

Dear “Bison Pride” Marching Band Students & Parents,

This letter is being sent to you as a means of communicating to you the appropriate information concerning our Summer Marching Band Camp. **Camp begins on Monday June 13 at 9:00 AM in the Band Room.** Rehearsals will be Mondays thru Thursdays only and will be on the following dates and times:

June 13 - 16	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
August 8 - 11	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

We are working our camp around the summer school schedule so as to not be in conflict with students enrolling for courses in the summer. Also, it is District 214 policy for this summer to completely close the facilities on Fridays this summer. At the end of this letter is a detailed list of our Marching Performances for the next school year. All of our home games are played at night, and the band remains for the whole game.

Marching Band fees are \$100 per family and are to be sent to the high school on or before May 15. Make all checks payable to: **BGIA** (Buffalo Grove Instrumental Association). The fee covers the summer camp and extra marching band expenses, as well as beverages (at camp and the games), receptions at the games, and shirts. If you need to miss part of the camp, I hope you will still cover your share of the cost as we run a very low budget program to make it reasonable and affordable for everyone. However, if your family is experiencing financial hardship, please feel welcome to participate and pay for whatever your situation allows you to do so. That being said, I have seen students request a fee waiver from band who have spent significant sums of money for other activities. My expectation is families are consistent in their requests with other organizations that ask for this consideration.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our incoming freshmen. I am thrilled to have you with us. The summer camp will allow you the opportunity to better familiarize yourself with Buffalo Grove High School, and the band students who will be your friends for the next four years. Freshmen are placed in squads with older students who will help with learning music, fundamentals, and routines. Incoming freshmen generally find marching band to be a most enjoyable experience, as it is the one time of the year that everyone in our program has the opportunity to perform as a single unit. During marching camp we will learn our pregame and halftime shows. With the exception of senior/varsity sports waivers, all Symphonic and Concert Band members participate in the marching band.

Each year some incoming freshman parents ask if this camp is “required”. My best response to this is that I can’t require anyone to participate in the summer, but freshmen that participate in the summer camp find Marching Band to be very easy and fun. Those who do not participate in the summer camp can become overwhelmed when the school year begins. Even if a student can only attend for a few days, this is so much more beneficial than not at all. Through the years, most all of the incoming freshmen do participate and have a lot of fun.

Those seniors/varsity athletes who do not participate in Marching Band will be given a waiver, making themselves ineligible from receiving Senior Awards at the end of the year. This includes anyone who doesn’t march (except those with health/medical conditions). Eligibility for end-of-the-year awards is reserved for those students who make the 100% commitment to band, which includes participation in Marching Band. Once camp has begun, if you have to be absent at all, please email the absence to me.

Conflicts with work during the marching camp present difficult scenarios. It is very important for the entire membership to be present as much as possible, and I hope you can adjust your work schedules around our rehearsal times. I realize this is not always possible. I expect students who have major work conflicts to communicate with me in advance of the Camp so that we can discuss the nature of the work commitment and I can better understand the reasons why your hours are inflexible during this time of year. I do understand that extenuating circumstances exist. I just need to know and understand them in advance. If your work hours can be flexible, I hope you will make advance arrangements to schedule your times, as much as possible, around our Camp. Students who attend the camp will be given priority for solos and part assignments over those who do not attend. This is of particular interest to the percussion section. Part assignments are earned. Finally, during the Band Camp, you are to never assume that a rehearsal has been canceled due to weather. If it’s raining, we’ll work inside. We are hiring various staff to assist with the learning during the camp.

To better prepare everyone for the start of the next school year, it is expected that every student will have the following by August 8th:

- 1) Black Shoes *
- 2) Black Socks
- 3) Khaki "Dress" Pants (Not Cargo Style)

* The shoes need to be dress looking, but not expensive. Sandals, shoes with other colors showing, gym shoes, etc... are not acceptable. Students wearing inappropriate shoes for a performance will be removed from the performance. The khaki pants are for us to have an alternative in case we have an extremely warm day and we wish to dress lighter (band issue polo shirt and khakis). Dockers, or a similar brand is fine. Hopefully with these pants starting to hit the stores now, there will be no rush to obtain a pair later in the summer.

High school is a time where students transition from adolescence into young adults. One of our goals as educators is to help students with this transition. Parents can help their high school age children through these changes by allowing them to accept responsibility for their own actions. Please allow your children to be accountable for things like communication, and also allow them to receive appropriate consequences when they fail to follow through. High school students who learn early to be independent and responsible make smoother transitions throughout their lives. Structured independence with accountability is very healthy. Always helping your children out of their "jams" is an enabling behavior that can create more problems later. I encourage students to communicate conflicts as much as possible.

Please make sure you take care of enrollment by May 15. If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to call or e-mail, as I am,

Most sincerely,

Edward R. Jacobi, Jr., Director
Buffalo Grove High School Band
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Following are our Marching Band Performance Commitments/Course Assessments and Summer Schedule for the 2004 Marching Season. **Vacations, college visits, etc... are to be planned around these dates.** These performances are equivalent to assessments in our classroom and are graded. Please mark these dates in your calendars now!

June 13 - 16	M-R	9 AM – 3 PM	Band Camp
August 8 - 11	M-R	9 AM – 3 PM	Band Camp
August 18	Thur	5 PM – 8 PM	Band Camp
September 2	Fri	6:30 PM	HOME FOOTBALL GAME
*August 25	Thur	7 PM – 9 PM	Band Camp
*August 26	Fri	6:30 PM	HOME FOOTBALL GAME
September 4	Sun	12:30 PM	BG DAYS PARADE
September 23	Fri	6:30 PM	HOME FOOTBALL GAME
October 14	Fri	6:30 PM	HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME
October 21	Fri	6:30 PM	HOME FOOTBALL GAME – SENIOR NIGHT

*** Added to the calendar on April 7, 2011**

More information about parades, and our band program in general, can be found at the band's website:

www.bgband.org