

BEARCAT BANDS



Union Township School Corporation

Katelyn Leonard, Director

Dear Students and Parents,

Thank you for your interest in the Bearcat Band and Guard program! We are working on rebuilding our marching band to make it a fun, enjoyable experience for all. Our primary focus is to support the football team and to entertain the fans at football games. For these two reasons, we will not be going to competitions this coming year. This will save the program, lessen band fees, lessen the outside commitment, and give us some time to rebuild the program before potentially going back to competing, and being more successful because of it.

Band camp will again take place in the first two full weeks of August. **Every student is expected to attend. Conflicts must be discussed with me well in advance.** A more detailed schedule follows in this packet.

Marching band and color guard members will all need to schedule band into their first trimester schedules. For scheduling conflicts (i.e. Concert Choir for guard members), please see me and we will work something out. We rehearse during the day to limit the number of outside rehearsals. There is a standing rehearsal after school on **Friday** nights from 3:00-5:00. This is a very valuable time we are able to practice on the Varsity field. On Fridays where there is a home game, we will rehearse and then come in for dinner and to change into uniform before performing. **The Bearcat Band and Guard performs at all Varsity home games.** On Fridays where we have no game, the students will be free to go at 5:00. I will get a more detailed schedule out as I receive it from the Athletics department. Color guard may have additional practices outside of school, and I will be sure that schedule is sent to students and parents as I receive it from the new guard instructor.

There will be one **Saturday** commitment, and that is the Popcorn Parade in Valparaiso for the festival on September 6th. We will need from about 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m, and then the students will have the rest of the day.

Each performance is a grade, and students are expected to be at each one. If there is a prior commitment, I need to have notification at least a week in advance to excuse the absence and provide make-up work (see the Band Handbook for specifics on this rule). Emergencies will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Thank you again for your interest, I'm looking forward to a great season with all of you!

Katelyn Leonard
Director of Bands
Union Township School Corporation

Schedule (Tentative)

8/4 - 8/8: Band Camp Week 1 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

8/11 - 8/15: Band Camp Week 2 8:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**8/29, 9/5, 9/12, 9/19, 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17: Friday afternoon
rehearsals (possible games) 3:00-5:00 p.m.**

9/6: Popcorn parade 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Stage Show/Fall Concert - T.B.D. (Late October/Early November)

Remind 101 Instructions

We are going to try a new service next year called Remind 101. This will allow me to send text message updates and reminders to students without needing to have their cell phone numbers, and without having to disclose mine. This is a free service, and if you would like to read more about it before signing up you can go on their website at remind101.com and look at their terms and FAQs. To sign up for the High School band/marching band reminders, text number **(812) 712-4770** with the **message @missleonar**. This will put you on the list. If you'd rather get alerts by e-mail, send an e-mail to **missleonar@mail.remind101.com**. The subject and message can be blank. Of course, I will still be sending out e-mail updates from my school e-mail address periodically as well.

Student/Parent Information Form

Please provide some information to help me stay in contact with you over the summer. If there is anything you are uncomfortable with disclosing, feel free to leave it blank.

Student Name: _____

Instrument(s) played: _____

Drum Major interest?

Shirt Size: _____

Shoe Size: _____

Home phone number: _____

Primary E-mail: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Mother's Phone: _____

Primary E-mail: _____

Father's Name: _____

Father's Phone: _____

Primary E-mail: _____

Uniform Needs

We will still be using the old marching uniforms, until we raise the funds to buy new ones. There are still a few things that new students and old students need to buy, which will be worked into the band fees. Color guard uniforms will be discussed separately, and their fees will be different.

- 1.** Band Gloves - \$2/pair. All students need to purchase these. It is suggested that students buy two or more pairs for the season, as they get dirty and torn quickly.
- 2.** Marching Shoes - \$30/pair. Students should purchase a new pair of marching shoes at the beginning of their high school careers. There **may** be recycled marching shoes that students can use, but we cannot always find the right size for each new student coming in.
- 3.** Band Polo - \$30. This is a new addition, and each student will need to purchase them. We will use these polos as our warm weather uniforms for early games and parades, and we may begin using these as our concert uniforms. Students will also need to have a pair of black pants, which they should already have from previous concert uniforms. After this year, only incoming freshman will need to purchase polos.

I will need these fees and sizes as soon as possible, so that I can order the items and have them available well before the first performance. Please let me know if there are any questions or concerns.

Sample Band Fees Chart

Being in marching band does have costs. As we have limited funding from the school, we have to offset these costs by charging band fees at the beginning of the season. We try to do everything we can to limit the band fees, and the cost does go down the more people are in band to share the cost. Here is a sample of the fee breakdown for the season (numbers will probably change):

Band Gloves:	\$2
Band Polo:	\$30
Marching Shoes:	\$30
Bus Fees:	\$15
Camp Instructor Fees:	\$20
Music/Drill Printing:	\$20
Show T-Shirts:	\$10
Estimated Total:	\$117

Again, this is an estimate (and a bit of an over-estimation). We will try to have one more fundraiser this year, and the students can raise funds specifically to offset their fees.

Bearcat Band and Guard Commitment Form

By signing the bottom of this form, you agree to the following:

- I will be present at all band camp rehearsals, for the duration of the rehearsal, unless prior arrangements have been made with Miss Leonard.
- I will be present at all performances, including football games, parades, and concerts, for the duration of the performance, unless prior arrangements have been made with Miss Leonard.
- I will be present at all Friday afternoon rehearsals for the duration of the rehearsal unless prior arrangements have been made with Miss Leonard.
- I will pay the required band fees or participate in fundraisers to raise the money required.
- If there are any conflicts with a band camp rehearsal, Friday rehearsal, or performance, I will inform Miss Leonard as soon as I am made aware of the conflict and make arrangements to make up the points.
- I will try my hardest and have a good attitude when in rehearsal.

Student Signature: _____

Student Name (Printed): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Name (Printed): _____