

# Bloomington High School Bands

For decades the Band Program at Bloomington High School has produced outstanding performances and trained musicians to be able to perform not only in school music groups, but in college ensembles and a variety of other venues outside of the academic environment. We are proud of the musicians who have been members of the bands through the years, many of whom have gone on to performing in college bands and even into professional musical careers. Whether a student chooses a career in music or not, he or she will have the tools to make music a satisfying part of life. Our students learn more than just how to play an instrument in an acceptable fashion – they learn about music history, music theory and composition, and the artistry of interpretation that is necessary to communicate effectively with an audience.

The key to our success is *daily incremental achievement*. There are no “quick fixes” in music training – each performer needs to spend some time each day honing skills and learning and reinforcing concepts. We have designed our activities so that our students work toward goals every day. While the daily change may not be large, the results certainly are, and performers learn how to approach music on their own as they grow in our bands. It is our hope that each band member elects to remain in the program for all four years of high school. The curriculum is designed so that students who do so will learn new and interesting things each year, while always keeping an emphasis on the basics of fine performance. Some areas of the curriculum are required so the student receives a solid grounding in the fundamentals, and others allow the student to make his or her own choices based on personal interest.

Welcome to YOUR band!

Simply stated, this is *your* band. You are the integral members of this team. You are the people that will shape this program in the next four years. We will be exactly as strong an organization as you want to be. If you choose to put in the effort, you will find great success as a member of this band, and we will find the same successes as a group. With that choice comes the opportunity to grow within a family, to create life-long friendships, and to develop as both a musician and an expressive human being in our society.

Congratulations, Class of 2015!

# **BHS BANDS**

## **Important Info**

### **Marching Band**

- Summer Music Rehearsals: May 31-June 2, 9am-5pm
- Summer Band Camp: July 25-August 4 (required...we learn our entire show!)
- Regular evening rehearsals: Monday and Thursday nights, 6:00pm to 8:30pm (stops after our competitive season ends)
- Home football games (Fridays)
- Inter-City Classic
- 3-4 Marching Competitions (Saturdays)
- 1-2 Parades
- Participation in Marching Band is mandatory for all band members
- Opportunities for students to join the *color guard* or learn new instruments

### **Concert/Symphonic Band**

- auditions place students in one of two ensembles
- 3-4 concerts
- 1-2 festivals/competitions
- occasional after-school sectionals
- Regional/All-State Band Festivals
- Solo-Ensemble Festival

### **Jazz Ensemble**

- auditions for this Big Band Jazz Ensemble are held in the fall
- performs standard and progressive jazz music
- opportunities to perform improvised solos and features
- travel to several area festivals each year

### **Travel!**

- Travel throughout the state for marching band season
  - Major trips every 2 years! Disney World, Bowl Games, Washington D.C., San Antonio...

### **Fundraising**

- Many opportunities to raise funds for use towards band trips:
- Wreath sales, cheesecake sales, pizza cards, band apparel
- Each student has their own travel account, managed by our Band Aides Treasurer

## **Band Aides: Our Boosters**

- Opportunity for parents to be directly involved with our band's success!
- Help coordinate fundraisers, chaperones, uniforms, events, etc.
- Monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month

## **Financial Obligations**

\$50...	summer band fee
\$18...	official band polo
\$25...	black Drillmaster Shoes (\$30 for color guard)
\$25...	white Drillmaster Shoes
\$30...	<u>uniform cleaning fee</u>
\$148	<b>total</b>

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***Can I be involved in sports and still be in band?***

Yes! We have many athletes in the band program, representing football, soccer, swimming, diving, cheerleading, volleyball, cross country, basketball, track, golf and more! We also have students that participate in Scholastic Bowl, speech team, drama, rotary...you name it! The key to participating in multiple activities is the balancing of time between activities and academics.

### ***How do grades work in band?***

It is very easy to get an "A" in band! During marching band season, the bulk of the grade is rooted in attendance and effort. If a student attends all rehearsals and performances, has their music memorized, and works hard in rehearsals, they will be great! Once we shift to concert band season, the grades are based more on performance exams and rehearsal etiquette, with a continued emphasis on *personal growth*. How does a student achieve personal growth? PRACTICE! (and we strongly encourage private lessons!)

*\*\*please note that an unexcused absence from a performance will automatically result in a failing grade for the marking period, and supersedes all other components of the grade.*

### ***Can I play my band instrument in the orchestra?***

Each year, the top several players from each section will be selected to participate in the BHS Orchestra. This elite group of wind and percussion players will rehearse once a week with Ms. Monhardt and the string orchestra, and further increase their musical experience!

***What other musical opportunities are available for me?***

There are excellent musical opportunities throughout BHS and the Bloomington-Normal community. BHS has a wonderful choral program; there are opportunities for participation in the school musical and pit orchestra; an Advanced-Placement Music Theory course is offered at BHS; there are community bands and orchestras in the area; there is a wealth of musical cultures and professional instructors at nearby ISU and IWU; a wonderful concert venue in ISU's Center for the Performing Arts; the Music for All Summer Symposium held on the ISU campus.....*the list goes on and on!*

***Who can I contact for additional information?***

You can contact Mr. Chernick or Mr. Warren at any time!

Mr. Max Chernick  
309-828-5201, ex 2319  
chernickm@district87.org

Ms. Pamela Kelly  
309-828-5201, ex 2298  
kellyp@district87.org

Also, check out our website for great information, sample schedules, photos, recordings, and more! **[www.bhs87.org/band](http://www.bhs87.org/band)**

**GO RAIDERS!**