



## Everything you wanted to know about marching band... but were afraid to ask

**What is my Student Account?** An individual account that is set up for each member of the group through CutTime. Each family will also have an account with this web-based program. In Cut Time you can access account balances and online payments.

**What are the boosters?** (BBOP) Brownsburg Band and Orchestra Parents - This organization is comprised of all parents who have a child active in the Brownsburg Bands, Orchestra, and/or Color Guard program. Do you have a child in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade in band, orchestra, or guard? You are already a part of it!

**When are the Band Booster Meetings?** General meetings are held the third Thursday, every other month (odd months), at 7:30 pm in the High School Band Room (enter through door 15). They generally last 1 – 1½ hours. It would be GREAT if you plan to attend. A lot of information is given out at these meetings.

**What do my band fees/guard fees cover?** Brownsburg School Corporation does not cover ANY of the expenses that go into the marching band season. BBOP covers a SUBSTANTIAL portion of the expenses that your individual fees do not cover. Fees help to pay for supplementary instructional staff, design staff, color guard uniforms, color guard silks, props, all transportation costs – local, in-state, out-of-state – housing and lodging, etc. any time we travel. The color guard usually has some additional expenses throughout the year such as specialty makeup, hair necessities, tape, etc. BBOP is working to reduce these expenses through Corporate Sponsorships and fundraising opportunities. Student account activity can be tracked by using the web-based program Cut Time.

**What is the Booster Account?** Funds which are raised to go to Band Activity Accounts at the middle school and senior high schools. These funds are used for any purchases that the band and/or orchestra directors deem necessary for their programs.

**What is Concessions?** Members of BBOP man all concessions at the high school football events in the Fall. Monies from concessions are divided between all the band programs, 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

**What are Paid Events?** You can get paid (or receive credit) by working at concessions at events held at the high school stadium. This money is applied as a direct credit to individual student accounts, and no cash will be dispersed.

**Who are the Chaperones?** Band and color guard parents serve as chaperones every time the band travels. Parents also chaperone any overnight trips. All overnight chaperones will be required to submit a background check (no expense).

**Do I have to participate in Fundraisers?** Yes. Students will be required to participate in several fundraisers, which benefit the total program. Additional fundraising opportunities are given throughout the year to raise money for individual Student Accounts, which are required if you have a balance due. Direct payment for remaining account balances may be made in a lump sum or by a fixed payment plan. Student Account balances should be paid based on the timeline outlined in the marching handbook.



## Everything you wanted to know about marching band... but were afraid to ask

**What if I have money left in a Student Account when my child graduates or is no longer a part of the group?** If you have a younger child who will be a future member of the group, you can save the Student Account money for them to use at a future date. You can also “will” the money to future members to be distributed at the discretion of the band directors (e.g. hardship instances.) Money made through fundraisers or paid events are not refundable.

**Where and how can I make payments on my students account?** You can write a check (to “BBOP”) or collect cash in an envelope, and place that payment in our “payment box” in the high school band room. Please include student’s name on the check and outside of the envelope, with a description of what the payment is for. Fees can also be paid online via Cut Time.

**My student came home crying, what’s wrong?** WE PROMISE, as weird as it sounds, this is normal, it happens. Sometimes, rehearsals are hard and can feel overwhelming. Sometimes hearing your name called from a loud speaker about something you’re not doing right feels embarrassing. Sometimes gravity works against us and a flag or rifle lands on our head. The staff, section leaders, etc., will NEVER intentionally try to make someone cry.

**Is it true that the fees are very expensive and continue to go up?** The truth is marching band is an expensive activity, and yes, the fees have gone up in recent years. We are confident this is the last year of a substantial increase (\$200 more). With the slight raise in fees this year, we believe our budget is in a place we will sit (in terms of fees) for several years. There may be small fluctuations, but we do not anticipate any major changes that would continue to inflate fees. The fees have gone up due to the increased participation in BOA, the increased investment into the shows, and providing students with the best staff possible.

**Who pays for uniforms?** The band uniform is purchased new about every 10 years. Various interchangeable parts of the uniform are purchased on a yearly basis by the band boosters. The color guard uniforms and silks are purchased with fees. Parents and students are responsible for purchasing individual items such as color guard jackets/warm-ups, show shirts, other Brownsburg Bands/Guard gear. Band and Guard letter jackets are available at local retailers and are optional.

**What are the contests in which the Band will participate?** The marching band participates in several state-wide events. BOA events are in-state and out-of-state regional and national championships. In-state events include local invitationals and ISSMA State Competitions in October and November, which are hosted around the state. Performances are required for all members. Parents may attend performance events and ticket information is on the circuit websites.



## Everything you wanted to know about marching band... but were afraid to ask

**Is my child safe at marching band?** There are a number of reasons to consider this question. First, we always want to know our children are safe, no matter where they are. Second, the students are outside on extremely hot days, cold days, and on days when unexpected weather comes through. Next, the marching band travels far and for long periods of time. Students need to be fed, rest, moved to specific locations, etc. What about their reputation at school? **The truth is** the student's safety is the number one priority for the staff. All directors are trained for heat related injuries and situations. They also extensively study the locations for each contest before traveling so they know the best routing, safest areas, etc. In terms of the "reputation," band gets a strange name due to pop culture and movies. At Brownsburg High School, the marching band and color guard are some of the most highly respected organizations in the building. It is common knowledge amongst the staff and students that what the marching band does is very high level. Students in the band are respected. **Your child is safe in marching band.**

**What is BOA? What is ISSMA? What is an Invitational?** These are the 3 various circuits in which we will perform and compete. BOA stands for "Bands of America." This is a national level organization which holds contests in various regions of the country. We typically attend the BOA Indianapolis Super Regional and an out-of-state contest. We will now be attending the Bands of America National Championships, which are conveniently held in Indianapolis at Lucas Oil Stadium. ISSMA is the Indiana State School of Music Association. ISSMA's shows lead toward state finals, also held in Lucas Oil Stadium. Invitationals are contests held and hosted by individual schools in the local area. We host a Brownsburg Invitational in early-mid September.

**What kind of time commitment will my child have by being in the marching band?** Spring Training Rehearsals will begin for the wind players in early March. Spring Training for the color guard and percussion will begin after Spring Break. There is a commitment during summer break. We have one week of rehearsal in June which we learn early portions of our fall program and we prepare for the 4th of July Parade. We have another short rehearsal on July 3 before our performance on July 4. Summer Band Camp rehearsals begin in July, usually about a week before school begins. After school rehearsals begin when classes start in August, and they continue through November, taking approximately 10-15 hours per week. Many times, specific sections (i.e. percussion, low brass, woodwind, etc.) will rehearse additional hours during the week with student leadership. Color Guard rehearses approximately 10-15 hours per week. This doesn't include the time the group is traveling and attending a football game or band contest. A home football game includes a rehearsal, meal, Pre-Game preparations, a Pre-Game performance, and halftime show. Students are typically involved with a home game from 3:30 pm until 9:00-10:00 pm. Band Contests occur most Saturdays in October and early November. Band contests are typically all-day events. Detailed itineraries are available at band parent meetings, distributed to the students, via eNews, the Brownsburg Bands Facebook, and the Brownsburg Band's website.



## Everything you wanted to know about marching band... but were afraid to ask

**Are we allowed to watch the band during rehearsals?** Yes, PLEASE DO! You are more than welcome to watch the group, but PLEASE do not distract the students or staff. They are practicing and this is a very important time for the full group. Also, please keep the noise down; they are trying to give instruction. During Summer Band Camp, you are welcome to watch as well. YOU WILL BE AMAZED AT THE PROGRESS THEY MAKE AND THE DEVELOPMENTS YOU WILL SEE! Color guard practices are usually held in the gym or band room. Thursday evenings after the school year has started are a great time to come watch the kids. You will be able to locate your kid on the field and see what all they have accomplished.

**Is it true Mr. Kaflik never lets the students out on time on Thursday evenings?** He is known let them out at 9:00, and talk to them forever. But he promises he will do a better job of getting them out of timely and efficiently. Expect to see a run through begin around 8:45. Students are also encouraged to put equipment away quickly and go home.