



Green Level High School
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<https://www.wcpss.net/greenlevelhs>

Dear future Green Level High School Band community,

My name is Brian Myers, and I am the new band director for Green Level High School! I received your name from Ms. Summers as a family who is currently in band this year and interested in participating in the GLHS Band program next school year. I am excited to start our new band program together to establish a tradition of excellence. In this email, I hope to answer many of the questions you may have about the GLHS Band program and to give you some dates for upcoming events where will discuss more details.

Stay connected to the updates and news of the GLHS Band online:

Website: www.greenlevelband.org

Facebook: [GreenLevelBand](https://www.facebook.com/GreenLevelBand)

Twitter: [@GreenLevelBand](https://twitter.com/GreenLevelBand)

SAVE THE DATE: April 1, 7pm

Kickoff meeting for ALL students and parents in the GLHS auditorium.

ABOUT ME

It's very important to me that I begin to build relationships with the students and families of the GL Band immediately. While you will get to know more about me in the coming months, here's a little bit to start off. I'm finishing my 15th year of teaching, and most recently I have been the Director of Bands at Green Hope HS for the past 12 years. I'm humbled that Ms. Summers, our new principal, has asked for me to assist her in building the inaugural Green Level Band. It's an opportunity and responsibility that I don't take lightly, and I'm honored to have the opportunity to create something amazing with each of you.

I graduated from East Carolina University and Boston University, completed my National Board Certification (renewing this year), and I was the Teacher of the Year for GHHS in 2014-15. My instruments of concentration were the piano (primary) and euphonium (secondary). You can read more about me in my bio, which is currently on the GHHS Band website.

I am proud of the program that we have built at GHHS, and I believe that the future of the GLHS Band is extremely bright. I have been proud of the camaraderie between the band directors of the three Cary High Schools and respective band programs, and I look forward to continuing that as the 4th Cary high school band. As you know, the history and legacy of the band programs in Cary, NC is impressive, and I plan to continue that high standard of excellence at Green Level HS.

I have set up a forum for you to share with me your thoughts, questions, feedback, or visions of the GLHS Band. Of course, you can also email me at bmyers@wcpss.net, but filling out the form will help me keep all of our correspondence in one place.

Communication Forum: <http://bit.ly/glbandtalk>

GREEN LEVEL BAND OVERVIEW

The core values of the Green Level Band reflect my own philosophies about what is important in the high school band experience, and what will motivate every decision we make as we begin to build the GL Band:

- **Respect:** Of oneself, of peers, of parents and chaperones, of teachers and staff, of our band, of our school, and of other organizations in and out of GLHS.
- **Professionalism:** Members will consistently represent themselves as members of the GLHS Band with the highest degree of professionalism, sportsmanship, and integrity.
- **Leadership:** Members of the Green Level Band program will have opportunities to give back to the program through servant leadership.
- **Excellence:** By consistently giving their personal and collective best, members will continually raise the standards of excellence of each performer, maximizing the total potential of the group and achieving a sense of success regardless of the competitive result.

“The shining trophies on our shelves can never win tomorrow's game.” -George Moriarty

The nucleus of the GL Band will be the curricular ensembles. Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and eventually Wind Ensemble will meet during the school day. Marching Band, Winter Guard, Indoor Percussion, and Jazz Band (depending on enrollment) will be exclusively extracurricular (after school).

Curricular Ensembles:

Depending on class registration, we will have one or two ensembles the first year. Students should plan to take both semesters of band, if possible, in order to ensure continuity in musical growth, skills, and knowledge. Students who take both semesters of band will be given priority for advancement into the advanced ensemble(s), student leadership roles, and other opportunities.

While the Symphonic Band will eventually be by audition, in the first year it will likely be by previous director recommendation, as well as honors band (All-County, All-District, All-State, etc.) placement.

For class registration, students should register for:

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC: BAND 1 BEGINNING (semester 1)

AND

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC: BAND 2 INTERMEDIATE (semester 2)

Once I have student lists from registration, I will be able to see how many ensembles we will have. From there, I will make necessary adjustments to the students' registration. Symphonic Band and (eventually) Wind Ensemble will be honors classes.

Extracurricular Ensembles:

Marching Band

YES, WE WILL HAVE A MARCHING BAND! A very good one at that.

We will have uniforms, a field show, staff, and we will perform at JV Football games and local competitions. I estimate the fair share will be \$600 per student, which will pay for show design, instruction, travel (buses, meals, equipment truck rental), copyright, and competition registration. The required camp and performance dates are listed below. We will have 3 weekly rehearsals after school. I will distribute a full calendar soon.

Camp and Performance Dates (required):

June 11-13: Registration and Mini-Camp (6-9pm)

July 22-26: Pre-Camp (Student Leaders, Visual Blocks, Guard/Percussion Camp)

July 29-August 2: FULL CAMP! (8am-9pm)

August 17: Saturday Camp (8am-6pm)

September 5: Home Football (JV)

September 14: Saturday Camp (8am-6pm)

September 19: Home Football (JV)

September 28: Possible local competition*

October 3: Home Football (JV)

October 5: Possible local competition*

October 12: Possible local competition*

October 26: Possible local competition*

November 1: Home Football (JV)

November 2: Possible local competition*

November 7: Home Football (JV)

December 7: Apex Christmas Parade (afternoon/early evening)

December 14: Cary Christmas Parade (early afternoon)

** I have listed all six possible competition days for planning purposes, but we will ultimately choose 4 or 5. One or two of these Saturdays will be open.*

Winter Guard and Indoor Percussion: These seasons will run from November-March.

I plan to begin a competitive Indoor Percussion program the first year of GLHS. Depending on the number of participants, the first year(s) may be a concert ensemble, then expanding out from there to a marching ensemble. I plan to have at least one Winter Guard the first year of GLHS. Eventually I would like to have a Varsity and a JV Winter Guard.

Jazz Band

I plan to have a Jazz Band at GLHS, meeting after school from November-May.

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

Mid- to Late-March: I will be visiting band classes at PCHS and MPMS. I look forward to the opportunity for students to meet me and for me to meet them.

April 1, 7pm: Kickoff meeting for students and parents in the GLHS auditorium.

We will discuss the first year of the GLHS Band. There will be some surprises :) At this meeting, I will discuss my plan for beginning a Band Booster program and how I will be selecting student leaders for the marching band.

Late April: Band Booster Roundtable Meeting. I will send a separate email within the week with more info.

Late April: Meet with Student Leaders. I will send a separate email within the week with more info.

May: Marching Band Auditions

All members (Brass, Woodwinds, Percussion, Colorguard) will audition for a spot in the marching band. This will be an opportunity for me to meet you individually and to get to hear you play. The audition etude and required scales will be the same for Green Level, Panther Creek, and Green Hope.

I'm also exploring options for a trip in the Spring semester. It would be a program-wide trip (all band and guard students would be invited).

It's going to be an incredible year with many exciting new adventures and "firsts," and I'm thrilled to share these experiences with each of you. **Go Green Level Band!**

"The rewards stemming from high school band programs include: teamwork skills, self-discipline, healthy self-esteem, personal confidence, learning to reach short and long term goals. Being a musician maps the human mind for success; success in all avenues of life." (Teaching Music Through Performance in Band, by Tim Lautzenheiser)

"College admissions officers continue to cite participation in music as an important factor in making admissions decisions. They claim that music participation demonstrates time management, creativity, expression, and open-mindedness." (Carl Hartman, Arts May Improve Students' Grades, The Associated Press, October 1999)