

Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2014-2015 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 effort, good or bad, will not only affect you, but it 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 performance in concert halls, football fields, basketball gyms, and outdoor stages!

Go Blaze!

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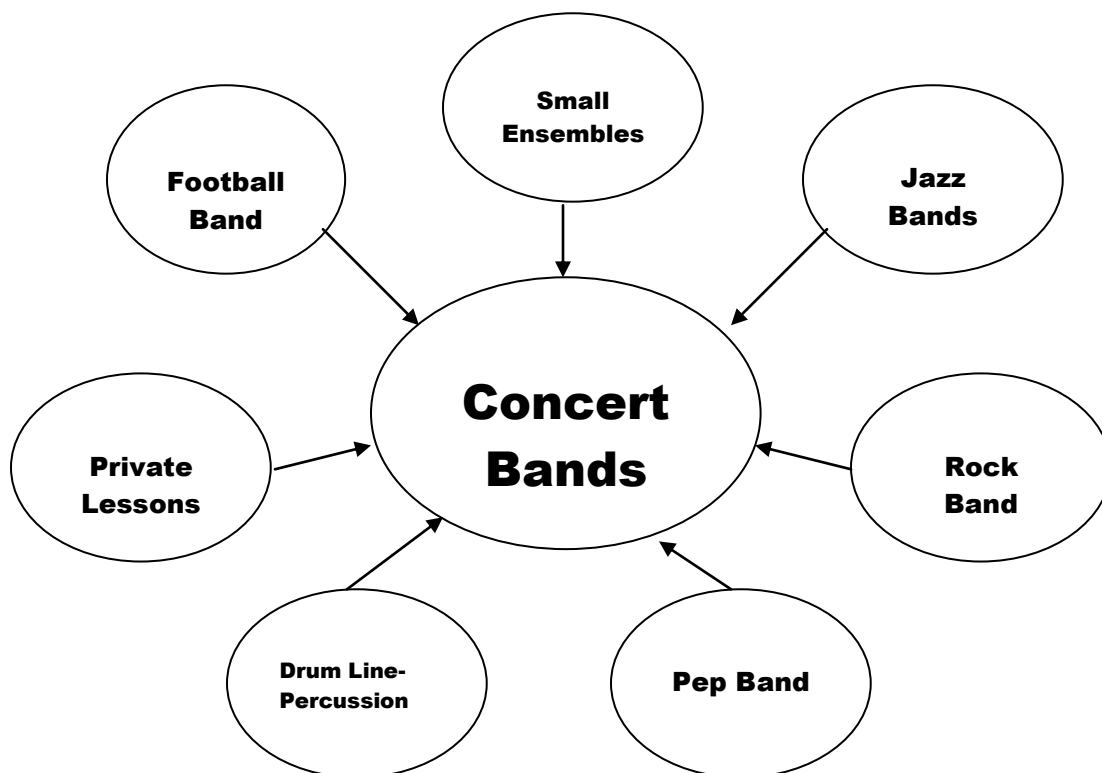
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Blackman Blaze Band Philosophy

First and foremost, 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.

The following diagram outlines the structure of our band program:



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. This is a non-competitive marching band that plays at all home and away football games. This group performs an entertaining halftime show featuring popular music. All football band members will attend the mandatory band camp in the summer to learn music and drill. Once school begins, the football band will rehearse Thursday afternoons from 3:45-6pm during football season. To be eligible for football band, the student must be enrolled in a concert band or percussion class.

Jazz Band(s)

Jazz band is one of our primary performing groups. Students must audition for a spot in the jazz band. 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 that meets during school. 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.

Drum Line

All percussionists in the football band will be in the drum line. Auditions for the drum line take place in May. The drum line will meet for percussion camp one week prior to band camp to learn the show music. During football season, the drum line 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 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. This group has one after-school rehearsal per week in addition to the full-band rehearsal.

Pep Band

Pep band plays at select basketball games each year. Students will be divided into smaller bands and can expect to play at 2-3 games each year.

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 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.)

Attendance Expectations

All rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Students must submit an absence form **one week in advance for any after-school rehearsal**. Performances are mandatory, however if a conflict arises it must be brought to the attention of the directors one month in advance. Failure to be present for a performance may result in expulsion from band.

Valid excuses:

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

Football Band Rehearsals

Unexcused absences to any after-school rehearsal for the football band (including color guard, rock band, and drum line) will result in that student being withheld from that week's half-time performance. More than one unexcused absence may result in dismissal from the football band per the directors' discretion. Two unexcused tardies may result in being withheld from a performance. More than two unexcused tardies may result in dismissal from football band.

Percussion/Guard Camp

All guard and percussion members will be **required** to attend a week-long camp from July 22-26. Camp is held at BHS.

Freshman Camp

All freshmen will be **required** to attend a two-day camp from July 25-26. During this camp, students will learn our marching style and meet their section leaders.

Full Band Camp

All football band members will be **required** to attend the full band camp from July 29-August 2. We will learn the entire show during this week. Please do not schedule any other appointments during this week.

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 notebook
4. Music folder/flip folder
5. Lyre
6. Tennis shoes
7. Water jug (provided by the boosters)

Equipment and attendance will be checked at the beginning of each rehearsal. Each missing piece of equipment will count as one demerit. Demerits will be added through the entire season. The following is a list of consequences for multiple demerits.

- 1-2 demerits: warning
- 3 demerits: conference with directors
- 4 demerits: withheld from next half-time performance
- 5 demerits: withheld from next half-time performance
- 5+ demerits: possible suspension from football band

Dress Rehearsals

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.

Concert Uniform

We will wear *concert black* for all performances. Gentlemen will be expected to wear black slacks with a black shirt. 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.

Grading Policy

Each student will receive a grade in their respective band class (including jazz band) for each grading period. Objectives may include but are not limited to scale tests, sight-reading, music excerpts, theory worksheets, and other musical activities. Performances are also a part of the student's grade. If a performance is missed an alternate performance opportunity will be provided. Football band is an extra-curricular activity and therefore has no bearing on a student's grade.

School Facilities, Instruments, and Equipment

Facilities

Blackman is privileged to have one of the best rehearsal spaces in the state of Tennessee. Band members are expected to treat all 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.**

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 cubby.
5. Reed players will remove the reed from the mouthpiece when storing the instrument.
6. Percussion players will cover all keyboard 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.

Storage Cubbies

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

Guidelines for instrument cubbies are:

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

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

Locks

Students are expected to keep their lock on the band cubby. 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.

Football Band Uniform

If weather permits we will wear our uniform for every football game. 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.

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 after home football games.
3. Return uniform to the uniform room the first school day after an away football game.
4. If the uniform has any damage, report the damage to the uniform chairperson.

T-shirt

Students will wear the 2013/2014 Band t-shirt under their uniform. Replacement shirts cost \$10.

Shoes/Socks

Students are required to wear 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 allowed. Hair should be put in the hat and off the shoulders. Any hair accessories need to be neutral colored.

Rain Uniform

In the case of rain, students will be allowed to wear jeans and their band t-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 t-shirt, or wearing jewelry.

Private Lessons

We are lucky 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.

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 Dan Caldwell, the booster president, if you are interested in helping out with the booster club. The following committees are always looking for parent volunteers:

Fundraising
Inside Hospitality
Outside Hospitality
Truck Crew
Fruit Sale
Forms
Banquet
Band Camp Care

Kroger Card
Blaze Band Partners
Uniform
Concert
Blaze Band Office Assistants
Photography/Video
Bus Chaperones

Financial Understanding

Each year the school board only provides approximately 5% of our yearly budget. Therefore, 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

Selling Fundraisers

All members are encouraged to participate in each of the following fundraisers. Group and individual incentives will be offered.

- Kroger Cards – pay for groceries, gas, prescriptions using Kroger gift cards and a percentage of the purchase will go toward the student's declining balance.
- Fruit Sale – sell fresh Florida fruit for Thanksgiving and Christmas deliveries.

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. Frasier.

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

A: 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 are having a special two-day Freshman Camp on July 25-26 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 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.