



# Scotland High School Bands

James Cook, Director of Bands

Daniel Parker, Associate Director

Roger Edwards, Principal

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Greetings!

With the upcoming installation of Smaller Learning Communities here at Scotland High School next school year, there have arisen many questions about the schools themselves and what this will mean for student scheduling, availability of classes, and graduation requirements. You and your student will receive a significant amount of information on these Smaller Learning Communities from a variety of sources this semester. Much of this information will be general in scope and is meant to apply to the majority, but not to all, of the people reading it. As directors of the Band program at Scotland High School, the move to smaller schools stands to affect the band program because of our status as an “elective” program. We would like to take a moment to clarify what these schools are and what their initiation will mean for your band student.

First and foremost, the small schools at Scotland High School mean to offer a more personalized and preparatory education, with the hope of raising success rates and lowering drop out rates. Next year, Scotland High School will be split into six smaller themed schools. The coursework of each school will focus on the theme of that school, allowing students to focus on one aspect of their education. For instance, suppose a ninth grade student has hopes of becoming a doctor or nurse. After his/her freshman year (in which they will be placed into a non-themed ninth grade academy), he/she would be able to join the School of Allied Health at Scotland High School. In this school, he/she may take courses revolving around the study of Allied Health. Each school will also offer general education courses such as Math, English, Science, and Social Studies. For the most part, students will take courses entirely within their school. However, there are certain programs in the school that draw their participants from the entire school population.

The Band program at Scotland High School currently enrolls over 200 students throughout the year. Our students have a diverse set of interests and skills. The majority have no intention of pursuing a career in music. That is not the function of these new schools. They serve simply to guide and prepare, not to dictate one’s future. Because the Band program draws from the entire school population, we have the support from the school administration to enroll students who wish to be enrolled in the band program, regardless of the school to which they belong. **This means that your student does not have to be enrolled in the School of Visual and Performing Arts to take Band.** While there will be students in band who are also in the School of Visual and Performing Arts, the majority of our band students will come from the ninth grade academies and the other five smaller schools. Because of the nature and tradition of the program, we have been given full administrative support to populate our band program with any students wishing to participate, regardless of school affiliation.