

Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2017-2018 edition of the Blackman High School Blaze Band. For many of you, this activity will be the centerpiece of your high school experience. As your directors, we want you to have the best music educational experience possible. We commit to give our best effort to prepare you to succeed. In return, we ask for a commitment to give your best effort to the band program. Unlike athletic teams, we have no bench-warmers. Everyone in band is a starter. Your efforts, good or bad, will not only affect you, but will also affect the band as a whole.

Because we are such a large organization, we do have important policies that must be followed to ensure that everyone has a rich experience as part of the Blaze Band. Keep this handbook in an accessible place so you may refer to it during the school year if you have a question.

Students and parents, please contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding the band. This will be an exciting year, and we are looking forward to some great performances in concert halls, on football fields, and on outdoor stages!

Go Blaze!

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## **Blackman Blaze Band Philosophy**

The Blackman Blaze Band exists to give students a quality music education through performing arts. Music is an integral fabric of the human experience. The study and performance of music not only creates aesthetically pleasing experiences, but also gives a glimpse of culture and history. Music contains an abundance of intrinsic value that merits study.

When Blackman opened in 2000, a new and special program based on music education and appreciation was created: a band where its members can excel in music AND participate in other activities, sports, and clubs; and a band that loves music, loves to perform, and takes pride in what they do. Teamwork, discipline, leadership, character, integrity - these are life skills we are teaching through music. Our concert bands strive to achieve the highest level of musicianship. We encourage all our students to actively practice, participate in private lessons, and audition for honor bands. Our non-competitive football band is a unique facet of the Blaze Band. Modeled after a university band where the focus is on school spirit and pride, we perform a high-energy show on the field and provide a fun atmosphere in the stands.

As members of the Blaze Band, we value musicianship in each performance. We also recognize that we are a service organization and have an obligation to our school and community.

### **Blaze Band Honor Code**

We will act with...RESPECT

We will give our...BEST

We will...OVERCOME

We will demonstrate...EXCELLENCE

We will show...BLACKMAN PRIDE

## **Performing Ensembles**

### **Concert Bands (Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Brass Class, Woodwind Class)**

All band members will be placed in a concert band (or percussion class) based on grade level, playing ability, and overall contribution to the band program. The concert bands meet during the school day, and students will receive a grade each grading period. The concert band is our core performing ensemble. In addition to rehearsing and performing music, students will cover written and aural music theory topics. All performing and theory topics covered in this class will apply to all other ensembles.

### **Football Band**

The Blaze Football Band is the most visible performing ensemble. Every student enrolled in a concert band or percussion class is a member of the Football Band. The primary component of the Football Band is the "Halftime Band," which is a non-competitive marching band that performs an entertaining halftime show at home and away football games. The Halftime Band will attend a mandatory band camp in the summer to learn music and drill. Once school begins, the Halftime Band will rehearse Thursday afternoons from 3:45-6:00 for the duration of the regular football season.

The other component of the Football Band is the “Stands Band.” This component is intended for those students who have a conflict with Thursday after school rehearsals, such as a fall sport, and would still like to experience the service, ambassadorship, and the FUN of being in the stands at a football game. Members of this component will perform in the stands, along with the Halftime Band, at home and away football games. Members of this group will not be required to attend the Summer Band Camp or the Thursday after school rehearsals. Both the Halftime Band and Stands Band perform at school pep rallies, and march in two parades and the annual March-a-thon.

### **Jazz Band(s)**

Jazz band is one of our primary performing groups. Students will be enrolled in the Jazz band with director’s approval. Jazz band meets during the school day as a class. This group will play a variety of styles, study music theory, and learn improvisation techniques.

### **Percussion**

All percussion students will be enrolled in the percussion class. During percussion class, students will develop skills needed to be a well-rounded percussion player or a “total-percussionist.” Students will play a variety of instruments including drums, keyboard instruments (marimba, vibraphone, etc.), and accessories. Students are required to have a practice pad and stand and various mallets/sticks.

### **Drumline**

All percussionists in the Halftime Band will be in the drumline. Auditions for the drumline take place in the spring. The drumline will meet for percussion camp one week prior to band camp to learn the show music. During football season, the drumline will have one after-school rehearsal per week in addition to the full-band rehearsal on Thursdays.

### **Rock Band**

The rock band is a familiar presence at football games and community events. This group performs hit music from a variety of genres and decades. Auditions for the rock band are held in the spring. The rock band will meet during the summer and have one rehearsal weekly after school during football season.

### **Color Guard**

The color guard is an integral part of our football band. They provide a visual representation to the music on the field. They also show Blackman Pride in the bleachers. Members will audition in May and will be required to attend color guard camp which takes place the week prior to band camp. In the fall, this group has one after-school rehearsal per week in addition to the full-band rehearsal.

### **Private Lessons**

There is no substitute for private lessons for any band program that wants to achieve the highest levels of musicianship. Private lessons are strongly encouraged for ALL band students. Whatever a student's role might be in the Blaze Band, we are committed to encouraging a higher percentage of the Blaze Band membership to take private instruction. We are fortunate to have highly qualified private lesson instructors for all instruments. Depending on the instructor's schedule, lessons may be scheduled during the student's band class. Students will receive information regarding private lessons in August.

### **Band Member Expectations**

#### **Classroom Expectations**

1. Be inside the band room before the tardy bell rings.
2. Be seated with all equipment and materials (instrument, music folder, pencil, mutes) 2 minutes after the bell rings. If an instrument needs to go to the shop, please take care of it as quickly as possible.
3. Refrain from talking once the conductor steps on the podium.
4. Give 100% participation to all activities.
5. Remain in good academic standing with all classes.

#### **Behavior Expectations for all Band Activities**

1. Represent yourself, the Blackman Blaze Band, Blackman High School, and the State of Tennessee in a positive manner.
2. Demonstrate a respectful attitude toward peers, directors, staff, and parents.
3. Follow all Rutherford County School Board policies.
4. Do not receive ISS/OSS. Students who receive any form of suspension will have performance/rehearsal privileges revoked for the duration of their suspension.

#### **Travel Expectations**

1. Be on time. Always follow the itinerary.
2. Stay in groups of three people at all times.
3. Follow directions from directors, staff, and chaperones.
4. Talk at a normal volume on the bus. Do not shout or yell.
5. Ride the same bus to and from event. (Unless other arrangements have been made with the directors.)
6. If a student would like to ride home from an away football game with their parent instead of riding the bus, please notify the directors. At the conclusion of the game, the student must come and find one of the directors WITH the parent, so that all students are accounted for.
7. If the band attends a play-off game, all students who wish to perform with the band must ride on the bus provided. If there are special circumstances, see directors.

### **Grading Policy**

Students will receive an **Objectives Page** each grading period which will outline all of the assignments and the grades that will be assessed on those assignments. **Formative Assessments** comprise 50% of the student's grade and may include but are not limited to scale assessments, sight-reading, musical excerpts, theory worksheets, and other musical activities. **Summative Assessments** make up the other 50% of the student's nine weeks' average and will include Football Band Rehearsals, Performances, Concert Dress Rehearsals, and Concert Performances. If the student has an excused absence for a performance an alternative performance opportunity will be provided for that portion of the student's grade. An unexcused absence will result in an assessment of zero.

### **Dress Rehearsals & Concerts**

Prior to each concert band performance, one or more dress rehearsals will be held after school. These dress rehearsals are vital to our performance because it is the only time we combine the percussion with the band prior to the concert. Any absence whether, excused or unexcused, may result in the loss of performance privilege for the respective concert. Please note that Dress Rehearsals are communicated to the students in class and are posted on the band website [www.blackmanband.com](http://www.blackmanband.com).

Band is a performing arts class. Each performance we give is a substantial part of the student's learning experience and is a culmination of all the practice and hard work. Every student is a valued member and needed for every performance.

### **Attendance Expectations - After-School Rehearsals & Performances**

All rehearsals and performances are mandatory and are part of the student's Summative Assessments. In the event of a conflict, students must submit an absence form **one week in advance for any after-school rehearsal one month in advance of any performance**. A tardy to any rehearsal or performance will affect the student's grade. Unexcused absences will also result in a negative bearing on the student's grade. It is recommended that any student athlete who may have conflicts try to resolve these as early as possible. Students should talk to his/her coach in addition to the band directors to come up with a compromise that works for all parties.

Valid excuses:

1. illness
2. death in family
3. religious observance
4. other situations deemed appropriate by the directors

### **Concert Uniform**

We will wear *concert black* for all performances. NO JEANS and NO TENNIS SHOES. Gentlemen will be expected to wear black slacks with a black shirt. Ties are highly recommended. Ladies may choose a black outfit (black skirt and top, black dress, or black pants and black top). Outfits should be modest in nature. Do not wear revealing clothing that displays cleavage, midriff, or the back. Skirts must reach the knee. Our attire should not detract from our performance.

## **Football Band Rehearsals & Games**

After school rehearsals and games form part of the **Summative Assessments** for the band students. Therefore, unexcused absences to any after-school rehearsal for the Halftime Band (including color guard, rock band, and drum line) or football games will have a negative bearing on that portion of the student's grade. An unexcused or excused absence may result in the loss of a halftime performance opportunity. Please note the "Attendance Expectations" written above and follow the procedures outlined for requesting an absence. If that procedure is followed, we have confidence that most, if not all, negative conflicts can and will be avoided. This is why we have the deadlines for requested absences so that all avenues of resolution can be identified and possibly implemented.

### **Percussion/Guard Camp**

All guard and percussion members will be **required** to attend a week-long camp from July 17-21 (12noon-4pm). Camp is held at BHS.

### **New Member Camp**

All 9th graders will be **required** to attend a two-day camp from July 20-21 (8am-12noon). During this camp, students will learn our marching style and meet their section leaders.

### **Full Band Camp (Halftime Band)**

All football band members will be **required** to attend the full band camp from July 24-28 (8am-5pm). We will learn the entire show during this week. Please do not schedule any other appointments during this week. Students must stay on campus the entire day.

### **Rehearsal Equipment**

Every student will come prepared for each football band rehearsal. Students will have the following equipment at each rehearsal:

1. Instrument or flag
2. Pencil
3. Drill chart
4. Music folder/flip folder
5. Lyre
6. Tennis shoes
7. Water jug (provided to incoming Freshmen by BHS Band Boosters)

Equipment and attendance will be checked at the beginning of each rehearsal and game by section leaders. Each missing piece of equipment will be assessed demerits based on the Demerit System. Football game and rehearsals are worth 10 points each and will be totaled to reflect two summative grades: a football game grade (everyone), and a rehearsal grade (Halftime Band only). Deductions for missing equipment and tardiness will be made from each game/rehearsal grade throughout the grading period based on the Demerit System.

**BLACKMAN FOOTBALL BAND DEMERIT SYSTEM**

**FOOTBALL BAND REHEARSALS**

This includes drum line, color guard, and rock band rehearsals PLUS full band rehearsals on Thursdays. Every student begins with a 100% for the Football Band Rehearsal Grade. Students in the Stands Band will not have a Football Band Rehearsal grade. For every 5 demerits, 3 points will be deducted from the grade. Students may work off Rehearsal Grade Demerits. Thirty (30) minutes of service in the band room works off 5 demerits.

Tardy	5 demerits
Inappropriate shoes	5 demerits
No pencil	5 demerits
No flip folder/music	15 demerits
No drill chart	15 demerits
No instruments	20 demerits
UNEXCUSED absence	30 demerits
Excused absences	Handled at director's discretion

**FOOTBALL BAND PERFORMANCES**

Every student begins with a 100% for your Football Band Performance grade. Every band student will have a Football Band Performance grade. For every 5 demerits, 3 points will be deducted from the grade. Performance demerits may not be worked off. Students with an excused absence will be allowed to make up demerits through music assessment.

Tardy	15 demerits
PERFORMANCE READY	30 demerits per occurrence

You are "performance-ready" when you have the following items:

- Instrument
- Flip Folder

IN UNIFORM: Black BAND shoes, black socks, YOUR uniform pants, YOUR uniform jacket, gauntlets, gloves, YOUR hat and hat wrap, athletic shorts/shirt or "tropical uniform" under the uniform

UNEXCUSED absence	45 demerits
EXCUSED absence	30 demerits; students may make up those demerits through performance of show music or similar assessment

**Football Band Uniform**

When in uniform, we become easily identified as one of the largest student organizations. We take tremendous pride in our uniform and the manner in which we wear it. If weather permits we will wear our uniform for every football game. If the weather is deemed too hot for the regular uniforms, at the director's discretion, the band will wear the "tropical uniform" which is the athletic shorts/shirt that was provided. If there are rain/muddy conditions which are not conducive to wearing the regular uniform, the band will wear jeans and the athletic shirt. This will also be at the director's discretion.



Uniform care guidelines:

1. Uniforms will be hung properly with no wrinkles in the garment bag.
2. Return the uniform to the uniform room immediately following football games.
3. After away football games, hang uniform up properly, then return to the assigned uniform rack.
4. If the uniform has any damage, report the damage to the uniform chairperson.
5. No food or beverage may be consumed while in uniform unless directed by the directors. The only exception being water/Gatorade served during the football games.

### **Athletic Shorts & Shirt – Tropical Uniform**

Students will wear the new “tropical uniform” under their uniform. Replacement shirts and shorts cost \$12.00 and \$10 respectively. The first shirt/shorts set will be provided to each student. If it is lost or damaged, students are responsible for replacement.

### **Shoes/Socks**

Students are required to wear TALL black socks and black marching shoes that will be purchased at the uniform fitting day. No other shoes are acceptable (including black tennis or dress shoes). It is the students’ responsibility to keep up with band shoes and socks.

### **Gloves**

Students are required to wear the black gloves purchased at the uniform fitting. Extra pairs may be purchased from the band for \$5 a pair. It is the students’ responsibility to keep up with their gloves.

### **Jewelry/Hair**

Jewelry should not be visible while in uniform. No earrings or piercings are allowed. Hair should be put in the hat and off the shoulders. Any hair accessories must be neutrally colored.

### **Rain Uniform**

In the case of rain, directors may designate students to wear jeans and their athletic shirts (tucked-in). No jewelry is allowed, and long hair should be put in a pony-tail.

### **Uniform protocol**

Failure to follow our uniform guidelines may result in the student being withheld from a performance. This includes but is not limited to: not wearing correct marching shoes, not wearing black socks, not wearing band shirt, or wearing jewelry.

## School Facilities, Instruments, and Equipment

### Facilities

The Blaze Band is privileged to have one of the best rehearsal spaces in the state of Tennessee. Band members are expected to treat all the facilities we use with respect and cleanliness. Do not bring food, drinks, or gum into band room (with the exception of water). You will be asked to throw away any drinks/food you bring to the band room.

### Instruments

The band program is privileged to have a wide range of wind and percussion instruments that are not feasible for students to own. Obviously, these instruments are not cheap. Students who use these instruments are expected to give the proper care and daily maintenance to the instruments to use. **Failure to follow these guidelines will result in the student being charged for the repair costs. There is a minimal rental fee of \$50 for the entire year to use a school owned instrument.**

Students who use school-owned instruments are expected to follow these guidelines:

1. Treat the instrument with care.
2. Do not leave the instrument in a position to be walked on or dropped.
3. Always store the instrument in the case with latches closed.
4. Store the case in a locked instrument storage compartment.
5. Reed players will remove the reed from the mouthpiece when storing the instrument.
6. Percussion players will cover and properly store all instruments after each use.

### Rock Band Equipment

Rock band equipment includes amps, speakers, microphones, cables, keyboards, drums, and other stands/miscellaneous items. Rock band members are expected to learn how to assemble, sound check, and break down all equipment. Rock band members will set up the equipment prior to every use and put away equipment following each performance and rehearsal.

### Instrument Storage Lockers

Every student will be assigned a lock and storage locker in the instrument storage room.

Guidelines for instrument lockers are:

1. Keep the storage locker clean and orderly.
2. Only keep band-related items in the locker.
3. No open food or drink containers are allowed in the locker.
4. Keep the storage locker locked before and after class.
5. Do not keep valuables in the locker (jewelry, electronic devices). Blackman is not responsible for lost items.

**Failure to follow these guidelines will result in the loss of an assigned locker.**

## **Locks**

Students are expected to keep their lock on the band locker. Band locks may not be used for the school locker. Locks are free to use; however, students will be assessed a \$5 fee for lost locks.

## **Booster Program**

The Blaze band is privileged to have many wonderful parents and volunteers who give up part of their free time to make a positive impact on students' band experience. The booster club normally meets on the second Tuesday of each month during the school year. Contact information for booster officers is listed on the website. The following committees are always looking for parent volunteers:

Titans Games	March-A-Thon	Dinner/Silent Auction
Band Camp Care	Truck Crew	Chaperones
Uniform Care	Outside Hospitality	Kroger Cards
Calendar/Blaze Band Partners		

## **Financial Understanding**

Each year the school board only provides approximately 5% of our yearly budget. It is therefore correct to say that instrumental music is essentially an UNFUNDED ACTIVITY. Consequently, it is important for members to participate in fundraisers and provide donations to keep our program strong. Everyone will receive a financial understanding form at the beginning of the year.

## **Fundraisers**

There are two types of fundraiser that are utilized by the Blaze Band: Active and Passive. Active fundraisers will be limited to three and all students are required to participate. These active fundraisers are:

- **Titans' Events:** The Blackman Band provides workers to man booths and trailers that sell merchandise at the Titans' Training Camp, home games, and other events at Nissan Stadium. For each event, we will typically need 15 adults to effectively work these areas. (You must be 18+ to work the registers.) We ask each family to work one (1) event during the year. This is our largest fundraising activity and we have an opportunity to earn a lot of money for the band!
- **Calendar Sale:** All members will pose for pictures for the band calendar in July. Calendars will be on sale throughout the fall.
- **March-a-thon:** This event began in 2015 and was a highly successful event. We have the potential to earn a great deal of community enthusiasm in addition to funds. Members will collect donations for our March-a-thon and then collect special donations for "requested tunes" to be played in people's front yards along the parade route. Our March-

a-thon is scheduled for a Saturday in September. The official date will be posted during the summer. All Blaze band members are required to attend.

Passive fundraisers include:

- **Kroger Cards:** pay for groceries, gas, prescriptions using Kroger cards and a percentage of the purchase will go toward the Blaze Band. You can designate your Kroger card to the Blaze Band by following the instructions on the band webpage at [www.blackmanband.com](http://www.blackmanband.com)
- **Amazon Partnership Program:** If you are going to purchase something from Amazon, go through the band's website ([www.blackmanband.com](http://www.blackmanband.com)) to make your purchase. A portion of your purchases will be donated to the Blaze Band. On the band's website, click on the Amazon banner to set up your Amazon account.
- **Blaze Band Partners:** sell sponsorships to businesses/companies who will donate to the band program. There is great potential here, especially if you have connections or are willing to get out there and ask people for money!

**Frequently Asked Questions****Q: I have a concern about the band program. Who should I contact?**

A: Any concerns should be first directed to Mrs. Monson or Mr. Zimmerman.

**Q: I am also a member of the (insert sport, club, or activity here). How do I make it work for both activities?**

A: First, get a calendar of events for both groups. Do this early! Go to your coach/sponsor and let them know you are also in band. Compare the band calendar with your other practices/games/events. Fill out an absence form with the conflicts and explain what the conflicts are. Come and see the directors so that we can talk about the schedule and find a suitable solution that will allow you to participate in both groups. As long as you do this IN ADVANCE, we are confident that most things can be worked out with a compromise.

**Q: I want to be in football band, but I also play {insert sport here}. Can I still participate?**

A: This is why the "Stands Band" concept exists. We are willing to work with students on an individual basis regarding other school commitments. It is the student's responsibility to coordinate between the directors and the coach/sponsor.

**Q: I am a freshman and am nervous about marching. I've never done this before. Can I do it?**

A: Absolutely. We have a special two-day Freshman Camp in July that will introduce new members to the band program and our marching style before the full band meets.

**Q: I want to make a payment or donation to the band. How would I do that?**

A: The band accepts checks only (no cash is accepted). You may place your check in an envelope and place it in the blue box, which is located in the band room. You may also mail checks to the boosters at this address: *BHS BAND BOOSTERS, 2441-Q Old Fort Pky, Box 408, M'BORO, TN 37128*

You may also make payments through Paypal. Just visit [www.blackmanband.com](http://www.blackmanband.com) and click on the "Pay Now" button to make a payment.

**Q: I can't pick up my child immediately after an event. Can they just hang out in the band room until I arrive?**

A: The band room will remain open for approximately 15 minutes after rehearsals or performances. Please make every effort to pick up your student at the conclusion of any event. Be aware that the directors sacrifice their personal time to make sure all students are safely picked up after events.