**Eighth Grade Band Information**

*This packet includes information on the Total Band Program.*

***Welcome to the Central High School Band Program*!**

It's that time of the year to start thinking about plans for high school! I would like to encourage you to continue your instrumental music study when you reach the high school. This paper explains your opportunities in the CHS Bands as an incoming freshman. There are two options for freshman students who play a band instrument: *Concert Band* and *Marching Band*.

**Concert Band** is the freshman curricular band, which meets daily as a regularly scheduled class for one credit. This ensemble performs at concerts and other musical functions. Occasionally, if there is an opening, advanced students may audition for the Wind Ensemble. All incoming freshmen should register for **Concert Band** and changes, if any, will be made later. For those interested, see HS Web Courses in the Course of Studies Book for an opportunity that can help many music students with scheduling music classes into the school day.

**CHS Marching Band (The Marching Tigers)** is one of the most popular co-curricular activities at Central High School. The band performs at parades, football games, community events and band competitions including the Regional Band Competition. The band practices after school or in the evening and performs on most Saturdays in the fall. It is not possible to participate in fall athletics since rehearsals and performances conflict. Summer practices include two evenings weekly in July, Band Camp at State University and CHS, and August practices in preparation for early performances. **The two weeks of Band Camp are required for all marching band members (July 24-28 & July 31-August 4).** A detailed schedule and the student fee structure will be printed in the Tiger Beat on the band website.

Some eighth graders are intimidated about going into the program because of the success and reputation of the CHS Bands. Please keep in mind that every year over 20 freshmen participate and do very well. A special program of instruction, help and encouragement will prepare you for the skills you will need. Participating in the CHS Band Program is *a great way to make friends* and become *comfortable in the high school setting*.

We have been sending you the **Tiger Beat**—the CHS Band's e-newsletter to keep you up to date on information you will need to know and also to show you what goes on in the spring with the CHS Bands. You can also check the Band website—www.centralband.org. If you have not been receiving the email news, send an e-mail to bandnews@centralband.org. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest news.

There are other opportunities that begin in the second quarter of the year such as jazz ensembles and small ensembles. In order to be in these groups you must be enrolled in the Concert Band or Wind Ensemble. We also have a very active Winter Guard and Percussion Ensemble and Basketball Pep Band.

**We encourage you to continue your instrumental music study by signing up for both the Concert Band and the Marching Band.**