



The
Unofficial
Handbook
For
New Band Parents
Or
What We Didn't Know
When Our Kids Were Freshmen!

Band Camp and Practice Times

- ♪ If the schedule notes a starting time of 9:00, it really means be there at 8:45 with instruments tuned and in marching formation.
- ♪ There is a band saying, “If you’re early, you’re on time; if you’re on time, you’re late; if you’re late, you’re in trouble!”
- ♪ End times are not as strict. Instructors will always want one more run through.
- ♪ Parents may observe quietly from the hill overlooking the senior parking lot (the one in front of the building)
- ♪ Check the calendar on www.bethelmarchingband.com for times

Band Camp Supplies

- ♪ A small memo pad (dot book) is used to record marching positions and their many alterations
- ♪ Pencil to record the positions, changes, and notations for music
- ♪ Sunscreen!!
- ♪ Large water cooler – the parking lot is extremely hot and the kids are outside (moving) most of the day
- ♪ Healthy snacks, lunch and/or dinner. Please see the enclosed order form for meals.
- ♪ Good sneakers – students will be on their feet all day.

Students are encouraged to bring:

- ♪ An enthusiastic attitude
- ♪ A dedicated commitment to our team
- ♪ Respect for instructors
- ♪ A sense of humor

What do we need to purchase?

- ♪ Black shoes & Black gloves – Band Boosters will take orders at band camp
- ♪ Black socks

Other costs

- ♪ Dry cleaning of the uniform per guidelines

- ♪ Entrance fees to competitions for spectators (not band members or pit crew – HINT, HINT)
- ♪ Trip expenses

Guidelines for Competitions

- ♪ A large duffel bag – used to hold dinner, money, change of clothes, gloves, etc. Band Gear does offer a bag.
- ♪ All clothing changes are made on the bus. Wear bicycle shorts (warm weather) or thermals (cold weather) under the uniform.
- ♪ Band jackets and other spirit wear – are not a requirement for members to purchase. These are available for order during the summer or in the fall. Check the website for dates.
- ♪ Food – Practices start on Saturday mornings; eat a good breakfast, bring a lunch (or sign up for delivery), dinner will be available at competitions; bring money to purchase.
- ♪ Chaperones, directors, and pit crew have been working for many hours – you're kids are also tired. Please be on time to pick up your child after competitions.

Inclement Weather Tips

- ♪ Our season runs from hot weather to frigid weather with plenty of rain in between. BE PREPARED!
- ♪ Bring long underwear to competition practice on Saturdays. It may not be cold during the day, but it will be by nightfall.
- ♪ Sock and glove liners are helpful. Purchasing small heat packs to keep in the duffel bag is a good idea.
- ♪ Get rain gear for yourself and your musician.

Budgeting Time

- ♪ Rehearsals are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 8:30 and on some Saturdays without competitions.
- ♪ Competition days begin at 9 am and are frequently not over until midnight.
- ♪ Band kids tend to perform well academically during the season because they are forced to budget their time carefully and use every spare minute for studying.

Frequently Asked Questions

♪ What is Band Camp?

Band Camp is held for seven days in August. Its purpose is to teach marching skills to the students and to learn the field show. It is also a time for members to get to know each other and become a team.

♪ Where is Band Camp held?

Band Camp is held at the high school. Some of the day may be spent in the building. The marching component will be in the senior parking lot in front of the school.

♪ What is a Drum Major?

The band has two Drum Majors, chosen for their leadership ability and musical skill. They direct the band during performances, offering tempo and leadership.

♪ What is a Section Leader?

The band has a Section Leader for each musical section of the band (flutes, percussion, etc.). They are also chosen for their leadership ability and musical skill. They help their sections prepare for the field show and lead mini-group rehearsals called sectionals. Your child should hear from the section leader prior to band camp.

♪ What is a field show?

These are musical performances that take place on football fields in which a marching band plays a variety of musical pieces set to intricate movements. Our color guard interprets the music through dance; often using flags, sabers, and rifles. We perform our field show during the half time show of all home football games and at competitions held at other schools.

♪ What is a competition?

Other school bands host competitions on weekends in the fall. These competitions are judged for music, color guard, marching, artistic ability, and precision. Bands are ranked into classes based on the number of members; Class I is the smallest, Class V is the largest. These competitions provide the majority of fundraising money for the hosting band. Our home competition is called the Quest for the Best.

♪ What is MAC?

The Musical Arts Conference is the adjudicating group we belong to. We travel to other MAC member schools for competitions. Their website is a great resource for directions to competitions and score results.
<http://www.musicalartsconference.com>

♪ What do the Band Boosters do?

- Volunteer to help with competitions, etc.
- Organize fund raisers to offset costs
- Provide for assistant staff
- Pay for items not covered by the school budget
- Pay for repair of instruments
- Provide for scholarships each year
- Construct props for the field shows (design, expense, assembly)
- Provide transportation for pit equipment
- Ensure that the Bethel Band programs function
- Provide all staff for our home competition

♪ How can I help?

- Join the Band Boosters
- Fill out the volunteer form
- Come to our monthly meetings
- Support your musician
- Introduce yourself; we'd love to get to know you! We will be spending many hours together.

Staying Informed

- ♪ Check Homework.net on the school's website – enter coachman
<http://www.bethel.k12.ct.us/bhs/>

- ♪ Check the band's website – <http://www.bethelmarchingband.com> you can print out monthly calendars.
- ♪ Join the Band Boosters and attend our meetings on the first Tuesday of every month
- ♪ Provide the Band Boosters with your email address
- ♪ Ask a board member