

**Forest Park High School
Marching Bruin Band
Handbook**

FOREST PARK HIGH SCHOOL



2000-2010

Seven-time Virginia Honor Band

*Director of Bands
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Working in "Harmony" for Successful Students

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PHILOSOPHY

- *Commitment, Dedication and Passion are key components to making any group successful. This is no different with the Forest Park High School Marching Band. It takes the resources of ALL those involved to become successful. We ask each marcher to be present at ALL rehearsals, performances, and sectionals that have been scheduled.*
- *We also need parental support at games, competitions and band camp to assist in the overwhelming task of creating music on the field. We thank you in advance for your willingness to help participate in what will be a great experience.*

www.bruinband.net

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHEN DOES THE MARCHING BAND PERFORM?

The Marching Band performs pre-game and halftime shows at home football games and will most often perform at the end of the game if it is an away game. They also compete in competitions and VBODA.

DOES MY CHILD RECEIVE ANYTHING FOR BEING IN MARCHING BAND?

Yes. The participating student will receive one-half credit hour and the pride of being a member of one of the schools most successful organizations.

WHAT KIND OF TIME COMMITMENT IS REQUIRED FOR MARCHING BAND?

During Marching Band season every student MUST attend daily practice as well as be present for football games and competitions. Sectionals will be held on selected Mondays from 2:20 to 4:20. Practices will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2:20 to 5:20. There are short "run through" practices before football games. Participation in Tag Day, our biggest fundraiser for the band program is also required.

CAN MY CHILD RENT AN INSTRUMENT?

Some limited number of instruments may be rented from Mr. Magee for \$60.00/year and kept for the duration of the school year.

CAN MY CHILD RECEIVE A LETTER IN MARCHING BAND?

Yes, a letter is earned after one season of participation.

UNIFORM DESCRIPTION

Band:

Consists of Blue/Green jacket, white bib overall pants, hat and plume. Another very important part of the uniform are the “whites” (current year t-shirt, band shoes, long white socks, white gloves, white shorts—biker, tennis—not boxers—shouldn’t be too baggy). Long underwear are a great idea when it is cold out. Undergarments must be white—no color or prints.

The uniform jacket and bib overall pants stay at school and are kept in the uniform room. Jackets are periodically dry cleaned throughout the season. Pants are sent home with volunteer parents for cleaning and pressing, as needed.

Shoes go home with the student and need to be cleaned with window cleaner or Mr. Clean Magic Eraser sponges. Be sure to bring your shoes with you for all competitions and games.

Gloves go home for laundering. Air-dry as they will shrink. Two pairs of gloves are provided each year. Additional gloves are available for \$2.00 a pair.

The uniforms were purchased in 2000 and are still in good shape. The replacement cost is \$500 for the jacket and pants; so everything you can do to help protect them will help keep expenses down.

Hair must be kept up under the hat by using pins or wig caps. These can be purchased at a salon supply store. We keep some in the uniform room and students can buy their own for 50 cents each. All long hair—girls and boys—must keep hair up inside hat.

No jewelry may be worn while in uniform. This includes watches, rings and earrings.

No make-up or colored finger nail polish.

While in uniform, we allow students to eat, but only those food items that will not stain the uniform. This means NO hot chocolate, chocolate candy, mustard, ketchup, colored drinks, pizza, nachos, etc.

Color Guard:

The color guard uniform consists of black jazz pants, tunic, black dance shoes (or similar type of outfit). Hair and makeup will be determined by the color guard director, members and advisor. Uniforms are kept at school, and washed by uniform moms. Same food restrictions apply.

UNIFORM PICK-UP PROCESS

Students must have all their “whites” on and hair must be up. Students will wait in the band room for their number to be called and then go to the uniform room to collect it.

Seniors may go anytime to pick up their uniform, but must be dressed as above.

Guard may also go anytime to pick their uniform up.

After the game or competition, students change out of uniform and hang uniform carefully on hanger and zipped into bag (just as they receive the uniform). Freshmen and new marchers are shown during band camp the appropriate way to hang their uniform.

Students line up in hallway to hand uniform bag and hat back in to the uniform mom.

Volunteer parents will check to be sure the uniform is hanging properly. If the uniform is not accurately hung, the student is asked to step aside and retry before turning it in.

Volunteer parents help store uniforms back in the closet.

Uniform pick-up and turn in takes a while. Parents most likely will have to wait while the students turn in their uniforms. Thanks for being patient!

Volunteers are always welcome and needed!

UNIFORM HELPFUL HINTS

UNDER YOUR UNIFORM WEAR

DO wear something WHITE – bike/tennis shorts, long johns.

DO wear your current year marching band t-shirt.

DON'T wear colored underwear, shorts or long johns – they will show through – polka dots, stripes, flowers and happy faces are cute, but NOT acceptable.

FOOD

DO eat plain hamburgers, plain hotdogs; drink clear soda, power drink or water – boring is the rule, but a requirement to avoid potential stains on the uniforms.

While in uniform, **DON'T** eat anything with color – no condiments, cheese, BBQ, chocolate candy bars, colored soda, pizza, ice cream, and nachos. Bottom line, nothing that tastes really good can be eaten while in your marching band uniform, sorry.

JEWELRY

DO remove ALL jewelry before a show or competition.

DON'T wear ANY earrings, finger rings, toe rings, tongue rings, lip rings, or eyebrow rings while in uniform. Should you forget to remove something after getting dressed, make sure you hand them off to a parent or guardian before leaving the band room. Leaving jewelry on the floor next to your clothes is asking for them to get lost. Placing them in the pocket of your uniform is asking for them to be added to our collection of jewelry in the uniform room.

FINGERNAILS

DO remove all nail polish prior to any show.

DON'T presume that because you are wearing gloves nobody will see your polish. In most sections, fingertips are cut off the white gloves and fingernails will be seen. There is a bottle of nail polish remover in our emergency kit in the uniform room. You will be told to use it if you forget to take care of it before you get dressed.

SHOES and GLOVES

DO have your shoes shiny and presentable for EVERY performance. WINDEX is a great product for shining, and Mr. Clean Magic Eraser will remove grime and scuffs.

DON'T show up without your shoes or you will not be allowed to march.

DO wear long WHITE socks; **DON'T** wear black, pink, purple, red, yellow or any other color of socks.

DO wear your gloves in the appropriate fashion. Keep them clean and keep them with you (don't turn them in with your uniform).

DON'T allow your gloves to get nasty. Purchase multiple pairs if you feel that you will not be able to keep them presentable. Gloves tend to shrink and become less presentable over time.

HAIR

DO wear all of your hair tucked up into the hat.

DON'T allow any hair to hang down or stick out. All hair must be shoved, pinned, clipped and placed under a hair net or do-rag under the hat. Please ask for help if you are unable to get your hair contained.

MARCHING BAND UNIFORM

DO know your uniform number and hat number. When uniforms are being handed out prior to a performance, it is all done by number and in an orderly fashion. This allows the line to move quickly and gives you more time to get dressed.

DO hang your uniform up in the proper fashion (the same manner in which it is issued) before turning it in to the uniform mom – training is available upon request or as required.

OVERALL

DON'T forget to follow the uniform rules – the uniform mom and parent volunteers will correct you. The first violation is a learning process, the second, or even third time will not be pleasant.

DO ask questions if you are uncertain about anything.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

What can you do to help make this season a success? VOLUNTEER!

Parent support is one of the strongest elements in the success of the marching band season. There is lots of work to be done in order to put on the show. The more parent support available, the more the director can dedicate his time to the students and the show. We have a variety of needs:

Band Camp: Volunteers are needed to come out during the 2-week band camp to help organize snacks and drink, facilitate gush and go, distribute suntan lotion and first-aid as needed. During band camp, we accept food and drink donations – breakfast bars, snacks, fruit, water and Gatorade. On the last day of camp, we have a cookout for the marchers and their families. Volunteers are needed to help with cooking, setup and cleanup.

Uniforms: Volunteers are needed to help distribute uniforms, receive them, and wash the pants.

Water Stadium: During the game/show, the stadium seats are covered to help protect the white bib overalls. Volunteers are needed to put the seat covers down and to bring the water and drinking cups to the stands. Volunteers will also roll up the seat covers after the game.

Third Quarter Concessions: Volunteers are needed to help our marchers at the concession stand during third quarter. This helps the marchers as well as the concession stand workers.

Pit Crew: Volunteers are needed to help move the Pit Equipment in and out of the trailer, as well as on and off the field at each game and competition.

Marching Band Banquet: Volunteers are needed to help organize, decorate, setup and cleanup at the end-of-the season band award banquet.

Sign-up sheets for these and other volunteer opportunities will be at the marching band cookout. Please come by and sign-up...it will be well worth your time and effort!

The most important thing you can do is SHOW UP at the competitions and games!

GLOSSARY OF FREQUENTLY USED TERMS

A/AA/AAA/AAAA/AAAAA: "A" is the smallest division of competition with "AAAAA" being the largest. A Marching Band is placed into one of these classifications based on the number of students in the band.

Captain: The marching band is divided into 4 major groups -- brass, woodwinds, percussion and guard. Each group has a captain to help support the drum majors and director. The captains are a large support to the section leaders and help with the morale of the whole group.

Competition: An event attended by multiple High School Marching Bands separated into categories based on the size of the band. FPHS MBB usually competes in the AAA division. During a competition we are competing against other High Schools for trophies awarded in categories such as Best Marching, Best Music, Best Drum Major, Best Guard/Auxiliary Unit, Best Drum Line, General Effect and yes, sometimes, Best Pit Crew.

Drill: The picture/formation the band creates by marching from set to set (see "Sets").

Drill Card: A card listing the entire field coordinates where each marcher must be during the show. Each individual memorizes his or her coordinates in the drill

Drum Line: A section of the band that marches percussion instruments. They consist of Snare, Bass and Tenor (Quints).

Drum Major: This is the selected student conductor and the overall student leader of the marching band. The Drum Major also acts as the student liaison to the Executive Board of the FPBBB.

Assistant Drum Major: This selected student leader has a combination of responsibilities, one of which is assisting the Drum Major.

FPBBB: Forest Park Bruin Band Boosters

General Effect: The entertainment value of the musical and visual program.

Color Guard: A selected group of students who provide visual accompaniment to the music being performed. Color Guard performs with flags and rifles, executes challenging dance routines, and requires a tremendous amount of coordination.

Gush and Go: Breaks taken during rehearsals, at frequent intervals, to keep the students hydrated and focused. Usually last 3-5 minutes.

Pit: A section of the band that does not march drill and plays all "other" percussion instruments not marched by the drumline. The Pit is usually located directly in front of the Drum Major.

Pit Crew: A group of volunteer parents responsible for the transportation and set-up of the Pit equipment for football games, competitions and VBODA.

Pre-Game: Held before home games. The Marching Band and Cheerleaders perform for the fans. Pre-Game typically begins about 7:15 pm. Parents and family members should arrive at or before 7:00 pm to see the pre-game show. The Band will usually perform “Celebrate”, the school fight song, and the National Anthem.

Scrubs: A pair of pants, worn over the uniform pants, to prevent unwanted dirt and damage to the uniform. These pants are worn whenever the students are not marching on the field and are seated in the stands. The scrub pants help save on cleaning costs and wear and tear on the uniforms – and ultimately extend the life of the uniform pants.

Sectional: A meeting of a particular section within the band. A sectional is normally held to go over music, particular parts the section plays, and marching. These can be held individually (i.e. Clarinets, Trumpets, Flutes, etc.) or they may be held by instrumental group (Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion).

Section Leader: A selected student(s) position of leadership for a particular section of the band.

Sets: Individual pictures/formation made during the show.

Stand Tunes: Tunes played in the bleachers during football games in order to pep up the crowd and our football team.

Superior Rating: Our biggest goal during the marching band season and VBODA. This rating is half of what makes us a Virginia Honor Band. The second half of the rating is earned during Festival (in the Spring) with the performance of the Wind Ensemble.

Tag Day: OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR! Our Marching Band students dress in their uniforms and go door-to-door, within our designated feeder communities, to ask for money for the band program. Participation in Tag Day is mandatory for all members of the Marching Band.

VBODA (Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association):

An annual competition held in the fall for marching bands and in the spring for Concert Bands (Festival). Combined scores give the school its music rating for the year. This event is the climax of the Marching Band season and is our motivation for working so hard. A panel of highly esteemed judges rates each band. The goal is Superior. This is our most unique event as we compete only against ourselves.