

# BSHS BULLDOG MARCHING BAND

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. HOW MUCH PRACTICE IS INVOLVED?

- **Spring Practices**

In the spring we have a one week mini-camp to learn some new music. We are flexible with absences for mini-camp as long as we know about conflicts in advance. In the past we have scheduled a make-up session for students involved in sports. The Color Guard and Drumline may have additional practices in the spring.

- **Band Camp (Summer Practice)**

The marching band season starts with Summer Band Camp which is usually toward the end of July. The Band Camp schedule is 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, with the exception of Wednesdays when it is 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Color Guard and Percussion have additional practice schedules. Students bring their own lunch each day, and the boosters provide dinner (except for Wednesdays). Summer Band Camp is the time when students learn music, marching technique, and show design for that year's competition show.

- **Fall After-School Practice**

The marching band practices three days a week from the start of school until end of regular football season (usually early Nov.) An activity bus will bring students safely from the middle schools and the 9th grade campus to BSHS for after-school practice.

- **Section Practice**

During the marching band season, each instrument section might get together to practice on their own. These sessions are called 'sectionals'.

### 2. WILL SPORTS CONFLICT WITH THE MARCHING BAND SCHEDULE?

- SPORTS THAT **DO** CONFLICT WITH THE MARCHING BAND SCHEDULE:

- Football (high school, JV or 9th Grade)
- Cheerleading (football season only)
- Fall Tennis
- Fall Cross Country
- Swimming – high school swim team

- SPORTS THAT **DO NOT** CONFLICT WITH MARCHING BAND --- Many of our band members participate in sports during winter and spring.

- Basketball (rec. league, church or school)
- Soccer (rec. league, church or school)
- Baseball (rec. league, church or school)
- Softball (rec. league, church or school)
- Cheerleading-Basketball Season (rec. league, church or school)
- Golf and Spring Tennis

Many students participate in spring sports and extra-curricular activities so they can be in the marching band during the fall season. Please contact Mr. Cotter for any sport not listed to see if there will be a conflict.

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### 3. HOW MUCH WILL MARCHING BAND COST?

The school district only provides our band program with about 15% of our annual budget. In order to meet the expectations that parents, students, and the community have for our award-winning program, it takes more money than the school district is able to provide. The remainder of the funds needed each year come from fees paid by the students, our sponsors, and various fundraising initiatives conducted by the BSHS Band Boosters. The band booster organization works hard at fundraising in order to keep the student's band fees as reasonable as possible.

Our band fee is very inexpensive compared to most schools. The fee amount is normally set in the spring before we give out the final schedule and handbooks. The current marching band fees are:

- \$400/student marching band fee (payable in payments before summer band camp)
- \$65/student for alternate uniform
- \$40/student for band shoes
- \$5 Student Snack Fee

**However, DO NOT let band fees keep your student from participating in marching band – please contact Mr. Cotter for a confidential conversation about your circumstances.**

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### 4. SHOULD I WORRY ABOUT MY MIDDLE SCHOOL OR 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENT PARTICIPATING IN AN ACTIVITY WITH HIGH SCHOOL-AGED STUDENTS?

This is one of the questions asked most often by parents with younger children who have been invited to participate in marching band. You know your child better than anybody, and it might help you to speak to other band parents who also faced that dilemma in the past. However, the following facts might make you feel better:

- During marching band, the director and assistant director are not the only adults present. There are many additional staff members who have been hired to teach and supervise the students, including at least one staff member for each section, other band directors, and volunteers.
- Student Leaders – Mr. Cotter conducts student leadership classes in the spring, and each year student leaders are selected from those classes and given responsibility for leadership and guidance of other students.
- Become a volunteer! All parents are welcome to attend events and volunteer for activities with the booster club that keep them involved in what the students are doing. This gives new parents a better feel for the environment their children are in, and the people their children are spending their time with.

### 5. HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?

We encourage all parents to attend monthly Band Booster meetings. Meetings are held at the high school at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month (Except June). Even if your child is

just considering joining the band program, a booster meeting is a great place to find out more about the program and ask any questions you might have.

The band web site, [bshsbb.org](http://bshsbb.org), has a wealth of information about all things related to the Boiling Springs High School band program including a New Parent Glossary of commonly used band terms, the Band Handbook, the events calendar, and forms. If you still have questions or concerns, just reply to the 'contact us' section on the website and someone will get in touch with you.