

Marching Band – A Survivor’s Guide

Hello Marching Band Families! I hope everyone is excited to begin a great season! Below you will find the necessary information that students will need to be successful during the summer band rehearsals. Please read this entire document and let me know if you have any questions.

REMAINING SUMMER EVENTS

Color Guard Training Camp:	July 23 – 26	12pm – 4pm
Percussion Training Camp:	July 23 – 26	1pm – 8pm
New Member Brass & Woodwind Training Camp:	July 23 – 26	9am – 12pm
Returning Brass and Woodwind Training Camp:	July 25 – 26	9am – 12pm
DCI Show:	July 27	4:30pm – 10pm
BAND CAMP for Full Band:	July 30 – Aug 2	8am – 6:30pm
Night Rehearsals (Mon, Tues, & Thurs)	Aug 6 – Aug 16	5pm – 8pm

NOTES ABOUT MARCHING BAND REHEARSALS:

Marching band is considered a music-sport (we realize that sounds weird to most of you). Think of it like figure skating, but the where the skaters also have to perform the music while performing difficult routines. Each band student will be moving their body in ways that may be uncomfortable to them if they have been sitting on the couch all summer. Though we make every effort to ensure that all students are well taken care of during all Band Practices, but please keep in mind that these rehearsals are outdoors, usually on a parking lot, in the summer, for long periods of time. Please make every effort to prepare yourself for this experience. **We promise that marching band will be the most rewarding and most fun experience that any student will have during his or her time in high school.** Below you will find notes about how to better prepare for Marching Band.

REQUIRED ITEMS TO BRING TO BAND CAMP:

1. Drinking thermos or water bottle to hold ice water
 - a. **ONLY BRING WATER** – sugar drinks attract bees. Bee stings are deadly for some students.
 - b. Any thermos will do, but here is an example:
 - i. <https://www.coleman.com/12-gallon-jug-red/3000001017.html>
2. Small, lightweight waist pack for runners/cyclers (aka fanny pack)
 - a. This will be used to hold, dots, drill, sunscreen, oil/reeds, etc.
 - b. We suggest buying two if your student is commonly careless. This will be used at EVERY rehearsal.
 - c. Any fanny pack will do, but here is an example:
 - i. <https://www.amazon.com/CHNS-Multi-functional-Outdoor-WaistBag-Cycling/dp/B01DNLH8UW>
3. Sunglasses
4. Lightly colored hat
5. Athletic clothing – lightweight, lightly colored, etc.
6. Tennis Shoes (THAT FIT) – students will be moving quickly at times.
7. Socks
8. Instrument & assigned equipment required
9. Black Sharpie
10. Music Binder/Drill Sheets/Sheet Music (these will be given on day one of band camp)

OPTIONAL ITEMS TO BRING TO BAND CAMP:

1. Sunscreen lotion – some will be provided, you may want your own to put in your waist pack.
2. Bug Spray – some will be provided, you may want your own.
3. Sandals or Flip Flops for indoor rehearsal – Tennis shoes are required for outdoor rehearsal.
4. Extra pair of socks for afternoon outside rehearsal.

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HOW TO PREPARE YOUR BODY FOR BAND CAMP:

1. Get plenty of sleep before and during the camp. Many hours will be spent moving in an athletic capacity.
2. Eat healthy foods for breakfast. Students will be outside. Pop-tarts and milk are not good choices.
3. Drink lots of water each morning to ensure hydration in the heat.
4. Bring salty snacks to eat during the day to help with electrolyte imbalance.
5. Wear deodorant
6. Apply sunscreen before rehearsal starts in the morning.
7. Bathe every night and go to bed early for the next day.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTES

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Unlike a sport where someone else can fill a missing position, in marching band, all students play in the game. If one person misses a practice, the entire group suffers. Perfect attendance is expected of all student except in cases of emergency.
2. **ARRIVAL:** Students should strive to be 30 minutes early to every band event. There will be much for each student to prepare before practices begin. Students will park in the back of the school or in front of the BPAC. Parents will drop off and pick up their students in front of the BPAC.
3. **GIFTS:** You will be provided a binder, sheet protectors, name badge, and dot markers (for those wondering).
4. **CHANGES FROM PAST YEARS:** Binders will not be used during drill learning, so straps are no longer needed. Coolers with ice water will be available to refill thermoses during outside practices, but cups will not be provided.
5. **DISMISSAL:** Band Camp ends at 6:30pm, but parents should allow time for students to put away all items used in rehearsal. Parents may also come early and watch.
6. **FINANCIAL COMMITMENT:** The financial contributions of all members, either through fundraising or personal donations, are vital to the overall band program, not just marching band. All members are expected to contribute equally to ensure fairness. Please make every effort to fundraise or donate appropriately. If the marching band budget is not met by dates set, **the marching band season will end.**

\$250 due May 15 - (WCS Fee. Check mailed to BHS only. Not payable through CHARMS)

\$230 due June 1 - All remaining amounts can be collected via PayPal through CHARMS or check

\$230 due July 1

\$230 due Aug 1

\$230 due Sept 1

\$210 due Oct 1

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me:

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