

Band Families and Students,

My name is Eric Blanks and I am taking over as the band director at Broad Run High School starting next school year. I am looking forward to meeting you all over the next few months and I am looking ahead to next season! I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well during this current time.

The launch of our marching band information and registration brings optimism and something to look forward to as we make our way through our current pandemic. While we do not know what next season might look like or what procedures we will have to work under, please know that myself, the staff, and boosters are working hard to make sure all students and their families will be safe and feel welcomed into our music community. While we are planning for a full season schedule until we are told otherwise, please realize we are considering other ways to make sure the Marching Spartans play a positive role in our community if we are given constraints to work under.

I bring to Broad Run six years of high school directing experience (with that other Ashburn school that is two miles away), including five years of drill writing and choreography in the marching arts. During my time as an educator, the ensembles I have directed have received numerous superior ratings and have had high levels of success, including international appearances. Most importantly, students have felt like they belong in a community where they can make a difference while learning life skills they will use beyond the band program. Prior to entering education, I appeared throughout the United States and Europe as a trumpet player. I received my bachelor's degree in music from Virginia Commonwealth University and my master's degree in music education from the University of Southern Mississippi.

While there have been some tweaks and immediate changes, please realize these changes are being made for the longevity and growth of the band program across all opportunities we offer our students. If you have any questions regarding these changes, I am only an email away and am happy to talk things through. We are also not advertising a marching band fee yet because we do not know what constraints we might be working under and that can have an impact on the budget. We will not turn anyone away due to financial hardship and all I ask is you let me know and we will make things work.

I want to express my gratitude and thanks to the BRHS Band Boosters Association and Broad Run administration for their support and help throughout the transition and planning for the upcoming year. I look forward to speaking and meeting with you all soon! Please continue to stay healthy, safe and keep thinking positively as we approach the upcoming season. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to get in touch!

Sincerely,

Eric Blanks

Band Director, Broad Run High School

Eric.Blanks@lcps.org