

A.I. duPont Tiger Marching Band New Student Information

Welcome to a great school and a great band! The goal of this letter is to provide you with some information about band at A.I. duPont High School. The band website is www.aibands.com. You should check the site as information is added in May and June.

All incoming 9th grade students should enroll in "Band 9" on their school schedule. In addition to Freshman Band, most students participate in the world-famous TIGER MARCHING BAND! Marching Band has a Band Camp before school begins. After that, we only practice on Monday nights from 7:00-9:00 pm. We perform at football games and some local parades. We do our best not to take too much time from our students, as high school can be busy. A lot of band members also play on sports teams at A.I. duPont. Students do not have to choose between whether to play a sport or be in band...they can do both! Band Front positions (poms, silks, and twirlers) are filled by students in grades 10-12.

This winter, the TIGER MARCHING BAND will march in London's New Year's Day Parade for the eighth time...becoming the only band in the United States ever to accomplish this! We want YOU to be a part of this historic event. The Band Booster organization provides several fund-raising opportunities throughout the year for our students. Please visit our website and click on the London link for more information and the deposit form. We need to secure airline seats ASAP if you will be traveling with the band.

If you know of any students who want to be in band but don't play an instrument, they should enroll in "Introduction to Band" on their school schedule. They will be able to learn a brass or woodwind instrument (not percussion).

Band Camp:

Monday, August 15th – Thursday, August 18th 6:00-9:00 pm at A.I.H.S.

Monday, August 22nd– Thursday, August 25th 6:00-9:00 pm at A.I.H.S.

All new and returning band members should attend band camp. Wind and Brass students with previous experience do not need to audition. Percussionist will need to audition during band camp with the music they are taught. We cannot always guarantee a spot in the drumline, but will do our best to include as many students as possible.

Parents of incoming freshman are invited to attend one of our remaining Band Booster (parent organization) meetings. They are on 4/28/16 and 5/19/16 at 7:30 pm in AIHS room 110.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. I will be happy to answer them, or direct you to a band parent who may offer some good advice.

I look forward to meeting all of you and creating an experience that will last a lifetime!

Sincerely,

Richard F. Weaver, Director of Bands – Alexis I. duPont High School
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Listen to what a couple of our current band members have to say...

“Hi my name is Rob and I am the current Drum Major of the AI Tiger Marching Band. I can still remember being nervous about high school. Splitting up from middle school friends can be scary. Fortunately for me, I chose to be a part of the marching band. Two weeks before school even started I went to band camp and was introduced to over one hundred people. At band camp, you get to learn what the marching band is all about. Right away I was playing exciting music, learning marching techniques, and joking around with the trumpet section. That first band camp led the way to four years of amazing experiences, including my trips to Arizona, California, Italy, and Florida. Joining the band was one of the greatest decisions of my high school career, and I hope you make the same choice. “

-Robert McLean, Drum Major '16

“My name is Emma and I have been a part of the A.I. duPont Tiger Marching Band for 4 years. In middle school I played flute in the band at H.B. duPont, and decided to stay in band at A.I. High. Before my first day of high school even began, I had many friends because I chose to take part in the AI Marching Band. Band camp takes place two weeks before school starts, and is a great opportunity to meet new people and make lots of friends before your first day. Being part of the band has also been the best experience of my four years in high school. It gave me many opportunities to travel, including trips to Arizona, California, Florida, and even Italy. The band also takes annual trips to Philadelphia and Virginia Beach for competitions. My first two years in the band I played flute. By the end of my sophomore year, I tried out for - and made - the twirling squad that is also a part of the band. Now as a senior, I am captain of the twirling squad, and am part of a larger student group who helps make all the decisions and run the band. Overall, coming to A.I. and joining the band has made my high school experience a great one, and I would highly recommend being a part of this organization. “

- Emma Brown, Twirling Captain '16