

# **Bangor Area High School Slater Marching Band**



Handbook

2022-2023

## **About the Marching Band**

The Marching Band is a musical ensemble comprised of woodwind, brass, percussion, color guard, and honor guard members, which is organized each spring for the duration of the following school year. For over forty years the Marching Band has paid tribute to the Welsh heritage of Bangor, PA, a slate mining town settled in 1760 by immigrants from the slate mining village of Bangor, Wales. The uniforms, marching style, and musical traditions of the Marching Band are patterned after Her Majesty's Royal Welsh Guard, a regiment of the British Army, founded in 1915.

The Marching Band has performed for the National Gymanfa Ganu twice in Harrisburg, PA and once in Ottawa, Canada, as well as for the North American Festival of Wales in Pittsburgh, PA. In 2007, the Marching Band visited Bangor, Wales during its "Tribute To Heroes" Tour across Wales, England, and Ireland, which included performances at numerous cultural and historical landmarks.

The Marching Band has performed in the National Bicentennial Parade in Philadelphia, PA; the Niagara Falls Blossom Festival in Niagara Falls, Canada; the Miss America Parade in Atlantic City, NJ; the Walt Disney World Magic Kingdom Parade in Orlando, FL; the Celtic Classic Festival "Showing of the Tartan" Parade in Bethlehem, PA; Philadelphia Phillies Pregames; the Hershey Centennial Grande Feature Parade in Hershey, PA; the Gator Bowl Parade in Jacksonville, FL; the West Virginia Strawberry Festival in Buckhannon, WV; the New York City Veterans' Day Parade; the King Frost Parade in Hamburg, PA; and the Scranton St. Patrick's Parade in Scranton, PA. The Marching Band was also the first band to perform at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset County, PA.

The Marching Band performs regularly at football games, competitions, parades, school functions, community events, and music department concerts. Each year the Slater Band hosts a marching band competition at Bangor's Memorial Park.

## **Program Goals**

- To provide a safe environment for students to grow both as musicians and young adults
- To instill in students a life-long love of music and the arts
- To give students the opportunity to work together to experience success and adversity as a part of a larger unit
- To enhance the Slater Pride of all students in Bangor Area Schools and support all athletics and activities at Bangor Area High School
- To serve as musical ambassadors for Bangor, Pennsylvania both at home and on the road

## **Eligibility/Academic Responsibility**

Any student who is in grades 9-12 is eligible to participate in the Marching Band. All school district policies regarding academic eligibility will be followed for this organization. In order to remain eligible throughout the duration of the season, students must maintain a passing grade in at least 4 of 5 classes. Students who fail to do so will be ineligible to perform for the at least the remainder of the week, or until they raise their grade to the district academic standard. Students on academic probation are required to meet with the director to formulate an academic improvement plan. Additionally, any student who fails 3 or more classes at the end of the spring semester, will be ineligible for the first 2 weeks of the following fall semester unless credits are recovered over the summer.

## Pre-camp summer Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be held during the summer to learn the music, marching fundamentals & for the fall field show. This show will be performed at both football games and Marching Band competitions. We understand families take vacations and students work different hours in the summer. Important information will be given at these rehearsals and we ask that students who are able make every effort to attend. Students' families must provide transportation to and from these summer rehearsals. Please remember to wear sneakers. Also, remember to bring a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and water, as well as your instrument/flip folder/lyre or flag/notebook and a pencil.

## Band Camp

Attendance at band camp is MANDATORY for all marching band students. We ask that any family vacations and student work schedules be planned around our two-week band camp. **Band Camp 2022 will be M-Th August 8-11 and August 15-19.** During these two weeks, we work to learn the field show, rehearse fundamentals and understand each other and the history of this program. If a student has to miss any part of band camp, notice must be given to the director at least 48 hours in advance, and it is at the discretion of the director if the absence shall be excused.

## School Year Rehearsals

**ALL** students are expected to attend **ALL** rehearsals.

The director will attempt to work with coaches of fall athletic teams and other advisors in an effort to allow all students to participate in more than one activity. Students should make a conscious effort to split time evenly between their extra-curricular commitment.

## Attendance

As a member of the Marching Band, you are expected to make adjustments in your schedule to participate in this organization. Both parents/guardians and students should view attendance at any Marching Band function as essential and mandatory. Please schedule doctor's appointments and/or work around our rehearsals and performances.

*\*\*\*Students will be excused from a maximum of five (5) rehearsals during the course of the season. Students will only be excused from performances at the director's discretion.\*\*\**

**Any absences (including late arrivals or early dismissals) must be cleared with Mr. Horne in 48 Hours prior to rehearsal, using the official absence form. No other documentation will be accepted, including notification by email. Emergencies will be considered on a case-by-case basis.**

One (1) unexcused absence will result in a one performance suspension of the privilege to perform with the Marching Band. Two (2) unexcused absences will result in a two-performance suspension of the privilege to perform with the Marching Band. Three (3) unexcused absences will result in a student being dismissed from the Marching Band.

Should a student decide to leave the organization during the course of the season, or be dismissed from the Marching Band, he or she may rejoin the Marching Band at the beginning of the next season at the director and school administration's discretion.

### **Uniforms/Equipment**

Marching Band uniforms are provided for each student. The uniforms are dry-cleaned during the season. It is the students' responsibility to maintain their uniforms in a presentable condition in between these cleanings. Each member of the Marching Band will be held financially responsible for any damage to or loss of any school district owned property. All equipment should be put away after every rehearsal or performance.

Several items (that the students are permitted to keep) must be purchased. All students must purchase a maroon Marching Band polo shirt, black marching band show shirt, and a clear Marching Band raincoat. Instrumentalists must also have: black dress or crew socks, black marching band shoes, and an instrument lyre. Color Guard students must purchase: tan color guard gloves, a black short sleeve leotard, black opaque tights, and black color guard shoes.

Jewelry is limited to stud earrings. Any other ear/facial piercings, including gauges, will be left to the discretion of the director. Long hair will need to be tied up while in uniform. Hair dye and excessive make up is prohibited to protect the uniforms. All students should maintain a well-groomed appearance and practice proper hygiene.

**You will not be permitted to perform if you do not have all the necessary parts of your uniform.**

### **Behavior/Rules**

1. Students are not permitted to leave a Marching Band rehearsal or performance for any reason without written consent from a parent/guardian.
2. Use of a cell phone is not permitted during any rehearsal or performance. If you are seen using a cell phone during an inappropriate time, the director or another staff member has the right to remove it from you until the conclusion of that performance, at which time it will be returned.
3. During performances, always wear your full uniform, unless given other instructions by the director or another staff member.
4. Buses:
  - a. Students are not to hang uniforms from the bus windows.
  - b. Students are expected to remain seated and refrain from inappropriate behavior.
  - c. Students are to remain appropriately clothed at all times.
  - d. Students who choose to listen to music must have headphones, unless given other permission by the director or another staff member.
5. Football Games:
  - a. Students must sit with their sections.
  - b. Non-Marching Band members may not sit with the band.
  - c. Students must remain in the stands unless given other permission by the director or another staff member.
  - d. Only water is permitted in the stands (unless it is 3rd quarter break). All other drinks/snacks must be finished before the end of the 3rd quarter.

- e. All accessories worn in the stands (hats, scarves, gloves, etc.) must either be maroon, white, or black.
  - f. Nothing other than the clear Marching Band raincoats may be worn over the uniform.
  - g. Always be respectful of the other Marching Bands.
6. Please refrain from public displays of affection.
  7. Please refrain from using profanity, tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.
  8. Please remember that all Bangor Area School District policies and rules are in effect during Marching Band!

### **Communication**

[www.bangorareabands.com](http://www.bangorareabands.com)

BAND APP

Email: [horneke@bangorsd.org](mailto:horneke@bangorsd.org)

Communication regarding pertinent information will be regularly communicated via the BAND app. All students and parents should use BAND to find the most up to date rehearsal and performance information.

Please be aware that when using any form of social media, you are not only representing yourself, but Bangor Area High School and the Bangor Bands program as well. Information you post on any of these sites may be viewed by a third party and have a potentially negative impact for both you and the organizations with which you are associated.

**THINK** before you post!