

# *The Wisconsin State FFA Honors Band*

Monte Dunnum, Director

June 4, 2021

**Dear 2021 Wisconsin State FFA Honors Band Member,**

There is NO WAY AROUND IT. The world has changed since we were last together in August of 2019. From all that we have dealt with through COVID to the events that have taken place in our World, Country and State, we are all likely different people than we would have been had these things not taken place. And yet, we all share something that is constant, music and our opportunity to come together as the Wisconsin State FFA Honors Band. I look forward very much to our renewing this opportunity and sharing our talents and friendships with each other and those around us.

Congratulations on being selected for membership in the 2021 Wisconsin State FFA Honors Band. Although our numbers are much smaller than in the past, we will proceed and renew the wonderful experience that this has been for so many. Welcome or Welcome Back.

The purposes of this letter are many:

1. Basic Information for State Convention, July 6-8 at the Alliant Energy Center
2. Basic Information for State Fair, August 12-15 at West Allis
3. Establish strong communication links with you so information, as it changes, can be communicated quickly and effectively.

## **State Convention: July 6-8 at Madison**

The dates for State Convention are July 6-8, 2021 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. **If you are unable to fulfill this obligation, please notify me as soon as possible as even 1 or 2 members changing plans will significantly impact the group,**

One of our other concerns this year has to do with leaving rehearsal to receive awards. We ask that you clearly communicate when you will need to be missing rehearsal as even a few people missing will greatly affect our rehearsal.

Mask and other information: Per Dane County guidelines, we are recommending that those of you that are not vaccinated continue to wear masks while in public. As things continue to change, we will as well.

### Tuesday, July 6, 2021

8:30am	Meet/Greet w/Directors begins in Hall A, Exhibition Hall, Alliant Energy Ctr
Band	Hall A, Exhibition Hall, Alliant Energy Center
Chorus	TBD
9am-Noon	Rehearsal in Hall A, Exhibition Hall, Alliant Energy Center
1-4pm	Rehearsal Resumes
6:30pm	Rehearsal Resumes
7:00	Move to Convention Hall C/D for Pre-session Concert (End 7:50pm)
8:00pm	Rehearsal for Jazz Band and Select Choir Students

### Wednesday, July 7, 2021

8:00am	Band and Choir Rehearsals Resume
9am	Band/Choir perform for Career Show (Tentative)
10-12	Full Band and Chorus Rehearsal

1-4 Band and Chorus Rehearsal (1:30pm Band Performance Pre-Session)  
6:30-7:30pm Pre-Session performance for both Band and Chorus  
Possible Additional Performance During Session  
9:30 approx. Performance near the end of the session (God Bless America)

Thursday, July 8, 2021

8:00am Pre-Session performance for both Band/Chorus  
\*\* In-Session Band and Chorus Spotlight performance

**\*\*Band and Chorus members will need to be in full official dress for all performances at the State Convention.** This is a REQUIREMENT.. Also please note for females when wearing skirts, you must have the proper length. An official FFA Dress skirt is at the knee or just below, no mini or long skirts will be allowed. Further, it is recommended that the girls wear black nylons with a closed toe black shoe.

**\*\*New Members especially take note:** At the State Fair, official dress can become very hot. Because of this, we are allowed to wear an alternate “uniform”. **You are REQUIRED to purchase an FFA Band Polo** for the State Fair. T-shirts and other commemorative items will also be available. Because of timing this year, we will have a design in place and orders must be submitted by July 26. The following link will be “live” by July 8.

<http://www.bbgraphics.net/ffaband.html> We will deliver your items to you at the fair

\*\*All Band Music will be shared at this link by June 20.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RkghUdxoXSV-8p3t4Ve3vl7hytGHlyY0?usp=sharing>

**Please make a binder with page protectors for each song and decorate it for FFA Band. There will be a contest!!!**

**\*\*Jazz Band.** We will have a jazz band and it will rehearse at convention. All are welcome but, this year, we need anyone that is able to join the group. If you are a flute, clarinet, horn or any other “non-traditional” jazz instrument, but play a second instrument that is a “traditional jazz instrument” please join us.

\*\*National Band Applications-due by July 15 and this opportunity is open to ANY RETURNING BAND MEMBER. Link: <https://convention.ffa.org/band-chorus-talent/>

## **State Fair (August 12-15, 2021 at State Fair Park in West Allis)**

Again, your selection to this ensemble requires your commitment to attend both State Convention and State Fair. If this is an issue, we must know immediately.

Members will need to arrive by 11:00 am on Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup> and will rehearse at 1pm that afternoon.

The Health Form for the Wisconsin State Fair is included in this mailing and needs to be returned to us at Convention, along with a check for \$50 per student (check to WI FFA CENTER). Please note that COVID Vaccination information is requested in case contact tracing is necessary.

**Attire for all performances at the FAIR** is the FFA Band polo, khaki pants or skirt, socks (dark) and dark (brown) closed toe shoes. No shorts for performances. Please be professional.

## **State Fair Schedule for WI State FFA Honors Band and Chorus**

### **Thursday, August 12, 2021**

11:00am Plan to Arrive at the Fair

1:00 pm-3:30 p.m. Band Practice Banquet Room 1 (Youth Center)

1:00 pm-4:00 p.m. Chorus Practice Classroom (Youth Center)

### **Friday, August 13, 2021**

Performances To Be Announced-We know some but not all. A schedule will be available at convention.

### **Saturday, August 14, 2021**

Performances To Be Announced

### **Sunday, August 15, 2021**

Performances To Be Announced

Final performance will end around 1pm

### **Parking/Housing Information:**

Housing-Participants staying in the Youth Center receive a wristband which covers Fair admission, lodging, and breakfast each day in the Youth Center. Each air-conditioned Youth Center room includes 6 bunk beds (12 beds), a bathroom with a single shower unit, two sinks, and a toilet. **Participants will need to bring their own bedding (sleeping bags, sheets, pillows), towels, toiletries and other accessories.** Youth Center curfew is at 11 pm. All participants are expected to adhere to the “Junior General Rules and Regulations” and “Youth Center Rules and Regulations.”

### **TRAVELING TO WISCONSIN STATE FAIR**

Information about this is available on the Wisconsin State Fair website at <http://www.wistatefair.com/wp/index.php/getting-here/>. Please note that for everyone’s safety and convenience, local authorities allow only right-hand turns in and out of Fair gates during the Fair.

### **TOMMY G. THOMPSON YOUTH CENTER VEHICLE ACCESS**

The Gate 5 Vehicle Access Permit temporarily allows vehicles to access the Youth Center parking lot at Gate 5 (84<sup>th</sup> Street and Schlinger Avenue) to drop off/pick up participants and/or luggage at the Youth Center upon arrival and departure. The vehicle access permit **MUST** be visible on the dashboard of your vehicle to enter Gate 5. Vehicle parking and admission to the Fair is not included with this access permit.

NOTE: A **30 minute temporary** Youth Center parking permit will be handed to you at the State Convention. **Vehicles parked in the Youth Center lot longer than the allotted time (30 minutes) will be towed.** After unloading, exit Gate 5 and proceed to another Wisconsin State Fair parking gate or park outside of the Fair Park. There is no access to general vehicle parking from Gate 5.

### **OVERNIGHT PARKING**

We highly recommend arranging transportation so participants can be dropped off at the Youth Center to avoid parking vehicles overnight. Youth Expo participants who bring a vehicle and wish to park overnight are encouraged to use the free off-site exhibitor Blue Ribbon Parking located one mile east of the Fair Park. The Blue Ribbon Parking lot is located on 70th Street about ½ mile south of I-94. This free lot will have 24 hour security, in and out access and overnight parking. A free shuttle will be run continuously for the duration of the Fair. The shuttle will pick up and drop off near Gate 5. If you have any questions or concerns throughout your Fair experience please contact;

**Brianna Stankey**      **414-750-0872**      **youthexpo@wistatefair.com**

### **Reminders:**

- a. **Remember your towel and bedding.....essential.....MUSIC and STAND TOO**
- b. Bring some spending money-note that one meal daily is provided so you will need money for 2 meals per day. We would advise you to keep your money to a minimum and have a plan to store it.
- c. You have a curfew of 11pm each night. If you miss this, you will be sent home. Your parent or advisor will receive a call and you will wait in the lobby until they arrive, even if late at night.
- d. **Remember your towel and bedding.....essential.....MUSIC and STAND TOO**
- e. No surprises, let me know if there are any problems with your attendance. Honor this commitment. Fair is a blast and you WILL enjoy it. Don't take it for granted.
- f. Shirt orders will be passed out at the fair beginning at 11am on Thursday. YOU MUST HAVE POLO!!!

Finally, we have always had a great time at the fair. We expect you to maintain the high levels of performance and character that we have always exhibited. See you in a few weeks!!!!

### **Communication**

Join us on REMIND for text updates: **Text: @wisconsins to 81010** to sign up.  
Also, I hope to have an Instagram presence for you as well. Will advise ASAP.

Sincerely,

Monte A. Dunnum, Wisconsin State FFA Honors Band Director  
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Cell 608-632-0078 email [montedunnum@gmail.com](mailto:montedunnum@gmail.com)

### **Checklist for members:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Pencil
- \_\_\_\_\_ Folding Stand
- \_\_\_\_\_ Binder
- \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument and Reeds/Oil etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Music-must be printed out from the link above and placed in your binder.