



**BROAD RUN HIGH SCHOOL
MARCHING SPARTANS**

**STUDENT & PARENT HANDBOOK
2020 - 2021**

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Letter from the Band Director

Dear Band Members and Families,

Welcome to the Marching Spartans Family! The Marching Spartans is a group of highly dedicated individuals who come together as a group to accomplish great things. It is my hope that while a member, you will not only work hard to achieve at a high level, but that you will also learn to respect yourself and others while creating lasting bonds.

The Band Staff and I are all looking forward to working with each and every student that comes through our doors. Each member is important and must do their part for us to achieve the level of success that we have come to expect. In doing this, we will truly achieve great things!

Please be sure to read this handbook thoroughly, as it should answer most of your questions. From the end of June through July, the best way to reach me will be through e-mail (Eric.Blanks@lcps.org) since office hours will vary.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in August, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask!

Sincerely,

Eric Blanks
Director of Bands
571-252-2303

Mission Statement

The Broad Run High School Band Program is a fine arts program that is dedicated to providing the students of Broad Run High School with an enriching environment to help develop not only musical and performance skills, but also important life skills. We are dedicated to meeting the needs of the school community by providing outreach opportunities through performance.

About the Marching Spartans

The Broad Run High School Marching Spartans program is an extra-curricular ensemble comprised of winds, percussion, and color guard, and participation is open to interested students who meet the enrollment requirements. The Marching Spartans support the school community by providing pep band support, with an opportunity to perfect their competition field show during halftime at all home football games, and then proudly represent Broad Run High School in local and regional competitions. Much like an athletic team, the Marching Spartans function through practice, discipline, and teamwork. Each season begins with an intensive band camp in the month of August where members work hard as they develop their marching skills, practice teambuilding and leadership, learn drill, memorize music, and create friendships and cherished memories that last a lifetime.

Information, important dates, and forms can always be found on our website. Any email correspondence with band news or information will typically come directly from the VP of Communications, Tammie Willenbrock, in order to reduce emails coming from multiple sources. We also strongly recommend that parents and students join the Broad Run Band Boosters Association Facebook Group as an alternate source of information.

Team Commitment

The success of the band as a whole depends on the work ethic of individuals. You miss important information when you miss a rehearsal/performance, and the band as a whole cannot perform to their highest ability. We are a TEAM and each member's active participation is EXTREMELY important.

Eligibility

This year, a new eligibility policy has been established to strengthen the whole of the program.

- Freshmen and Sophomore Students: Winds and battery members must be enrolled in a band class. Front ensemble members must be enrolled in a fine arts classes. Case by case at the discretion of Mr. Blanks for Academies of Loudoun/Monroe students (AOS, AET, MATA).
- Junior and Senior Students: Grandfathered in and not required to enroll in band/fine arts classes.
- Eighth Grade Participants: Pre-approved in on a case-by-case basis from Mr. Blanks.
- All Student Leadership is required to enroll in a fine arts class.
- There is no Color Guard enrollment requirement.

Attendance

Band Members are expected to attend ALL scheduled band functions. WORK IS NOT A VALID EXCUSE FOR MISSING A REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE. Please make arrangements to be in attendance at every rehearsal. Missing a rehearsal or performance without an appropriate excuse may result in your exclusion from a performance, and in some cases, immediate dismissal from the Marching Spartans program. If you feel you have a valid reason to miss a practice or performance, you need to have a parent or guardian contact the band director IN ADVANCE.

All members of the Marching Spartans are expected to come to each practice and/or performance prepared and ready to participate to the fullest of their ability. Any student that arrives unprepared and does not actively participate will be subject to disciplinary action. This includes, but is not limited to: forgetting an instrument, not having a reed, mouthpiece, sticks, mallets, flags, not having music, drill book, etc. If you have a medical limitation or there is an instance of instrument repair, please let the director know so that accommodations can be made for you.

Commitment Night and Registration for Marching Band

Each year, we require all Marching Spartans participants and their parents or guardians to attend a mandatory Marching Band Commitment Meeting, which is held in May or early June. During this meeting, we provide a full presentation of details for the coming season and a non-refundable deposit of \$100 is collected for each participant.

For the 2020 Marching Spartans season, we will be handling the Commitment and Registration process online due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant closure of school buildings. We also will not be collecting any fees, including the deposit, while the situation is fluid. Registered band families will be notified by our BRHSBBA Treasurer once we are able to accept Marching Band fees.

Parents may register their Marching Spartans utilizing our Online Registration form, with registration open from June 1 – 30, 2020.

Required LCPS Forms

In addition to the Online Registration Form that is completed in May, the following forms will be distributed electronically to all members:

- 2020-2021 Music Department Emergency Permission Acknowledgment of Risk Form
- 2020-2021 School Day Extended Day Field Trip Permission Form
- 2020-2021 Authorization for Medication Administration
- 2020-2021 Student Accident Insurance Bulletin (only if elected)

A separate Authorization for Medication form is required for each prescription medication (completed by the prescribing doctor) that a student may need to take during the course of Band Camp or during a Marching Band performance. Parents may provide a copy of the form that will be submitted to the Broad Run HS nurse for the upcoming school year.

Melissa McConnell, of Student Services, will collect all LCPS forms upon arrival at the band room on the first schedule full day of Band Camp on August 10, 2020. Students who do not turn in the required forms will not be permitted to perform until the forms are received!

Participation Fees

The cost of running a successful marching band program is high. In order to financially support our program, it is necessary to charge a participation fee to all members. This fee covers the following services for each student: equipment, activities bus costs, the Official Marching Spartans Show Shirt and band shorts, dry-cleaning costs for uniforms, instructional fees for additional members of the Band Staff, competition fees, and various other expenses including food and beverages for the lock-ins before football games.

At this time, we have not yet set a Marching Band Participation Fee due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Once we have a clearer picture of the 2020 season, we will set the Participation Fee and notify families.

For planning purposes, the 2019 Marching Band fee was \$350.00. This included a \$25 Broad Run High School Band Booster Association (BRHSBBA) membership fee, affording each family with voting privileges at BRHSBBA meetings. If a family has more than one student in the Marching Band program, the fees for all subsequent siblings is \$250.00. In 2019, a minimum of a \$100 deposit was due at Commitment Night, to be paid by families to enroll each student in the Marching Band program. The remainder of fees owed were due on or before the first day of Band Camp.

The BRHSBBA accepts all forms of payment (cash, check, electronic funds transfers, and credit cards).

Over half of the operating expenses for Marching Band are paid for using Marching Band student fees, therefore it is imperative that these fees be paid expeditiously.

For remaining balances, as well as for any financial commitments outside of the annual fees discussed above, the BRHSBBA Treasurer will email invoices via QuickBooks Online to the primary parent's email address. These invoices may be paid online via credit card or checking account transfer by selecting the "VIEW INVOICE" link provided in each email and following the prompts. Alternately, payment by cash or check may be made by directly contacting the BRHSBBA Treasurer or by mailing payments to:

BRHSBBA
Attn: Treasurer
PO Box 1822
Ashburn, VA 20146

It is imperative that the BRHSBBA has current contact information on file including parental phone number(s) and email address(es), so please be sure to provide accurate contact details at the time of registration.

Personal Use Items

In addition to the participation fee, each member of the Marching Spartans is required to purchase items that will be for their personal use. Our Marching Band staff will advise students of the specific personal use items that will be required for the season. Examples of personal use items include:

<u>Marching Band</u>	<u>Approximate Cost</u>	<u>Color Guard</u>	<u>Approximate Cost</u>
Dinkles (Marching Shoes)	\$35-40	Gloves	\$15-20
		Body Suit/Tights	\$20-40
		Shorts	\$10
		Shoes	\$25-35
		Rifle	\$40-50
		Flag/Equipment Bag	\$20-30
		Hair/Makeup	Varies

Financial Assistance

We will never turn ANY member away due to financial hardship. Please [visit our website](#) for more information and contact the Band Director with concerns.

Pre-Season Preparation

Show Music

Mr. Blanks will make the show music available for students to download as summer begins. Students should make time over the summer to review the music and practice on their own.

*Summer Color Guard Rehearsals**

Summer Color Guard rehearsals will not be held this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

Marching Band Leadership

The success of the band is directly related to the dedication of each individual member and each person's ability to effectively work together. The student leadership team is an important group of upperclassmen who help to drive the pace of rehearsal, help other students to learn new techniques relayed by the band staff, and keep the morale positive – just a few of MANY examples.

Students interested in holding any leadership position will be required to complete a leadership application. Drum Major(s) are chosen through an audition and interview process in May with the Band Director and/or other members of the band staff. Beyond the Drum Major(s), Marching Band Leadership generally consists of a Filed Commander, a Brass Captain, a Woodwind Captain, a Battery Percussion Captain, a Front Ensemble Captain, and one or more Color Guard Captains who will oversee large group sectionals. Each instrumental section will also have a Section Leader (although Captains may also hold the rank of Section Leader for their particular instrument. Captains and Section Leaders will be finalized after the Drum Major(s) has/have been selected. The BRHSBBA will send the selected Drum Major(s) to Drum Major camp during the summer, prior to Band Camp.

Captains and Section Leaders may call Sectional Meetings outside of regular rehearsal time. Any member of the leadership team that will be calling a sectional should be sure to advise the Band Director/Color Guard Coaches (if applicable), as well as their corresponding captain. Leadership should also provide sufficient notice of a sectional so that all section members can arrange transportation.

The most important thing to remember is that each student begins working towards being a student leader starts as soon as they become a member of the Marching Spartans. If student leadership is a goal for you, start early. Being friendly, helpful, hard-working, and a team player will go far. Every member has the opportunity to become a leader; it is just a matter of what you choose to do with that opportunity.

Band Camp

Band Camp is mandatory! Absences are only excused under special circumstances and will require approval from the Band Director as far in advance as possible. Each member of the Marching Spartans has a specific, custom-written place in the field show and when there is a hole, it makes it much more difficult for the entire group to progress further.

Band Camp will be held on-site at Broad Run High School over the course of three and a half weeks. Plan to arrive for rehearsal at least 15 minutes prior to start time – students will be expected to be on the field and ready to rehearse at the announced start time. A good rule of thumb is “on time is late!” Families may wish to arrange carpooling with other band families to share the rehearsal transportation responsibility.

Students Should Be Prepared!

Band Camp is exciting, but also hard work! Don't be surprised if participants are very tired after a long day. Nutrition, hydration, proper rest, appropriate attire, and preparedness for physical activity are key!

We recommend observing the following tips this summer to prepare for Band Camp:

1. Water, water, water! At least one week prior to band camp, participants should eliminate sugary and caffeinated drinks and begin drinking lots of water exclusively.
2. Eat healthy meals. A good balance of protein and carbs will keep marchers on their feet in the hot summer sun. Students should avoid excess sugary and greasy foods and get into the habit of eating a non-dairy breakfast that consists of both protein and carbs.
3. Participants should acclimate themselves to the sun and the heat. August is HOT! Students should spend some time outdoors in the sun (with sunscreen!) in the weeks preceding Band Camp so that long hours on the field will not be a shock to their system.
4. In the weeks leading up to Band Camp, it's helpful for students to engage in some physical activity everyday so that carrying an instrument or equipment will be a little easier. Band Camp does include some physical training each day, so it really is helpful to at least take a walk, a jog, or ride a bike before Band Camp begins. Stretching is good, too!
5. Students should sleep well! Being rested will be very important – some marchers find that they literally fall asleep as soon as they get home from Band Camp. Students should start following healthy sleep habits at least a week or so leading up to Band Camp.
6. Plan ahead! A week before camp, review the list of things to bring to Band Camp and purchase any items that you will need. Don't wait until the last minute!

WHAT TO BRING TO



THE BAND GEEK'S GUIDE TO BAND TAN



BIG WATER BOTTLE
(we recommend the Bubba)

SUNBLOCK
(Trust us!)

INSTRUMENT & ACCESSORIES
(REEDS, VALVE OIL, ETC)

GUARD EQUIPMENT:
FLAG, RIFLE, SABRE

DRILL MARKERS
(Roll of Duct Tape/ Poker Chips)

MUSIC & MARCHING DRILL BOOK
(provided by Band Program)

PENCILS

COMFORTABLE, BREATHABLE CLOTHES (LCPS dress code applies)

LACE UP SHOES
(no sandals or flip flops!)

SOCKS

SUNGLASSES

HAT

EXTRA CLEAN SHIRT
(LIGHT-COLORED)

DEODORANT
(you're gonna sweat!)

BUG SPRAY

LIP BALM

EXTRA LIGHT SNACKS

HARD CANDY

GOLD BOND POWDER
(prevents chafing - don't ask!)

GOLF GLOVES
(prevents blisters, if needed)



Attire

Participants should dress according to the weather. If it is hot outside, DO NOT WEAR BLACK. Light colored clothing in breathable material are best for Marching Band Camp. Consider lightweight layers - tank tops and sleeveless tops are ok as long as they are in accordance with LCPS Dress Code/Rules and Regulations. Students may not wear sports bras alone, midriff or bikini tops! Shorts are recommended for extremely hot days.

Socks and comfortable sneakers (with good support – leave the Vans or Converse at home) should be worn. Sandals/flip flops are absolutely not to be worn on the marching band field. You will not be permitted to march if you do not have appropriate footwear!

August Band Camp & Rehearsal Schedule*

8/4/2020 – 8/5/2020	Leadership Days	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
8/6/2020 – 8/7/2020	Rookie Days	8:00 AM – 2:00 PM
8/6/2020 – 8/7/2020	Percussion Camp	2:00 PM – 7:00 PM
8/10/2020 - 8/14/2020	Full Day Band Camp	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
8/17/2020 - 8/18/2020	Full Day Band Camp	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
8/19/2020 - 8/20/2020	Full Marching Spartans Rehearsal	4:30 PM – 7:30 PM
8/24/2020	Percussion Sectionals	4:30 PM – 6:30 PM
8/25/2020	Full Marching Spartans Rehearsal	4:30 PM – 6:30 PM
8/26/2020	Winds & Color Guard Rehearsal	4:30 PM – 6:30 PM
8/27/2020	Full Marching Spartans Rehearsal	4:30 PM – 6:30 PM
8/28/2020	Marching Spartans Tailgate Party	4:30 PM – 6:15 PM
8/28/2020	Marching Spartans Preview Show	6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
8/31/2020	Percussion Sectionals	4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

What to Expect at Band Camp

Rehearsals are the most important time the band will spend together. Every rehearsal, new things are taught and learned. To avoid wasting the time of all those who are involved, please come ready to be an active participant/listener in rehearsal. Be prepared for every rehearsal with the group by practicing your parts at home. Non-productive rehearsing just causes stress and that is something we do not want. Be prepared to work hard! Each day begins with some PT – this may include jogging, stretching, and core-targeted exercises.

During the first few days of Band Camp, marchers continue to work on fundamentals and will begin learning the drill. Marchers will be provided with a drill book and a lanyard at the beginning of camp and are required to wear the drill book around their neck at each rehearsal throughout the season. Drill and music are REQUIRED at each rehearsal, all the way to the final rehearsal of the season. If a drill book is lost, the marcher will be required to make a new one. Students should make sure that they bring a roll of brightly colored/fun patterned duct tape or poker chips to use as drill markers. Time will also be spent in full ensemble to read through the music together. Over the course of band camp, music and choreography will be added into runs of drill sets.

Sectionals and Playing/Spinning Assessments

Sectionals will be held throughout Band Camp for more in-depth rehearsal of music/choreography, focusing on more individualized playing needs. In order to perform our best, everyone needs to always be participating to their fullest capability. Working in sectionals also helps to ensure over time that program music is memorized. Music MUST be memorized by the conclusion of band camp!

Assessments will take place during the course of Band Camp to make sure everyone is working on pace to memorize the field show. The first music assessments will be given the week after band camp, with playing exams that are administered by Marching Spartans leadership and/or staff members. Students will be given advanced notice before assessments. If a student does not pass the first assessment, they will be given a retest in the presence of the band director. Performance at the first football game may be in jeopardy for students who do not pass a second assessment.

Color Guard assessments will be dependent upon how much of the routine you have been taught. Lindsay Blanks, Color Guard Director, will determine when assessments will be given and what will be tested.

Lunch and Snacks

During Leadership Days, Rookie Camp, and Band Camp Days, the Band Boosters will provide a light snack during the course of rehearsal and marchers may bring additional light snacks such as granola bites and other healthy snack foods.

During full-day Band Camp, the Band Boosters typically provide lunch that is donated by our sponsors; however, due to pandemic requirements, we may need to follow a different lunchtime protocol. Water service may also be restricted, so students should plan to bring plenty of water. As soon as we have more information about our lunch and water service procedures, we will share the information with our Band Family.

Parents, we may need volunteers to assist with serving lunch, drinks and snacks! Keep an eye out for a SignUpGenius request for volunteer opportunities.

Photo Day and the Band Memory Book

The full band, sections, and individuals will be photographed for the school yearbook, the football program, and for family purchase during Band Camp. **Marchers** will wear their band uniforms. **Color Guard** will wear the Broad Run uniform or the show costume, if they are delivered to the school in time. Information, including any forms, will be distributed to students prior to Picture Day.

Photos of our Marching Spartans are taken throughout Outdoor Marching Season, Indoor Winter Seans, and during concert ensemble performances for inclusion in a Band Memory Book that is available for all participants to purchase for ~\$16.00. In addition to performance photos, a large portion of the Memory Book is dedicated to graduating seniors, who will be asked in the spring to submit a baby picture, a senior year picture, college/career information, and a “Senior Will” with dedications to their band friends. This Memory Book may be pre-ordered throughout the year on our website – keep an eye out in the fall for announcements about discounts for early pre-orders.

Instrument Storage and Cubbies

Larger instruments such as sousaphones and euphoniums are kept in the band room, and all band members will be assigned a cubby in the cubby rooms during Band Camp.

Uniforms

The BRHS Band Uniform for Winds/Percussion consists of: Jacket, Bibbers (pants), Dinkles (marching shoes), and Shako (hat), with a show shirt, band shorts, and black socks worn underneath. Marchers will be fitted for their uniform during camp. The school will provide the uniforms, which will be stored in the band closet and distributed prior to each performance. Uniforms should not go home without permission from the Uniform Parent in charge. Students are expected to treat uniforms and all uniform parts/accessories with great care. All pieces should be hung properly on hangers when not in use.

New marchers and returning marchers who have outgrown their Dinkles (marching shoes) will be fitted for new ones during Commitment Night or during band camp. The BRHSBBA will place a bulk order for the shoes to keep costs low, and parents will receive an invoice. Long black socks are required - we recommend that you purchase several pairs. The generic type you can buy in packs of six or more are fine (pro tip: have your student keep a full package of socks in their cubby).

For performances, it is expected that all hair be worn up underneath the shako – this applies for both male and female Marching Spartans. Please be sure to have an effective strategy for achieving this.

Show Shirt/Band Shorts

These are worn under the marching band uniform during performances, and the band/show shirt is also worn at various events throughout the season. Each participant is provided with one show shirt and one pair of band shorts by the BRHSBBA during Band Camp – sizes are selected on the Online Registration Form. Additional shirts will be available for sale from our Band Spirit Wear Store, open for a limited time early in the season. We highly recommend picking up a spare show shirt and band shorts – very helpful on weekends with both a football game and a competition! Parents should also feel free to support the Marching Spartans by ordering show shirts for the entire family!

Color Guard Costumes

Color Guard members will be fitted for a show-themed costume during Commitment Night. Until the uniforms are ordered and come in, each performer will be required to purchase, on their own, a “Rehearsal Blacks” practice uniform usually consisting of a solid black t-shirt, black Softe shorts (worn with black bicycle shorts) or black leggings, and black socks. Color Guard staff will advise students of the correct requirements. All Guard members **MUST** wear skin-tone fingerless gloves, regardless of whether they are on the rifle line or not. Gloves cost approximately \$12.00. Jazz shoes will be fitted and ordered for your student in the color selected by the Color Guard Director and parents will be invoiced. Guard members must bring their show shirts to all performances to wear over top of their uniforms when eating.

Guard members are not to wear jewelry – this is for their own safety. The Color Guard Director will determine the hair style and cosmetics that is to be worn during performances. Use any and all means necessary to ensure that hair does not fall loose during a performance. Nothing is more distracting than a random scrunchie/hair piece lying in the middle of the field. Any further questions about color guard should be directed to Lindsay Blanks, Color Guard Instructor, at guard@brhsbba.org.

Other Gear

Duffle bags, hoodies, jackets, and other items will be available for purchase through the Band Spirit Wear store. These items are not required gear, but they are highly recommended! Watch for more information about the Spirit Wear Store soon!

Rehearsals

Marching Spartans members will have regularly scheduled after-school rehearsals during the Fall Season. Students will be expected to be prepared and to work efficiently – drill books and music should be brought to after-school rehearsals all the way through the end of the season! Participants must be on the field at the downbeat of the scheduled rehearsal time.

After School Rehearsal Schedule

Monday:	Percussion Sectionals	4:30 to 6:30 pm
Tuesday:	Full Band Rehearsal	4:30 to 6:30 pm
Wednesday:	Winds and Color Guard Sectionals	4:30 to 6:30 pm
Thursday:	Full Band Rehearsal	4:30 to 6:30 pm
Friday:	no rehearsal unless there is a football game	

Most rehearsals do end on schedule and students will be dismissed from the field by the Drum Major(s). However, parents who are picking up participants should be aware that it still takes time to transport all equipment from the field to the band room. Once indoors, equipment must be stored in its designated area. Typically, at least 15 minutes is needed for this, so please plan your pick-up time accordingly.

School Attendance

Students must be in attendance at school all day on rehearsal days in order to participate in after-school activities, unless you have a written doctor's note. If your student misses part of the day for a doctor's appointment, be sure to request a note from your provider for the attendance secretary. This rule is strictly enforced by LCPS and no exceptions are made unless approved by Mr. Spage. PLEASE make every effort to be in school.

Rehearsal Attendance

All rehearsals are mandatory. If a student absolutely must miss a rehearsal, a parent/guardian is required to email the Band Director (or the Color Guard Director, Percussion Director, or Front Ensemble Director on Sectional Rehearsal days) in order for the rehearsal absence to be excused.

Rehearsal Attire

Appropriate attire will still be required at after-school rehearsals. Bring a change of clothing for rehearsal if your school day attire will not be comfortable and suitable for marching rehearsal. This includes proper foot gear.

Rehearsal Nutrition and Hydration

Snacks will not be provided during rehearsals once the school year starts. We recommend that students pack their own snack for rehearsal days, to be eaten quickly before heading to the rehearsal field. Students should always bring their water jug/bottle. Hydration is always important!

Performances

The Marching Spartans will perform at home football games, march in the Homecoming Parade, participate in the VBODA Marching Assessments, and travel to and compete in several Marching Band Competitions.

Performances are mandatory! Marching Spartans families should schedule other events and activities accordingly to avoid any conflict with our performance schedule. If a student is ill or other unforeseen circumstances occur, a parent/guardian must email the Band Director to notify him of their student's absence.

Home Football Games

Our first priority at football games is to support the team and to represent the Marching Spartans and Broad Run in a positive and professional manner. We have the opportunity to rally spirits for the football time, while it also gives us a chance to perform in uniform and make improvements to the show in front of our "home crowd." Students are expected to treat these performances as if they are in a competition.

Marchers should plan to wear their band/show shirt to school on the Fridays of home football games. There will be a rehearsal from 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm prior to the game, and the Band Boosters will provide dinner from 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm in the cafeteria. This dinner is "locked in," meaning everyone will remain together in the school and no one will leave the premises. The purpose of the lock-ins are to encourage unity, provide a safe place for the Marching Spartans members to stay between school and game time, and to ensure that all members are prepared for the performance.

At 6:00 pm, the band will change into their uniforms, apply makeup (Color Guard) and proceed to the field at the appropriate time. Generally, games begin at 7:00 pm.

The Marching Spartans will march to the field and play the Broad Run Fight Song and possibly the National Anthem, if a vocalist is not scheduled. Afterwards, they will move to their section in the stands. Sections will sit together in the stands. No one will be allowed in the band section of the stands that is not a member of the Marching Spartans or a family member. While in the stands, every student is expected to behave in a respectful manner. Students will obey requests of band staff members and parent chaperones, as well as reasonable requests of student leadership. When it is time for us to play pep songs, the Drum Major will call out a song and the entire band will stand and play. **NO ONE** is to play without the drum major or the band director's permission. Each musician is responsible for his/her pep band folder. **ALL MEMBERS WILL STAY IN UNIFORM FOR THE WHOLE GAME**, unless otherwise instructed by the Band Director. Shakos will be the only piece of uniform you will be permitted to remove. At halftime, the Marching Spartans will perform their field program at most games.

Band members will have a break in the third quarter where they will be permitted to take off jackets (weather permitting) and visit the restrooms and the concession stand, so be sure to have money available for purchasing refreshments. Bibbers have pockets in which marchers can stash some cash. Failure to return to the stand at the assigned time may result in suspension of this privilege for the next game

After the game, students return to the band room to put instruments away and change out of uniforms, but are not permitted to leave until after official dismissal by the Drum Major. Expect band members to be finished between 9:30 pm and 10:00 pm. Parents - try to arrange a meeting place in advance; the area becomes dark quickly.

Parents are not required to attend, but football games are fun and a good way to observe the progress of the band's show. Home football games are generally held on Friday evenings, though our Homecoming and 50th Anniversary Celebration will take place on a Saturday this year. Tickets may be purchased at the ticket window

outside the football field the day of the game. Your student may purchase tickets in advance for you during their lunch. Parking can be challenging especially for the “Battle of the Burn” game versus Stone Bridge and the Homecoming game, so arrive early.

The Marching Spartan’s personal cheering section (family and friends!) sits in the bleacher section to the left of the Pep Band when facing the football field. This section provides a good view of the half-time performance. If available, pick up a game program as a first performance/year memento. Photos of the band and seniors will be in the program.

Please Note!

You may videotape the performance at football games, but please refrain from posting the field show for public viewing on any Internet site, including your Facebook page or other social media sites. Copyright rules apply and the band program does not have the mechanical copyrights. The BRHSBBA will strive to record and share each performance with parents. Posting will be limited to our own secured gallery on our website and our secured Facebook group.

Playoff Game Performances

If the football team makes it to the playoffs, a pep band of available band members is assembled to perform in the stands during the playoff season. An email with details about playoff games will be sent to all parents and students, as soon as the information is available.

Saturday Competitions

These are very long days, so plan accordingly. Students will meet at school and travel to the competition together by bus. During competitions, bands perform their field show and compete against one another within a class structure. Students will return to school by bus after the competition awards ceremony is concluded. Competitions are mandatory! If your student is violently ill, please contact the Band Director immediately. A missing marcher leaves a hole in the performance and it could adversely impact the Band’s score at the competition. If you do not plan to attend a competition, **please** be at the school on time to pick up your child.

Performance Responsibilities

To perform well, each individual student must accept the following responsibilities:

- Every member will be at the school on time (which is early!) the day of a competition. If you are late, you run the risk of not being able to perform at the competition. Not only does that affect you, but also the entire group’s performance. **ALL MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE AT COMPETITIONS.**
- Every musician will memorize all show music by the end of band camp. You will be tested for this by drum majors, captains and section leaders (see Playing/Spinning Tests). Any member who does NOT have the show memorized by the first competition will be in jeopardy of not performing with the group!
- Each member will show respect toward the band staff, band boosters, chaperones, drum majors, section leaders, and all other Marching Spartans. Students must also demonstrate respect towards other bands. As a group, we take pride not only in our performance, but also in the manner in which we represent Broad Run High School.
- All members will sit together in the stands in the area designated by the Director, staff and/or chaperones. Again, every student is expected to act in a respectful manner and students will obey requests of band staff members and parent chaperones, as well as reasonable requests of student leadership.

Buses

All LCPS rules and regulations apply when on trips with the Marching Spartans. Students are expected to abide by all bus rules and school rules.

- Polite and courteous behavior is expected from all students at all times.
- Loud, obnoxious behavior will not be tolerated, as it becomes a safety issue when the bus driver cannot concentrate on ensuring a safe trip.
- Public displays of affection make others uncomfortable. It is an unacceptable behavior and will not be tolerated while on trips with the Marching Spartans.
- Bus drivers will set the rules regarding eating and drinking on buses.
- Personal electronic devices/MP3 players will be permitted on trips only if headphones are used.
- Students will be expected to ride the bus to and from performances unless other arrangements are made with the Band Director in writing (such as a note or email) by the parent/guardian.

Other Important Tips for Students

- Take pride in all that you do.
- If you are having issues with another member of the Marching Spartans, please ask an instructor for help.
- All Loudoun County Public Schools Rules and Regulations are in effect. The use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs is STRICTLY prohibited. Any break in this policy will result in your immediate removal from the Marching Spartans. Notification will be given to the Broad Run Administration and the local authorities.
- The use of foul language/comments is prohibited.
- All personal and school property should be properly cared for. Instruments and equipment should be packed carefully for travel with proper identification on all items.
- Each Marching Spartans member is responsible for the care and upkeep of their equipment. Each member should regularly check that equipment is in working order.
- Talking during rehearsals should be kept to a minimum.
- Rehearse in the same manner you would perform. It will not all to come together the night or day before a performance. Consistent, hard work is needed in order to have a successful show.

Performance Preparation

Required Items

Marchers: Uniform bag with uniform, Dinkles, show shirt, band shorts, black socks, instrument

Color Guard: Uniform bag with, gloves, jazz shoes, show shirts, makeup & hair accessories, Equipment (flags/rifle/sabre)

All students should have:

Duffle bag and/or equipment bag to hold above items

Money (for third quarter break or competition concessions)

****Note:** Cell phones are **NOT** allowed at any time during football games.

Gear

Marchers and Color Guard Members are responsible for transporting their required items to each performance. The Director will advise whether students will be traveling in partial uniform or if students will change upon arrival at the competition. The Color Guard Director will advise whether hair and makeup should be completed prior to arrival at the school for students' Call Time.

Note: Parent volunteers will carry the plumes. The Band Trailer will be loaded and a parent volunteer will drive it to and from the competition.

Check the weather forecast and, if necessary, pack a blanket or warmer clothing for students for the bus ride and/or to wear in the stands after the band's performance.

Food is typically available for purchase at competitions, so students should bring money.

Parents and Volunteers

Check the weather forecast! Waiting in football stadiums for your band to perform is not only long, but can be very cold, consider wearing extra layers or bring blankets/hand warmers, in addition to that good book, needlepoint project, or similar to help keep you entertained during down time.

If you have signed up to volunteer at competitions (e.g. pit crew, chaperone, etc.), you will receive an email prior to the competition with instructions on where and when to report. You will be required to stay with the band during the entire competition.

If you are not volunteering, but plan to attend the competition, be sure to bring money to purchase entry ticket(s), program, etc. These events are not free entry. Local competitions can cost around \$10 to \$15 per person; out of the area competitions can cost \$20-\$50 per person. Local competitions typically accept only cash, but credit card may be an option at larger events. Sometimes souvenir programs, t-shirts, patches, and/or videos are available for purchase at competitions. If it rains, the competition will be moved indoors and the Band Director will make a determination about whether we will attend the competition. The performance movements will be limited by space at indoor competitions. Many competitions do not permit audio or video recording of the performances, other than the authorized videographer for the competing unit. Still photography is permitted – but please, no flash!

Marching Band Competition 101 for New Parents

Competition Awards

Performances are scored and trophies are presented to bands that place within the top three in their assigned Class. Caption Awards are generally presented in the following categories:

- Best Music
- Best Visual
- Best Effect
- Best Color Guard
- Best Percussion

Judging Criteria

Using a caption system, seven judges are involved in the final ranking of the bands. Four judges evaluate the music performance and three judges evaluate the visual performance. *(Information obtained from the James Madison University Parade of Champions Program)*

- Music Performance: Individual. This judge evaluates the technical accuracy of the performance on the field based on how well the wind and percussion performers play together and the difficulty of the music being performed.
- Visual Performance: Individual. This judge watches the marching performance and gives a score based on accuracy, individual body and instrument carriage, visual difficulty, and the frequency of the difficulty, with respect to marching and maneuvering.
- Music Performance: Ensemble. This judge evaluates the musical performance based on accuracy and uniformity of the performers on the field. This judge considers the technical accuracy, intonation, and tone quality of the musicians on the field.
- Visual Performance: Ensemble. This judge evaluates the technical proficiency in marching. This evaluation is based on how well the marchers perform, the difficulty of the visual demands placed on the marchers, and how well the marching program is put together.
- General Effect: Music. These judges (2) evaluate how musically the performers play, how effective their performance is, and how well the whole program is coordinated to present a unified production.
- General Effect: Visual. This judge has the difficult task of determining how well the entire visual program including the drill, marching, and formations, affect the overall visual aspect of the show, as well as how well the group “sells” the show to the audience.

A note about Class Levels: Bands will only compete against other bands within their Class. The performances are scheduled in Class order where Class A bands compete first, AA second, etc. There is a break between changes in Class or in the middle of a Class with more than six bands competing. Each Class level has its own awards.

Class levels (A, AA, AAA, AAAA, AAAAA) may be determined differently between local, larger circuit, and VBODA competitions. Class levels are determined by the overall size of the band; however, in some competitions, the size of the color guard is included in this number and in others, the size of the color guard is excluded.

VBODA State Marching Band Assessment

Similar to a Marching Band Competition, at VBODA Assessments numerous bands will perform on the field; however, Marching Bands are not competing against one another at this event. Adjudicators will score the field

show and provide critique, then the event culminates with performing units being given a rating:

- I – Superior
- II – Excellent
- III – Good
- IV – Fair
- V – Poor

This is the first step to achieving the designation of Virginia Honor Band. Bands receiving a superior rating in both marching and concert festival will receive this designation. Further, schools whose Band, Orchestra, and Choral programs all receive a Superior rating are designated Blue Ribbon Schools.

Beyond Marching Band

Concert Ensembles

Most of our Marching Band musicians perform in one or more of the high school bands as part of their curriculum during the school year. Concert Ensemble performances are scheduled throughout the year, including: Winter Concert, Band Pre-Assessment Concert, VA State Concert Band Assessment, Music on the Lake, Spring Concert, and Graduation. Some of these performances will require one or two after-school rehearsals prior to the concert. Concert Ensemble students also participate in auditions for Senior Regional Orchestra, District Band, All Virginia Band and prepare solos, duets, and ensemble performances for the District XVI Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Symphonic Band

This performance-oriented band participates in concert appearances and Virginia Music Education Association events. Students continue the in-depth mastery of basic fundamentals of music while preparing pieces for performances. Performances and rehearsals outside regular school hours are required.

Wind Ensemble

Students in this class expand their knowledge and skills of instrumental techniques, tone production, musical interpretation, and ensemble/solo performance to an advanced level. The Wind Ensemble is a performance-oriented class, and students are active in numerous concerts and events. Performances and rehearsals outside regular school hours are a requirement.

Concert Attire

Special concert attire is required for the concert bands; fittings are completed at the beginning of the school year and students will be instructed to purchase any pieces that are not provided by the program (i.e. – tuxedo shirts for male performers).

Indoor Season

Many of our Marching Band participants look forward to the Indoor Season, which takes place during winter months, and provides additional opportunities to learn a new show and compete against other regional units. More information about Indoor Season will be provided towards the end of Marching Band season and clinics and a Winter Season Interest Meeting will be held at that time to allow for a presentation and program registration.

Indoor Drumline

Indoor Drumline takes the excitement of the on-field percussion battery and the front ensemble and brings it into the gym, with drill and choreography that is performed in tandem with a percussion score. As an additional extra-curricular activity, open to all interested band students, members of the Indoor Drumline have the opportunity to expand their skill on their primary instrument or develop skill with a secondary instrument.

Winterguard

Winterguard brings the art and pageantry of Color Guard indoors, with a broader focus on movement and dance. Many of our Color Guard members continue their love of Guard throughout the winter season as they perform a themed show on a floor with props.

The Broad Run High School Band Boosters Association (BRHSBBA)

The Broad Run High School Band Booster Association is a non-profit, board-led group of parents that provides additional funding and volunteer support to enable the students in the band program to engage in a deeper and broader array of activities, including significant travel opportunities, color guard, winter guard, and indoor drumline. All parents or guardians of students who participate in the Marching Spartans, the Winterguard, or the Indoor Drumline are automatically members of the BRHSBBA, as these programs require payment of a participation fee, including BRHSBBA Membership Dues.

The BRHS Band Boosters exist to support all band programs at the school; help to organize events such as concerts, fundraisers, and field trips; and provide parent volunteers to help make sure everything runs smoothly. These volunteers do everything from chaperoning trips to building props, painting vinyl tarp floors, sewing flags, and cleaning uniforms. Without the support of generous volunteer parents, the band program would not be able to function at its current level of excellence.

The BRHSBBA manages the funding and budgets for the Marching Band, Winterguard, and Indoor Drumline programs. Each year, the Association provides almost \$85,000 dollars of additional funding to these programs, and thousands of hours of volunteer time per year! Therefore, it is important that all band and guard parents attend meetings to participate in funding decisions. Booster meetings are held monthly during the school year in the chorus room — watch your email for specific information! We strongly encourage all parents to attend BRHSBBA meetings to represent the interests of your students and the marching band as a whole.

Communications

The BRHSBBA prides itself in keeping its membership and the surrounding community well-informed about the Broad Run High School Band programs activities and accolades. All email will come from the VP of Communications, Tammie Willenbrock. Feel free to email her at communications@brhsbba.org anytime you have a question! We communicate with the membership and students frequently throughout the Marching Band season and beyond to provide detailed information about rehearsals, performances, volunteer opportunities, meetings, socials, and Dining for Dollars and other fundraising events. To achieve this, we use a variety of resources:

Our Website - <https://www.brhsbba.org>

All forms, event dates, and announcements will be posted on our website – please bookmark it and consider it as the virtual ‘home’ of the Band and the Boosters program. Our website includes a private photo gallery where we curate photos and videos throughout the year, for each of our programs. Photos are available for download and videos will be available for viewing, but videos are not to be downloaded due to copyright policies. Password: Sp4rt4ns!

Email

The email addresses that you have provided on the Marching Band Commitment Form will be our first line of direct communication with everyone in the program. You may also contact the Band Boosters Board via email with any questions, comments or concerns – our Board directory is included in this handbook. Be sure to add communications@brhsbba.org to your contact list to avoid missing out on important emails!

Social Media

Public Facebook Page

The Band Boosters maintain a public Facebook page for publicity purposes – tell your friends and extended family about it! We post performance announcements, fundraising events, Dining for Dollars opportunities, photographs, and much more here!

<https://www.facebook.com/broadrunbands>

Private Facebook Group

We strongly recommend that parents and students join the private Broad Run Band Boosters Association Facebook group. Important announcements, volunteer sign-ups, photos, videos, and more are posted here. However, remember that this group is for band students, Band Boosters members, alumni and the instructional team only. Please do not add your extended family and friends to this group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/brhsbba>

Other Social Media

Broad Run Band Boosters also have a presence on Twitter and Instagram. Follow us @brhsbba !

Remind

We use the Remind text message system to send out important alerts (i.e. “our arrival at the school will be earlier/later than expected”) and reminders (i.e. - “Students should wear show shirts to school today – there’s a football game tonight!). Parents and students will automatically be enrolled in our Remind system to ensure that important notifications are not missed.

For Students – Click Image or Follow the Instructions Below

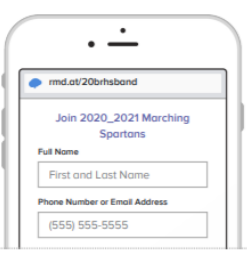
Pick a way to receive messages for 2020_2021 Marching Spartans:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/20brhsband

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

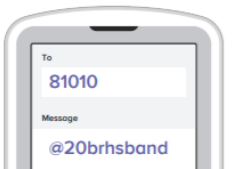


B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @20brhsband to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @20brhsband to (540) 369-4736.

* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/20brhsband on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

For Parents – Click Image or Follow the Instructions Below

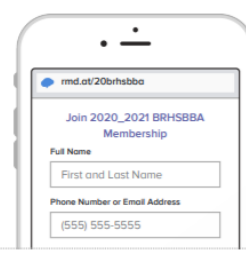
Pick a way to receive messages for 2020_2021 BRHSBBA Membership:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/20brhsbba

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

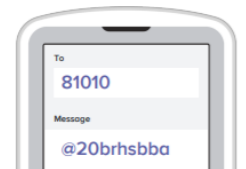


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* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/20brhsbba on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

Volunteering – How Parents Can Help

The BRHSBBA operates via a structure of a Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and members. Help steer operations by volunteering – we require a broad range of skills from sewing flags and maintaining uniforms to building props to photography to seeking corporate sponsorship for our program. We have a place for you in our BRHSBBA – just tell us what you enjoy doing! Please keep an eye on your email for requests for volunteers through Sign Up Genius. We will also notify families of our volunteer opportunities on our web site, emails and Facebook page.

Attend Boosters Meetings

BRHSBBA Membership Meetings are held monthly, beginning in August, and we encourage all parents/guardians to attend. Attending meetings is the best way to stay aware on all the happenings of the band programs, as well as an opportunity to share suggestions and ask questions.

Band Camp Volunteers

There are several daily jobs that will require parent volunteers for camp to run smoothly. An email to sign up for these positions will be sent out prior to the start of camp.

First Aid Volunteers

Throughout Band Camp, football games, and competitions, a Boosters volunteer will be designated to be our first aid contact. If you have any kind of medical services background, please let us know, we would love to have you serve as our First Aid volunteer. We provide a minimal level of first aid: provide ice packs and bandages, notify parents as required, and distribute Tylenol or parent-supplied prescription medication (only if *2017-2018 Authorization for Prescription and OTC Medication* has been submitted).

Football Game Volunteers

There are several jobs that need parent volunteers before and during the football game. An email to sign up for these positions will be sent out prior to the start of football season.

Competition Volunteers

Chaperone volunteers will ride on the bus with students and enjoy free entry to the event, but you must stay with the band at all times. Depending on the size of the band, chaperone spots are limited and we try to give everyone who wants to chaperone a chance at doing so.

Fundraising Volunteers

The BRHSBBA needs volunteers to coordinate our fundraising campaigns. If you would like to chair one of our fundraisers or would like to help out one of our fundraiser chairs, please let us know!

Media Team Volunteers

Our VP of Communications coordinates a media team to capture photos and video of performances. These are saved in our archives and also used to produce the Band Memory Book, imagery for flyers and social media events, and slideshows for the Band Banquet. If you enjoy photography or videography, please let us know!

Fundraising

Participation fees alone do not cover the full budget for marching season, so it is necessary for the BRHSBBA to hold regular fundraisers. Fundraising is most effective when every student participates, so we ask all students to make an effort with each fundraiser. Additionally, we rely heavily on parent support in helping to coordinate and plan each fundraiser. If you are interested in coordinating a fundraiser, please reach out to Adria Dyson, our Vice President Volunteers, at volunteers@brhsbba.org.

Our larger fundraising campaigns such as Saver Cards and TAG Day are uncertain for the 2020 Season due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Please let us know if you have suggestions for other fundraising campaigns.

Dining for Dollars/Spirit Nights

Dining for Dollars opportunities give Band families the opportunity to enjoy a tasty meal at a local restaurant which, in turn, donates a portion of sales back to the program. These events are most successful when held as a large Spirit Night gathering. We ask for Broad Run Outreach email to be sent to the entire Broad Run Community and ask Band families to share social media advertisements of these events with their extended family, friends, and neighbors in the area.

Amazon Smiles

Are you an Amazon shopper? Support the Broad Run HS Band Program while you shop online! Just visit <http://smile.amazon.org> and designate the Broad Run HS Band Boosters Association as the recipient of your charitable donation.

Harris Teeter VIC Card/Giant A+ School Rewards

We will share information for Harris Teeter and Giant rewards programs closer to fall.

Sponsorship

If you own a business – or know someone that does – and you think Sponsorship of our program would be a good fit for you, please let our BRHSBBA Board know at board@brhsbba.org. We are seeking sponsorships of any size, including meal sponsorship by local restaurants. More information is available on our website.

Student Services

Our Student Services team organizes Band Camp, requesting snack and supply donations, ensuring all student required paperwork is turned in, seeing to the well-being of the students during band camp, and overseeing all band camp volunteers. Student Services also coordinates Spirit Wear, plans our banquets, supervises the uniform team, and ensures that our First Aid bag is packed and ready for rehearsals and performances. We work hard to make sure our students have everything that they need for a successful season – from snacks during Band Camp to a band aid at a band competition. Help is always needed and appreciated! Please contact Melissa McConnell, our Vice President Student Services, at studentservices@brhsbba.org if you have any questions or would like to help out.

Contact Information

Mailing Address:

BRHS BBA
PO Box 1822
Ashburn, VA 20146

Website: <https://www.brhsbba.org>

2020-2021 Email Directory:

STAFF

Eric Blanks	Band Director	eric.blanks@lcps.org
Andy Schlaf	Assistant Director	andrew.schlaf@lcps.org
Lindsay Blanks	Color Guard Director	guard@brhsbba.org
Dylan Mercer	Percussion Director	dylan.mercer@lcps.org
Megan Constantinides	Front Ensemble Director	megan.constantinides@gmail.com

Full Board of Directors: board@brhsbba.org

BRHSBBA OFFICERS

<i>position vacant</i>	President	president@brhsbba.org
Tammie Willenbrock	VP, Communications	communications@brhsbba.org
Becky Beach	VP, Fundraising	fundraising@brhsbba.org
Melissa McConnell	VP, Student Services	studentservices@brhsbba.org
Adria Dyson	VP, Volunteers	volunteers@brhsbba.org
Kory Fierstine	Treasurer	treasurer@brhsbba.org
Barb Tanner	Secretary	secretary@brhsbba.org

2020 Marching Spartans Schedule

<u>August Schedule</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Camp/Rehearsal Hours</u>
8/4/2020 - 8/5/2020	Leadership Days	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
8/4/2020 – 8/5/2020	Drum Camp	TBA
8/6/2020 - 8/7/2020	Rookie Camp	8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
8/6/2020 - 8/7/2020	Drum Camp	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
8/10/2020 - 8/14/2020	Full Marching Band Camp	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
8/17/2020 - 8/18/2020	Full Marching Band Camp	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
8/19/2020 - 8/20/2020	Full Marching Band Rehearsal	4:30 PM - 7:30 PM
8/24/2020	Percussion Sectionals	4:30 PM - 6:30 PM
8/25/2020	Full Marching Spartans Rehearsal	4:30 PM - 6:30 PM
8/26/2020	Winds & Color Guard Sectionals	4:30 PM - 6:30 PM
8/27/2020	Full Marching Spartans Rehearsal	4:30 PM - 6:30 PM
8/28/2020	Marching Spartans Tailgate Party	4:30 PM - 6:15 PM
8/28/2020	Marching Spartans Preview Show	6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
8/31/2020	Percussion Sectionals	4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

After School Rehearsals

Monday	Percussion Sectionals	4:30 - 6:30 PM
Tuesday	Full Marching Band Rehearsal	4:30 - 6:30 PM
Wednesday	Winds & Color Guard Sectionals	4:30 - 6:30 PM
Thursday	Full Marching Band Rehearsal	4:30 - 6:30 PM
Friday	Students stay after school on all football game days only	

Football Games

		<u>Game Time</u>
9/3/2020	Broad Run HS vs. Brooke Point HS	Students stay after school
9/10/2020	Broad Run HS vs. Dominion HS	Students stay after school
10/16/2020	Broad Run HS vs. Churchill HS (8th Grade Night)	Students stay after school
10/23/2020	Broad Run HS vs. Heritage HS (Homecoming)	Students stay after school
11/6/2020	Broad Run HS vs. Stone Bridge HS (Senior Night)	Students stay after school

Competitions

		<u>Call Time</u>
9/26/2020	VMBC NOVA Regional at Herndon HS	TBA
10/17/2020	Possible VBODA Assessment	TBA
10/17/2020	Possible VMBC Woodgrove HS	TBA
10/31/2020	Possible VBODA Assessment	TBA
11/7/2020	Possible VMBC Championships	TBA