

UNIVERSITY BAND



Some thoughts from Mr. Brown

The highlight of the Tennessee trip for me was the moment we stepped into the Ballad Health Athletic Center and I realized that we had successfully coordinated three separate trips across five different states, all wound up in the same place within half an hour of each other, and made it onto the field with everyone and everything. It was a masterpiece of logistics and showed what our band program – our parents, staff, and students – is capable of when everybody works together. The low point of the trip for me was, of course, about five minutes later when one of our speakers broke, the mixer failed to connect, and the computer couldn't launch MainStage properly. Despite a strong performance, the technical issues kept us from advancing to the finals. It's okay to be disappointed about that. It's especially frustrating when what holds you back is something over which you had no control. There are a number of important lessons here. We'll discuss some of those lessons in this newsletter, along with a review of the rest of the trip (which was great) and some exciting things in the next few weeks!

The season is not over yet and there is still a lot to look forward to!



UPCOMING EVENTS

📅 **Tuesday, October 20**
No Rehearsal

📅 **Wednesday, October 21**
Domino's Fundraiser Begins

📅 **Thursday, October 22**
Rehearsal | 3-8 PM

📅 **Friday, October 23**
Pep Rally | 6:30 AM
Home Game / Senior Night
5 PM Report Time
6 PM Senior Ceremony
7 PM Game Begins

📅 **Saturday, October 24**
The University Classic
All Day

📅 **Tuesday, October 27**
Rehearsal | 3 - 8 PM

📅 **Thursday, October 29**
Rehearsal | 3 - 8 PM

📅 **Friday, October 30**
Away Game @ Nova
Lakes

Some words from Mr. Willis



What an amazing time for this band program! We may not have met all of our goals, but we did accomplish a LOT this weekend. After a very long bus ride that included a stop at Buc-ee's and dinner at Costco, we arrived in Tennessee. With traffic, we got to the hotel a couple of hours late, and ultimately had about four hours of sleep on Friday evening. With a wake-up time of 4:30AM, we discovered that the buses could not leave the hotel at our scheduled time. However, we managed to get to the stadium, unload the truck, build and move all of the props, with just enough time to get to warmup. Our students were at their best in warmup, even though temperatures were in the 40s. Then we headed to the gate for our performance. Once inside, the students seemed focused and ready. The band had a strong prelims performance, but certainly with some adjustments to make. Unfortunately, there were a lot of technical issues with our electronics that had absolutely nothing to do with the performance of the group, but it may have diminished the overall adjudication as we were missing things like voiceovers and transitions that help to tell the story. Nevertheless, our students were positive and professional, even when learning that we were not selected as a finalist band. Over the next couple of days, I witnessed our students having a blast! Enjoying being together, and all the while acting very mature (most of the time) while representing our organization. I heard a number of compliments from people about how well-mannered our students are, and that is probably the best part of the weekend for me. Thanks so much to all the parents for volunteering their time and efforts to support this band program. And to the students I say: "What are you gonna do about it?"



Our students and parents braved the chilly October morning to get ready for the performance.



Despite the difficulties, our BOA prelims performance had some great moments!

HIDDEN OPPORTUNITIES

Some Lessons from BOA East Tennessee

LESSON #1

How to Handle Failure

Our band has gotten used to success, and we've discussed at length the importance of handling success graciously; however, it is just as important to handle failure graciously. Sometimes in life, things will not go your way. When they don't, you can panic, shut down, and let it defeat you; or you can evaluate the new circumstances, assess what is under your control and what is not, and find the new opportunities that present themselves. Here's one: the chance to work hard and stage an epic comeback to end the season!

LESSON #2

Start with Why

At a competition, we have 15 minutes to get completely on and off the field. We are penalized for every 6 seconds we go over that time limit. After the show, alumnus and front ensemble tech Huy Ma suggested that in the future, we take the time to eliminate any technical issues, and simply accept the penalty. He was right, and the reason he's right is something we say all the time: the performance, not the score, is what's important. We want to inspire people with the fruits of our hard work; advancements and accolades are just a bonus. At the show, I myself was so focused on the *what* (fixing the technical issue) and the *how* (the BOA rulebook) that I didn't think about the *why*. That was a humbling lesson for me and it's a principle I'd encourage everyone to take to heart.

THANK YOU

To Our Staff

Most of our percussion, hornline, and color guard instructional staff made the trip up to Tennessee at their own expense just to be with our kids for their warm up and performance. In case it wasn't already obvious, they do not do this for the money: they do it because they are dedicated to our students and to helping them have incredible experiences during their time with our band.

To Our Chaperones

We had twenty-eight parents pay their own way to join us on this trip for no other reason than to make sure our students were being taken care of.

To Our Parents

To all of our parents, whether you went on the trip or not, I know it is not easy to entrust your children to anyone for any length of time, let alone a multi-day, out-of-state trip. Thank you for trusting us.

To Mrs. DeLeon-Cabral

One of our University High School English teachers has a grandson, Isaiah, in the band, and graciously agreed to be our faculty sponsor for the Day Trip, which turned out to be a highly efficient express run.

Thank you everyone!

UHS Band Vision

The University Band is a comprehensive musical arts program that develops students as musicians, performers, and leaders. We believe in the importance of each student's personal dedication to excellence in every endeavor, in the concert hall, on the performance field, and in the classroom. Our members strive to put in the time, effort, and energy to achieve greatness in whatever we do.

TENNESSEE GALLERY

Highlights from the Overnight Trip



Our amazing team of parents!



After prelims, we loaded up and headed out to dinner to enjoy each others' company.



On Sunday afternoon, we sailed across Charleston Harbor to visit Fort Sumter, where the first shots of the Civil War were fired.



Some of our students opted for a walking tour of downtown Charleston, including shopping markets, churches, and historical sites.



Grown-up laser tag! High score? Mr. Brown.



Touring the USS Yorktown CV-10 at Patriot's Point

UPCOMING EVENTS

Week of October 18 - October 24

THE “BOOT” GAME

Friday, October 23, 2026

Our school has a lot of events planned for our “rivalry” football game vs. Colonial High School. While we have always maintained that our band does not have rivalries with other schools, we nevertheless want to support our team and contribute as much as we can to our school’s pride and culture. It is also going to be Senior Night. Here’s what the day will look like:

6:30 AM | Morning Pep Rally

We have another AM pep rally in the courtyard.

11:44 AM | Afternoon Pep Rally

At the beginning of Period 6, everybody come to the band room for another pep rally.

3:30 PM | Leadership Meeting (Portable 900)

5:00 PM | Report Time (Full Uniform)

We are going to have an earlier-than-usual report time to accommodate the senior ceremony at the stadium.

5:15 PM | Warm Up

5:30 PM | Senior Parent Report Time

Parents of seniors will need to purchase a ticket to the game and meet us in the south end zone... unless you’re volunteering at the game, in which case you get in for free...

5:45 PM | Move to Stadium

6:00 PM | Senior Recognition Ceremony (Stadium)

Seniors are announced and escorted to the field by their parents for a picture with the band directors and Principal Gorberg.

7:00 PM | Game Begins



THE UNIVERSITY CLASSIC

Saturday, October 24, 2026

Our marching band regional is back, now under the administration of the FFCC. We will have seventeen bands visiting our school to perform. It takes a lot of work but it’s also a *huge* fundraising opportunity for our band, and one we’ve been missing for the last two years.

We especially need volunteer help at concessions, ticketing, parking, and of course for our own performance at 8:15 PM.

Please consider signing up for a position at www.UHSband.com/volunteers.