

Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2025-2026 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 education experience possible. We commit to giving 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 benchwarmers. Everyone in the band is a starter. Your efforts, good or bad, will not only affect you, but will also affect the entire band.

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!

Brenda Monson and Jonathan Wright
3956 Blaze Dr.
Murfreesboro, TN 37128
directors@blackmanband.com
615-904-3850 ext. 22728
Twitter: @blackmanband

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Blackman Blaze Band Philosophy

The Blackman Blaze Band exists to offer 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 the life skills we teach 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 rules and procedures outlined in this handbook, failure to follow the honor code, or failure to follow the expectations of the band directors will lead to removal from performances or expulsion from the band program.

Performing Ensembles

Core Band Classes: Concert Band (Woodwinds & Brass and Percussion), Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble

All band members will be placed in a band class based on instrument, grade level, playing ability, and overall contribution to the band program. The core band classes meet during the school day, and students will receive a grade each grading period. In addition to rehearsing and performing music, students will cover music literacy, theory, and aural skills. All performing and theory topics covered in core band classes are the foundation for the other performing ensembles below.

Football Band

The Blaze Football Band is the most visible performing ensemble. Every student enrolled in a core band class (see above) 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. Students who participate in Halftime Band receive a PE credit.

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 the Stands Band 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. Students in Stands Band are not eligible to receive PE credit. 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 on the 4x4 Schedule

Jazz band is one of our primary performing groups. Students will be in the Jazz Band with director’s approval through an audition process. Jazz band meets during the school day during Impact (on select days) and before/after school. The complete schedule will be created after auditions occur in the fall. Students must be enrolled in a core band class to participate in Jazz Band (exceptions are made for piano, guitar, bass guitar, and vocalists). This group will play a variety of styles, study jazz specific music theory, and learn improvisation techniques.

Percussion on the 4x4 Schedule

All percussion students will be enrolled in a band class. 9th Grade percussionists will be in the Concert Band. All 10th-12th grade percussionists will enroll in the Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble based on ability. During band class, percussion 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. Drumline rehearsals may also be called during Impact (during the school day).

Color Guard

The color guard is an integral part of our Football Band. Guard provides 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 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.

Payment Policy:

1. All Private Lessons are to be paid for in monthly installments. Private Lessons instructors will communicate with the student how many lessons will be scheduled each month and the amount for each lesson. Each Private Lessons payment will need to cover all lessons that will be taken in any given month. All payments (checks or money orders only) will be made to the *Blackman High School Band Boosters* and should be placed in a sealed envelope with the student's name and "Private Lessons" and placed in the blue payment box located in the band room. Parents may also use PayPal on the website.
2. All Private Lessons payments must be made a month in advance. For example: Private Lessons that will be taken in September need to be paid for in August. *This excludes the first month of Private Lessons given which should be paid by the first lesson given.*
3. Any student who has not paid by the assigned due date will not be permitted to take Private Lessons until payments are received.
4. Any lessons that need to be made up due to unexpected schedule changes, illness, etc. will be scheduled with the Private Lessons instructor. Students will be responsible for paying for lessons due to an unexcused absence (i.e., "I forgot I had a lesson," "I was absent from school and did not notify my private teacher," field trip, ISS, etc.) *Please communicate with your Lessons instructor ahead of time if you will miss your lesson.*
5. Payments will be refunded for any Private Lessons that the student is not able to make up at the end of the school year.

Band Member Expectations

Performance Expectations: To participate in Blackman Band performances (e.g. football games, concerts, parades, etc.), band members must contribute both time and effort to the overall success of the band. These two components are outlined below:

1. To perform, students must attend all required extracurricular rehearsals. If a student has an absence (both excused and unexcused) they will not be permitted to perform. Extenuating circumstances may be taken into consideration by the directors.
2. To perform, students must have a minimum average of at least a 70 in their band class and must not have a zero on any performance assessments.

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 without Director approval.**

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 at least 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. These assessments include, but are not limited to scale assessments, sight-reading, musical excerpts, theory worksheets, and other musical activities. Other grades 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 a zero (0) for that assessment grade.

Dress Rehearsals & Concerts

Prior to each concert band performance, one or more dress rehearsals MAY be held after school. Any absence, 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 at 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 grade. In the event of a conflict, students must submit an absence form **one week in advance for any after-school rehearsal and 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

Each Blackman High School Band Member will be fitted for and issued formal concert attire that serves as our Concert Uniform at the beginning of the school year. **Students must wear the provided Concert Uniform at all concerts including off-campus events such as Mid-State, All-State, and All- County Band.**

The school will provide the following components for:

Suits: Black suit jacket and pants, white dress shirt, tie

Dresses: Black floor length dress

Students are expected to provide the following:

Suits: White crew neck undershirt, black dress belt, black socks, black dress shoes (you may use marching shoes).

Dresses and Separates: Black dress shoes (flats up to one-inch heel)

Wearing this uniform is a privilege, and with that privilege comes the responsibility of proper care and respect for the garment. It is expected of every member that they will meticulously care for and maintain the uniform by following the care requirements:

Wearer's Responsibility

1. Never take a concert uniform without the consent of a band director or uniform coordinator.
2. Uniforms may be dry-cleaned as necessary.
3. When uniform is not worn, it should be hung as follows:
 - a. Suits: Pants properly creased and hanging over a suit hanger. The jacket should hang smoothly over the pants and buttoned. The dress shirt should be hung on a separate hanger with the top two buttons fastened at a minimum. The tie should be draped over the shoulders of the dress shirt. The garment bag will cover the suit and dress shirt when not in use.
 - b. Dresses and Separates: Dresses and separates should be hung on the assigned hanger and covered in plastic when not worn.
4. Shoes should NEVER be put in the garment bag.
5. Proper undergarments must be worn. White dress shirts must be worn with a white crew neck shirt underneath. No parts of any undergarments may be shown while in uniform.
6. Personal hygiene is necessary to keep the concert uniform clean.
7. Examine all uniform components after each use for damage, soiling, stains, etc. Notify the directors 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.
8. No food or beverage may be consumed while in uniform unless permitted by directors.
9. At the end of the school year concert uniforms must be dry-cleaned and returned with the dry-cleaning receipt attached.

Uniform Check-out and Check-in

Concert uniforms will be assigned to students for the entire school year. It is the student's responsibility to store and care for the concert uniform during this time. After the student's last performance, the concert uniform must be dry-cleaned and returned with the dry-cleaning receipt attached. If the uniform is not returned and/or is not dry-cleaned, a hold will be placed on the student's final report card and transcript.

Costs as of 2019. Replacement cost determined by Street Tuxedo and Cousin's Concert Attire.

Suit Jacket \$70.00

Dress \$70.00

Suite Pant \$45.00

Blouse \$25.00

Dress Shirt \$19.00

Pant \$42.00

Tie \$16.00

Football Band Rehearsals & Games

After school rehearsals and games are part of the student's grade. 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 special percussion/guard camp held at BHS – usually the week before the full band camp.
- **Full Band Camp (Halftime Band):** All football band members will be **required** to attend the full band camp. 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/flip folder
5. Lyre (winds only)

6. Tennis shoes (no high tops); athletic shorts/pants, and t-shirt/tank top. All clothes must be of an appropriate length and 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 are strongly recommended!
9. Cell phones are NOT allowed at any rehearsal.

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, 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 the director's discretion.

Football Band Performances

Every student in the 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, including black BAND shoes, black socks, uniform pants, jacket, gauntlets, gloves, hat and hat wrap, and band shirt with athletic shorts 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 the 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 and loss of performance privileges.

Football Band Performance Schedule

The Blaze Football Band will be performing at the Blaze Football games during the regular season and any play-off games TBA. Game time is 7pm.

Student call time is typically at 6pm for home games & away games in county.

August 22 at Clarksville

August 28 Cane Ridge – HOME (THIS IS A THURSDAY)

September 9 at Riverdale

September 12 at Nolensville

September 19 LaVerne – HOME (TBA: Salute to Service Night)

September 26 Oakland - HOME

October 2 at Stewarts Creek (THIS IS A THURSDAY)

October 17 Smyrna – HOME

October 24 at Siegel – HOME

October 30 Rockvale – HOME (THIS IS A THURSDAY)

Playoff Games TBA

For away games that are IN-county, band members will meet at the host school for that game.

Parents are responsible for transportation to and from the game. This includes:

September 9 at Riverdale

October 2 at Stewarts Creek (Thursday night)

October 24 at Siegel

For away games OUT of the county, band members will meet at BHS and ride a bus to the game's location. This includes:

August 22 at Clarksville

September 12 at Nolensville

Football Band and Color Guard Uniform

Each Blackman High School Band Member and Color Guard Member will be fitted for and issued a uniform and accessories upon receipt of a uniform contract which has been signed by the member and their parent/legal guardian and the first payment of the financial agreement.

Each uniform will consist of the following components:

Jacket and Pant, Shako Hat, Hat Wrap, and Hat Box, Set of Gauntlets

Color Guard: Custom one-piece costume

Provided by the band and to be worn under the uniform: Athletic Shorts & Shirt (tropical wear).

Items to be provided by each member: Black Marching Band or Color Guard Shoes, Black Gloves for Woodwind & Brass Players, Neutral Gloves for Color Guard, Tall Black Socks.

Hair/Accessories: Long hair should be up in bun/ponytail. Hair should not touch shoulders.

Jewelry: Stud earrings are permitted. No facial jewelry is allowed.

Make-up: If any at all, it must be conservative (includes Guard).

Wearing this uniform is a privilege, and with that privilege comes the responsibility of proper care and respect for the garment. It is expected of every member that they will meticulously care for and maintain the uniform by following the care requirements.

Wearer's Responsibility

1. Never take a uniform without the consent of a band director or uniform coordinator.
2. 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. 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 the storage room. Take exceptional 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.
3. 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.
4. Shoes should NEVER be put in the garment bag.
5. Plumes must be handled with care. Gently place plumes in the storage tubes provided.
6. The athletic shirt and shorts provided will be worn under the uniform (band only).
7. Personal hygiene is necessary to keep the uniform clean.
8. 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.

Uniform Check-in

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. Students will respect the process and be patient as they wait to check in uniforms.

Uniform Care Details

1. Students/parents may not alter any part of the uniform. Notify the uniform coordinator of any alterations that need to be addressed.
2. Although the uniforms are machine-washable, all uniforms will be washed by the uniform committee.
3. Uniforms must be air dried only.

Costs, as of January 2017. Replacement cost determined by Fred J. Miller.

Jacket \$170	Shako (Hat) \$49	Plume \$21
Pant \$65	Hat Wrap \$38	Uniform Bag \$10
Gauntlets \$36	Hat Box \$10	Color Guard Uniform \$203

Athletic Shorts & Shirt – Tropical Uniform

Students will wear their band shirt and shorts 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 skipping 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

Simple earrings are acceptable. Keep it simple! No facial piercings are allowed. Clear, plastic spacers may be used if necessary. Hair should be put up in a ponytail or bun. With hats on, hair will be up in the hat. Hair accessories must be neutrally colored. 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 the approval of the directors.

Rain Uniform

In the case of rain, directors may designate students to wear band shirt and pants. No jewelry is allowed, and long hair should be put in a ponytail.

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 the 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 Tennessee. Band members are expected to treat all the facilities we use with respect and cleanliness. Do not bring food, drinks, or gum into the band room (except for 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 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.

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 \$6 fee for lost locks.

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 pay dues to keep our program strong. Payment information is below.

The parent/guardian understands their responsibility to pay the contributions scheduled below, agrees to communicate with the booster treasurers if any delay in payment occurs, acknowledges that the first deposit is required for their student to be considered for a spot in the football band show. The parent/guardian also agrees to work one Titans game during the Titans' season as part of their financial contract. Please contact the directors, the booster president or the booster treasurer with questions.

OPTION 1: Pay IN FULL at the May Meeting, \$450.00, PLUS work 1 Titans Game and receive a \$25.00 discount.

- Obligation #1 \$425.00.
- Obligation #2 1 Titans Game.

OPTION 2: Make 3 payments of \$150.00, PLUS work 1 Titans game

- Obligation #1 \$150.00 Due by Friday, May 20, 2025.
- Obligation #2 \$150.00 Due by Monday, June 20, 2025.
- Obligation #3 \$150.00 Due by Wednesday, July 20, 2025.
- Obligation #4 1 Titans Game.

OPTION 3: For families with more than one student in band (Sibling Discount)

- Obligation #1 \$150 per student. Due by Friday, May 20, 2025.
- Obligation #2 \$150 per student. Due by Monday, June 20, 2025.
- Obligation #3 \$100 per student. Due by Wednesday, July 20, 2025.
- Obligation #4 1 Titans Game per student.

Check, money orders and PayPal are the only acceptable forms of payment. **No cash is accepted!** (This is a Rutherford County School Board Policy.) Payments may be delivered to the blue box in the band room, paid online through www.blackmanband.com (PayPal), or mailed to:

Blackman High School Band Boosters
3956 Blaze Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37128

Students will not be allowed to participate in any band trip unless they are in good standing in the band and have fulfilled their financial agreement.

We comply with IRS guidelines for nonprofit organizations. Student payments made to the organization are not tax deductible. Any additional contributions to the organization above and beyond these amounts are tax deductible. You should consult with your tax advisor to determine your eligibility to deduct such additional contributions on your federal or state income tax returns. Funds paid in or earned through fundraising activities are the property of the Blackman High School Band Boosters and may not be withdrawn.

IF A STUDENT DECIDES TO DROP BAND, NOTICE MUST BE GIVEN TO DIRECTORS THROUGH EMAIL. If notice is received on or before Sunday July 20, 2025 half of the amount paid in will be reimbursed. If notice is received after Sunday July 20, 2025 NO REIMBURSEMENT will be given.

Any variations from this agreement must be discussed with the Band Booster Executive Team.

Band 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:

- Truck Crew: equipment, travel, and logistics
- Band Camp Care: food, water, and care for students
- Band Banquet: planning and helping
- Uniform Care: fitting, cleaning, and repairs
- Chaperones: ride bus with students and supervise
- Titans: biggest fundraiser for the band
- Photographer: take pics of students for the band
- General Help: wants to help with anything

Fundraisers

There are two types of fundraisers 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. 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!
- **MTSU Athletic Events:** The Blackman Band will provide works to man booths that sell concessions and other products at MTSU home games and events.

- **BHS Basketball Concessions:** The Blackman Band will provide 2 adults and 4 students to work the concession stand at home basketball games.

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.
- **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 question about the band program. Who should I contact?

A: Any questions or concerns should be first directed to Mrs. Monson and 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! Each year everyone in band starts at square one with the basics and we learn together. We also have excellent student leaders that will help new members so that no one is left behind.

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, 3956 Blaze Drive, MURFREESBORO, 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.

Rutherford County Schools Travel Permission and Emergency Medical Release Form 2025-2026

Name of Student: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Mother/Guardian 1:

Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work: _____ Work Number: _____

Father/Guardian 2:

Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work: _____ Work Number: _____

If neither parent can be reached call : _____

Relationship: _____ Phone: _____

Name of Student's Physician: _____ Phone: _____

Are there any medical problems, allergies, or other information the teacher should know about in order to make the trip safer for your child? **Yes** _____ **No** _____

If yes, give details: _____

Will your child need prescription or over-the counter medications while on this field trip: **Yes*** _____ **No** _____

***If YES, you must also complete the attached Overnight Field Trip Medication Procedure and Authorization Form and obtain a healthcare provider signature for any prescription medications.**

Date of Last Tetanus Shot: _____

Health Insurance Company: _____ Policy Number: _____

_____ has my permission to travel with

(Name of Student)

The Blackman High School Band during the 2025-2026 school year. In case of need, I grant permission for my child to be treated by a health care professional in my absence.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for Rutherford County, Tennessee, personally appeared

_____, with whom I am acquainted and who acknowledged the completion of this instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal of office on this the _____ day of _____, 20_____.

COMMISSION EXPIRES

NOTARY PUBLIC

Blackman HS Band Permission Form 2025-2026

Student Name (please print): _____ Instrument: _____

All band students will participate in Concert Band AND Football Band. Choose your pathway for Football Band.

_____ Blaze Football Band - **HALF-TIME BAND**

*Perform the Half-time show at games & in stands

* Attend band camp

* Attend Thursday full band rehearsals

_____ Blaze Football Band - **STANDS BAND**

*Perform in stands at games

ALL BAND MEMBERS DO THESE 4 ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

* Participate in the uniform fitting

* Participate in school pep rallies

* Participate in the May Mini-Camp

* Participate in parades (Homecoming & Christmas)

Financial Acknowledgement and Agreement

We hereby acknowledge that we have read and understand the financial responsibilities outlined in the Band Handbook and understand that all families are required to work at one or more Titans games.

Band Member Initials

Parent/Guardian Initials

Membership Agreement and Internet Release

I, the undersigned student, accept membership in the Blackman High School Band and understand I am responsible for all policies set forth in the band handbook. I agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my ability.

Band Member Initials

I, the undersigned parent/guardian, have read and understand the policies set forth in the band handbook. I grant full permission for my child to be an active member of the Blackman High School Band. In addition, my child has full permission to attend all band functions. I also grant the Blackman High School Band to use my child's image and name on all print and internet publications associated with the band.

Parent/Guardian Initials

Blaze Football Band Performance and Travel Procedures

My child may participate in the Blaze Band performances during the 2025-2026 school year. I agree to follow all guidelines set forth by the band directors. I agree to be responsible for transportation for my child to IN-county football games and I give permission for my child to travel on the bus to OUT-OF-COUNTY football games.

Parent/Guardian Initials

Uniform Acknowledgement and Agreement

We hereby acknowledge that we have read and understand the Blackman High School Band Marching Uniform and Concert Uniform information provided in the Band Handbook. We understand that proper care for and use of the assigned uniform is our responsibility and that any loss and/or damage for any reason during my use and retention of the uniform and/or accessories is our sole financial responsibility and liability. It is further understood that all uniform articles are issued and recorded by identification number. The same numbered uniform articles that are issued must be returned in good condition or we must pay a cleaning and replacement fee.

Band Member Initials

Parent/Guardian Initials