

Marching Band - Rookie Parent Survival Guide *(Revised May 6, 2009)*

First of all... welcome to the marching band!

www.jeffersonforestband.org Please take a moment to browse the band website. Here you will find practice and performance schedules, band news, registration forms, and online payment options for marching fees. You may also add your name to our band email list. Much of the band news is broadcast via email. The website is also where you will find important information about upcoming social events such as the chili cook-off, golf tournament, pool party, etc. Please visit us often.

Chaperones: The JF Marching Cavaliers typically travels in four school buses. To comply with Bedford County requirements, three chaperones are required for each bus... a total of 12 for each outing. We are always in need of adult chaperones (who must be over the age of 21). Please consider volunteering.

Band Travel Reports: When the band is traveling, updates on arrival time back at JF are usually available either on the website or by checking the indicated voice mail number.

Band Competitions: Band competitions are usually an all day affair. From late September to early November, there is a competition nearly every Saturday. Students must attend all competitions---this is non-negotiable, except in the event of family emergency. Bands are classed from A to AAAAA depending on size. JF is usually classed as AAAA. I encourage you to follow the band to competition and cheer for our Cavaliers. It's a great way to enjoy a crisp fall afternoon. Although the band is admitted free of charge to competitions, there is always a small spectator fee.

Meals on the Road: As a general rule, students should bring money to band competitions for dinner. The itinerary details of each competition are different but generally they all include a fast food type meal stop.

Competition Itineraries: The itinerary is emailed to parents and posted on the website a couple of days before the competition. They typically include directions to the host school as well as arrival and performance times.

Football Games: The Band is required to perform at all JF home football games. In addition to halftime, the band plays pep tunes 1st, 2nd and 4th quarter (they don't play 3rd quarter). Pizza is provided for the band after halftime at the end zone pavilion. Students may be required to participate in one away regular season game each year. In addition the band will travel to support the football team at playoff games. Students are expected to participate in all scheduled performances.

BCI: The Bedford County Invitational is our annual band competition event tri-hosted by JF, Liberty, and Staunton River. BCI is held at JF around the first of October and is a full day of competition usually drawing 10 to 14 competing guest bands. As you might expect, many volunteers are needed to make this event successful. Please contact the BCI coordinator (listed on the website) to sign up for a short volunteer shift that day. Better yet... come out and spend the entire day with us.

Sectionals: Each instrumental group of the marching band is considered a section. Each section, at their discretion, will hold sectional sessions. This is extra practice time usually scheduled for the lunch break during band camp. The guard is also considered a section, and often holds practice sectionals. Students usually contribute a few dollars toward lunch (usually pizza) on sectional days which is usually arranged by the senior member(s) of the group.

Band Equipment: The marching band uniform is provided with the exception of shoes and gloves. Shoes and gloves are ordered (and paid for by parents) during band camp. There is also a shoe exchange program where students may exchange shoes in good condition for a different size. Availability is very limited and we are always ready to take shoe donations (i.e., from seniors). Two pairs of competition gloves are recommended. Shoe and Glove order day will be announced. The cost is usually \$22 for shoes and \$3 per pair of gloves. Students avoid paying shipping charges by paying on the announced order date. Guard shoes are ordered separately by the instructor and usually cost a little more. In addition, students playing mellophone, baritone, and sousaphone will need 2 pair of white practice gloves and a large towel (VERY large for sousaphones). The boosters have purchased brand new instruments for these sections and we want to keep them looking new for as long as possible. Students will wear gloves whenever handling the instrument and will place the instrument on the towel when not in use. Students will be responsible for washing their gloves and towels regularly. White gloves can be purchased at Lynchburg Music Center. Gloves with rubber grips on the palms & fingers are preferable.

Return to JF after Performance/Competition: Upon arrival at the school each student is responsible for getting their instrument, uniform, and hat from the truck to the band room uniform closet. No one, not even guard, is allowed to leave until this task is complete. We are one band and everyone helps. Return times are often late, and even though every one is tired, this has to be done ... so... please be patient when picking up your student(s).

Social events: There are several annual social events which occur throughout the fall marching band season.

- *Ice Cream Social:* Parents are asked to donate a variety of ice cream toppings. The band provides the ice cream. Volunteers are needed to help setup and serve. The event is held at the practice field.

- *Pool Party:* One of the local public pools is reserved (i.e. Wildwood, Popular Forest) for an afternoon pool party. There is a small fee per student to cover the pool rental and lifeguards. Transportation to the pool is not provided. This is a chaperoned event and is a fun escape from the dust and heat of band camp.

- *Chili Cook-off:* A Spring event usually held at the Knights of Columbus building on Sweeney Circle. Parents are asked to volunteer for setup, cleanup or to help serve. Donations of chili ingredients, plates, cups, etc are requested. There is a small fee per person to help cover expenses. Our director staff competes for annual bragging rights with their chili concoctions. Bring your best chili or cornbread and compete in the parent/student bracket... or... just come out and enjoy not having to cook.

- *Baseball Game:* The band attends a Hillcat's baseball game one afternoon during band camp. Transportation is provided from JF to the game and back.

End of Marching Season Banquet: The end-of-season banquet is for marching band students and their families. After dinner a year-in-review video is shown followed by recognition of the marching seniors and a few other awards. Section leaders honor individual members of their section with certificates.

JF Band Booster Meetings: You are encouraged to attend these meetings and get involved. There are always updates on upcoming events and performances. Meetings are usually held in the band room at JF on the second Tuesday of the month. Meeting times are posted on the website but are usually 7:00 PM.

BINGO: This is the source of much of the funding for the band. The success of BINGO determines how many additional fund raisers (i.e. how much useless, expensive stuff) parents/students will sell to fund the band program. Please support BINGO. Teams of 10 workers rotate shifts to staff our Saturday afternoon game. The number of teams determines how often a team will serve. (we currently have 7 teams but have maintained as many as 9). The game is hosted in Madison Heights and requires a commitment of 1 Saturday every 7 to 9 weeks (depending on the number of teams) from 4:30 pm to about 10:30 pm. Do the math ... it takes 70 to 90 year round volunteers to make it work. Also consider that we will lose a fourth of our volunteers to graduating seniors. We need your help. Please signup for a team by emailing our BINGO coordinator or contacting Mr. Webb. If you're not sure ... come hangout for a night and see what it's all about... with no obligation of course.

Band Budget: BINGO funds approximately 25% of our operating budget. The budget is approximately \$120,000 per year of which \$30,000 per year comes from BINGO. Bedford County only provides \$21,550 of this amount. The rest is raised by the JFBB (boosters). This does not include additional capital needs such as new instruments and uniforms. We recently purchased \$50,000 in new instruments which were not covered by the annual budget. I don't mean to scare you with these numbers... just to inform you how much monetary support it takes to keep the JF music program afloat. BINGO is doing very well and is increasingly bridging the funding gap for our big item needs. Please signup to help us operate the game. Besides... it's more fun that selling seasonal gift wrap and \$1 candy bars.

Band Photos: Parents... please take lots of photos. If you haven't heard, we compile a season DVD which is shown at the year end banquet. Photos can be submitted on CD in the drop box in the band room or by email on the website. Thank you in advance! The more photos we get the better the video will be.

Bedford Christmas Parade: held the morning of the first Saturday in December. Participation is required.