



2021 -2022 Marching Bobcat Policy

Thank you for your interest in the Battlefield High School Marching Band! Our band has enjoyed much success over the years due to the dedication of our students, staff, and parents, with the support of the Battlefield High School administration. This document outlines the policies and procedures for the marching band program. We are looking forward to great things this season.

Michael Britcher, Director

Vision

The Marching Bobcats will achieve the highest level of success because students, staff, parents, and BHS administration will work together to facilitate an environment that enhances the lives of our band students through:

- Quality music education in both marching and concert environments
- Team work and comradery
- Discipline and integrity
- Pride in self, band, school, and community
- Leadership opportunities
- Importance of commitment and follow through
- Recognition at local, state, and national levels

Attendance

The success of our group depends heavily on attendance. When a student is missing from a practice, it makes everyone else's practice more difficult. Our performance is visual and it will usually result in a score deduction for our band at competitions. If a student is not keeping up with grades, it is unfair to keep a student home from practice. This results in the student's problem becoming the band's problem. When joining the Marching Bobcats, you are making a commitment to a group of people who work hard for success. If a student misses practice due to illness, the student will not lose points for the day. In order not to lose points, the band director must receive a signed doctor's note. Sudden family emergencies, including the death of a loved one, constitute an excused absence. Jobs/babysitting conflicts are NOT excused absences. The calendar was issued early enough so that potential conflicts could be resolved.

Clubs and Activities

Clubs are not an excuse for missing rehearsal time. After school practice takes place on Wednesdays only and we start practice late enough so that students should be able to get pertinent information from a meeting and still make it to the practice field by 2:30. Any arrangement not set forth by the director is an unexcused absence.

After School Help

After school help should be scheduled on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays. I would prefer that a student miss part of their sectional time rather than when we are focusing on drill and music. A note from a teacher would be needed to count this as an excused absence. If for some reason a student needs to meet with a teacher on a Wednesday, I will require a note from the teacher. In addition, the student should not miss more than half of the rehearsal.

Performance Point System (50% of grade: 5 points per each performance)

Tardy	-1 point
Very Tardy	-2 to -4 points
Leaving before being Excused	-1 point
Inappropriate Behavior	-1 to -5 point(s)
Missing a Performance	-5 points

Rehearsal/Participation Point System (50% of grade: 5 points per each performance)

Late for Warm-Up	-1 point
Late for Rehearsal	-3 points
Absent	-5 points
Not having Materials for Practice	-2 points
Misbehavior/Disrespect	-1 to -5 point(s) (Assessed on the severity of the infraction)

Communication

Most issues that arise can be solved quickly by contacting me early. Issues can be resolved with early communication between the director, parent, and student. I constantly check my email during the season. This is the best form of communication.

Behavior and Sportsmanship

As a member of the band, it is each student's responsibility to exhibit exemplary behavior and good sportsmanship at all times. Students are representatives of the band, school, and the community. It is important to respect the direction of staff and student leadership, as well as the feelings of others. Do not criticize the performance of another student or band. Everyone has worked hard to achieve their goals and deserves positive recognition for their efforts. We learn to stand together with pride as scores are announced. Respect those who have scored ahead of us, and gracefully accept our own success. Never cheer for someone else's loss. Expectations are outlined in the **Marching Band Contract**.

Uniforms

Band Camp and After School Practice Uniforms

Students are expected to wear white t-shirts and black athletic shorts for all practices. Shirts must be worn at all times.

Marching Uniforms

Students will be fitted to a uniform. The marching band uniform consists of a jacket, a pair of marching pants (bib), a shako (marching band hat) or beret (sousaphones), marching band t-shirt, athletic shorts/pants, black shoes, gloves, and **long**, black dress socks. (The shorts/pants, shoes, socks, and gloves will be purchased by each student.). For color guard members, the uniform consists of the show costume, shoes, and gloves.

Shoes, Gloves, Gauntlets, and Socks

Students will be measured for a pair of marching band shoes during the first week of camp. The cost of shoes is \$35. Returning students may wear their current shoes provided they fit and are

in excellent condition. Shoes are required to be brought to uniform fittings in order to check the condition and determine if new shoes will need to be purchased for the season. Payment for shoes and gloves will be due on the first day of band camp. The BSO will place one order for shoes. If additional shoes are needed after the initial order is placed, the student will incur the cost of the shoes plus shipping. Students will also be fitted for gloves. The cost of gloves is \$5. It is a good idea to purchase two pairs of gloves to have an extra pair as backup. Students are expected to purchase long, black socks. Ankle and “no show” socks are unacceptable.

If a student forgets his/her shoes, gloves, gauntlets, or socks for a game or competition, shoes may be rented for \$5, and a new pair of gloves must be purchased for \$5. Socks may be purchased for \$5. Gauntlets may be rented for \$5. Rented items must be returned to a chaperone after each event. Students will be issued a receipt for any items that are rented/purchased. That receipt must be returned with payment to ensure proper credit to the student’s account. The receipt and payment may be placed in the black box in the band room or given to a chaperone. Payment must be placed in an envelope marked with the student’s name and the reason for your payment.

Wind Suit

Students will purchase a two-piece wind suit (jacket and pants). The wind suit will be worn at competitions, when not in uniform, and as an alternate uniform in inclement weather. Students will be able to try on samples to determine fit. Wind suits will be purchased one time only, unless the jacket or pants become damaged or do not fit.

Wearing Your Uniform

- Long hair must be pinned up **neatly** under shako. Hair accessories should closely match the color of your hair.
- No jewelry, including wrist watches.
- **No hair dye/product or make up foundation that might transfer to the uniform.** This is especially important as our shakos and the shoulders of the uniform are white and hair dyes/products or foundation will ruin them, requiring replacement.
- Neutral nail polish only.
- No eating or drinking (except water) while wearing the marching band uniform.
- There are snap hems in both the pants and jackets that are specifically measured to fit each student so that cuffs lay properly. Students should be careful when putting their legs/arms into their uniforms to keep these snaps intact. If snaps come undone, the student can reference the name card in their garment bag for proper snap placement. If assistance is needed, a student may ask a chaperone for help.

Replacement Costs

New uniforms were purchased in 2016. If a uniform needs to be replaced due to negligence or improper care, either in whole or in part, the cost of replacement will be the responsibility of the student. Replacement costs are as follows:

Jacket - \$220
Bibs - \$110
Shako - \$65
Gauntlets - \$45
Plume - \$20

General Performance Guidelines

1. Only band members are allowed to sit with the band! This will be enforced by the drum majors and section leaders.
2. No gum during rehearsals or performances.

3. The full uniform must be worn at all times, unless instructed by the director.
4. Shoes must be cleaned and polished for each performance.
5. There is absolutely NO cell phone use prior to/during a performance.
6. There is NO "PDA" while in uniform, on the bus, in the band room, etc. Inappropriate behavior like this will not be tolerated.

Instruments

Students will use personal instruments or, if the student plays a larger instrument, he/she will be assigned a school-owned instrument. Instruments must be treated with care and negligence resulting in damage or destruction of a school-owned instrument may result in a charge to the student.

Transportation

Students are required to ride the bus or authorized vehicles to all events and competitions. If a student wishes to return home from an activity with his/her parent, the parent must sign out with the director at the event. Students may be allowed to return home with another student's parent or another family member if prior arrangements have been made with Battlefield's Principal. If prior arrangements have not been made, the student must go home with the band or with a parent. Inappropriate behavior on school buses or charter buses will not be tolerated. Violators will be completely removed from marching band (practices, performances, pictures, etc.) for a period of 2 weeks from the time of the infraction. In addition, the involved students will not receive a letter or a bar at the end of the season. The students will not receive any points for practices or events during the two weeks missed.

Payments, Fundraising and Student Accounts

All fees are required to be paid in a timely manner. They should be placed in the BSO black box in the band room, clearly marked with the payment purpose and student name. Please include a receipt, if applicable.

Participation in school sanctioned band fundraising is vital for our band program to be successful. To increase student participation, a portion of a student's individual fundraising efforts will be held in a student account and managed by the Band Support Organization Treasurer. These funds may be used for marching band fees, rental fees for gloves/shoes/socks, band trip costs, audition fees, or other initiatives determined by the Band Director or BSO. All monies not used prior to graduation or transfer from Battlefield High School will be returned to the BSO general account.

Marching Fees cover:

Uniform cleaning and maintenance	Staffing and show design
2021 Show T-shirt	Prop and set design and construction
Ultimate Drill Book App	Charter bus transportation, meals, and lodging for distance trips
Bus transportation to local competitions	Supplies, equipment, and repairs to BHS/BSO owned instruments and equipment
Meals on competition days	Administrative and other expenses as defined in BSO Budget

Withdrawing "Money" From Student Accounts

In order to apply credits earned to your fees, students will need to submit a ***Request for Student Account Funds*** form, found on CHARMS or the band website under Important Documents.

Schedule:

All practices, football games, competitions, and other scheduled events are **mandatory**. Please discuss any conflicts with Mr. Britcher. The schedule below is provided as a representation of the number of events and the general type of events to expect.

Summer Band Camp

- Guard and Percussion Band Camp: (~2 Days TBD), 9am – 5pm
- Leadership and New Members Band Camp: (~1 Day TBD), 9am – 5pm
- Full Day Band Camp: (~2 Days TBD), 9am – 5pm
- Full Day Band Camp: (2 Weeks), 9am – 5pm
- Evening Band Camp: (~3 Days), 6pm - 8:30pm

After School Practices

Practices will be held Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6pm-8:30pm. On Wednesdays, practices will be held immediately after school until 5pm. Friday practices, will be held as necessary. There will be no practice on Mondays.

Football Games

The Marching Bobcats perform at all Battlefield Home Football Games. At this time dates are TBD but are usually on Friday evenings.

Competitions

- TBD
- TBD
- TBD
- BOA Regional Competition - TBD
- James Madison University Parade of Champions - TBD
- VBODA Marching Assessment - TBD

Other Events

- Parent Potluck and Preview - August
- Tag Day (largest fundraiser) – Late August
- Haymarket Day Parade – October
- Band Banquet – December
- Manassas Christmas Parade - December



Battlefield High School Marching Band Contract

Yes! Please register me for the BHS Marching Band! I realize I must meet all attendance, conduct, and academic requirements as well as fulfill a financial and fundraising commitment to the band and Battlefield High School to be eligible to participate. *Students (S) and parents (P), please initial as appropriate, the following statements:*

_____(P)/_____(S) We understand that participation in marching band is left to the discretion of the director. Failure to follow the guidelines of the Prince William County Schools Code of Behavior and other policies defined by the director and the Band Support Organization (BSO) can result in disciplinary action or dismissal from the marching band without a refund.

_____(S) I understand that if Mr. Britcher and/or other staff members do not feel my work ethic, attitude, and behavior, in person OR on social media, meet the standards of the BHS Marching Band, I will be subject to dismissal from the band. I take responsibility for my part in the success of our program.

_____(P)/_____(S) We understand we are expected to pay all band fees, equipment fees, and any non-sufficient funds (NFS) charges at the time they are requested. Once submitted, these payments are nonrefundable and that outstanding debts will be submitted to the BHS bookkeeper at the conclusion of the school year which may affect the student's ability to graduate

_____(P)/_____(S) In signing this contract, we are stating that we have reviewed the band calendar and we are aware of the dates for band camp, afterschool rehearsals, football games, competitions, parades, and Tag Day. All events are mandatory unless otherwise arranged with the director.

_____(S) I know I am here by choice and will commit my time and energy to all rehearsals, performances, and events. I can accept constructive criticism as efforts by staff and student leaders to improve the band. I am proud to represent my band, my school, and my community.

_____(P)/_____(S) We understand that the student will be issued a uniform and will wear it with pride and treat it with care and respect. We understand the costs associated with the purchase, maintenance, and replacement of our marching band uniforms, should any piece of the uniform be damaged or destroyed.

_____(P) I understand parent volunteers are vital to the success of the BHS Marching Band. I will volunteer in areas that need assistance.

_____(S) I understand hard work, dedication, and commitment are necessary for the overall success of the Battlefield Marching Band. I will respect the director, staff, chaperones, parent volunteers, and my fellow band members and do my part to create a positive environment.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Student Signature

Date

Print Student Name