



BROWNSBURG
BANDS

**THE SOUND OF
BROWNSBURG
MARCHING BAND**

A Forward to the students and parents of the Brownsburg High School Marching Band

2024 Performers and Parents,

The directors of the Brownsburg Bands are SO EXCITED that you are taking part in one of the most rewarding programs in the Brownsburg Community School Corporation. We are looking forward to a very successful year. The family that is the Sound of Brownsburg can help define your high school career, and teach you lessons in life that many of us may not understand for years.

It is amazing to be a part of a group that is bigger than any individual, yet the individual is SO important to the whole. In the book and movies “The Jungle Book” the wolves have a quote “For the strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack.” This is SO TRUE for this marching band activity we do. This group can achieve AMAZING accomplishments and can push you further than you ever thought possible. Yet, YOU as an individual is what will make this group amazing.

In this handbook you will find critical information that applies to the Marching Band and Color Guard Program at Brownsburg High School – both for students and parents. ***Please take a few minutes to review the information in this packet together.***

After reviewing the information included here, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to any of the directors at Brownsburg High School. Also, please make note of any required fees for each performing group and fill out the required forms that are found via the online registration.

Marching Band registration link

<https://form.jotform.com/240235179213147>

There will be days that you may not love the group, people in your section, a teacher, etc., but our passion for music making, performing, and excellence is what makes us unique. Desire is the key to motivation, but it is the determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of our goal, **a commitment to excellence**, that will enable us to attain the success we seek. Students and parents, we are not telling you this is going to be easy, but we are telling you it’s going to be worth it.

Welcome to the family.

Chris Kaflik, Co-Director of Bands

Chris Paulson, Co-Director of Bands

John Marque, Assistant Director of Bands

Aylin Vural, Color Guard Director

EXPECTATIONS

For students to find success in the band and color guard, there are some general expectations that must be followed. Teachers and students, both, will be held to a high standard of excellence and commitment to our program.

Teachers Will:

1. Post/send a daily agenda.
2. Begin "on time" 5 minutes before the scheduled start time.
3. Support a safe, respectful, positive learning environment.

Students Will:

1. Arrive on time – at the correct location with full equipment in the proper areas, ready to begin.
2. Come to practices prepared to rehearse. Individual practice is your responsibility outside of the classroom, and regular practice is essential to our success.
3. Come to rehearsals with a willingness to learn and improve each day.

Each Day:

1. Participation from every student is expected.
2. Students must bring all required and necessary equipment to rehearsal.
3. Students who come to rehearsal late must have previously communicated with a DIRECTOR, as well as a section leader or drum major. Both sides of that communication must occur.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

To perform at the highest level and continue to improve as an ensemble, we must have ALL students present at EVERY rehearsal. We can achieve our goals with the full band and full color guard present.

Unexcused absences/tardiness

- A student will not perform for a run through, football game performance, and/or a competitive performance if they have 2 or more unexcused absences.
- A student is liable to be removed and/or replaced in the show if they have 5 or more unexcused absences.
- All of these decisions are ultimately left to the director's discretion.

Injuries

Marching Band is a physical activity, and there is a distinct possibility of minor injuries along the way. There will be days where students are sore, hurting, etc. **That is not the same as an injury.**

The staff is EXTREMELY conscientious of students who need to sit out for a few reps to recover. However, if a student is going to be out of a full rehearsal, they will need to have a doctor's note.

Students who are out of rehearsal with excused doctor's notes are still expected to be at rehearsal (and performances), and as actively involved as they can be.

If a student misses and/or sits out of rehearsal for more than 2 rehearsals without a doctor's note, their spot in the show is subject to being filled and/or replaced.

NOTE: BEING PRESENT AT SCHOOL (DAY OF REHEARSAL AND DAY AFTER A REHEARSAL) BUT ABSENT FROM THE EVENING REHEARSAL DUE TO NOT FEELING WELL IS NOT ALLOWED. IF A STUDENT IS WELL ENOUGH TO BE AT SCHOOL, THEY MUST ATTEND THE REHEARSAL THAT EVENING.

FINANCIAL POLICY

We understand that many students and families make a significant financial investment by purchasing and caring for instruments and equipment. As an **extra-curricular activity** band does include expenses that can only be covered by individual family contributions.

Payment Timeline

It is the expectation that every family will remain on schedule with the payments due for marching band and color guard.

Should a family need financial support, an extended payment plan, etc., please use the BBOP Financial Assistance application found on our website – **DUE BY MAY 12, 2024.**

Lack of Payment

Whether choosing to pay with personal finances or through fundraising efforts (there will be several opportunities to fundraise through the year), it is the expectation of the Brownsburg High School band directors that every student fulfills this financial obligation. Students who do not meet this expectation may not be eligible for participation in the ensemble, receive awards, or be eligible for major band trips. While we are not looking to punish students and families for payments, we do require funds for this organization and this ensemble to function.

Lack of payment may result in:

- Students/families do not receive a show shirt.
- Students cannot sign up for their desired bus seat/placement.
- Students/families cannot receive merchandise from sales through BBOP.
- Student will not be eligible to perform at a football game.
- Student will not be eligible to perform at a competitive performance.
- Student cannot travel with the band.

Important notes:

- Any overpayment of required fees will carry over (as a credit) into the next year/to another ensemble which the student participates.
- Any fundraising credit remaining after leaving the Brownsburg Band or Guard program will be returned to the BBOP Organization or may be transferred to a sibling. Credits from fundraising efforts are non-refundable. We cannot write you a check for fundraised credit.

CutTime – Student/Parent Accounts:

- Student accounts and payments are managed through CutTime, an online account management system (www.cutttime.net).
- New students and their families will be contacted once accounts are set up on your behalf. You will be given instructions for accessing your account, viewing balances, and making payments.

Payment of Fees

- Checks (payable to *BBOP*) or Cash – turn in to payment box in the high school band room.
- Credit Card – visit www.cutttime.net to pay online. There will be a convenience fee added to online transactions.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is a CRITICAL component of any successful organization. The directors communicate with students and parents through several outlets. We rely on these methods of communication for schedules, payments information, any changes, locations, etc.

1. ParentSquare – the 2024 Marching Band Parent Square will become active in late May.
2. Emails – please be sure the email provided in the registration is accurate.
3. eNews – our weekly communication email
<https://www.brownsburgbands.com/email-newsletter-sign-up/>
4. Facebook – Brownsburg Bands, Brownsburg Percussion, BCG Parents
5. Instagram – Brownsburg Bands, Brownsburg Color Guard, & Brownsburg Percussion
6. Twitter – Brownsburg Bands
7. Hard copy information is handed out to students (also emailed)
8. www.brownsburgbands.com
9. www.cutttime.net

CALENDAR/SCHEDULE

Please see the online calendar on the band website to view dates of camps, rehearsals, and competitions that occur throughout the season. **This includes the summer and fall break.**

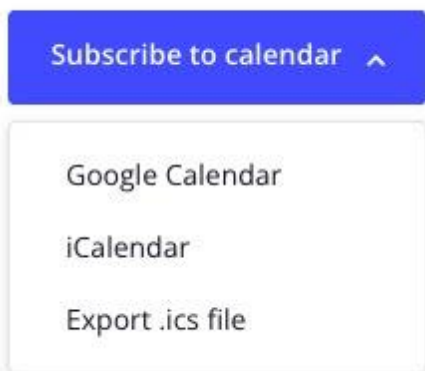
Brownsburg Band Website and Calendar

You can now subscribe to the band's website calendar via Google Calendar or your iPhone.

Go to <https://www.brownsburgbands.com/events/> and scroll to the bottom of the page.

Then choose Subscribe to Calendar > Google Calendar or iCalendar. If you have a different calendar, you can choose Export .ics file and import the file to your calendar.

As we update or add events in the future, they should automatically sync to your calendar.



POLICIES

Behavior

Member behavior is crucial to success in everything we try to accomplish throughout the year. It is important that students understand that they are not only representing themselves but the community as well. We are TRULY one of the most visible **ambassadors** of the Brownsburg Community. We expect to be a **FIRST CLASS ORGANIZATION** at all times.

- Students will present themselves with acceptable clothing, acceptable language, acceptable actions

Potential Consequence:

Continuous violation of the behavior expected from marching band members may result in removal from performances, award ceremonies, the marching band entirely, and/or repercussions determined by the directors.

Social Media

As mentioned above, the Sound of Brownsburg is a FIRST CLASS ORGANIZATION AT ALL TIMES. This includes being “first class” on social media.

- Unprofessional/inappropriate use of social media may result in:
 - Conference with the band directors and/or guard director
 - Ineligibility to perform
 - Replacement and/or removal from the show
 - Disciplinary action taken from Brownsburg High School Administration
- Social Media includes but is not limited to:
Instagram, Facebook, SnapChat, Twitter, Tik-Tok, etc.

We would like to make sure parents are aware that this applies to them in some ways as well. Social media is not the place for venting about other programs, our program, staff, students, other parents, etc. It is a public forum, and the expectation is that Brownsburg representatives are professional. It will also help alleviate some confusion if parents come to the directors with questions rather than trying to answer them on social media. Sometimes the wrong information is delivered between parents on social media, which circulates to others. eNews, emails sent by directors, ParentSquare, etc., can be trusted to answer all questions.

Cell phones:

There will be elements of marching band rehearsals that require cell phones.

- If a cell phone is being used for any reason other than what the director’s have specified, the student will be asked to hand their phone to a director or staff person. It will be returned at the end of rehearsal.
- A director may elect that some students are not eligible (trustworthy) with a cell phone, and that student will not have the phone privileges in rehearsals.
- Many rehearsals will require NO CELL PHONES on the field. If directors or staff specify no cell phones, the expectation is that they are on the sideline in a backpack or case.
- Should a phone become a significant problem for any student, they may lose their eligibility to perform.

PE CREDIT

Freshman members who complete the marching season will be eligible to receive 1 semester PE credit. The marching activity must be completed thru the last performance in November. If a student should decide not to continue, the student will not receive the full PE credit. Students can earn both credits by either marching for two years or being in a full year of color guard or percussion. This form must be turned in with registration.

Please fill out the form provided on the band website.