



Welcome to BWHS Band. We are excited for your child's participation in our program. The BWHS Band is comprised of over 150 musicians who will participate in Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, Concert Band and Jazz Band, which will require participation outside of school hours. This information packet is designed to provide parents or guardians an overview of the expectations and requirements for BWHS Band Students.

Participation

Student and parent/guardian participation is essential for the success of the BWHS Band program. Similar to high school sports, students who participate in high school band will be expected to dedicate outside school hours to the program to learn all performance music and marching steps. In addition, BWHS Band parents/guardians are encouraged to assist with volunteer opportunities (attached) supported by Big Walnut Music and Marching Boosters who raise funds for all competitions, purchase/repair and cleaning of all uniforms. Please contact the Boosters if you have any questions at bwmb1@gmail.com.

Forms of Communication

- Sign up for the **Band Remind** by texting @bigwalnutb to 81010 for the most up to date information
- Monitor BWHS Band website (at <https://bigwalnutband.com/>) which will be updated 2-3 days prior to an event.
- Visit the Music and Marching Boosters on their website at <https://bwmb1.wixsite.com/bwmb> or follow their **Big Walnut Music Boosters Facebook** to obtain information on upcoming events, fundraisers and volunteer opportunities
- FALL IS A BUSY SEASON for the Marching Band.

Summer Events

Practices – Marching Band students are divided into sections based upon the instrument that they play. Percussion students will be auditioned for placement in drumline or in the front ensemble. This is done mid-May.

Drumline & Auxiliary – will be encouraged to attend weekly summer practices (historically practices have been held 1-3 times per week as established by the drumline director).

Memorial Day: The Boosters largest fundraiser of the year is sponsoring the Memorial Day Flea Market. The Band typically participates in the parade hosted by the Village, while all admission proceeds to the flea market go to the MS and HS music programs.

July 4th parade - BWHS Band members will be required to attend summer parade performance on 4th of July. Band members will be required to purchase a summer uniform (shorts and t-shirt), the cost of which will be provided to your student by the band director. Payments should be made via Paypal (see Choir webpage, and scroll to the bottom "donate" link <http://www.bwhsvocalmusic.org/> - please list in the memo your



students name and summer uniform) or via check given to the band director (this cost is **not** included in your students Pay for It account). A practice will be held prior to each parade and will typically last 2 hours. Date and time of the practice, as well as arrival times the day of each parade will be communicated via Remind, Facebook, complete Summer and Fall Calendar and the BWHS Band website.

Band Camp: BWHS Band members are required to participate in Band Camp, which is held 8 am – 5 pm, Monday – Friday, which is usually held one week prior to the start of school. During Band Camp, your child will learn how to march and practice the music they will perform during competitions. The cost of the camp (\$60.00) must be made by the 2nd day of Band Camp (either via check given to the band director or via Paypay (with a memo indicating your child’s name and band camp) and will include lunch each day. Each day, after camp is over, the Band plans off-site activities that all members can participate in. Students will need to find their own transportation to and from the off-site activities.

Marching Band Season

Students will participate in the long-standing tradition of performing in OMEA Marching Band competitions. Participation in **all halftime football performances, early morning school practices and predetermined Saturday competitions** is expected of BWHS Band members. In addition, attending all sectional practices outside of school hours in which students are available is encouraged. For Drumline and auxiliary members, practices will typically be held 2 days each week outside of school.

Uniform: During Band Camp, each member will be fitted for their Marching Band uniform which will include pants, jacket, hat, raincoat and gloves. Compensation for purchasing a replacement piece for any lost or damaged uniform is the responsibility of the student. Plain black socks and all black marching shoes (including soles and shoelaces with no noticeable emblems or reflective surfaces) are the responsibility of the student. Please see Mr. Porter for suggestions on where to purchase shoes. The uniform will be worn for football game performances (unless notified by Mr. Porter) and all competitions.

Practices: BWHS Band is 1st period every day. Starting the second week of school until the last competition date, twice a week, band members will be required to arrive at school by zero period (or 7 am). Historically, zero period band has been held Tuesdays and Wednesday, however the band director will announce the exact days at the beginning of the school year.

Football Games: Every Friday night football game includes a half-time band performance. Students should arrive at the High School approximately 2 hours prior to the start of the game for home games or bus departure for away games. The exact arrival time will be posted on the entrance to the band room the Monday prior to the Friday game and the band’s website the Wednesday prior to the Friday game. Band members are required



to stay for the entire football game, regardless of the weather. After games, members are responsible for returning their uniform to the band room and storing their instruments.

Hospitality: BWHS Band hosts a cookie and refreshment table during 3rd quarter for all home games for the opposing teams band members to attend. Each instrument section will be designated one game in which the students must provide 24 cookies and a 24 pack of pop/water. Students must bring in the supplies by 5:00 the Friday they are assigned. Mr. Porter will post section designations at the beginning of the school year, so please ask your student which home game they have been designated.

Competitions: BWHS Band will participate in three marching competitions and parent support for each event is encouraged. Similar to Friday night football games, Band members are required to arrive at BWHS a couple hours prior to the competition start time. Exact arrival time will be posted on the Band's website and provided to students in class with Percussion member arriving earlier than the remainder of the Band. Since students are generally gone for six or more hours, sending money for the concession stand is encouraged. Parents are provided estimated arrival times of the return buses via Remind.

Early Dismissal: If a parent wishes to sign their student out of the return bus for away games or competitions, they must locate the red BWHS Eagle equipment bus and sign out their student after the end of the game or award ceremony. Buses can not leave unless all students are accounted for, so please ensure you have signed your student. Student who do not ride the bus home from the game are responsible for arranging for the return and storage of their instrument by another student (if applicable) and will be required to return their band uniform to school the next day they attend school.

Pep Band

Band members are required to participate in a minimum of three pep band performances during Big Walnut's Boy's & Girl's Basketball home games. Students will arrive at BWHS during the JV game to select and practice the music which will be played prior to the start of the Varsity game. After the end of their performance, they will be released to go home or may opt to watch the Varsity game at no charge.



Concert Season

In late October, students will receive a schedule for audition times and the concert music for auditions for Wind Ensemble and Concert Band. Auditions are held by sections during class 1st period.

Winter Concert: The date for the Band/Choir Winter concert is announced in August. The concert is held at Big Walnut High School for any person who wishes to attend at no cost.

Spring Competitions: Late February, the dates for the Wind Ensemble and Concert Band will be announced in addition to the dates for the State competition (should a group qualify). The exact start times for the competition will be communicated two weeks prior to event and if a group qualifies for the State competition the date and time which they will perform will be provided when it is known.

Spring Concert: In May, both bands will participate in a Spring Concert at BWHS and senior students will be recognized. The exact date and time of the concert will be provided in April.

Music Trips

Every other school year (during even school years, i.e. 2020/2021), Band and Choir students can attend in a school trip. Typically, trips will include a performance given by BWHS Band and Choir students. Trips in the past have included Bahamas, Walt Disney World, Chicago, New Orleans and New York. Incoming Freshman along with immediate family members/guardians, are eligible to participate in trips as well. Information on the school trip will be available on the Band and Choir websites along with the payment schedule. Students are responsible for all trip payments. Students will be excused from any of their classes for these trips but will be responsible to make up all homework. Payments are made via a the BWHS Choir website (<http://www.bwhsvocalmusic.org/>). Look for the PayPal donation link at the bottom of the page.