

Dear Rookie,



We are SO glad that you have decided to join marching band! You really have made a great decision. We can't even begin tell you how much it has changed our lives over the past three years and how much fun you will have this year and in the years to come. Our names are Austin Decuir and DJ Yutzy and we're your band captains for this season. We are very friendly and we want to answer your questions about anything and just get to know you. Feel free to come to us with any problems or questions you have.



Rookie Camp is July 20th through 22nd. While it is not mandatory, it is one of the most important parts of the marching band experience. We will be marching from the very second band camp begins the following Monday, July 25th so it is very important that you learn the basics of marching the week before. Plus, you will get to meet a lot of new friends along with the officers of the band. When you arrive at Parkview, just look for the crazy band kids dressed in wild orange wigs, carrying signs and banners, cheering for the most important part of our marching band, YOU. Over the three days you'll learn all of the basics of marching and some of the advanced moves. Some of you will even be better at marching than our returning sophomores and juniors. We're not kidding. Rookie camp really is invaluable to your success on the football field.

If rookie camp sounds fun, band camp itself will be a blast. You may think, "Oh, why would I want to spend an entire week out in the hot summer sun." But it's so much more than that. It is an entire week of fun, learning, sectionals, and making more friends than you could ever imagine. It is when you meet your section, which is almost like your family, when you realize that learning all of the moves in the show isn't as difficult as you had expected, and when you really feel like you are part of something great. Over the course of the week you will feel yourself improve dramatically, improve musically, and your marching skills will rapidly progress. On Tuesday 7/26 after camp is over, you will need to stay to try on and order your marching shoes and gloves (percussion does not wear gloves, everyone else does). On the last day we finish out on the practice field with a "drill down" which is a contest where the drum majors call out rapid commands to which the band responds with marching (you will learn these commands at Rookie Camp) and if you mess up you are eliminated. It's just a fun game to see who can last the longest, so try and beat the upperclassmen! After the drill down there will be a water fight, so bring your super soakers and be ready to get wet (of course you don't have to if you don't want to).

Oh and how can we forget one of the most fun parts of band camp: THE DRESS UP DAYS! During the week we have dress up days to boost our excitement and spirit. Here's what they will be this year:

- Monday – Band Shirt Day (wear any band shirt or spirit wear you have)
- Tuesday – Sports Team Day (favorite jersey, sports accessories, stuff like that)
- Wednesday – Pirate/Ninja Day (dress up as your favorite pirate or ninja)
- Thursday – Character/Identity Theft Day (dress up like a famous character or person)
- Friday – Section Spirit Day (your section will decide what to do)



Remember that you will have to march around outside in these costumes, so if you're going to dress up keep that in mind. On Friday night we will have a pool party where we all have tons of fun swimming and partying. Also we will give out awards for the best costumes during the week.

One of the greatest things about marching band is the friends you make. Being a freshman in high school can seem pretty scary, but band camp really helps to ease the fear. You're going to make friends with students in each grade who have already been through what you're going through who can give you advice and answer any of your questions. You'll be able to hang out in the band room before and after school and maybe even hitch a ride home instead of having to ride the bus. Band geeks are some of the greatest people you will meet and will always be there for you. We're looking forward to meeting you during Rookie Camp and getting to know you throughout the year. Feel free to contact us this summer or anytime via email or Facebook.



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See you at Rookie Camp!

Austin and DJ

