



Welcome to the 2023-24 Battlefield High School Marching Bobcats!

We are excited to have you as a part of this year's Marching Bobcats! This packet is available on our website (<https://battlefieldbands.com>) for later reference. We will post updates on the website and send email notifications and reminders to parent contacts provided at registration. If you are not receiving email notifications, please contact bandinfo@bhsbands.org.

Band Director

Mr. Michael Britcher



britchma@pwcs.edu

Social Media



@battlefieldhsbands



@BattlefieldMB



@battlefieldband



Attendance

(see Attendance Policy on p. 3)



attendance@bhsbands.org

Band Support Organization (BSO)



<https://www.battlefieldbands.com/>



bandinfo@bhsbands.org

The BSO meets the second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm in the band room. Please follow us on social media and join us at our monthly meetings for information updates, planning and discussion as the season marches forward!



BATTLEFIELD BANDS

REGISTRATION & FEES

If not yet completed, please register online:

<https://www.battlefieldbands.com/join-the-band!.html>

Fees (all marchers)

2023-24 Fees: \$600* (\$520 for each additional sibling)

Deposit of \$100 (non-refundable) at time of registration

- \$200 due **Friday, August 11, 2023** (last day of full-day band camp)
- ***\$200 credit** applied upon participation in **Tag Day (Saturday, September 9)**
- Balance due by **Friday, September 29**

Payments may be made on the website, <https://www.battlefieldbands.com/>. You may also click or scan the QR code:



If you have questions or problems with the payment schedule, contact the BSO Treasurer, Phil Cockrell, at treasurer@battlefieldbands.org as soon as possible to discuss an individualized payment plan.

Other Expenses

These anticipated expenses are for family budget planning purposes. Ordering instructions will follow.



- All marchers must have a **wind suit**. Returning marchers may wear last year's wind suit if it still fits and is in good condition.
 - **Wind suit jackets** for new marchers will be ordered during camp and run about \$40.
 - **Wind suit pants** are Adidas Tricot Three-stripe Track Pants (see photo), black with white stripes, no cuffs. Zip hem optional. **Marchers are responsible for purchasing these.** They run about \$30-40 from [Amazon \(click here for a link\)](#) or most department stores. ([Women's style here](#); same look, slimmer fit, no zipper on hem.)
- Home football game meals: \$6-\$12 per game if preordered. Students may also bring their own meals.
- All band members will also pay a **\$50 Concert Band Fee** and must purchase concert attire (again, last year's may be worn if in good condition). Students will receive more information in band class.
- **Water bottles:** each family is asked to provide at least **48 small (8 oz) disposable water bottles** to be used by the marchers at games and competitions. These can be dropped off during camp.

Wind players and percussion only:

- Marching shoes - \$37
- Gloves - \$5
- Long black athletic socks - \$5
(may be purchased on your own)

Color Guard only:

- Guard shoes - \$39
- Guard gloves - \$15
- Rifle (optional) - \$60ish
- Show makeup - varies

CAMP, PRACTICES, COMPETITIONS, & GAMES

Attendance Policy

Marching Band is a graded class, and attendance is taken at every practice and event. Non-emergency absences must be arranged in advance with approval from the director (at least two weeks' notice preferred). If a student must be absent, email attendance@bhsbands.org and include the student's name and the reason for the absence. ***Emails must come from the parent—no student emails will be accepted.***

Band Camp (see details on next page)

- July 31 - August 11, Monday - Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Last week before school starts: evening practices and Parent Preview

- August 15th - 17th, (Tues - Thurs) 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
- Parent Preview: pending field availability, families will be invited for a potluck and meet-and-greet followed by a preview of the show. Date and time TBD.

After School Practices

Regular practices begin the first week of school and end in early November.

- Weekly Schedule
 - Monday – Off
 - Tuesday – 6pm - 8:30pm
 - Wednesday – sectionals; times may vary
 - Thursday – 6pm - 8:30pm
 - Friday – Football Game Day (see Home Game schedule. Practice may be held at director's discretion if there is an away game.)

2023 Regular Season Home Football Schedule

August 25	Battlefield vs. C.D. Hylton HS
September 14 (Thursday)	Battlefield vs. Woodbridge Senior HS
September 29	Battlefield vs. Unity Reed HS
October 27	Battlefield vs. Osbourn HS
November 3	Battlefield vs. Patriot HS

2023 Event Schedule (Saturdays)

September 9	Tag Day
September 16	Woodbridge Viking Invitational (Woodbridge)
September 23	Colgan Classic (Manassas)
October 7	JMU Parade of Champions (Harrisonburg)
October 14	VBMC, Dominion HS (Sterling)
October 21	Haymarket Day Parade (Haymarket)
October 21	VBODA Assessment, Massaponax HS (Fredericksburg)
December 2	Manassas Christmas Parade (Manassas)

Playoff games – TBD

Picture Day – TBD, likely early November.

Home Game Schedule – Students will remain after school for rehearsal, followed by a break and dinner. Around 5:45pm, students will change into their uniforms and prepare for pregame activities. If you would like to see the band perform pregame, plan to arrive by 6:30pm to find a seat in the stadium.



Competitions

Competitions are a community experience for the Marching Bobcats and families. Getting the full band and all their instruments, uniforms, props, and equipment to an event takes many willing hands. The BSO will send out an itinerary before each weekend competition, along with sign-up information for chaperones and other volunteers. Students typically report in the morning for rehearsal and then eat lunch at school before traveling to the competition site. Once we arrive, volunteers help unload and prep equipment while students change into uniforms and warm up. After the band performs and all the uniforms, equipment, and instruments are packed away, students then get to relax and watch other bands perform. Band members are expected to remain at the venue through the presentation of awards and will travel back to Battlefield on buses and help unload equipment before being dismissed. Parents will be informed of estimated return times. The more volunteers we have, the sooner we all go home. 😊

Family members who wish to attend the performance may travel to the competition site on their own. Admission is typically \$10-15 per person. Plan to arrive at least 45-60 minutes before the scheduled performance time as schedules are subject to change. Marchers are expected to return on the bus with the group unless arrangements are made in advance with the approval of the director.

The BSO will provide lunch for students and chaperones at all competitions. Students may wish to bring snacks or money to purchase concessions for dinner as competitions can run into the evening.

BAND CAMP

July 31 - August 11, weekdays 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

WEAR

- White t-shirt, black shorts, socks
- Tennis/running shoes with good support
- Hat/bandana/sunglasses and SUNSCREEN

BRING

- Instrument and case
- Backpack
- Lunch and refillable water bottle
- Extra snacks for short breaks, if desired
- More sunscreen



THE LOWDOWN



1. **Be on time.** Rehearsal starts at the posted time. Arrive at least 15 minutes early to find a place for your things, assemble your instrument, put on extra sunscreen, and use the bathroom. **At start time, be ready to march!**



2. Prepare for **heat**. Marchers should slather on sunscreen, wear a hat and sunglasses, and drink plenty of water. A water bottle filling station is available inside.



3. Wear **sturdy shoes** that are already broken in. **Cushioned socks** are recommended.



4. Marchers need to eat a **healthy breakfast** and **pack a nutritious lunch**. Students burn a lot of calories at Band Camp and need fuel to make it through the long days. Lunch is also a good time to socialize and get to know your fellow marchers.



5. Marchers are encouraged to dress for **Spirit Days** during Band Camp and at other times during the season. Section leaders will give more details. Each section has “color days” to show their section superiority by going all out in their section color. Dollar stores and thrift shops often have bandanas, hats, and beads to help you make your section proud!

Drumline – White

Pit – Black

Flutes – Pink

Saxes – Red

Mellos – Yellow

Clarinets – Blue

Trumpets – Orange

Guard – Purple

Baritones and Tubas – Green



6. **Rest.** Put down the phone and turn in early during Band Camp weeks. Trust us on this one!



7. **Exercise now.** Your Marcher will enjoy Band Camp much more by being in shape before camp starts. Get outside and move this summer!



8. **Remember**—Camp is work time, but it is also FUN! Get to know your fellow Marching Bobcats and enjoy the time you have together. Parents are also encouraged to join us at the end of the practice day at the fence by the drill lot (AKA drivers ed lot) to meet other families and take a peek at the progress our marchers are making.

UNIFORMS



Uniform fittings will take place on **July 31-August 1** (first two days of band camp).

All wind players and percussion need to bring:

- Marching shoes (if you have them) to be checked for fit and condition
- Long athletic socks (to ensure proper fit for new marching shoes)

Each marcher will be assigned a uniform, which will be kept at school, and will be responsible for taking care of it during performances and returning it as directed after each use.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

At every performance, Marching Bobcats are official representatives of our organization, our school, and our community, and should demonstrate high standards of appearance and behavior at all times.

Specifically:

- Band members must wear the official show t-shirt, black pants, leggings, or shorts, and long black socks under the uniform. Later in the season, students may wish to add thermal layers, which should also be black.
- Hair of sufficient length must be pulled up and tucked under the shako (hat).
- No hair dye or makeup may come in contact with the uniform collar or hat to avoid staining.
- Guard members will wear the official show uniform, or an alternate uniform as determined for events.
- NO JEWELRY of any kind, including watches.
- NO EATING OR DRINKING (except water) while in uniform.

At all-day events, students will be able to change out of their uniforms after performing and will then wear their wind suit. Wind suits may also be worn for performances in inclement weather.

Marchers are responsible for wearing the appropriate attire and bringing the correct shoes, socks, and gloves to every performance. If an item is forgotten, replacement socks and gloves must be purchased, and shoes must be rented (not all sizes available!). If these items are lost, damaged, or outgrown, the marcher must purchase replacements. Marchers must also take care of their uniforms, and any damage resulting from failing to follow these policies may result in the marcher being charged to repair the damage. Each uniform is valued at approximately \$450. ***Please help us keep our band looking amazing!***

For more details about uniform care and policies, see <https://battlefieldbands.com> (OUR BANDS=>Marching Bobcats=>Resources).

BAND SUPPORT ORGANIZATION (BSO)

The BSO is the family-run support network for the Marching Bobcats. It takes a village to produce a successful band season, and the sense of community and accomplishment in being a part of your students' experience is both fun and rewarding. To find out how you can be a part of the action, check out our website at <https://battlefieldbands.com> or join us for meetings on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm in the band room.

We are still in need of two executive board volunteers and a few committee chairs. Please join us to help make your student's marching season the best it can be! For information on any position, come to a BSO meeting or email bandinfo@bhsbands.org.

BSO Executive Board, 2023-34

Band Director – Michael Britcher

President – Christine Stephenson

Vice-President – VACANT

President Emeritus – James Pickering

Secretary – Briana Jordan

Treasurer – Phil Cockrell

Public Affairs Officer – Melanie Shipley

Member-at-Large – VACANT

GO BOBCATS!

