

June 1, 2022

Dear BWHS Band Parents:

Welcome to the 2022-23 season of "The Pride of Big Walnut" Golden Eagle Marching Band!! Enclosed in this mailing is a calendar of our events for the summer and fall. I also would like to make sure everyone is familiar with our band website, [www.bigwalnutband.com](http://www.bigwalnutband.com). That is the best place to find answers to most questions!

Our first big event is the Sunbury Independence Day Parade held on Monday, July 4th. Please note on the calendar that we have ONE parade practice scheduled for June 30 to prepare for this performance. I've tried to keep the rehearsals to a minimum so it's very important that everyone be in attendance at our practice and performance. The parade is the community's first impression of the BWHS marching band for the coming season and we want it to be a good one! If for whatever reason your student cannot make it to one of these events, email me immediately. Unexcused or unaccounted for absences are unacceptable!

We will be using the same summer uniform as last year, so if you did not order a new shirt or shorts you are already set! If veterans ordered new items they will be ready at the parade practice. All new members had items ordered for them. Shirts and shorts are \$10 each and can be paid for at the practice or parade.

Please also check out the calendar for the month of August. In learning our show for the fall, we have band camp at BWHS from 8 am until 5 pm from August 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>. It is VERY IMPORTANT that all members be at these rehearsals!!! This is when we teach the visual aspects of our marching show and any absences severely hurt the performance effectiveness of the group and put the missing members behind in learning the show. We also fit all members for their fall uniform during camp week so that we can get our full band picture (in full uniform) on Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. *We do understand that many students show animals at the Hartford Fair during home camp and excuse them from rehearsals the day that they show animals, projects, etc. We also work closely with our fall athletes that are in band and coordinate with coaches so that students can participate in athletic practices/scrimmages as well as band practices. We like that our students are involved in many activities!*

As mentioned above, band camp will be from 8 am until 5:00 pm from August 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>. We also are planning to have some very fun, chaperoned social activities in the evenings that students as well as parents are welcome to attend. The cost of band camp will be \$50.00 per student and will cover all catered lunches as well as social activities. *Again, we work with our fall athletes so that students can participate in both athletic practices/scrimmages and band rehearsals. We have done this for many years without a problem!*

**I would also like to invite all parents to become members of the Big Walnut Music and Marching Boosters. This group of dedicated parents is vital to the success of the band, choir, and color guard at Big Walnut High School. The next scheduled meeting of the boosters is on Thursday, June 23rd at 7:00 at PJ's Restaurant in Sunbury. All parents of band, choir, and color guard members are encouraged to get involved in this group!**

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me via my school email at [craigporter@bwls.net](mailto:craigporter@bwls.net) We are proud of the band program at Big Walnut and are excited that you and your student will be a part of it!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig Porter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "P" at the end.

Craig Porter

Director of Bands

Big Walnut High School