



MARCHING COLONIALS ***Initial Information***

May 13, 2017

The 2017 Thomas Jefferson Marching Colonials season is almost underway! TJMC is a voluntary organization that is highly recommended for any student who enjoys playing their instrument or would like to join the colorguard. The kinesthetic learning process in marching band helps even the most advanced performer achieve a new level of success in their craft. In addition, the life lessons about teamwork and cooperation learned in this ensemble will serve you for the rest of your lives. Virtually all of our freshmen who join the group stay in for all four years, which shows just how much they enjoy and learn from the group. Many of the students that we pick up later in high school often wish they had tried TJMC right from the beginning. Don't miss out on this great chance to be a part of one of the finest performing groups in Virginia!

We will be having our interest meeting on **Wednesday May 31st from 6pm-8pm in the Music Wing**. Both students and parents are requested at the interest meeting. Students will break off to meet the other members and learn how the group operates while parents will have a meeting to go over the details of the program with Mr. Foreman and the boosters. If you cannot make this meeting I will be happy to e-mail you the information, or you can find it at www.tjbands.org after the meeting.

We will have five additional open rehearsals (June 5th, 12th, 15th, 20th and 28th from 5:30pm-8:00pm) before the commitment date. These rehearsals are designed to allow students to get a feel for the group before they commit to the full season. I recommend that everyone come out to at least one of those days and the interest meeting so that they are making an informed decision – please come see for yourself! Every student that wishes to join and can commit to the schedule will have a spot in the group, we do not make cuts!

The Full Fall Schedule is available at www.tjbands.org. I will have hard copies to hand out at the interest meeting to go over specifics – but in the interest of saving on paper it would be great for everyone to simply go and download the calendar. The TJ Band Program tries to be as green as possible so much of the information you will receive in your time here will be electronic format. If you ever specifically require a hard copy don't hesitate to ask.

Please be a little patient with the schedule as we move forward. Although we have cut the ribbon to signify the end of renovation, that is not true for the athletic fields. The turf fields are being installed this summer and we might need to adjust times slightly as we move forward based on the rotation of field use between fall sports and us. The days of rehearsal should not change, and we will give you as much notice as possible – but please be patient in our final year of having to get settled with the new spaces and fields.

The schedule can seem intimidating at first, however we have many students from all grade levels march each year and they are able to handle their academic load in addition to TJMC. For incoming freshman the intensity of the TJ curriculum does not tend to ramp up until after the first quarter, when our season ends.

If you have any immediate questions about the group please contact me. I look forward to seeing you at the interest meeting and hope you will consider this wonderful, award winning ensemble!

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