

# CARTER CORPS NEWS

A Newsletter for Students, Parents, and Community Members Who Support Carter High School

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## CHS Marching Band: An Overview

Students enjoy marching, playing and performing in marching band during the football season at Carter High School. The Carter High School marching band is relatively small compared to most marching bands, but that does not stop them from giving wonderful performances and having fun. The students range from freshmen to seniors, everyone putting their all into the show, marching and playing until they are dead exhausted. The band practices during third period, the longest period of the school day, as well as every Monday from four pm to six pm, and Thursdays, six pm to eight pm. It takes a lot of work to perform the shows, but it is worth it. The shows are the highlight of marching season, with fun music, movements, and shapes formed by the students when marching. The two drum majors, JaDejsha Arnold and Ploomie Messer, are vital to the show, conducting the band and keeping them in time. When asked what her favorite part of marching band is, JaDejsha Arnold, senior drum major, commented, "Doing something I love with people who love it just as much as me." JaDejsha finds the most rewarding part of band to be the people, the players, and the performers. She enjoys performing just as much as any other member of the band and always does her best when conducting. Other than drum majors, there are a multitude of woodwind, brass, battery, and front ensemble players

along with guard and majorettes. Everyone is important to the show since the band is smaller than in previous years. Cameron Walker, a senior tuba player, said competitions are his favorite part of band due to being able to come together with other bands, interact, play, and listen to them play. "I feel special," Cameron Walker commented, describing why he enjoyed band so much. Marching band makes everyone feel special, like Cameron. Even if a person is just in the general ensemble, he or she still has an important role to play, making them vital to the band. There are lots of movements from the majorettes and the guard as the band plays on. The woodwinds play fun trills and sixteenth runs while the brass players have flowy eighth notes and quarter notes, usually having the melody of the songs. Other than music, there are performances, competitions, and football games where the band performs.



Cameron Walker poses during in-school practice.



Kiley Shankles, junior flute player, relaxes at a football game.

*Carter Corps News is a product of the CHS Journalism class.*

*Editor in Chief: Mr. O'Malley*

*Staff:*

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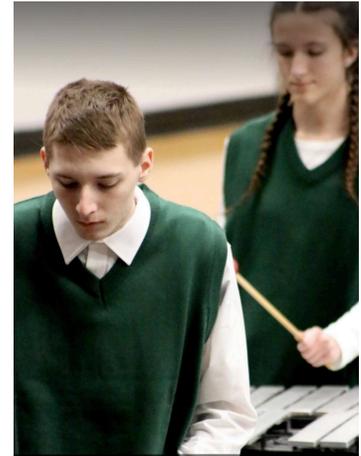
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## Carter High School Drumline Prepares For a New Season

The pandemic has hit a lot of clubs incredibly hard, none more so than the Carter High School band; Carter Corps News sat down with a member of the drumline and asked them a few questions about what they thought about all of the mandatory changes, such as the mask mandate and the social distancing guidelines; and how they were affecting the band. Here is what they had to say. "It's the little things, like the cheer we march to"; said Thomas Fields, a member of the Carter High percussion since 2018, when asked about what was different this year, as opposed to last year. Fields followed the conversation with, "the social distancing was an adjustment, yes; but I would say the real struggle is and was marching while wearing masks." When asked if he still enjoyed the band, Fields had this to say, "yes of course, there is nothing that

would make me hate the band, I love getting to play every Friday night." When asked about his thoughts on the new ways of band, Fields said, "It's different, I'll say that. but seriously, there are a few changes that maybe aren't the best like for example having to wear masks, and having to stay six feet apart." When Mr. Fields was asked if there was anything he didn't like about the new way of doing things, to which he said, "I don't particularly like having to learn a new way of playing a song, that I thought was fine as is." on the same topic, Fields also answered this when asked about what he would change, "I would probably go back to the old cadence that we played in the years prior." Before wrapping up the interview, I asked Mr. Fields if there was anything else that he wanted the public to know, to which he responded, "Perhaps it

would be, that despite everything going on (including what's written above); nothing will ever make me hate the band, or the rush of adrenaline that comes with it; and I will most definitely be in the band until I graduate."



Chastin Maples (front) and Jessie Fouraker (back), at an event for the East Tennessee Performing Arts Association.

## The Future of the Musical Theatre Department

The theatre department at Carter High School recently announced that their typical fall musical has been moved to the spring semester. Mr. Webb, the choir and musical theatre director at Carter, shocked many students and local theatre enthusiasts when the traditional autumn performance was switched to spring in hopes that COVID-19 changes would be revoked by that time. The anticipated spring musical will be a performance of *Into the Woods*. When asked about the changes and future of musical theatre, Webb stated, "I wanted to give students a better chance of having a performance, especially for our incredible senior class, in regards to restrictions with COVID-19." Webb also shared

that he hopes masks will be gone by spring, but if not, he may consider "oversized character masks that could fit over the entire face" in hopes to prevent the spread of the virus. Last year, the theatre department put on the production of *Grease*. Webb double-casted the show, with two actors per lead character. Kylee Condra, who played beloved Sandy in one of the casts, said, "I think musical theatre being in spring is the best idea." She is sad that she and her castmates have to wait to put on their show, but excited to end her senior year with a bang. Condra plans to audition for the *Witch* in their upcoming production of *Into the Woods*. Students are threatened that they may not be allowed to go to school in-person in

spring, which also means they may not have a musical. Although the future of musical theatre this year is uncertain, Webb and all actors and crew are hopeful and ecstatic to put on their show if they are able to.



The 2019 cast of *Grease* performing on the Carter High School stage.