



**Member's Handbook**

**2009-2010**

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# WELCOME!

It is our pleasure to welcome you to membership in the highest profile performing ensemble of Blake High School. The Roaring Bengals Marching Band and Bengal Guard have a rich history of outstanding performances, and has quickly become one of the largest and finest marching units in the DC Metro area. You have chosen to be a part of this outstanding organization because of your personal drive for excellence and a need to bring pride to Blake High School.

In the past, our band has been honored by participating in the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Nokia Sugar Bowl in New Orleans, the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade, Walt Disney World, the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade, the NATO Parade of Nations in Virginia Beach, and the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Konica Minolta Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Florida. Every performance has brought great credit to our school, and I am positive we will be successful in the years to come.

You are part of an all inclusive team. There is no "bench" or alternates when it comes to a marching band. You are not judged on your physical appearance or strength, it does not matter how much musical training you have received in the past, you are not excluded because of race or religion, you can be a male or female... this is one of the few school organizations that welcomes everyone into its ranks. We only ask that you commit yourself to the organization and be ready to improve yourself and the unit as a whole.

On behalf of the student leadership and adult staff, welcome to the best time in your life while in high school. Welcome to the Roaring Bengals Marching Band!

Sincerely,

Brian Damron  
Director Bands  
301-879-1339  
Brian\_A\_Damron@mcpsmd.org



## Mission Statement

*The mission of the Blake High School Roaring Bengals Marching Band and Bengal Guard is to make a positive difference in the lives of the members by providing musical and visual experiences and performances, and to assist them in achieving their potential as they develop confidence, cooperation, leadership, responsibility and high standards of excellence and character.*

## The Values of Marching Band

*What will I learn and get from being a member of the Blake Band...*

- Performance opportunities in exciting venues
- Individual musical development
- Musical enjoyment
- Appreciation for all kinds of music
- Teamwork
- Commitment
- Responsibility
- Leadership
- Time management
- Goal setting
- Band family atmosphere
- Sense of belonging to an organization
- Confidence and self-esteem
- Opportunity to experience success and failure
- Development of people skills
- Stress management
- Self-discipline
- Values of intense effort and hard work
- Excellence
- Motivation
- Physical fitness
- ...and so much more



## Band Motto

### ***BE YOUR BEST!***

Be your best is a goal that everyone can achieve. It simply means that—Be YOUR best. This is not the same as “be THE best” which is something that few can achieve. It is all that is expected of you, but it is expected all of the time—every minute, every practice, every day and every performance. Further, it is expected that you will be your best outside of organized band activities, as well as in rehearsals and performances. You can measure your success and do not have to wait until someone else, like the director, senior, band officer, or judge tells you. You know!

## Band Member Expectations

### ***SHOW RESPECT***

Respect yourself. Respect others. Respect the band facilities, instruments, equipment, and uniforms.

### ***BE PREPARED***

Band members are responsible for doing their best, working on their individual skills, and practicing. All equipment must be brought to rehearsals as requested.

### ***BE THERE AND ON TIME***

You are a part of the performance and the rehearsal, and need to be there. Students should arrive at activities 15 minutes before the rehearsal is scheduled to begin in order to be ready to start on time. With this concept, you will be prepared physically and mentally to begin the rehearsal and not flying in at the last minute or worse—late.



## Attendance Policy

**Expectations:** You have made a commitment to be in the marching band for the entire year, but more specifically the fall “sport” season and the first nine week school quarter. Everyone is counting on you! In order to have successful band rehearsals and performance, it is essential that we have full attendance. The absence of one person not only affects that person, but also the entire group. The critical factors of uniformity, balance, spacing and alignment cannot be improved or maintained with absences. Carefully check the calendar at the end of this book for more details.

**Legitimate Excuses:** Legitimate absences for rehearsal or performance are illness, accident, serious illness/death of family member, religious activities and doctor’s appointments. A request to be excused from a rehearsal or performance must be turned in as a note to the director or an email from the parent’s address at the earliest possible time. It is asked that you schedule appointments, vacations, and college visits at times where there are no band performances.

**Unexcused absences:** Unexcused absences from a performance are unacceptable and may result in dismissal from the ensemble. Absences, tardiness or leaving early because of work or homework are not excused. Family vacations, college visits, not being able to get a ride, just forgetting, and sports outside of MCPS athletics are examples of unexcused absences. Problems with absences, tardiness or leaving early will be given appropriate consequences regarding performance opportunities.

## Basic Rules and Regulations

All Montgomery County School policies are in effect at all times while involved in the band program; no matter the time of day or night, or while on school grounds or at public/community activities away from Blake High School. See the MCPS website, Blake HS website, or your Agenda book for more clarification of these rules and policies.

Specific attention should be given to our **NO TOLERANCE policy when involving: foul language; the use of tobacco, alcohol or illegal substances; fighting or conflicts with other students; or disrespect of property and individuals.** If found breaking any of the above policies; students will be removed from the marching band and possible other music activities immediately. Additional school or MCPS consequences, to include suspension and expulsion, are possible and will be at the discretion of the school administrative team.

# Silver Band versus Blue Band

For the 2009-2010 season, since we have changed to a volunteer marching band instead of a curriculum based band; we are offering two marching band opportunities. This will allow students who have been in marching band to still participate even if they are involved in a fall sport. All students involved in marching band, either silver or blue, are expected to follow all rules and regulations as listed in this handbook.

## *Silver Band*

- This our main competition and field show band
- This band is designated as a “fall sport” and students should not be involved in any other after school activity during the first nine weeks school quarter
- Attend fully our annual week long marching band camp
- All Bengal Guard members should consider themselves as members of the Silver Band, and will have additional Monday “guard only” routine practices from 2:30-5 during the season
- Full band practice three times per week for the first eight weeks of school
  - Tuesdays 2:30-4
  - Wednesdays 2:30-5
  - Thursday 2:30-4
- Perform at all home football games and select away football games as a pep band
- Perform at all schedules Tournament of Bands marching band competitions
- Perform at all community parades and other scheduled activities like pep rallies and the Marine Corps Marathon
- Practice all of your music to complete competency to include the memorization of our Fight Song, Field Show selections, and Parade selection(s)
- Students will earn 30 plus Student Service Learning hours per year
- Opportunities for leadership (student band staff members must be a member of the Silver Band)
- Active participation will ensure eligibility to audition for upper level music ensembles and membership in the Tri-M Music Honor Society
- Active participation will ensure eligibility to audition or interview for leadership positions in the future, to include drum major, section/squad leaders, etc.
- Great letters of recommendation for college, choice of military service, or future work places

## *Blue Band*

- This is our main parade band for the community
- All members of the Silver Band are also considered members of the Blue Band
- This band is designed with the student athlete in mind. Students involved in a fall sport but who still want to participate in marching band should consider membership in the Blue Band.
- Attend as much of our annual week long marching band camp as possible (it is understood that fall sport tryouts will be scheduled also at this time)
- Attend assigned after school marching rehearsals in preparation for community parades
- Students will earn 15 plus Student Service Learning hours per year
- Practice at home your music for pep band activities and memorize the parade piece(s)
- Perform at all community parades and other scheduled activities like pep rallies and the Marine Corps Marathon
- Upon proof of music competency, you will be asked to participate in pep band activities at home and away football games
- Active and honorable participation will ensure eligibility to audition for upper level music ensembles and membership in the Tri-M Music Honor Society
- Active and honorable participation will ensure eligibility to audition or interview for leadership positions in the future, to include drum major, section/squad leaders, etc.

## **Costs For Participation**

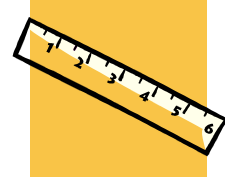
All marching bands in Montgomery County and throughout the area have fees that are charged for participation. This is not meant to deter anyone's participation; but is required to defray the costs involved in this very expensive activity. Marching Band as a program has an operating budget of around \$15,000 per year. The main portion of this budget goes toward:

Transportation	Special Equipment	Incentives and Awards
Marching Drill	Uniform Upkeep	Dry-Cleaning
Music	Band Camp Fees	Professional Fees

The fees for participating in marching band will be **\$125 for Silver Band and Bengal Guard** and **\$75 for Blue Band**. These fees include all of the above listed costs PLUS a marching band T-shirt and uniform gloves. **This fee does NOT include the formal marching shoe (Dinkles - \$25) which is required for all new members or those who need a replacement due to size change, loss or damage.** Contact Mr. Damron individually via email or phone if you need to discuss a payment plan or partial fee waiver. No one will be sent away because they can not pay.

## The Two "Golden Rules"...

- Do what your told, when you're told to do it.
- No talking or playing when the staff is talking.



## Rehearsal Guidelines

- Be in the right place at the right time with the right equipment. You should have the following items with you at all rehearsals:
  - Pencil
  - Instrument/guard equipment
  - Flip folder and all music or drill charts
  - Water bottle (given during band camp)
- All band members must wear sneakers to the rehearsal and should be dressed appropriately for the weather. Marching band is an outdoor activity and requires us to be outside in uncomfortable conditions at times (i.e. excessive heat, cold weather, light rain, etc.).
- Talking during a rehearsal must be kept to a minimum. There are a large amount of band members and a limited number of staff members. We will not talk over you. If you have a comment or question during a rehearsal, wait until the appropriate time. You will have the opportunity to give your input on a regular basis. We will also give plenty of breaks at which time you may socialize. Remember the most important things said in a rehearsal are right after the music stops.
- Always rehearse in the same manner you would perform. Never expect it all to come together the day of the performance. All members need to look at section/squad leaders for proper rehearsal etiquette, horn angles, etc.
- Rehearsal etiquette is the same no matter who is conducting
- All members must come to practice with the "notes"/equipment work learned. It is important to practice the music/equipment work at home. Each individual must be giving us their best, or else the band will not achieve its goals
- It is a proven fact that both positive and negative attitudes are contagious. You are expected to exhibit a positive and cooperative attitude at all times. Any student exhibiting a consistent negative, demeaning, or undermining attitude towards the staff, parents, students, or the band program will be subject to permanent removal from the marching band. Such violations may result in a conference involving the directors, the Parent/Guardian of the student, the student, and school administration

## Performance Guidelines

- Students are to arrive by the designated time.
- Keep personal items at home or in your car. This includes cell phones, purse, iPods, all jewelry and watches, etc. This is for your safety.
- Students are to check the blackboard in the band room for instructions and/or obtain their instructions from the drum majors, squad/section leaders or captains.
- Immediately dress in your trouser pants, uniform shoes, put your hair up (this includes males) and get out your instrument or necessary equipment. Keep your jacket and hat hung and in the bag/box until told to completely dress. We will rehearse/warm-up for the performance without hats and jackets; or travel by bus in trousers and t-shirts only.
- The students should have their instrument, all equipment for the performance, their pep music and lyre (**everybody must have a copy of every song!!!**).
- After warm-up or rehearsal or upon arrival to the performance site, the full uniform should be on completely until the return to school or told otherwise. This includes jacket on and zipped, gloves/gauntlets on, hat on, hair up, no jewelry on, etc.
- When in uniform at school, at the games, or in the community; you are representing our school and must reflect great credit on our program and school. Do not do anything to embarrass yourself or the band.
- While marching to the stadium, or in place at competitions and parades; remember to be disciplined and march with pride.
- The band will sit by section in the stands and on the buses to events.
- While in the stands students must pay attention to the Director, Staff, and Drum Majors at all times. Everybody should be ready to play a song when it is counted off. Keep one eye on the game and one eye on whoever is conducting. **It is important to remember that we are still performing during the football games!!!!**
- No eating is permitted while the band is in the stands. You will have the third quarter off, during which time you may eat.
- After break everybody must be back in their seats when the clock reads 0:00 to end the third quarter and **BE READY TO PLAY THE QUARTER BREAK.**
- Failure to return in time may result in an individual loss of the break.
- Friends are not permitted to sit with the band during the game. Remember we are performing!!!
- When the game is over the Director will give you instructions.
- When you return to school you are to change in the appropriate room and make sure your uniform is returned to the closet. **YOU ARE NOT TO LEAVE ANY PART OF YOUR UNIFORM (INCLUDING SHOES) OUT IN THE BAND ROOM OR CAGES UNLESS YOU HAVE RECEIVED PERMISSION TO DO SO FROM THE DIRECTOR. ALL EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTS MUST BE PUT AWAY BEFORE YOU ARE DISMISSED. THIS INCLUDES ALL DRUM EQUIPMENT!!!!**

## Uniform and Instrument Inspections

- Section/Squad Leaders will do a preliminary check to make sure you have the following:
- Clean and pressed pants and jacket. Pants should not be wrinkled and must be worn with the suspenders on and adjusted so the pant does not drag the ground.
- Students should have their marching band t-shirt on under the uniform jacket
- Thin running shorts, boxers, or compression shorts should be worn under the pants, nothing baggy.
- If extra clothing is worn underneath the uniform (for cold weather purposes), it must not be visible. No turtlenecks please.
- Wiped clean black shoes (Dinkles as ordered by all members)
- Black calf length socks
- **Hair / Jewelry:**
  - Always pinned up for the purpose of uniformity (guys included).
  - Should not touch your collar and your bangs should not be seen beneath the brim of the hat.
  - NEVER wear any jewelry, including watches and earrings, while in uniform (from the time you put it on until the time you take it off). It is distracting to your audience and the visual judges by breaking uniformity of the ensemble. It is also dangerous to the performer.
- All parts of the uniform worn in the intended manner.
- Students must have all parts of the instrument in working order, to include reeds, music lyre, flip folder and all music
- Final inspections may be done by the Directors.

## Uniform Care

- Students will be held FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE for any lost or damaged items. Care and simple repairs will help prolong the life of the uniform.
- While in uniform, NEVER sit on the ground or place any part of the uniform on the ground
- Uniform pants can be washed at home when dirty. Directors may tell you to take the pants home to clean. Uniform pants should be washed in cold water; tumble dried on a low setting and immediately hung up. Feel free to press them when needed.
- The uniform jacket must be DRY CLEANED ONLY. If it gets over soiled during the season, you may dry clean it at your own discretion or upon direction by the staff. All uniforms will be cleaned after each season.
- Dinkles (marching shoes) should be wiped clean after every performance. A little Windex or other glass cleaner really allows our marching shoe to shine.
- Keep gloves white. They can be washed at home with other whites.
- All students must wear their band t-shirt under their jackets This protects the uniform fabric from perspiration, and the band is uniform when jackets are not on.
- Hats may be spruced up by wiping with a damp cloth or mild soap. The plumes MUST NEVER GET WET.

## The Bengal Guard (Flags, Twirlers, Sabers, and Rifles)

- Any student attending Blake High School is eligible to try out for the guard.
- Auditions will be held in the spring of the preceding year. Details regarding specific try-out requirements will be announced then.
- All Bengal Guard members are Band Members and will follow all the applicable policies outlined in this handbook. In addition, other specific requirements may be made of them by their respective advisors in conjunction with the Directors.
- Attendance at all rehearsal sessions is mandatory
- Arrange work around practice schedules. You will not be excused from practice for work.
- Advisors may call additional rehearsals as deemed necessary.
- You are responsible for learning routines. 100% effort is necessary - you are very visible on the field. If a routine is not learned by the deadline, you will be unable to participate in the upcoming performance.
- Performance blouse/uniforms and guard gloves are provided and part of your participation fee. However, there will be items that cannot be provided by the school and need to be purchased by you. These uniform items include uniform pants and shoes and will be ordered during the first week of school.
- You are a part of the drill; therefore, you are responsible for learning your charts as well as your routines. Lack of knowledge of your charts could also result in you sitting out of an upcoming performance.



# Leadership Team 2009-2010

## *Command Staff*

Director:	Mr. Brian Damron	Assistant Director:	Mr. Jon Eising
Drum Majors:	Daniel Seal	Drum Captain:	Patrick Looney
	Kaylene Lyons	Guard Captain:	Celeste Campbell
	Delilah Gates		

## *Band Staff*

Section Leaders:	Marciana Esteves	Squad Leaders:	Amber Alston
	Sylvester Gates		Cassandra Smith
	Jalen Marshall		Adele Leishman
	Todd Holbert		Stephen Bonhag
	Niraj Raju		Paul Sausville
	Sam Evans		Daniel Pistolessi

## *Support Staff*

Pep Manager:	Christian Domaas	Equipment Manager:	Gregg Nicholson
Uniform Manager:	Zack Kaye	Library Manager:	Nick Arnold
Accountability Mgr:	Eric Poloway	Guard Manager:	TBD
Associate Director:	Mr. Mark Sievers	Parent Liaison:	Ms. Ellen Zaika

## Duties and Responsibilities of the Student Leaders

### **All Band Officers**

- Always arrive at any rehearsal or performance 30 minutes early for a leadership team meeting
- Plan to stay a few minutes late after every rehearsal and performance for any clean-up, after-action meeting, etc.
- Attend leadership development opportunities (summer camps)
- Be the example by knowing your music, always being professional, respecting all members, tactful communication, dressed in uniform properly, etc.
- Maintain motivation and positive attitude at all activities
- Good organization is the key to success: know the calendar; always have pencil, notebook, paper, music, drill chart, attendance sheets, etc. with you at all times; be informed about all activities; know your section/team; and be flexible and work together as a leadership team at all times.

### **Drum Majors**

- Number of drum majors will reflect total membership numbers (25-50: 1, 51-75:2, 75+: 3)
- Conduct the music at field shows, competitions, pep bands and during rehearsals
- Lead the band in parades
- Communicate with directors about needs of the band
- Coordinate with squad leaders about student status, marching development, and music
- Lead by example, motivation, and mutual respect for all
- Serves on command staff with directors, coaches, drum captain and guard captain
- Drum Majors will be assigned specific duties (1 – field shows, marching competitions, visual appearance; 2 – pep performances, parades; 3 – motivation, music development, new student mentoring)

### **Drum Captain**

- Calls and commands all drum cadences at pep opportunities and parades
- Establishes the finest in musical examples for all percussionists to follow
- Teaches/Rehearses cadences
- Works with drum majors and directors on the best use of drumline sound during activities
- Tunes and maintains all drumline instruments, sticks, and equipment
- Serves on command staff with directors, coaches, drum majors and guard captain

### **Guard Captain**

- Responsible for the visual development of the guard
- Knows/Memorizes all the visual routines and acts as an exemplar
- Teaches/Conducts all guard practices
- Responsible for keeping positive attitude and disciplined focus by members during all rehearsals and performances
- Evaluates and encourages individual growth in the section
- Takes attendance at all events and gives to accountability manager
- Serves on command staff with directors, coaches, drum majors and drum captain

### **Section Leaders (1 per section)**

#### ***Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxes, Trumpets, Low Voices, Percussion***

- Responsible for the music development of the section
- Knows/Memorizes all the music for each member of the section and acts as an exemplar
- Teaches/Conducts all music rehearsals
- Responsible for keeping positive attitude and disciplined focus by members during all rehearsals and performances
- Evaluates and encourages individual music growth in the section
- Ensures each member of the section has their music memorized
- Takes attendance at all events and gives to accountability manager
- Assists the squad leader during marching rehearsals
- Assists during tuning and uniform inspections

### **Squad Leaders (1 per section)**

#### ***Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxes, Trumpets, Low Voices, Percussion***

- Responsible for the marching development of the section
- Teaches all marching rehearsals
- Responsible for keeping positive attitude and disciplined focus by members during all rehearsals and performances
- Evaluates and encourage individual marching growth in the section
- Ensures each member of the section knows their drill points and proper steps
- Takes attendance at all events and gives to accountability manager
- Assists the section leader during music rehearsals
- Assists during tuning and uniform inspections

### **Pep Manager**

- Responsible for the attitude and motivation of the full band
- Prepares music lists for all pep band activities
- Coordinates with library manager to ensure all music parts are covered and copies are made for all band members
- Creates/Teaches any horn movements, dances, and cheers to the full band
- Coordinates activities where the band can support the community or school (pep rallies, morning/lunch time pep performances, It's Academic, away games, basketball games, etc.)
- Assists the drum majors at games on timing of songs and calling out tunes or cheers

### Equipment Manager

- Responsible for all school owned equipment, instruments, and percussion
- Reports any damage or loss items to the directors
- Assigns/Oversees a group of volunteers to load equipment for all travel
- Assigns/Oversees the movement of equipment (percussion, podiums, special equipment, etc.) to the field for games and performances
- Maintains all repair kits, tuning equipment, percussion tools, etc.
- Encouraged to individually develop skills by reading or taking classes in instrument repair and percussion maintenance

### Uniform Manager

- Responsible for all marching band uniforms
- Works with parent volunteers and directors in the organization of the uniform closet
- Assigns and issues uniform items to each band manager
- Responsible for carrying additional needed items to performances; to include plumes, gloves, buttons, socks, shoes, etc.
- Work with section/squad leaders during uniform inspections before each performance
- Assigns/Oversees the distribution of plumes at performance locations

### Library Manager

- Responsible for the sheet music of the marching band
- Works with directors on the organization of the music library
- Distributes music packets and flip folders to members
- Establishes policies on lost music
- Keeps extra sets of music to be available for performances and emergency situations

### Accountability Manager

- Responsible for tracking attendance of members
- Coordinate with section/squad leaders on accountability
- Communicate with directors the student numbers for activities, food distribution, incentives, travel requirements, etc.
- Develop pep band and bus seating arrangements

### Guard Manager

- Responsible for the guard equipment
- Coordinate with guard captain on the needs of the visual team
- Assign/Oversee a set of volunteers for the movement, distribution, and field placement of guard equipment for rehearsals, competitions, and performances
- Organize and prepare the guard equipment in a professional and accessible process for both storage and performance usage

TALES FROM BAND CAMP



# Basic Marching Fundamentals

## *Position of Attention*

Heels and toes together, knees not locked, instrument held with both hands in front of the body, parallel to and 6" away from the body. Upper body lifted up from the waist, shoulders down and relaxed, chin up. The center of the foot should be placed on the center of the line. There is no movement or talking while at attention.

Count 1: "Band"

Count 2: Silent

Count 3: "Ten"

Count 4: "Hut"

Count 5: Move to the position of attention in one extremely quick motion.

## *Horns Up, Horns Down*

Bell-front brass instruments should be held with the lead-pipe parallel to the ground. The forearms should form symmetrical lines on both sides of the body with a line between the elbows forming a plane parallel to the ground. The wrists should be straight. Clarinets and saxophones should be held away from the body perpendicular to the ground. Flutes should be held parallel to the ground and straight out from the body. All tubas should face the same angle.

Count 1: "Band"

Count 2: Silent

Count 3: "Horns"

Count 4: "Up"

Count 5: Horns come up in one extremely quick motion.

## *Dress Center, Dress Right, and Dress Left*

These commands, executed from the position of attention with horns up or down, allow the band members to look down a line to check alignment. If you are in line, you should only see the person next to you; if you can see the line, you are not in it. The move is performed by snapping the head to the left or right with no additional body movement. If the alignment is poor, it should be corrected immediately.

Count 1: "Band"

Count 2: Silent

Count 3: "Center/Right/Left"

Count 4: "Dress"

Count 5: Quickly turn the head to the left or right and shift to ensure you're aligned

## *Ready Front*

This command is given after Dress Center, Dress Right, or Dress Left. The action performed is the reverse of the previous move, and the equipment comes down.

Count 1: "Band"

Count 2: Silent

Count 3: "Ready"

Count 4: "Front"

Count 5: Quickly return the head to face the front.

### ***Mark-Time***

The entire foot comes off the ground while the toe remains pointed to the ground. The foot should become parallel with the opposite leg while marking time. Avoid jerky, "staccato" movements and be sure the knees move straight forward, not out at an angle.

Count 1: "Mark"

Count 2: "Time"

Count 3: "Mark"

Count 4: Silent with no movement.

Raise the left heel on the "and" of Count 4.

Count 5: Place the left heel down and right foot should begun to come up (if moving forward, on count 4 think: step together and up)

### ***Forward March***

The forward step is a "glide step" with no movement above the waist and very smooth movement below the waist. The heel should touch the ground first and then the weight rolls toward the toe. The toes should always point straight forward, and are flexed upward. Do not swing the shoulders or lean forward. This style of movement remains consistent regardless of step-size.

### ***Backward March***

The smooth style of forward movement should be duplicated when moving backward. The toes should remain in contact with the ground. Avoid moving backwards in a crouched position by keeping the legs extended straight.

### ***Slides***

Slides are performed when the upper body faces the front, but the direction of marching may be forward, backward, or side-to-side. The direction of the upper body and angles created by the forearms and instruments always remain intact.

### ***Flanks***

A flank is a turn or change of direction that occurs while marching. Flanks are always performed on the "and" of the last beat of a phrase. The turn is a smooth change of direction, not a "snapped" move.

### ***8- and 4- Count Turns***

These turns may be performed 90 or 180 degrees. When turning to the left, the turn begins on count 1. When turning to the right, the turn begins on count 2. Use half-way points as check points.

### ***Odd and Even Spacing***

Odd and Even spacing both utilize two-step intervals. Even spacing occurs when the first person in a squad is on a yard-line, the next person is two steps off the yard-line, the next person is halfway between two yard-lines, and so on. Odd spacing occurs when the first person in a squad is one step off the yard line, the next person is three steps off the yard-line, the next person is three steps from the next yard-line, and so on.

# Awards and Honors

Every year, we host an annual Music Awards Banquet in May to celebrate a great year in music. Attendance at this banquet is expected. More details will be available later on during the fourth quarter nine weeks.

Participation certificates are awarded to every student each year while being a member of a Blake music ensemble. Marching Band members who attend every performance will receive a special Varsity Music Letter followed by year pins after completion of their first honorable year of service. In addition, honor cords will be worn on the uniform that signify years of service to the marching band (1<sup>st</sup> year – no honor cord, 2<sup>nd</sup> year – black honor chord, 3<sup>rd</sup> year – white honor cord, and 4<sup>th</sup> year- silver honor cord).

Other medals and special awards will be given to students who go above and beyond the call of duty. Some examples of those awards include:

Leadership Medal	Soloist Medal	Volunteer Award Pin
Tri-M Honor	Musicianship Medal	John Philip Sousa Award

## For the parents/guardians...

### ***PARENTS RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND***

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in this handbook are followed and that the commitment form at the back of this book is signed and returned by the 1<sup>st</sup> rehearsal after school starts. This states that you understand the policies as set within, and that any questions are to be directed to the band director. The band staff appreciates help from the parents in enforcing these rules and regulations.

### ***HOW PARENTS CAN HELP***

When a “band question” arises, it is important that you get factual information before discussing it with others. We do more harm to ourselves, the band family, when we talk about things that contain one or more “falsehoods” but consider them facts. If questions arise it is important that you contact me immediately at 301-879-1339 or via email at [Brian\\_A\\_Damron@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Brian_A_Damron@mcpsmd.org).



***Below is a list of ways you can help as a parent or guardian:***

- Show an interest in the music study of your child
- Arrange a regular time for your child to practice
- Find a quiet place where he/she can practice without interruption
- Listen to performances of practice material, when asked to do so
- Come up with a reward system for daily practice
- Keep the instrument in good condition; get a tuner and metronome
- Be extra careful with school owned instruments
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time for every rehearsal
- Provide private instruction if possible
- Make faithful attendance at all band functions important
- Keep the handbook in a safe place and refer to it often
- Have your student notify the teacher immediately if you know they will be absent
- Attend Band Parent Meetings and Music Booster Club Meetings regularly
- Help me teach responsibility by making sure your student is at all events.

***Frequently asked questions from new parents:***

**1. How much time does it require of my child each week?** *The band rehearses on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:30PM-4:00PM and Wednesday afternoons from 2:30PM-5:00PM. The band performs on Friday nights at all home football games, and competes mostly on Saturday nights, although there is an occasional Sunday or holiday performance. The band will rehearse shortly before most competitions on Saturdays. The schedule is printed in the back of this books so please check it out. Any updates to the schedule will be sent via email and announced during classes.*

**2. Am I responsible for getting my child to all the away football games, parades and competitions?** *Transportation is provided to all Marching Band performances so all you need to do is drop your son or daughter off at school at the designated report time.*

**3. Is it true that the girls and boys change on the same bus?** *Sometimes circumstances call for changing on busses, and when this happens we separate male and females onto two different busses.*

**4. If I am at the football game, parade, or competition, why can't I just take my child home when I leave? I don't like having to go back to Blake to wait for the buses. Besides, it is late...** *Every member of the band has responsibilities when the band returns to school. You are creating more work for other members as well as the staff if your child leaves early. No student should leave early unless there is a special circumstance and a request in writing can be sent to the directors prior to the activity.*

**5. If my student is having trouble, where can we go?** *If a student is having trouble with music or marching, please have them contact their squad leader or section leader. If your student needs help with academics, we have numerous members of the National Honor Society of Blake in our band who is more than willing to assist during lunches or after rehearsals with tutoring and homework help.*

**6. As a parent new to the program, how can I find out what is going on? Is there someone whom I can call for information?** *You are welcome to contact me anytime at 301-879-1339 with any question regarding the band.*

**7. Are there ways that I can get involved with the band program at Blake High School?** *The Blake Music Boosters is a crucial part of the success of the Blake Band Program. I encourage every parent to get involved so they can help their student be the best they can be.*

## 2009-2010 Marching Band Schedule

Monday, August 17 through Friday, August 21, 9am-5pm: Marching Band Camp \*

Tuesday, September 1, 2:30pm-4pm: Marching Band Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 2, 2:30pm-5pm: Marching Band Rehearsal

Thursday, September 3, 2:30pm-4pm: Marching Band Rehearsal \*

**Friday, September 4, 5pm-8:30pm: Away Football Game at Springbrook**

Tuesday, September 8, 2:30pm-4pm: Marching Band Rehearsal \*

Wednesday, September 9, 2:30pm-5pm: Marching Band Rehearsal

Thursday, September 10, 2:30pm-4pm: Marching Band Rehearsal

**Friday, September 11, 4pm-9pm: Home Football Game**

Tuesday, September 15, 2:30pm-4pm: Marching Band Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 16, 2:30pm-5pm: Marching Band Rehearsal

Thursday, September 17, 2:30pm-4pm: Marching Band Rehearsal

Tuesday, September 22, 2:30pm-4pm: Marching Band Rehearsal \*

Wednesday, September 23, 2:30pm-5pm: Marching Band Rehearsal

Thursday, September 24, 2:30pm-4pm: Marching Band Rehearsal

**Friday, September 25, 4pm-9pm: Home Football Game**

**Saturday, September 26, 10am: Burtonsville Day Parade \***

Tuesday, September 29, 2:30pm-4pm: Marching Band Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 30, 2:30pm-5pm: Marching Band Rehearsal

Thursday, October 1, 2:30pm-4pm: Marching Band Rehearsal \*

**Friday, October 2, 4pm-9pm: Home Football Game**

Tuesday, October 6, 2:30pm-4pm: Marching Band Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 7, 2:30pm-5pm: Marching Band Rehearsal

Thursday, October 8, 2:30pm-4pm: Marching Band Rehearsal

Saturday, October 10, TBA: Marching Band Rehearsal (daytime prep for competition)

**Saturday, October 10, evening: Tournament of Bands Competition at Northern HS**

Tuesday, October 13, 2:30pm-4pm: Marching Band Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 14, 2:30pm-5pm: Marching Band Rehearsal

Thursday, October 15, 2:30pm-4pm: Marching Band Rehearsal

Saturday, October 17, TBA: Marching Band Rehearsal (daytime prep for competition)

**Saturday, October 17, evening: Tournament of Bands Competition at Glen Burnie HS**

Thursday, October 22, 2:30pm-4pm: Marching Band Rehearsal \*

**Friday, October 23, 4pm-9pm: Homecoming Football Game \***

**Sunday, October 25, 9am-12pm: Marine Corps Marathon \***

Wednesday, October 28, 2:30pm-5pm: Marching Band Rehearsal

**Friday, October 30, 4pm-9pm: Home Football Game**

**Sunday, November 1, all day: TOB Championships (if we win on 10/10 & 10/17)**

Thursday, November 19, 2:30pm-4pm: Marching Band Rehearsal (parade review) \*

**Saturday, November 21, 10am: Silver Spring Thanksgiving Day Parade \***

*Tuesday, March 2, 2:30pm-4pm: Marching Band Rehearsal (parade review)*

*Friday, March 12, 12pm: Disney Parade*

Thursday, April 8, 2:30pm-4pm: Marching Band Rehearsal (parade review) \*

**Saturday, April 10, 11am: Washington DC Cherry Blossom Festival Parade \***

Wednesday, May 26, 2:30pm-4pm: Marching Band Rehearsal (parade review) \*

**Monday, May 31, 10am: Rockville Memorial Day Parade \***

**Performances are in BOLD**

**Silver Members: Must attend all rehearsals and all events**

**Blue Members: Must attend all parades and the events with an asterisk \***

**Bengal Guard Members will have additional routine rehearsals on Mondays from 2:30-5:00 or when specially called by the directors or sponsors**

# 2009-2010 MARCHING BAND COMMITMENT FORM

*Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality. It is the words that speak boldly of your intentions. These actions speak louder than words. It is making time when there is none; coming through time after time, year after year. Commitment is the stuff character is made of. It is the power to change the face of things. It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism.*

**PLEASE PRINT NEATLY AND RETURN WITH THE REQUIRED BAND FEE**

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Gender:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Instrument(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **T-shirt size:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ **Silver Band/Bengal Guard Member**

\_\_\_\_ **Blue Band Member**

**Home Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Cell Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Phone Number(s):** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Email Address(es):** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*This serves as an agreement indicating that the student and the parent have read and understood the Blake Marching Band Handbook. Please sign and return promptly to Mr. Damron by Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.*

As a student of the Blake Marching Band, I have read and agree to comply with all of the set policies, rules, and regulations of the Band Handbook. I will display a positive attitude at all times, and will be present, prompt, and prepared for all rehearsals and performances.

As a conscientious parent/guardian, I have read and agree to comply with the set policies of the Blake Marching Band Handbook. I will ensure our child practices and maintains high scholastic standards in all classes. I will work to ensure that my child will be prepared, prompt and present for all band rehearsals and performances. I give my child permission to attend all Blake Marching Band events as listed in this handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student's Signature**                      \_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian's Signature**                      **Fees Paid\$** \_\_\_\_\_

Included fees (checks made payable to Blake Band):  
\$125 for Silver Band and Bengal Guard      \$75 for Blue Band  
Add an **additional \$25** for incoming freshmen, new students, or individuals who need a new pair of marching shoes (**Dinkles**). **Shoe size:** \_\_\_\_\_