

# *Stamford High School Bands*

HOME OF THE BLACK KNIGHTS



**Director George Beratis**

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## WELCOME TO THE STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL BAND!

For more than 80 years the Stamford High School Band has been a vibrant part of the school and community. The upcoming school year promises to continue that tradition and will be filled with great music, exciting travel opportunities and a very challenging performance schedule. One of the highlights of this school year was the honor of having our Marching Band perform at West Point, which was a truly memorable experience.



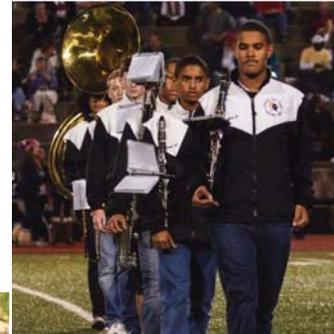
## BENEFITS OF JOINING THE STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL BAND

**Y**our transition to high school will be much easier since you will have already made a lot of new friends in Band Camp.

**B**y figuring out how to manage your school work, rehearsals and free time, you will learn important skills that will serve you well such as self-discipline, personal responsibility and time management.

**B**and students work together as a team; students develop a sense of camaraderie and accomplishment and make lasting friendships.

**Y**ou will become part of the band family; our older students help the new students adjust to high school and the band room becomes a "home away from home" for many students.



## OUR ENSEMBLES

### MARCHING/CONCERT BAND

All band students are members of the Marching/Concert Band. This Ensemble begins in the fall as a Marching Band, which performs at football games, pep rallies, and parades. Following the marching season, the ensemble becomes the Stamford High Concert Band, which performs at school concerts, community events, and music festivals around the country.

### COLOR GUARD



Our Color Guard marches in parades and performs with the band at football games and pep rallies. Students perform synchronized dance routines while spinning flags and rifles. No experience is necessary.

### WINTER PERCUSSION / DRUMLINE

Winter Percussion combines elements of musical performance, marching and theater. Our competitive, nationally-ranked ensemble performs regionally and nationally. The season begins in November and ends in April.

### JAZZ ENSEMBLE

This student-run group arranges music from the great jazz musicians, The Jazz Combo performs at local events, private functions and music festivals, and they also travel with the Jazz Ensemble.



### PIT ORCHESTRA



Advanced music students are invited to sit among professional musicians who provide the music for the Spring Musicals produced by the Drama Department.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### “How do I sign up for the Stamford High School Band?”

All music students who have played an instrument for at least one year are eligible to join. All you have to do is sign up for the Concert Band/Marching Band class when you choose your high school classes. **No auditions are required!**

### “Tell me more about band camp.”

All students attend a free Band Camp at Stamford High for one week prior to the start of school to learn new music and to practice marching so that we are well rehearsed and ready to perform when school opens.

### “How much time is spent practicing after school?”

It depends on how many ensembles you join. All students are part of the Marching/ Concert Band which rehearses one evening during the week. The Jazz Band rehearses after school twice per week beginning in late fall. The Winter Percussion Ensemble rehearses in the evenings twice per week and competes on Saturdays.

### “What if I don't play very well?”

Our instructional staff is second to none in their ability, dedication, and their willingness to teach all students who try their best. Our only requirement is that you have at least one year of experience playing any instrument, and you come to class ready to work hard and have a lot of fun.

### “How much does it cost?”

Like almost every after school program there are dues involved. The Band Parent Association is very much committed to helping every student who wants to join the band find a way to pay their dues through payment plans, fund raisers, and grants. **No student who wants to participate is ever turned away for lack of funds.**

### “What about my grades?”

Academic research has shown that students involved in music continue to outperform their non-arts engaged peers. Many of our students take AP classes and are on the honor roll, some are also involved in sports, and others serve on the Student Council.

## WHAT STUDENTS SAY...

“Band is something that stays with you the rest of your life; the life lesson, the memories. Without band, I wouldn't be the person I am today.”

— Brian Roman, Class of 2015, Berklee College of Music

“The band program has not only provided me with the leadership, commitment, and determination skills I would need in the future but it also provided me with a second family that was my support system for my four years in high school.”

— Viviana Castillo

## WHAT PARENTS SAY...

“Having been an active band parent I was able to watch as my daughter and all of the other kids were transformed into confident and accomplished young adults.”

— Mary Lupo

“The old adage “a busy teenager is a happy teenager” is so true for music students. Mr. Beratis sets the bar very high each year and it's wonderful to see a group of teenagers be so focused and dedicated to the band while having so much fun.”

— Carrie Jachimczyk

WITHOUT MUSIC . . .  
. . . LIFE WOULD **Bb!**

## GEORGE BERATIS, BAND DIRECTOR



Mr. Beratis is the Director of Bands at Stamford High School. A Stamford native and a 2002 graduate of Stamford High, he currently teaches Concert Band, Marching/Pep Band, Jazz Band, Jazz Combo, AP Music Theory, Winter Percussion, Pit Orchestra, and Guitar I&II.

Mr. Beratis received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music/Jazz Studies with a concentration in saxophone from Western Connecticut State University in 2006 and a Master of Science Degree in Education from The University of Bridgeport in 2008. His professional affiliations include the National Association for Music Education and the Connecticut Music Educators Association.

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