



April 20, 2023

Dear Mabank Panther Band Students and Parents:

The Mabank High School Band is just completing another successful year and we are extremely excited about the 2023/2024 edition of our **'Panther Band!'** We want to welcome all incoming ninth grade students to our high school band family. We are honored that you are continuing with us and are thrilled to have you come along as we begin our quest to become the best band Mabank has ever experienced! As many of you know, our UIL Field Show is full of excitement and energy. Each of you will have a folder of music before our school year ends. You can help us ensure a **FANTASTIC** start to the year by preparing your music before Summer Band starts.

### **Percussion Prep-Days & Camp**

Prior to instrument placement, we have our **Percussion Prep-Days**. These will be May 8-12 & May 15-19. Mondays/Snare, Tuesdays/Tenor Drums, Wednesdays/Bass Drum, Thursdays/Front Ensemble, and Fridays - **ALL Battery**. Instrument placement will be determined by attendance and performance during the **Prep-Days**. **Percussion Camp:** July 24-28. Our percussion students (battery & front ensemble) meet during the last full week of July to get prepared for an AWESOME marching season. We hire a percussion specialist to assist Mr. Tarkington in preparing our students. Times for the percussion camp are 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:00 daily. Students are encouraged to bring lunch for their hour off each day.

### **Summer Band (See back of this page for dates/times)**

Summer band rehearsals will begin on July 31. See attached schedule (on back) for rehearsal dates/times. Summer band is **FUN/VERY IMPORTANT** because we have uninterrupted time to learn the fundamentals of marching and get a quality head-start on the music we will be performing. Our band staff, and hired professionals will conduct all rehearsals with our students. Summer Band times are 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM daily (hour off at 11:00-12:00 for lunch).

### **Safety Information**

Make sure to drink **plenty of water** in the days leading up to summer band camp. Please bring your own water bottle or insulated jug to rehearsal **each day**. This will help you stay hydrated and able to participate in the various activities throughout the hot day. Food is also important. Make sure to eat a healthy breakfast and make arrangements for lunch (11:00-12:00). You will need lots of energy to perform at your best during rehearsals.

Make sure to wear good athletic shoes to practice (NO Crocs, Hey Dudes, or slip-ons). Shoes also need to be tied the appropriate way. Please wear loose-fitting, light-colored clothing. Hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen are **strongly** recommended.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us-

Joel Weisberg, Director of Bands  
[jlweisberg@mabankisd.net](mailto:jlweisberg@mabankisd.net)  
903-880-1600 ext. 2071

Brooks Tarkington, Director of Percussion, Asst. Director  
[rbtarkington@mabankisd.net](mailto:rbtarkington@mabankisd.net)  
903-880-1600 ext. 2070

**May:**

8-12 & 15-19 Percussion Prep-Days (see specific instrument days on front sheet)

**July:**

24-28 Percussion/Color Guard Camp - HS Band Hall (9:00-12:00 &  
1:00-4:00)

31 Summer Band/Full Band (7:00 AM to 3:00 PM daily)

**August:**

1-4 Summer Band/Full Band (7:00 AM to 3:00 PM daily)

7-11 Summer Band/Full Band (7:00 AM to 3:00 PM daily)

11 **Mandatory** Student/Parent meeting/'Booster Kick-Off (4:30  
PM/HS Band Hall)

14/15 Summer Band/Full Band (7:00 AM to 3:00 PM daily)

16 1st day of school (NO morning band)

17 Morning rehearsals start (Daily/Monday-Friday)