

Revised 6/11/19

# **Bloomingtondale High School Rajun' Bull Band**



# **Band Handbook**

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## **Bloomingtondale High School *Rajun' Bull Band***

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Dear Bloomingtondale High School *Rajun' Bull Band* Parents and Students:

Welcome to the Bloomingtondale High School Band family! This school year gives us all the opportunity to continue the outstanding tradition of superior performances that are the trademark of the Bloomingtondale Band Program. Congratulations on your decision to be a part of one of the finest organizations in the state. The Bloomingtondale Band provides musical activities that encompass a wide scope and allows everyone a chance to reach their highest possible level of excellence.

The fall emphasizes the excellence of our outstanding marching band. Our performances will include home and away football games, local parades, and the FBA Marching Assessment. The goal of the Marching Band will be to continue to provide a challenging half-time performance that is musically educational for its members while offering a high level of entertainment to the audience.

The Bloomingtondale High School Band Program also offers three Concert Ensembles and a Jazz Ensemble that have developed a reputation of musical excellence through concert and Assessment participation. The Concert, Symphonic, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Ensemble will perform several public concerts and Assessments at the District and State levels by the Florida Bandmasters Association. These ensembles also perform at National Concert Band Festivals on the annual spring trip.

In addition to ensemble performances, members of the Bloomingtondale High School Band Program distinguish themselves through individual efforts in All-County, All-State, Solo and Ensemble Assessment and other Honor Band Activities.

The Bloomingtondale High School *Crimson Guard* is a nationally recognized group that offers activities to showcase the talents of our color guard members during the winter and spring months. The *Guard* will compete and travel to local, regional, and national events.

Hard-working students, dedicated staff members, an active parent group, a supportive administration, and community all combine to make it possible for the Bloomingtondale Band Program to offer an outstanding array of musical opportunities. Students are expected to set and obtain high goals for themselves and their program. The rewards of meeting those goals are immeasurable in student development as well-rounded human beings. As a result, students will develop musically, emotionally, mentally, socially and physically during their time in the program.

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, administrators, staff, and Directors as a convenient source of information regarding the varied aspects of the Bloomingtondale High School Band Program. Although this handbook attempts to cover every aspect of the program, the true key to understanding is to communicate with the Director often. Please do not ever hesitate to contact the Director for any reason. The most important aspect of the program is positive student involvement!

Jon W. Sever  
Director of Bands

## A STATEMENT OF BAND POLICY

In order to help band members and parents understand their areas of responsibility, a statement of band policy is herein set forth. Becoming familiar with this policy will help each band member make the most of this fine opportunity to become a better person through his/her association with music.

Traditions are important to organizations such as band. Our tradition is one of hard work and *superior* performances all over the state of Florida. Hard work is the secret behind this tradition and it will take a maximum effort from you to maintain *superior* standards set by those before you. Hard work will enable us to continue as one of most comprehensive high school bands in the state of Florida.

The Director firmly believes the student should improve through daily progress. In the instrumental music program, the Director feels that when a student has lost the will to improve himself/herself in order to make a better contribution to his fellow man, he is perhaps wasting the time of the school, his fellow students, and the community by continuing the program. **The Director is firmly convinced that the happiest student is the one that is improving himself/herself through regular habits of practice and daily progress.** He/she must not only know right from wrong, but must be able to stand for his principles. He/she must develop a high sense of purpose toward which he/she is willing to work.

I, Jon W. Sever, intend to conduct the instrumental music program in a manner that will encourage all students to achieve these goals.

### MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS IN THE RAJUN' BULL BAND

Any student of Bloomingdale High School may be a member of the BSHS *Rajun' Bull* band program (including *Crimson Guard*) under the following stipulations:

1. Must be legally registered for Band class within the regular school day.
2. Must maintain an acceptable 2.0 grade point average to be eligible to participate in outside-of-school activities. (Per Hillsborough County School Board)
3. Must accept financial responsibilities for instrument, equipment, uniform, cleaning, and travel charges.
4. Must meet minimum performance/audition standards set by the Director.

### GRADING PROCEDURE

Grades are based on the following criteria:

1. Daily Rehearsal participation and preparation.\*
  2. Participation in rehearsals outside of the regular school day.
  3. Successful participation in performances and assessments.\*
  4. Occasional written music theory work.
  5. Pass off Fridays.
- \*Unexcused Missed Rehearsals = 1 Letter Grade Deduction (9 Weeks)**  
**Unexcused Missed Performances = 2 Letter Grade Deduction (9 Weeks)**  
**Unexcused Assessments (Which are also performances) = 4 Letter Grade Deduction (9 Weeks)**

## FORMS THAT NEED TO BE RETURNED

All required forms are available in hard copy from the band Director. Please fill them out completely and return them to school. **Medical forms must be signed and notarized.** We will have a notary at the first band booster meeting or you can have them notarized in the school office. County rental, and Booster membership forms are also available in hard copy.

## GENERAL BAND INFORMATION

### *NOW THAT WE'RE IN BAND – WHAT'S NEXT?*

So your student is in the Rajun' Bull Marching Band ~ now what?!? For all students, regular season practice begins on the first Tuesday that school is in session, and continues every Tuesday and Thursday until the end of football season in November. Check the practice schedule on your Fall Band Calendars on 'Charms' and available in hard copy from the Director. At these practice sessions the students will learn proper marching techniques to help them with the season ahead. Marching season consists of performing the half-time show at every football game and ends with an adjudicated performance at the Florida Bandmaster Association Marching Assessment in the Fall. The second semester emphasizes concert ensembles when we prepare for our spring trip that is usually in the Spring. Friendships that begin here will help ease your student's adjustments to the high school environment. The camaraderie that these teens develop will cross the lines of grade, age, and gender. ***We welcome you and your child to our "band family."***

### *IS THERE AN AUDITION TO BE IN BAND?*

No. If you are registered for band 1-4 or instrumental techniques 1-4 you are already in the band program! However, the following activities listed below will require an audition:

Crimson Guard  
Marching Percussion (Battery)  
Jazz Ensemble 1  
Wind Ensemble  
Leadership

Based on the audition results, a student may be allowed to be in the performing groups listed above. Auditioning for these groups is optional. The Director and staff will have final say as to the size and membership of these 'audition only' groups.

### *TELL ME ABOUT PRACTICES*

The required practices are scheduled on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. during the football season. (times may need adjustments due to inclement weather or other reasons deemed by the Director) Students are required to be on the field, with their instruments and music, ready to practice, at 6:00 p.m. At 6:01, the attendance whistle will sound. Students not in their assigned attendance spot at this time will be considered tardy. Practice is normally held on the Driver's Ed lot behind the faculty parking lot on the east side of the school. Students will wear cool, casual, non-restrictive, non-revealing clothing, and shoes with support, no high tops or sandals. Students are required to wear socks to prevent blistering. Sunscreen and bug spray are also needed at times. Students are encouraged to eat a healthy snack or meal and to drink water before practice. Sodas and bottled water will be sold at break time during each practice. Cups of water will also be available – at no charge. Students are required to attend every practice because a new part of the show is added at each practice so please schedule work and other appointments accordingly. The percussion and Color Guard will have additional practices with the days and times being announced as the season progresses. Individual instrument sections will also have required periodical "sectionals" with dates and times announced in advance. Please be advised that the rehearsal is scheduled to end at 8:00pm. However, if the students choose to waste time during the allotted rehearsal schedule, the Director will add time to the end of practice until the students are back on task and they have made up for the time that was wasted.

## FOOTBALL GAME PERFORMANCES

**Call time** will be announced prior to each game. **Students will report to the auditorium at call time for all games.** Section leaders will bring the uniforms to the auditorium where students will dress. Students should arrive at the school wearing their current purchased band shirt and purchased band shorts which will be worn underneath their uniform. They must bring their ball cap, hat (& hatbox), gloves, black socks and Dinkles. **For home games** ~ students will dress in their complete uniform, take their instruments out of their cases, and line up for inspection. After the game, students will report to the auditorium, dress out from their uniforms, and return them to the dungeon. Do not leave anything in the auditorium! **For away games** ~ students will report to the auditorium and dress in their uniform pants, Dinkles, and socks. Students will carry their uniform jacket on the bus on its hanger. Shaksos will not need to go to any away games unless otherwise stated.

On the buses after the game, students may take off their uniforms and hang it on their hanger in the correct manner. When the buses arrive at school, students will return their own uniform to the dungeon. Each student is responsible for his or her own uniform and instrument. Instruments are to be returned to the band room. After games and performances, which can sometimes be late, parents need to be on time to collect their child at the stated return time. The school can only stay open for a short time. It is imperative the campus is vacated as soon as possible.

## MARCHING BAND ASSESSMENT

The FBA Marching Assessment is mandatory for all band students. Like all performances and assessments, please mark your calendars now by checking the Charms website calendar. (So, mark your calendars now!) The FBA marching assessment usually occurs on either the last Saturday in October or the first Saturday in November.

## WHAT IS BAND ETIQUETTE?

As spectators, it is courteous to refrain from talking during any band's performance, at either an indoor or outdoor event. It is also customary not to enter or to exit the viewing stands or concert hall during a performance. Comments about other band performances will be of a positive nature. It is impossible to know who may be sitting nearby. Not to mention how unprofessional and immature it is to poke fun at another organization that has the same interests and goals as Bloomingdale. All band students work very hard to represent their schools and we applaud their efforts. Students, while in your band uniform or theme t-shirt, use your best manners. Your actions as an individual represent the entire band and your school. During your third-quarter break at football games, please be careful of other's instruments on your way out of the stands. If any student who is unable to make it back to the stands before the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter break, the entire band/guard will lose 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter off privilege the following week. Also, please be courteous on your way to and from the concession stand. There will be no public displays of affection between students. Any inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated! No food or drink other than the provided water will be allowed in the stands as we are performing participants during the football game. ***This includes 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter break.***

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER FOOTBALL SEASON?

The emphasis of concert ensembles begins with a holiday concert before our winter break and continue throughout the second semester. Students will be involved in preparing for concerts, assessments, and individual solo and ensemble performances. After the winter break, students may prepare a selection of music for individual solo or ensemble assessment. Playing from an approved list of musical selections, students play before a judge for assessment. They may also participate in All-County Honors Band. In the spring, the FBA holds concert assessment, or contest, at an area high school. Also in the spring, the entire music program plans a trip with performance opportunities. Students will have many opportunities throughout the year to earn money towards their trip. By participating in the band's fund-raisers students can actually earn enough to cover the entire trip!

Previous trips have been in Gatlinburg & Nashville, TN, Myrtle Beach, SC, Williamsburg, and New Orleans. Every 4 years, we have attempted to make an international trip to Europe. In the early spring, there is a Casino Night and/or Band Auction ~ a great evening to purchase bargains and also a great way to earn funds for the band trip. We round out the year with our Annual Band Banquet and Awards Ceremony with the always entertaining end-of-the-year video. Our final concert of the year is the "Prism Concert" which provides a showcase of each ensemble and individual performance.

## **BAND IS HARD WORK – HYDRATION/HEALTH TIPS**

### **TIPS TO PREVENT HEAT RELATED ILLNESS DURING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

#### **BEFORE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

- Drink plenty of fluids during the day\* especially 1 ½ to 2 hours prior to physical activity. Fluids that are recommended are WATER, FRUIT JUICES and other approved energy drinks.

Note: Caffeinated beverages have a dehydrating effect on body and will not aid in keeping you hydrated properly. AVOID CAFFEINATED SODAS, TEA and drinks containing other high processed sugars.

\*The easiest way to tell if hydrated enough is check the color and quantity of your urine. If urine is dark and decreased in volume, then you need to drink more fluid.

- Just prior (5-15 minutes) before physical activity drink 1-2 cups of water which will prepare your body to have enough extra fluid to replace your initial sweat loss.

#### **DURING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

- **KEEP DRINKING WATER** (or approved sports drink such as Gatorade, Powerade, etc.) during your activity. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE THIRSTY** – your thirst signal in your body will not be a good indicator to keep up with your needs. Always drink more than what quenches your thirst. **Guideline:** drink 8-16 oz. After 15-20 minutes of strenuous exercise. **DON'T SKIP YOUR WATER BREAKS. DRINK, DRINK, DRINK!!!!**

#### **AFTER PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

- Be sure to cool your body by removing excess equipment quickly and place cool wet towel around neck and wipe face. Get into cooler environment as soon as possible and take cool shower.
- Replace fluid and electrolytes (sodium and potassium) lost during your activity. Drink water, fruit juices (i.e.: orange juice is high in potassium). Sprinkle a little salt on your food at next meal (do not take salt tablets unless ordered by your doctor).

Note: For every pound you lose during physical activity, you need to drink 2 cups fluid to replace water loss from your body (i.e.: weight lost is 5 pounds drink 10 cups - just over half gallon) fluids and remember to check how your urine looks and how much, if clear and plentiful, you are hydrating properly, if not DRINK, DRINK, DRINK!!!! Another indicator is how you feel physically. If feeling more tired than usual, headachy, and listless, you may be getting dehydrated and not replacing your fluids adequately. Be sure to discuss with your parents.

- Add foods to your diet which will give back potassium which you are losing with strenuous physical activity (see list of suggestions). Remember to add a little salt to your food at meals following strenuous physical activity especially when exposed to hot, humid weather.

\*\*\*Last and **most important** know the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and do not ignore your body's warning to you to **STOP AND REGROUP!!!** Your health and life could be on the line.\*\*\*

(Information in this handout written by Ellen Gates, MagRD, LD/N (registered dietitian) using Nancy Clark's "Sports Nutrition Guidebook - eating to fuel your active lifestyle" as a reference.)

## **HIGH POTASSIUM FOODS**

### **FRUITS**

Oranges

Orange Juice  
Bananas  
Apricot  
Kiwi  
Pear  
Nectarine  
Cantaloupe/Melon  
Dried Fruit: Dates, Figs,  
Prunes & Prune Juice

### **VEGETABLES**

Dried beans, peas & lima beans

White & Sweet Potato  
(Baked, boiled, mashed)  
French Fries  
Potato Chips  
Mushrooms  
Avocado  
Pumpkin  
Asparagus  
Tomato  
Winter Squash

### **OTHER**

Peanuts

Almonds  
Pecans  
Milk  
Tomato Sauce  
& Spaghetti

## **THE STAGES OF HEAT ILLNESS**

Hyperthermia, or overheating of the body, can be mild and temporary, but in advanced stages, it can be life-threatening. The degrees of severity:

	<u><b>SKIN</b></u>	<u><b>PULSE</b></u>	<u><b>BODY TEMPERATURE</b></u>	<u><b>WHAT TO DO</b></u>
<u><b>HEAT STRESS</b></u> Occurs when hot weather puts strain on the body.	Normal Sweating	Normal	Normal	Move to cool place, drink cool or cold water.
<u><b>HEAT EXHAUSTION*</b></u> Symptoms warning that the body is overheating: person may be thirsty, giddy, weak, dizzy, uncoordinated, nauseated, or sweat copiously.	Cold and Clammy	Normal or Rapid	Usually Normal	Move to cool place indoors or in shade. Loosen clothing; take fluids such as cool or cold water or sports drinks. Lie down to rest in a cool, breezy place.
<u><b>HEATSTROKE**</b></u> A life-threatening emergency; person needs immediate medical care; death rate is high after symptoms appear.	Dry and Red	Strong and Fast	Above 104 degrees F.	Call for emergency help. Move to a cool place. Place feet higher than head. Remove clothing and either wrap person in a cold, wet sheet, sponge with towels, or spray with cool water. Perform CPR if needed.

\*Heat Exhaustion is often caused by dehydration or sodium depletion, but don't take salt supplements without medical advice.

\*\*With Heatstroke perspiration stops; person may faint or stagger, become confused or combative; coma begins if person is not assisted.

Tribune graphic, Source: National Institute on Aging, The Warren Clinic of Northeast Oklahoma.



## **BAND TERMS**

**Adjudicator** - Person who judges the show and awards points and placements. At marching competition, judges are located either in the press box or on the field.

**Assessment** – Also known as ‘festival’ and often confused with ‘competition’, it is a performance opportunity where the band is given a rating or grade (much like the EOC’s) by adjudicators.

**Auxiliary** - Another term for the Crimson Guard.

**Band Time** – Any time students are performing, rehearsing, traveling, or representing the Bloomingdale High School Band.

**Battery** - Percussion line that consists of snare drums, bass drums, tenors, and cymbals.

**Call Time** - The actual time that you will report to the band room prior to a game or performance. This is announced at practice or during class or posted on the white board.

**Chickens** - See ‘Plumes.’

**Color Guard** - The Color Guard (*Crimson Guard*) members are chosen by audition. A very strong background in dance necessary to be a member of the color guard. The Color Guard is physically demanding but very rewarding.

**Debt list** - If a student does not pay for a band item, they may ‘charge’ the amount and have their name placed on the debt list. All debt list costs must be paid in full prior to semester exams.

**Dinkles** - Black patent leather marching band shoes.

**The Dungeon** - This is what we affectionately call our uniform room, located in the hallway near the Auditorium and the Music Dept. wing. Students are only allowed in the dungeon with adult supervision or permission from Mr. Sever.

**Exhibition** - A performance by a group that usually is not assessed by a judging panel.

**General Effect** - A caption of judging. The judge looks and listens to the overall performance.

**Gloves** - Depending on what instrument you play, you may be required to cut-off the tips of the gloves. This is best done with pinking shears, or you can hem them. The gloves are a required part of the uniform.

**Master Musician** - A special musical achievement awarded by Hillsborough County in which students may choose to complete. See Mr. Sever for an application and requirements.

**M & M** - Marching and Maneuvering, a caption award.

**The Pit** - Refers to the area directly in front of the football field, between the forty-yard lines. Percussion members who play keyboard or electronic instruments occupy this area.

**Plumes** - The feather toppers that go on the uniform hats (Shakos) for marching. They are given out just prior to the halftime performance and collected as you come off the field.

**Roll-off** - The part of the percussion cadence that cues the band when to play during a parade.

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**Roster** - A listing of each member in the band and auxiliary.

**Sectionals** - These are additional rehearsals, called by Section Leaders and/or Mr. Sever to rehearse the music.

**Section Leaders** - They are in charge of their particular instrument section. They have many responsibilities throughout the year (i.e., uniform distribution, uniform inspections, sectionals, problems, scheduling, etc.) The students go to them with any concerns they may have.

**Shako** - Military style hat.

### **CASH, CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD?**

The band offers payment plans as well as numerous fund raisers to try to offset some of these expenses. Families experiencing extreme financial hardships should see Mr. Sever privately for possible alternative arrangements.

Checks should be made payable to 'Bloomingdale Band Boosters' (except for instrument and uniform rental checks, those are made to 'Bloomingdale High School'). Please put your student's name and what the check is for in the memo area. (no credit card payments are allowed for rental of uniform or instruments in band)

Credit card payments are accepted through your 'Charms' Account for your Bloomingdale Band Booster charges (a convenience fee will be applied). All money turned into the band program must be put in a payment envelope and placed in the safe located outside the Director's office at school. Payment envelopes are available upon request. Please take the time to fill out the front (student name, etc.)

## WHO DOES WHAT? COMMITTEES...

### *AUCTION / CASINO NIGHT* –

This committee is responsible for organizing the event, providing information to the students and publicity committee. Assists in pre-planning, “tagging” all items, and works the night of the event.

### *AWARDS* –

This committee is responsible for senior awards and presentations and communicating with the Banquet committee for the pacing and scheduling of the evening events.

### *BANQUET* –

This committee assists in the coordination of printed information, ticket sales, set-up, decorations, caterer, and needs to be available to help at the event. Senior Night, a home game event dedicated to honoring Seniors, is handled by the Banquet coordinator and/or Special Projects coordinator.

### *CHAPERONE* –

This committee has many “hats,” as there is much involved in making our events successful. The overall responsibility is for the well being and safety of the students as they represent Bloomingdale High School. **Volunteers are called on a rotating system and the committee chairs handle instructions concerning each event.** Some responsibilities include serving water in the stands and sodas during third quarter, handing out Band-Aids, passing out “chickens,” supervising on the buses, and much more. Assistance for sick and the monitoring of behavior will be needed. But ultimately Mr. Sever will modify any behavior issues and have the final say on medical treatment. Chaperoning is an easy way to get involved and be a part of your child’s music education. Please note, this is a very popular volunteer position and every effort will be made to include as many chaperones to volunteer. We are however, limited to the number of chaperones based on band size. If you sign up on the volunteer form to be a chaperone & don’t get a call – please email Mr. Sever!

### *COOL BAND STUFF* –

This committee raises funds for band activities by organizing and selling band t-shirts, hats, and much, much more!

### *CRIMSON GUARD* – *Band Auxiliary*

The Bloomingdale High School *Crimson Guard* is a nationally recognized group that offers activities to showcase the talents of our color guard members during the winter and spring months.

### *FUND-RAISING* –

Fund raisers are an important tool used to obtain funds for the band program as well as a way for students to earn funds for their band trip. Several fund raisers will be held throughout the year and you and your student’s participation is strongly encouraged. Fund raisers will include some product sales, Village Inn Pie Certificates, the BBQ dinner at Homecoming, and the Auction and/or Casino Night. In most sales, a portion of the profit will go to the band program and a portion may go into the student’s account for the trip. It really is possible to earn the cost of your entire spring trip! In the past, the portion of the profits that goes to the band program has bought new music, new instruments and instrument repairs and other items the band needs to continue our successful program. Adult volunteers are needed to assist with the fund raisers, such as preparing packets of sale information, BBQ dinner tickets and serving, help with the auction, etc.

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**HISTORIANS** –Historians keep a scrapbook and create our end of the year keepsake video.

#### **HYDRATION STATION** –

This committee handles the sale of soda and water during break at Marching Band practice, scheduled for Tuesday and Thursdays (as noted on your band calendars). The clean up and return of coolers is required at the end of each practice. They also work with chaperones to keep the band members properly hydrated during game performances.

#### **MEMBERSHIP** –

The Membership committee’s goal is to get parents involved! There is no secret or magic formula to Bloomingdale’s success. The hard work, dedication, and tireless commitment of our staff, students, and booster organization have brought us great success. To be an informed band booster we recommend attending all booster meetings and keeping up with Charms. PLEASE VOLUNTEER! A SIGN-UP SHEET IS AVAILABLE AT UNIFORM FITTINGS OR UPON REQUEST! Your help is crucial to this organization and is needed during the entire school year! In addition to helping the band, you will have the opportunity to meet the parents of your student’s friends. There are many jobs that need to be done and some are only a one-time commitment. Your participation is needed to continue the success of our program. Our students need our support to be the best that they can be.

#### **PUBLICITY** –

This committee helps in contributing interesting or helpful news to our local community that involves the Marching Band or Crimson Guard. They work closely with all the local newspapers, and plan to utilize the Internet.

#### **TRANSPORTATION/EQUIPMENT** -

This committee is in charge of making sure all the large equipment and instruments get to our location, whether it be on our home field or away. We always need Dads to help.

#### **UNIFORM COMMITTEE & UNIFORM INFO** –

This committee handles the measuring, sizing, and issuing of band uniforms. Throughout the school year, this committee is responsible for keeping uniforms in order, sending and receiving dry cleanings, and the general “upkeep” of the uniform room, “the dungeon.” Help is especially needed before and after football games to ensure that every student is dressed in the proper full uniform.

#### **Band Uniforms – How are they issued?**

Band uniforms will be issued to each member of the band. We will first issue uniforms to the Seniors, then Juniors, Sophomores, and Freshmen. The uniforms will be issued during the summer. Dates and times are available on the calendar found on the Charms Website. Students will be called into the uniform room in certain groups. There may also be some issuing taking place during the school day through band class, depending upon the availability of our volunteer band booster parents at those times. The uniforms will be kept at the school in the Uniform Room.

#### **Name Tags on Uniforms**

A lanyard I.D. tag will be attached to each uniform when it is issued. This tag becomes part of the student’s uniform and is his or her responsibility to keep up with it. The I.D. tag is the means used to keep track of all the uniforms, and to lay out the uniforms by sections for performances so that they are readily accessible to the students. We need the student’s cooperation in keeping the name tags intact, and in keeping the tag with the uniform at all times. During performances, the name tag should be worn under the uniform. Do not lose the tag. They are to be returned with the uniform after each performance. A \$10.00 FEE WILL BE CHARGED FOR A REPLACEMENT TAG.

Alterations to Uniforms Any necessary alterations will be done by the uniform chair committee.

### How do I take care of my uniform?

The worst enemy of band uniform fabric is perspiration. Because of this, students must wear the current year theme t-shirt under their uniforms. Second only to this is dirt that can be embedded into the material, doing permanent damage. Do not attempt to wash or hand clean the uniform in any manner! The uniforms are dry-cleaned professionally through the dungeon and are part of your band fees. Please be careful not to get food stains on the uniforms or let them drag on the ground or floor of the bus. Take pride in looking your best!!!

### Lost or damaged Uniforms

The Band purchases a band uniform at a cost of approximately \$500.00. Students will treat their uniforms with respect and care. Any damage to a uniform will be assessed to the student. A lost shako hat is \$100.00, a lost or broken hat box is \$25.00, a girl's concert performance skirt is \$100.00.

### Looking good in a uniform

In order for our group to look uniform for marching band:

- **HAIR** must be put up under your hat. **DO NOT** use temporary hair colors that may bleed into the hat or on the uniform.
- **NO COLORED NAIL POLISH.** If you come with it on, you will take it off! **NO EXCEPTIONS!** **EVEN if your gloves cover your fingertips.**
- **MAKEUP** should be used in moderation.

**A Special note about earring/piercings** –Unfortunately, there has been so much dispute over what was and was not acceptable about piercings while in uniform, the Director has no choice but to ban **ALL JEWELRY AND PIERCINGS WHILE IN UNIFORM (Concert and Marching)**. After checking with a physician, fresh piercings cannot close in a few hours time and therefore will not be an excuse. Please plan to pierce your body when it will not interfere with your ability to be in proper uniform and therefore will not interfere with your grade.

### Uniform/Band Fees

The following explains Bloomingdale High School Band Fees

- **County Uniform Rental Fee:** The Hillsborough County School Board owns the band uniforms and sets the countywide rental fee for each student to pay.
- **Instructional Fee:** This fee includes a theme T-shirt, which is worn throughout the year for events such as open house and pep rallies. This fee also helps the band with the cost of the show's musical arrangements, drill charts, drill instructors, props, and whatever else is needed for the show.
- **Dry Cleaning Fee:** This fee covers regular cleaning.
- **Shoes:** Black patent leather "Dinkle" brand band shoes are worn. New students who do not own a pair or returning students who have outgrown their shoes will be fit during uniform issuance. The shoes will be ordered and here in time for our first performance.
- **Gloves:** During the year some students may need to buy new black gloves. We keep a supply on hand in the uniform room for purchase. The gloves do require washing after each wear. Uniform inspections are made periodically.
- **Socks:** Students are **REQUIRED** to wear **PLAIN BLACK**, (no logo) socks with the uniform, or they do not perform. If you forget yours, we always keep a small supply in the uniform room for purchase.
- **Tuxedo Shirts and Pants:** Tux attire for the boys is a tux shirt, tux pants, and black bow tie. We will fit and order the tux shirts so that all are the same. The tux pants will be fit and come unhemmed from the supplier. Because you own these items, care and hemming of these items are at the responsibility of the family. All of these items will be purchased through the uniform room.
- **Bow Ties:** (boys only) this is a standard black bow tie. If you do not own one, we have them for purchase. (New tux shirts come with a black bow tie.)
- **Concert Blouses and Skirts:** Concert attire for the girls is the concert blouse and skirt.
- Girls will be fitted for the concert blouse, which will be purchased through the uniform room. The concert skirt will be issued through the uniform room.
- **I.D. tag:** Each student will be issued a woven lanyard I.D. tag to identify their uniform. They will be responsible for returning it with their uniform after every use. A replacement tag will cost \$10.00.

### The Dungeon

The dungeon is the uniform room staffed by our volunteer band parents. Please be patient and kind with us as we could have approximately 250 band members to dress. Our goal is to make all students look and feel great in their band uniform. New volunteers are always welcome. Come and see us in the dungeon!! It's great fun!!

### Concert Performance Attire

Boys in all performance groups will wear white tuxedo shirts, black tuxedo pants, a black bow tie, and Dinkles. These items will be purchased through the uniform room. Shirts are to be tucked in at all times ~ whether on or off stage! Girls in all performance groups will wear concert blouses, which will be purchased through the uniform room, and long black skirts, issued by the uniform room. All girls wear black close-toed dress shoes (no boots or high tops). Remember, these dress rules are basic concert attire and will make our groups look spectacular!

## **PROCEDURES – Marching, Classroom, Football Games**

### *MARCHING*

1. Shoes and socks **MUST BE** worn at all times.
2. Chewing gum is **NOT PERMITTED** during any rehearsal.
3. No food or drink (except bottled water) is allowed inside the band room.
4. If it is not yours, **DO NOT TOUCH IT!** (This includes all school instruments you do not have explicit permission to handle.)
5. There will be **NO** hazing of band members.
6. Be in your seat, warmed up, and ready begin **ON TIME**.
7. Insubordination will not be tolerated.
8. Respect other people's property.
9. A band member will wear **NO** jewelry, fingernail polish, or excessive make-up while in uniform. Leave expensive jewelry at home.
10. **NEVER** disrespect another band or its members, **EVER!**
11. Remember to always **CHEER** for other bands.
12. Show respect to all Directors, administrators, teachers, band staff, and parents at all times.
13. Keep your language clean! You never know who is listening.
14. Remember, you are a class act. Do not do anything that would have to be explained to the Director or an administrator. Always conduct yourself as ladies and gentlemen.

### *CLASSROOM*

All students will be inside the band room before the tardy bell sounds. At two minutes after the bell, each student is expected to be in their seat, with instrument, stand, music, and necessary materials (this includes a pencil). There will be silence when the Director steps onto the podium.

Warm-up is a crucial time in each rehearsal. This is when everyone (including the Director) must focus on the fundamentals of our playing and directing so that we may improve both as a group and as individuals.

Brass players will need to have all mutes and oil ready. Reed players should have at least one spare reed at their seat during rehearsal. Ideally, you should have four to five 'good' reeds that you rotate from day to day. Your reeds will last longer and you will get better play from them if you do not rely on the same reed all the time.

Percussionists should each have a pair of concert snare sticks. Although the band owns many of its own mallets, percussion players should obtain their own stick bag with an assortment of mallets.

Cases will be left around the walls of the rehearsal hall during rehearsal. We need all the room we can get!

At the end of rehearsal, make sure you put all your equipment away. Instruments should be put back into their proper places. Cases will be latched shut. All chairs and stands will be straightened at the end of the day.

Problems of an individual nature (music missing, instrument problems, etc.) should not take class time. These issues should be dealt with before school, after school, or just before class as a last resort.

Revised 6/11/19

Talking during rehearsals should be kept to a minimum. Any necessary talk should be about the music being studied and should never be distracting to the conductor or other students. When the conductor is on the podium, there is no talking.

### *FOOTBALL GAMES*

1. Home games will be played at the Bloomingdale High School Stadium.
2. All games are scheduled to begin at 7:30\* with band report time posted for each game. (\*Subject to change).
3. Follow procedures in reporting to the auditorium to receive uniform.
4. NO food or drinks in stands (except water given by chaperones).
5. Plumes will be issued before a show and returned after the performance.
6. Percussion, tuba, and other large equipment need to be ready to load early for away games.
7. All band instruments will be polished and 'ready to go' prior to inspection.
8. No band member is permitted to leave the organization in advanced of group dismissal at any time; unless permission is granted by the Director (a note from parents is required).
9. While seated in the stands, only band members are allowed in the ranks. Alumni who return from time to time are always welcome, but will not be allowed to sit in the ranks of the band while in the stands.
10. While seated in the stands, the band will always sit in sections.
11. Attention should always be given to the drum majors and the Director.
12. We will play as a group while in the stands. Solo performance is strictly forbidden.
13. No inappropriate cheers will be allowed.
14. In order to move in an organized fashion, instructions may be given where a rapid response is necessary. Everyone must pay attention to the Director, band leadership, and drum majors when instructions are being given.

### **REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE**

Band practices and performances are mandatory. Any request for an exception must be submitted in writing and approved by the Director at least 10 school days in advanced of conflicting date. The Director understands unforeseen emergencies which would make it impossible for such notice. In the case of extreme circumstances, you will have 24 hours to contact the Director upon your return to school to fill out the proper paperwork to excuse this absence. Communication with the Director is the key! **Work is not an acceptable excuse for missing any band event.** The schedule will always be announced far enough in advance to avoid conflicts. Again communication with Director and employers is the key!

Students are responsible for arriving at each rehearsal and performance on time and properly prepared (properly dressed, instrument ready, music ready).

#### **Excusable absences (examples):**

Sick (documented)  
Doctor's Appointment (If this is a 'check-up', try to schedule around rehearsal)  
Death in the Family  
Important family engagement (wedding, funeral)  
Religious holiday

#### **Unexcused Absences (examples)**

Driving test  
Homework (learning time management early will help you for a lifetime!)  
**SAT/ACT Testing – these tests are offered all year long. We have a small handful of Saturday events. Nobody ever has told me they can't go on the spring trip because of these tests so plan accordingly.**  
Attending a rock concert or sporting event  
Birthday  
Work  
Events that are not submitted in writing two weeks in advance  
Didn't have a ride – Your section leader can help you find a carpool within the band

## TRAVEL

The Bloomingdale High School band travels frequently during the year, in county, out-of-county, and out of state. Trip fees pay the cost of transportation and lodging. In the event of an overnight trip, a detailed itinerary will be distributed to all students and parents. All Hillsborough County, Bloomingdale High School, and Bloomingdale *Rajun' Bull Band* policies are in effect for the duration of the trip. We will be representing ourselves, Bloomingdale High School Band, Bloomingdale High School, the city of Valrico, Hillsborough County, and the State of Florida whenever we step off the bus; we will all do our best to maintain the highest of standards.

### *Travel Policies*

1. Possession/consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or any drugs not prescribed by a physician (over the counter medications will have a parent note and will be turned in to the Director) will not be tolerated. Administrative action will occur in addition to notification of the proper authorities.
2. No tobacco or electronic inhalants will be tolerated.
3. Students will behave in the hotel at all times. Any student who cannot behave and/or follow directions will be sent home at the expense of the parent.
4. Band members are not permitted in any other rooms other than their assigned rooms after hours. At no time will students be allowed onto/into a floor/room of the opposite sex. No unauthorized persons will be allowed to visit.
5. Parents and students will be held responsible for any property damaged or lost (this includes room keys).
6. Proper dress code will be required at all times.
7. Please refrain from playing instruments while in your room.
8. Students are ***NOT*** allowed to leave the hotel unless given permission from the Director.
9. Students will always travel in groups of at least five or more.
10. Follow all instructions of Directors and chaperones at all times. If you do not understand, ask.

**The Director is ultimately responsible for the students' safety and well-being. Therefore, the Director reserves the right to dismiss and send home any student who disobeys the rules and whose general conduct and attitude towards the trip and its participants is determined to be detrimental to that individual or to the rest of the group. In the event a student must be sent home, all travel expenses to send the student home will be the responsibility of the parent.**

## ELECTRONIC MISBEHAVIOR

'Electronic Misbehavior' is defined as any use of cell phones, the internet, or technology that publicly or privately degrades the image of the music department, its staff, or its members IN ANY WAY. This includes (but is not limited to) Social Media of any kind, texting, email, pictures, video etc.

Therefore, electronic misbehavior will not be tolerated and will result in immediate disciplinary action.

Parents are encouraged to read the school district's policy on Bullying which includes 'electronic bullying.'



## HUH? FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Will I have enough time for my studies?**

Students that participate in band activities actually perform very well by acquiring more efficient study habits.

### **Can I work and participate in band?**

Many Bloomingdale students hold jobs and are able to participate fully. Most employers are both supportive and cooperative with student scheduling. The student must communicate with their employers and the Director in order to be successful at both.

### **Can I participate in other activities?**

Yes, students have always been allowed to explore their talents in other programs. Please communicate with the Director in advance so arrangements can be considered.

### **Do I have to audition to be in marching band?**

No, all students that are registered for band have the privilege of membership in this great organization, with exception of marching percussion (battery), Leadership, and the *Crimson Guard*.

### **When are marching band practices and what do I bring?**

Marching practice is each Tuesday and Thursday evening during football season, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (unless otherwise stated) be on time. Bring your instrument, flip folders with music, drill charts and a pencil. Wear comfortable clothing and appropriate footwear with socks. Bring \$.50 for a drink during break. Cups of water are also available at no cost.

### **Do I have to buy a new instrument?**

No, however your instrument should be in playable condition and well maintained.

### **Do I have to be at all practices?**

Yes! Unexcused absences and tardiness will adversely affect students' grades and their eligibility to travel in the spring with the band.

### **Will band help me get into college?**

Possibly. Many colleges are looking for the well-rounded student. Band is an activity of which many college admissions boards think highly. There are also leadership roles to which you can be elected—another thing colleges like to see.

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

*Is available on our 'CHARMS' site AND available on request in hard copy. With today's technology, there are instructions on how to sync smartphone calendar's with the calendars on 'CHARMS'*

# *Student Accounts and Fundraising*

*Like all school organizations, our budget relies on student band fees and fundraising so we may be able to offer the best equipment, instruction, and education excursions possible. Please read the following guidelines as it pertains to student accounts and fundraising.*

*Student 'accounts' will display debt and credit for (but not limited to) band fees, uniform fees, instrument repair, trip debt, monies collected, fundraising credits received.*

*The student account is NOT a bank account!*

*The purpose of the band/music department fundraisers is to help offset the students' debt listed above.*

*Participation in fundraising is optional, but all monies raised will go to the student account as a credit for debt (as listed above)*

*Each fundraiser must state specifically what the money will be raised will provide.*

*Credits earned to student account by way of monies collected and fundraising will stay valid until graduation or until he/she is no longer a member of the program. Any credits left in student accounts upon their graduation/termination of membership will be absorbed back into the Band Booster's General Account. Debt will also accumulate from year to year and must be paid. Please make an appointment with the Director to discuss payment options.*

*The average cost for band fees for an entire year\* are \$250.00. Students are in school 198 days of the year; therefore, your band fees equal \$1.26 per day while in school. Please plan accordingly to make your financial obligations. (The average Starbucks drink is over \$3.00.)*

*\*freshmen fees a little higher*

### **ALL TRIPS ARE OPTIONAL**

*If a student participates in a fund raiser for a trip and still has band fees, all credits earned will be deducted from band debt FIRST.*

### **LATE RULE FOR PRACTICE/PERFORMANCE**

Students are to be at designated rehearsal/performance location at posted time with proper equipment/dress/uniform. Failure to do so will result in the following:

- First offense: Warning from Director
- Second: Clean Band room after rehearsal
- Third: Loss of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter privileges.

Students are to be picked up/depart from music rehearsals no later than 20 minutes from posted end time. See above for punishment.



Bloomington High School Band Agreement FOR:



(Print name and Grade)

I, the undersigned, do hereby agree to abide by the rules and policies of the Bloomington High School Band Handbook for the school year to the best of my ability. Further, I will do my best to:

- 1. Maintain a consistent standard of acceptable behavior AT ALL TIMES.
2. Never publicly or privately degrade the image of the band IN ANY WAY.
3. Promote goodwill and friendships throughout the band.
4. Maintain an attitude of total cooperation with the band officers, section leaders, and band staff.
5. Always strive for the highest!!!
6. Understand the attendance policies and the consequences for not following procedure for absences (work and testing are NOT excused absences).

Violation of any of the handbook policies or procedures may result in the following:

- a. Demotion to a non-performing status within the band.
b. Failing grade for the period.
c. Conference with parents.
d. Expulsion from organization

I can be dismissed immediately for the following reasons:

- 1. Excessive unexcused absences from school.
2. GPA less than established limit.
3. Unacceptable absences from performances
4. Electronic Misbehavior
5. ACTION RESULTING IN OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

ZERO TOLLERANCE = GROUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE DISSMISSAL

ANY PARTICIPATION IN ALCOHOL, DRUG RELATED ACTIVITIES, SMOKING (INCLUDING VAPING) OR ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITY AT SCHOOL OR MUSIC DEPARTMENT RELATED FUNCTION

By signing this agreement, you indicate to the Director and the school administration that you have read, understand, and will adhere to the policies and procedures contained in this handbook.

Student's Signature

Today's Date

Parent's Signature

Today's Date

\*\* Return this contract (with both signatures) to the band office with your medical for prior to the first game\*\*