

Osbourn Park High School Marching Band Handbook

2010-2011



*Michael Basham
Director of Bands*

*Osbourn Park High School
8909 Euclid Avenue
Manassas, Virginia 20110
703-365-6500*

"Once a Jacket Always a Jacket"

Mission Statement

The Osbourn Park Marching Band is an educational arts program dedicated to providing the youth of our high school with the means to develop life skills, musical skills, performance skills, build character and foster team work while cultivating the talents of tomorrow's leaders.

Leadership Team

OPHS Band Booster Executive Committee Officers

President	Alana Hubbard
Vice President	Todd McDermott
Secretary	
Treasurer	
Ways and Means	Vacant
Band Director	Michael Basham

Student Leadership

The Marching Yellow Jackets will have the following leadership positions:

Drum Major(s)

Drum Captain(s)

Woodwind Captain

Brass Captain

Section Leaders for each instrument

Student Leadership Pledge

We, the proud leadership team of the Osbourn Park High School Marching Band, dedicate ourselves to build upon our firm foundation of excellence in music through integrity, discipline, and trust. By consistently giving our personal and collective best, we will continually raise the standards of each individual performer, maximizing the total potential of the group and achieving a sense of success regardless of competitive result.

Letter from the Director

Dear Marching Band Parents and Members,

Welcome to the Osbourn Park High School Marching Yellow Jackets program! My name is Mr. Michael Basham and I am the band director at Osbourn Park High School. I am looking forward to another successful season. You and your child have chosen to be involved in an enjoyable and rewarding experience! It will be fun, challenging and educational. As a member of the band, students are in a social peer group where many students find long lasting friendships, fond memories, earn the respect of those around you, and feel genuine pride in a job well done. The staff and I expect mature, responsible attitudes and actions – combined with lots of hard work.

This year's show music will be Disney Magic. The drill design will be a custom drill written specifically for OPHS that no other school will have. Once again, we will have talented assistant instructors work with our students throughout the season to help reinforce the skills necessary for a successful show.

Parents, the Band Booster organization is also here to provide opportunities to you and your child. Your help in supporting this organization is key to its success and is very much appreciated! Involvement helps you receive vital information, aid in decision making, and allows you to get to know some other people who like to have a hand in helping make their children's experience more enriching. Be involved!

Students, OPHS band members must have pride in themselves, each other, and the organization. Since most of you will not become professional musicians, you only have this time to be a performer...to be in the spotlight and experience the thrill of being recognized as an outstanding performer. It will not always be easy but this will be your time to find the leader inside of you. These will be some of the best years of your life. Embrace them.

We are a growing and learning organization. Even though things can get tricky at times, I know that we will all rise to the challenge and make this season a successful one! If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Let's make this marching band season another unforgettable one!!

Sincerely,
Michael Basham
Band Director
BashamME@pwcs.edu
703-365-6500

Recruitment

Recruit, recruit, recruit!!! Marching Band is such a wonderful experience and hearing how great it is from peers always helps the band's numbers grow! Osbourn Park has such a fantastic band program. To continue our success, the band will need more members, especially as students graduate! Please speak to fellow students about joining. Even student's who have played in the past and would like to start up again, marching band is a great activity. PLEASE GET THE WORD OUT!

Enrollment

Although Marching Band is an after school activity, it earns ½ credit for each year of participation and all students **must be enrolled through guidance** to participate or **Mr. Basham can enroll you in the program**. It will not replace any of your regular class selections but must be on your schedule to receive a grade and credit.

Attendance

The Marching Band is dependant on everyone's presence. It is of utmost important that EVERY member be at EVERY rehearsal. All rehearsals are mandatory. Please note: **Students must be at Band Camp in order to be a member of the Marching Band!** Please understand that the marching band cannot fully work as unit without all of its members present. With each absence, the band takes a step backwards. New things are being learned every day and having to re-teach because of absences stops the learning process as a unit!

- ★ Band members are expected to attend ALL schedule band functions. The only acceptable reasons for missing a practice or performance are extreme illness, death in the family, or an excused absence from school. **WORK IS NOT A VALID EXCUSE FOR MISSING A PRACTICE OR PERFORMANCE!** There are always rides available from other members and the activities bus. Missing a practice or performance without an appropriate excuse will result in consequences.
- ★ If you feel you have a valid reason to miss practice or performance, you to let the director know **IN ADVANCE** and **MUST** have a written note, email or phone call from a parent. Telling the director the day of an absence is **NOT** acceptable. It is understood that things sometime come up, but the director must know in advance to in order to effectively plan how to fill in your open spot during a practice or show.
- ★ Each student is expected to come to a practice or performance prepared and ready to participate to the best of their ability. Any student that comes unprepared and does not actively participate will be subject to disciplinary action and/or a lower participation grade in the class. This includes but is not limited to: forgetting an instrument, not have a reed, mouthpiece, sticks, mallets, flags, music, drill book, etc.

Students with medical limitations and verified instrument repairs need to let the band director know in advance.

Remember, the success of the band depends on EVERY MEMBER! It is a team and everyone's active participation is extremely important. When a member is not at the practice, not only are they missing out, but the band as a whole cannot perform to their highest ability.

Band Camp

Band camp is the most important part of the season. Marching band camp will be held this year Monday, August 16th thru Friday, August 27th. The band will perform their half-time show on the football field for all friends and family to see how hard they have worked! Please remember, **Band Camp is MANDATORY!** Because the entire drill is learned during this camp, all of our members **MUST** present the entire time. The main focus is getting the show learned while everyone enjoys the friendships and memories that can last a lifetime. It is by far the most enjoyable aspect of marching band. There will be fun activities scheduled throughout the week.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are vital to the on-going success of the marching band. With every rehearsal, new techniques are taught and learned. The biggest waste of time is re-teaching things that have already been taught so please **ALWAYS** paying attention! Even if something being taught doesn't pertain to everyone, each member should still watch and learn because some day they may have to know it.

- ★ Once school is in session all rehearsals will begin at 2:15pm. The marching band will meet in the band room. Please be in a chair, prepared and ready to hear the daily scheduled **PROMPTLY** at 2:15pm.
- ★ Rehearsals will end at 4:15pm. This is the time students will be dismissed so please allow for a few minutes for packing up and cleaning.
- ★ Rehearsals are exactly what they are for...**REHEARSING!** It is always the intention to make it as enjoyable and fun as possible, but remember to not let things get out of hand. Non-productive rehearsing just causes stress and that is something that is not wanted. Be prepared to work hard! And if there are a few laughs along the way, it will be an added bonus!! ☺
- ★ Remember that this is a credited program and students will be graded for this activity so recognize the importance of attendance!

Games

The first priority at football games is to support the team and to represent the marching band and the school in a positive and professional manner. Being at the games gives the band a chance to improve the show! It is practice before the big competitions. This means that it is expected that each member give their all and perform like it is their last chance!

- ★ The marching band will march into the stands before the game and will march to the band room after the game. This will be the standard practice.
- ★ Sections will sit together in the stands. No one will be allowed in the band section that is not a member or parent.
- ★ Each musician is responsible for their music folder.
- ★ When it is time to play stand music, the drum major will call out a song and the entire band will stand and play. NO ONE will play without the drum major or the director's permission.
- ★ Members will be given a break during the 3rd quarter. Failure to return on time will result in suspension for 3rd quarter privileges at the next game.
- ★ ALL MEMBERS MUST STAY IN UNIFORM THE ENTIRE GAME! Hats will be the only piece of uniform that will be allowed to be taken off.
- ★ Band uniforms cost \$350 each and must remain clean the entire season. Therefore, only clear liquids and no condiments will be consumed while in uniform. This will prevent unwanted stains the day before a competition or event.
- ★ Before the football game, the band will have a lock-in. Marching band members will stay after school, rehearse, and get dinner served by the band boosters. No members should leave the premises to obtain dinner on their own without the band director's permission. Lock-ins are created to encourage unity and team spirit, provide safety and to ensure that all members are prepared for the performance.
- ★ Students **MUST** checkout with Mr. Basham (not a band parent) if they will be leaving early or if they will be riding home with their parent. Remember, leaving early is the exception, NOT THE RULE!

Competitions

This is another exciting part and it is the reason that the band works so hard! The marching band will try to attend several competitions to get feedback prior to the State Marching Festival (VBODA). To perform well, every individual must accept the following responsibilities:

- ★ Be at school on time (which is early!) the day of the competition. If you are late, you run the risk of not being able to perform at the competition! Not only does that affect you but it affects the entire group's performance!
- ★ Memorize all show music by the end of band camp. Music WILL be tested by drum majors, captains and section leaders. Any member who does NOT have the show memorized by the first performance will not be able to perform!
- ★ Show respect towards the band staff, chaperones, drum majors, sections leaders, and all other Marching Yellow Jackets. Students must also demonstrate respect towards the other bands. The Marching Yellow Jackets will take pride not only in their performance, but in the fact that they are above making poor sportsmanlike and negative comments to other bands. They all work just as hard as our group does to make their seasons successful.
- ★ All members have duties that they will be expected to perform for these competitions. Each member should be ready to go above and beyond their capabilities!

Checkout Procedures

All of the students must complete a checkout procedure after each event. Check out procedures can take approximately 15-20 minutes depending on your child. ****PARENTS**** Please arrange to have your child notify you when they are finished at an event and are on the way back to the school. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THEY GET TO THE SCHOOL TO CALL!** Because of the large area that the school district covers, some travel times can be up to 35 minutes before parents arrive. Please be respectful of the chaperones and directors and arrive early to pick up your child. Strive not to be the last parent in the parking lot!

- ★ Home Games – When the game has ended, the Band will march back to the school. All equipment must be returned and stored properly. Uniforms must be hung correctly and returned to apparel coordinator before a member can leave.
- ★ Away Games/Competitions – When the bus returns, all equipment must be returned and stored properly. Uniforms must be hung correctly and returned to apparel coordinator before a member can leave.

Band Boosters

The Band Boosters is made up of all the families who have a student in the OPHS Band Program (not just the marching band). Without the Osbourn Park Band Boosters, the Marching Band would be lost! It depends heavily on its members for volunteers to assist in programs and activities for the organization. The key to success is all of the hard work the parents of the Band Boosters put into helping the organization function!

- ★ All parents are encouraged to become active members and attend the monthly meetings. Parent Volunteers are constantly needed to assist with the daily operation of the Boosters and to help the organization grow. Opportunities come from assisting with chaperoning, meals, membership on committees, and other activities!
- ★ For more information, you can contact the Band Boosters in several different ways:
 - **EMAIL:** opbandboosters@comcast.net
 - **WEBSITE:** www.ophsbandboosters.org
 - **FACEBOOK GROUP:** Osbourn Park Band Boosters

Expenses/Fees

The cost of running a successful marching band program can be quite expensive. In order to financially support the program it is necessary to charge a participation fee from all members. **The fee for marching band is \$160.** This fee covers the following:

- ★ Materials for band camp
- ★ Show design
- ★ Sheet music
- ★ First yellow band shirt
- ★ First black “game day” polo
- ★ Dry cleaning cost for uniforms
- ★ Stipends for instructors
- ★ Competition Fees
- ★ Pre-game meals on game day

In addition to the participation fee, each member will be required to purchase a few personal items such as shoes or gloves. If old marching shoes fit, returning students do not need to purchase a new pair each year.

The marching band never turns ANY member away because of problems with the participation fee. Although this money is important for the marching band to function, the organization will offer ways to help you if there is a financial problem. Families must complete the Financial Assistance Form and return it to the Band Director PRIOR to band camp to be considered for financial assistance.

Uniforms

Uniforms will ALWAYS be worn with pride! The Marching Band uniform will be the same for all members for all football games. An appropriate and complete uniform contributes towards a refined, professional appearance and is part of a student's grade each performance. Casual uniform consists of tan pants (khaki, chino, docker styles) and game day shirt or Yellow "Musical Excellence" shirt. Marching Uniform parts are listed below.

- ★ Assigned Uniform Pants/Jacket/Flag Corps Apparel
- ★ Black "Game Day" polo
- ★ Black Socks
- ★ Black Shoes
- ★ Khaki/Tan Pants
- ★ Gloves (White for band/Black fingerless for Flags)
- ★ Yellow "OPHS Musical Excellence" Shirt

Uniform part descriptions:

- ★ ***Assigned Uniform Pants/Jacket/Flag Corps Apparel***- This is the blue and gold uniform that is assigned at Band camp to use during your enrollment in Marching Band. The uniform is kept in the Band Room's Uniform storage closet. The cost to care for this uniform is covered as part of your Marching Band Fee. Flag Corps uniforms can change from year to year depending on the show but generally consist of a one or two piece costume with black pants.
- ★ ***Black "Game Day" Polo*** – Purchased through the band boosters and only to be worn by band students, flag corps AND band management team members. When you first enroll in Marching Band, you will be given one (1) at no cost. It is yours to keep track of and care for. Replacement shirts can be purchased at a cost of \$15.00 each.
- ★ ***Black Socks*** – black means BLACK. Socks must come up OVER the ankle to mid calf. Buy several pair.
- ★ ***Black Shoes*** – Black marching shoes are to be purchased through Band Boosters. Black sneakers are only acceptable with the CASUAL UNIFORM and for Flag Corps uniform!

- ★ ***Khaki Tan Pants*** – These are to be worn as part of the “Game Day”/Casual Uniform and are worn with the Black Polo or Yellow Shirt. Band members are required to purchase these on their own. They must be tan and must be in the style of Dockers or Chino. The following are NOT ACCEPTABLE: Denim, jeans, cargo, or sweat pants!
- ★ ***Yellow “OPHS Musical Excellence” Shirt*** – You will receive your first shirt at no cost at Band Camp. Like the polo shirts, these are yours to keep and take care of as you will need the shirts each year you are in Marching Band. Replacement shirts can be purchased for \$5 each.

Some basic guidelines apply when wearing your uniform:

Marching Band:

- ★ Band uniforms will be hung neatly on an appropriate hanger when not being worn.
- ★ Each band member will receive a uniform number during band camp. Remember this number because that is how your uniform will be accessed by the staff.
- ★ Always wear the uniform the same way. It is inappropriate for the jacket to be unzipped!
- ★ Baseball hats or other types of non-uniform hats are not acceptable while in uniform unless permission has been granted by the band director.
- ★ Band members will not be allowed to remove their uniform jackets if they are not wearing the yellow band shirt.
- ★ During performances hair must be underneath the hat! Use 100 bobby pins if necessary (applies to guys too!). For safety reasons, no earrings should be worn.

Flag Corps

- ★ All flag members MUST wear their black fingerless gloves
- ★ All flag members MUST wear NO jewelry for safety reasons
- ★ Hair must be pulled back in a tight bun and secure to prevent hair from falling out during the middle of a performance.
- ★ Clear nail polish only during competitions and State Marching Festival.

Parental Support

Marching Band is designed for fun, excitement and a wonderful musical and visual art experience. The memories, the friends, the learning, and mind development it creates can help in everyday life and school. Marching Band is a competitive “sport” of the arts. It requires 100% participation and dedication to make it successful! With playing exams, the anxiety of competitions, having the occasional bad day at rehearsals, and managing school work, sometimes tension can run high. THIS IS A NORMAL FEELING! Please help your student set up a homework schedule. Although we don’t practice as much as some other sports, marching band is more difficult in other ways. If anything, the best thing the student can learn is how to manage their time efficiently. Having **your** support is what helps make the Marching Band an amazing group to be part of! The success your child enjoys in the band is largely due to your support as a parent.

- ★ Encourage your child to practice!
- ★ See to it that they arrive to rehearsals and performances on time.
- ★ Help provide them with whatever is necessary to achieve musical excellence.
- ★ If they are motivated to take private lessons, help make it happen.
- ★ Most importantly, be there when they perform. YOU are their most important audience and YOU are the ones they look for in the crowd. It means more to them than you know.

Section Leaders

The success of the band relies solely on all of the members. YOU, the student, make marching band what it is. YOU, the student, dictate how strong a marching band you want to be. This is why it is important to have a series of student leaders throughout the band. Drum Majors will be selected in May. In order to be considered for the position, a student must have been in the band program for a full year. Additionally, each section will need a section leader. The section are flutes, clarinets, saxes, tenor saxes, trumpets, low brass/low woodwinds, mellophones, drum line captain(s), woodwind and brass captains. All leadership members will be announced at the first meeting during band camp. Sectionals will be called by section leaders and there could be additional rehearsals outside of the regular schedule. The following are skills that are looked at when selecting the student leadership:

- ★ Students who are **willing** to go out of their way to be friends with everyone.
- ★ Students who take the **initiative** and are proactive!
- ★ Students who go the extra mile and demonstrate that they are **committed!**
- ★ Students who **lead** by example and show they are **role models!**
- ★ Students who regularly display **enthusiasm** and **excitement!**
- ★ Students who are good **communicators!**

The important thing to remember is that working towards being a student leader starts the moment you join the band. You need to demonstrate leadership characteristics from the beginning so that you are ready to step into that role and be confident. If leadership is a goal for you, start talking to your team mates, get to know everyone, ask your current leaders what you can do to help out. You should also think of ways to improve the team and make things fun. Every member has the ability to be a leader!

Fundraising

Part of supporting the band is supporting our fundraising events. They are critical to the success of the organization. The major marching band fundraiser is held each September and is mandatory for all Marching Band members. This fundraiser, as well as other, serves to supplement a large amount of the booster's operating budget. Many of the fundraisers will be designated as contributors towards funding your student account. This happens when the Boosters allocates a percentage of the profits to be distributed as "credit" among those participating in the fundraiser. The student may then ask to have those credits applied towards the cost of specific band related expenses such as trips, fees, or apparel. This policy has recently changed and restrictions apply. Please contact the Band Boosters for more information.

General Information

Here is some general information that you should keep in mind while you are a marching band members:

- ★ Take pride in all you do!
- ★ If there are issues with other members, get an instructor to help. That's what they are there for.
- ★ The use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs is **STRICTLY** prohibited! If it is learned that any illegal actions of this sort, the student will be immediately dismissed from the marching band programs, their parents will be called and the appropriate school action or legal authorities will be notified.
- ★ Refrain from the use of foul language or comments. This reflects directly on you, Osbourn Park High School and the Marching Band program!
- ★ Special care should be taken to see that all personal and school property is cared for. Pack instruments and equipment carefully for travel. Place identification on all personal items and record serial number for your home records.
- ★ Talking during rehearsals should be kept at a minimum.
- ★ Always rehearse in the same manner that you perform. Watch your section leaders!
- ★ Make sure to block off Friday nights and Saturdays September through November. Most of the games take place on Fridays and competitions occur on Saturdays. We do participate if the team goes to post season play.

Marching Band Survival Tips

The tip to having fun and being successful in marching band is to always be prepared!
Remember the 5 "P"s:

Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance!

- ★ Bring plenty of water to band camp! In fact, start drinking water days before camp begins so you can make sure that you are hydrated.
- ★ Flip folder and Lyre! Purchase these at a local music store for your instrument
- ★ Wear light colored t-shirts and clothing. Tank Tops and sleeveless are OK but please follow school policy and keep shirt wear appropriate! No sports bras, midriff or bikini tops allowed!
- ★ Wear shorts. Jeans can be the enemy on a hot day. Loose lightweight shorts work best. Again, school guidelines apply to the length of shorts.
- ★ Purchase "Body Glide" at the local sports store. This prevents chafing, blisters and rashes in areas that have friction due to marching on hot days.
- ★ Comfortable tennis shoes and socks! **No Sandals or Flip Flops!** You will not march if you do not have sneakers!
- ★ Sunglasses and hat with brim
- ★ Sunscreen, bug spray and chap stick
- ★ Pencil, pen and, of course, your instrument and music!
- ★ Eat healthy while in camp! Avoid sugary foods and drinks.
- ★ Behave! You are a young adult. Get in line, stay in step and do what you are asked.

Activities and Events

Marching Band - *August through December*

Perform 8-10+ halftime shows during Football Season, including any Post Season play
Performance at various Competitions – September and October
Marching Band Banquet – November 18
Participation in Manassas Christmas Parade – December 4
Annual Marching Band Picnic – May/June

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Stafford High School (Away) **Band is Off.**
- 10 **Battlefield H.S. (Home)**
- 16/17 **Hylton H.S. (Home) May be the 16th due to Yom Kippur**
- 24 Osbourn H.S. (Away) Band is going.

OCTOBER

- 1 **Garfield H.S. (Home)**
- 8 Freedom H.S. (AWAY) **Band is Off**
- 15 **Potomac H.S. (Home) Homecoming**
- 22 Forest Park (Away) Band is going
- 29 Woodbridge H.S. (Away) Band is going

NOVEMBER

- 5 **Franklin County H.S. (Home)**

COMPETITION/TAG DAY SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

- 11 TAG DAY
- 18 (Possible) Hylton H.S. Competition
- 25 Woodbridge Marching Band Invitational

OCTOBER

- 9 Stafford Marching Competition
- 30 State Marching Festival

Please note that additional dates may be added during the season depending on band events, post season play and other activities as designated by the band director. Please visit the OPHS Band Booster Website

www.ophsbandboosters.org

regularly to keep advised of revisions to the Marching Band schedule.