

Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 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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Table of Contents

Blackman Blaze Band Philosophy	3
Performing Ensembles	3
Private Lessons	5
Band Member Expectations	5
Classroom Expectations	
Behavior Expectations	
Travel Expectations	
Band Class Grading Policy	6
Dress Rehearsals & Concerts	6
Attendance Expectations	
Concert Uniform	
Football Band Rehearsals & Games	7
Football Band Grading Policy	8
Football Band Uniform	8
School Facilities, Instruments, and Equipment	11
Facilities	
Instruments	
Rock Band Equipment	
Instrument Storage Lockers	
Locks	
Booster Program	12
Financial Understanding	12
Fundraisers	13
Frequently Asked Questions	14

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

Failure to follow the guidelines set in this handbook, failure to respect and abide by the honor code, or failure to follow directions set by directors may lead to removal or expulsion from the band program or any of its performances.

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 3:50-6:00 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. We HIGHLY ENCOURAGE students to participate in Halftime Band and believe it is the ideal way for students to experience ALL aspects of being in the band program.

Jazz Band

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 will be given a detailed list of required items (sticks, mallets, etc.) at the beginning of the school year.

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 the 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 and is open to students who are not enrolled in a band class. The rock band will meet during the summer and have one rehearsal weekly after school during football season. Rehearsals are mandatory and students will also need to practice and prepare OUTSIDE of the rehearsals. There is a sizable time and effort commitment for rock band members.

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) two 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 throughout the rehearsal. If you have questions raise your hand and ask the director.
4. Give 100% participation to all activities.
5. Remain in good academic standing with ALL classes, not just band!
6. **NO PHONE POLICY: Cell phones are not permitted in ANY band rehearsal.**

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. "Early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable!"
2. Students are responsible for making sure their equipment and/or instrument is loaded, unloaded and, stored correctly.
3. Always Stay in groups of three people.
4. Follow directions from directors, staff, and chaperones.
5. Talk at a normal volume on the bus. Do not shout or yell.
6. Ride the same bus to and from event. (Unless other arrangements have been made with the directors.)
7. 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.
8. 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.

Band Class Grading Policy

Students will receive an **Objectives Page** each grading period which will outline the assignments and the grades that will be assessed for 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 in on the band website 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

Gentlemen should wear a dark coat (optional) with black slacks with a white, long-sleeved dress shirt and neck tie of their choice. Shoes should be black with black socks, and belt. Shirts should be tucked in, sleeves not rolled up, tie at the neck.

Ladies should wear a black dress, skirt, or pants and top. Shoulders should be covered and dress length should cover the knees when seated. Shoes should be black. Please keep outfits conservative and avoid excessive amounts of jewelry or sequins.

This dress code is non-negotiable. If you do not meet the above dress code you will not be allowed to perform. (This is also the dress code MTSBOA provides for Mid-State/All State.)

Football Band Rehearsals & Games

After school rehearsals and games are 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. We have the deadlines for requested absences so that all avenues of resolution can be identified and possibly implemented.

Summer Rehearsals (Dates available at www.blackmanband.com)

- **Percussion/Guard Camp:** All guard and percussion members will be **required** to attend a week-long camp held at BHS.
- **New Member Camp:** All 9th graders will be **required** to attend a two-day camp to learn our marching style and get to know their section leaders and fellow band members.
- **Full Band Camp (Halftime Band):** All football band members will be **required** to attend the full band. 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 of flag
2. Pencil
3. Drill Chart
4. Music/flip folder
5. Lyre
6. Tennis shoes (no high tops); athletic shorts/pants, and t-shirt/tank-top. All undergarments, including sports bras, must be fully covered.
7. Water jug (provided to incoming students by BHS Band Boosters). Sports drinks, energy drinks with sugar and/or caffeine not permitted during rehearsals.
8. Hats and sunscreen strongly recommended!
9. Cell phones are NOT allowed at any rehearsal.

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 the policy described below.

BLACKMAN FOOTBALL BAND EXPECTATIONS & GRADING POLICY

Football Band Rehearsals

This includes drum line, color guard, and rock band rehearsals PLUS full band rehearsals on Thursdays. Students in the Stands Band will not have a Football Band Rehearsal grade.

This is expected of every student:

1. Students will be on time to each practice.
2. Students will come prepared with these items: instrument, music, drill chart, pencil.
3. Students will wear tennis shoes and be appropriately dressed for the weather.

Every student begins with a 100% for the Football Band Rehearsal Grade. For every infraction of the expectations, 2 points will be deducted from the Football Band Rehearsal Grade. An unexcused absence from a football band rehearsal will result in the loss of a halftime performance opportunity. Excused absences will be handled at director's discretion.

Football Band Performances

Every student in band will have a Football Band Performances grade because every student is required to perform with the band at the Friday night football games.

This is expected of every student:

1. Students will be on time to each performance. This means “Performance Ready” and in full uniform at the assigned time.
2. “Performance Ready” means you have the following items: instrument, flip folder with all music.
3. Students will be in full uniform which includes 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. Jewelry should not be visible. This includes earrings and piercings.
4. At the conclusion of the game, students will stow their uniform properly and get it checked off by leadership team before leaving.
5. A student not in full and complete uniform may have performance privileges revoked.

Every student begins with a 100% for the Football Band Performance grade. For every infraction of the expectations, 5 points will be deducted from the Football Band Performances grade.

An unexcused absence will result in a grade deduction of 25 points.

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 or tropical uniform, the band will wear jeans and the athletic shirt. This will also be at the director’s discretion.

All students are required to sign the Uniform Contract saying they understand and agree to the uniform procedures and expectations.

1. After usage, each band member will be responsible for properly stowing their uniform in its bag and checking it in with the assigned band council member. The band council member will not accept the uniform unless it is properly hung.
2. Never take a uniform without the consent of a band director or uniform coordinator.

3. When uniform is not worn, it should be hung as follows: Pants properly creased and hanging over a suit hanger. The jacket should hang smoothly over the pants and zipped. Hat wrap and gauntlets should lay neatly at the bottom of the uniform bag. The hat should be placed upside down in the assigned hat box. Color Guard uniforms will be hung neatly on a suit hanger. Garment bag will cover uniform when uniform is being transported. Uniform bags will be draped behind the uniform when in storage room. Take special care of the pieces with Velcro (gauntlets & hat wrap) so that the Velcro is neatly secured and does not come in contact with other parts of the uniform.
4. When the uniform is worn, DOUBLE check the gauntlets to make sure the Velcro is completely closed so that the coarse side does not come in contact with the other uniform parts. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. If damage occurs due to the gauntlets/Velcro, it will be the student's responsibility to replace any damaged uniform parts.
5. Shoes should NEVER be put in the garment bag.
6. Plumes must be handled with care. Gently place plumes in the storage tubes provided.
7. The provided athletic shirt and shorts will be worn under the uniform (band only).
8. Personal hygiene is a must to keep the uniform clean.
9. Examine all uniform components after each use for damage, soiling, stains, etc. Notify the uniform coordinator of any issues. Any damage to the uniform other than normal wear and tear or loss of any pieces will be the wearer's responsibility to replace.
10. No food or beverage may be consumed while in uniform unless permitted by directors.

Athletic Shorts & Shirt – Tropical Uniform

Students will wear the "tropical uniform" under their uniform. The first shirt/shorts set will be provided to each student. If it is lost or damaged, students are responsible for replacement of these items. No exceptions.

Shoes/Socks

Students are required to wear TALL athletic black socks that completely cover the ankle (no dress 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). Marching shoes must be laced correctly without slipping eyelets and laces should be double knotted when tied. 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. Color Guard members will also wear special gloves (neutral color).

Jewelry/Hair/Make-up

Jewelry should not be visible while in uniform. Clear, plastic spacers may be used if necessary. No earrings or piercings are allowed. Hair should be put up in a ponytail or bun. With hats on, hair will be up in the hat. Any hair color not natural must be a neutral color. Hair accessories must also be neutrally colored. Guard members may choose to wear make-up as long it is conservative and does not detract from the professional appearance of the band and meets approval of the directors.

Rain Uniform

In the case of rain, directors may designate students to wear jeans and their tropical shirts (tucked-in). Jeans must not have holes and/or distressed patterns and should reach the ankles (no capris). 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, inappropriate hair color, 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 (including water) 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	Truck Crew	Calendar/Blaze Band Partner
Band Camp Care	Outside Hospitality	Chaperones
Uniform Care	Banquet	Kroger Cards

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 two 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.

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
- **Amazon Partnership Program:** If you are going to purchase something from Amazon, go through the band's website (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. Wright.

Email: directors@blackmanband.com

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. Communicate with the other coach or sponsor so they are aware of the conflict and we can work together. As long as this is done 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} which is a major conflict with either band camp or Thursday after school rehearsals. 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 New Member 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 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.