

Subject: 2026 Honor Band – November Mailing

«Student\_Email»

«Primary\_ParentGuardian\_Email»

«Secondary\_ParentGuardian\_Email»

Registration ID: «SALESFORCE\_REGISTRATION\_ID»

Primary Email Address: «Primary\_ParentGuardian\_Email»

Dear Honor Band Members,

We hope this message finds you at the conclusion of a successful fall marching band season. We've seen some of you this season at Bands of America events, and others we can't wait to meet in California.

As we prepare for the Honor Band experience in Pasadena, our goal is to ensure that it is second to none. Achieving this will require dedication from every member to uphold the promise to be fully prepared. Our roster includes members with a range of experience and talents. We encourage you not to compare yourself with others, but instead to strive to be the best YOU can be at your own level of experience. Your preparation ahead of time will help us start the trip with enthusiasm and excellence.

## **FORMS AND INFORMATION**

Please review the status of the following forms to ensure that you are on track for December.

BAND App: «BAND\_APP»

Uniform Measurement Form: «UNIFORM\_MEASUREMENT\_FORM»

### **Press Release**

A news release template announcing your selection to the Honor Band is [available to download](#).

We encourage you to customize the release and distribute it to your local media. We suggest that you make copies and send them to every newspaper, television and radio station in your area. Local newspapers, local tv stations, local radio stations, your school, your school district, if you are involved in a church, or a club – all of them might be interested in publishing and sharing this news!

Please download the word document and fill in the yellow highlighted sections with information that is personal to you prior to sending to organizations in your community.

## **ASSIGNMENTS – Due December 7 @ 11:59pm EST**

MusicFirst Classroom: <https://musicforall.musicfirstclassroom.com/login>

MusicFirst Username: «MusicFirst\_Username»

MusicFirst Password: «MusicFirst\_Password»

April Marching and Movement Assignment: «APRIL»

Drumline Exercises: «DRUMLINE»

June – Reflections of Earth: Part 1: «June\_\_Reflections»

June – Times Like These: Part 1: «June\_\_Times\_Like\_These»

June – For Good: Part 1: «June\_\_For\_Good»

June – American Band: Part 1: «June\_\_American\_Band»

June – Drumline Cadence: «June\_\_Cadence»

**December – all 4 assignments (part 2) are due on 12/7/2025 @ 11:59pm EST.**

All members must submit their assignments via MusicFirst. Timely submission is crucial, so our staff can review and provide any feedback to ensure you are prepared when you arrive in Pasadena.

- Ensure that all your parade music is memorized and playable at the specified tempos. When we read through the music for the first time as an ensemble, we want to feel a sense of pride and excitement about the potential of the group. The recordings of the pieces are located in the Dropbox. Use these to practice and ensure you're prepared.
- Marching and Movement Basics: Please review Jeff Young's comments on your visual assignment from April and work on any skills that he mentioned could use improvement.
- Prepare your body for the 5 miles or more of marching in the parade. We suggest walking daily or at least every other day. Jogging and calisthenics are also encouraged to help your body handle the physical challenge.

### **Additional Section-Specific Instructions**

- Wind Players: Practice your parts methodically and carefully, working to achieve the correct tempo. If you are comfortable with the notes and rhythms (memorized), our staff will be able to assist you further in Pasadena.
- Guard Members: Choreography teaching videos are ready. Please see detailed instructions within MusicFirst for learning videos, and assignment submissions.
- Drum Majors: Please see detailed instructions within MusicFirst for assignment submissions.

## **ZOOM REHEARSALS**

All members are invited to attend two (2) Zoom rehearsals, during which directors will review the music with you. You will be able to play along to recordings in the comfort of your own room. Please attend at least one rehearsal from the following options:

- Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> after the MTC Departure meeting
- Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-9:00 PM Eastern Time
- Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> from 8:00-9:00 PM Eastern Time

## **COMING UP IN DECEMBER**

We appreciate everyone's enthusiasm for the trip, and know that we are working diligently behind the scenes for your arrival. We are in the final phases of preparations, and want you to be aware that these things are being finalized before being sent out.

- Trip Itinerary
- Honor Band Merchandise Look Book and Pre-Order Information
- December 11 – 8:00pm EST – Departure Meeting with MTC and Zoom Rehearsal

Dr. Gustafson-Hinds and I are excited to meet you in Pasadena! Let's work together to ensure we are fully prepared, so our performances inspire and move our audiences.

Please arrive in Pasadena with a positive attitude and the willingness to be the ultimate team player as we work together to form our new band family. This will be an amazing experience if we're all ready to give our best, accept coaching, and maintain a positive attitude as leaders.

Sincerely,

Richard Saucedo and Dr. Melissa Gustafson-Hinds  
Directors, 2026 BOA Honor Band in the Rose Parade