



The final Recital Consortium broadcast takes place tonight (Thursday, November 5) at 5 o'clock PM! Please tune in to see our school's performers:

Pharit Smitasin (12)

Nozomi Devine (11)

Kayla Elias (12)

These players will be performing along with students from Oak Ridge High School, Winter Park High School, and Windermere High School.

You can watch the recital at premiere time or any time thereafter by visiting www.UHSband.com/consortium or by checking out the UHS Band YouTube channel, www.YouTube.com/UniversityBand.

UHS Band in the News

The University Band is in the news... again! Continuing what seems to be our developing habit of being the face of OCPS Arts, Drum Major **Kayla Elias**, her mother **Anna Elias**, and **Mr. Brown** were featured on WESH-2 News as anchor Meredith McDonough explored how school arts programs are adapting to the pandemic.



You can watch the full interview by visiting this link: <https://www.wesh.com/article/seniors-pandemic-scholarships/34499820#>

Thank you!

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself or Mr. Willis and we will do our best to make sure you have everything you need.


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