



JAMES HUBERT BLAKE HIGH SCHOOL

The Roaring Bengals Marching Band

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Dear Instrumental Music Students and Parents,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the 2010-2011 school year. This will be an extremely exciting year and we hope you will enjoy what is being planned. Last year's special activity was the successful performance tour of the entire music department to Disney World and the adjudicated music festival where we performed extremely well. This year the Roaring Bengals Marching Band has been invited to perform with a mass band during the half-time show at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans, Louisiana on January 4th. I do hope all of the ensembles will perform this year with a renewed vigor that will highlight the outstanding tradition of musical excellence that Blake High School is known for.

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. We hope you chose 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 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 62nd 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; especially as we prepare to perform at the All State Sugar Bowl.

What makes marching band unique? 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.

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.

What will I learn and get from being a member of the Blake Marching 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

Marching Band is considered a fall sport here at Blake. Like all sports, we begin early (August 16th with band camp), have practices mainly four days a week, and have around 12 contests (parades, football game performances, and competitions). See the attached marching band calendar for more specific dates. For the 2010-2011 season, we are offering two marching band opportunities. This will allow students who want to be in marching band can still participate even if they are involved in a fall sport.

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 – fall school quarter
- Attend fully our annual week long marching band camp, August 16-20
- All Bengal Guard members should consider themselves as members of the Silver Band, and will have additional “guard only” routine practices during the season
- Like a fall sport we practice after school most days for the first eight weeks of school
- Perform at all home football games
- Perform at all scheduled 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.
- 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 for at least one year is a REQUIREMENT to audition for upper level music ensembles (Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble) 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 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

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

The fee for participating in marching band is **\$175 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 cannot pay.

What is T.O.B.?

Tournament of Bands, or TOB, is a marching band competition series here on the east coast that we participate in. We competed once last year and came home with a 1st place trophy, so I am confident as we increase our participation, we will be very successful. TOB shows are held at high schools throughout Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Delaware, New Jersey, North Carolina, and New York. We will compete in 3 regional marching band shows, and then the Region 5 championships (similar to winning regionals or state). If we do really well, I hope we can go to the TOB Championships held at Hershey Park in November. TOB is a great way to evaluate our program, showcase our talents, and to bring great credit to our school as an outstanding music program. Parents and families will be able to attend these competitions and more details will be available later in the season.

I encourage everyone to strongly consider being a part of this amazing ensemble at Blake. I am confident you will gain vast experience musically, bring pride to our school, and take with you memories that will last a lifetime thanks to marching band. Take a moment to read over our schedule and complete the marching band commitment form and send this back as soon as possible. When we receive your commitment form, we will send more information about camp, music packets, and details about the year. Check www.blakemusic.org to keep up to date on all things music here at Blake High School

I am looking forward to this year, the winning at tournaments this year, and the January trip to the Sugar Bowl. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate in getting in contact with me.

Sincerely,

Mr. Brian A. Damron
Marching Band Director
damron@blakemusic.org

Marching Band Calendar 2010-2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AUGUST 8	9	10	11 MB Set-up & Leadership Day	12 MB Set-up & Leadership Day	13	14
15	16 Marching Band Camp 8:30-4:30	17 Marching Band Camp 8:30-4:30	18 Marching Band Camp 8:30-4:30	19 Marching Band Camp 8:30-4:30	20 Marching Band Camp 8:30-4:30	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 1 st Day of School MB Rehearsal 2:30-5	31 MB Rehearsal 2:30-4	SEPTEMBER 1 MB Rehearsal 2:30-5	2 MB Rehearsal 2:30-4	3 Home Football Game vs. Springbrook	4
5	6 Labor Day	7 MB Rehearsal 2:30-4	8 MB Rehearsal 2:30-5	9 Rosh Hashanah	10	11
12	13 MB Rehearsal 2:30-5	14 Primary Election Day	15 MB Rehearsal 2:30-5	16 Home Football Game vs. Damascus	17 (Yom Kippur at sundown)	18
19	20 MB Rehearsal 2:30-5	21 MB Rehearsal 2:30-4	22 MB Rehearsal 2:30-5	23 MB Rehearsal 2:30-4	24	25 Burtsonville Day Parade
26	27 MB Rehearsal 2:30-5	28 MB Rehearsal 2:30-4	29 MB Rehearsal 2:30-5	30 MB Rehearsal 2:30-4	OCTOBER 1	2 TOB: Severna Park HS
3	4 MB Rehearsal 2:30-5	5 MB Rehearsal 2:30-4	6 MB Rehearsal 2:30-5	7	8 Home Football Game vs. Kennedy	9 TOB: S. Garrett HS
10	11 MB Rehearsal 2:30-5	12 MB Rehearsal 2:30-4	13 MB Rehearsal 2:30-5	14	15 MSTA-No School Home Football Game vs. S.Valley	16 TOB: Liberty HS
17	18	19 MB Rehearsal 2:30-4	20	21 MB Rehearsal 2:30-4	22	23 TOB: Chapter 5 Champions
24	25	26 MB Rehearsal 2:30-4	27	28 MB Rehearsal 2:30-4	29	30
31 Marine Corps Marathon	NOVEMBER 1 Professional Day	2 General Election Day	3 MB Rehearsal 2:30-5	4 MB Rehearsal 2:30-4	5 Home Football Game vs. Rockville	6
7 ACC TOB Championships Hershey, PA	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Silver Spring Thanksgiving Parade
DECEMBER 12	13	14	15	16	17	18 (Sugar Bowl) Marching Band Rehearsal 12-3
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 (Sugar Bowl) Marching Band Rehearsal 12-3	January 1 Depart early AM for New Orleans
2 Arrive New Orleans Field Show Competition	3 Sugar Bowl Rehearsal & Dinner	4 2011 All State Sugar Bowl	5 Depart New Orleans	6 Arrive Back at Blake	7	8
MARCH 20 DC St. Patrick's Day Parade	21	22	23	24	25	26
MAY 29	30 Memorial Day Parade Rockville	31	JUNE 1	2 Music Awards Night	3	4

