

Notes from the Director

First let me state how thrilled I am that your child is participating in our marching band program. Marching band is a rewarding experience for the students despite the horror stories you/your child may have heard.

This is a class for credit and is NOT an independent study (like English or Math). Band is an INTERdependent study. When one student succeeds, the program benefits from their success...when a student makes an error, the program suffers from the error. **When a student misses a band practice, the whole program suffers--progress is slowed during the absence because students are having to learn maneuvers around "holes" and progress is HALTED while individuals are learning their parts after returning to practice. The rest of the group is ready for new material, but cannot move forward until EVERYONE knows their parts. Two days of instruction are reduced to one day of progress because of an absence.** For this reason, it is important that students are present for every class. There may be some unavoidable conflicts or prearranged absences, but I need YOUR help to make sure that the AVOIDABLE absences are eliminated from the program. Dealing with unexcused absences is the most frustrating part of teaching marching band...please help me.

Classes are extremely demanding on the students both physically and mentally. They need proper rest between classes or their bodies will not recover correctly, leading to aches and pains. Please make sure that your child is getting a good night's sleep and nourishing meals.

Your child will go through a phase where they will want to quit, but that is the time to be a parent and not a friend. They need your encouragement and wisdom, not an approval to quit at the first sign of adversity. We are depending on your child's commitment to follow through until the season is over. Once they go through their first contest, they have a deeper understanding of why they are working SO HARD and will actually begin to ENJOY the activity!

Together, with simple planning and some foreknowledge, we can have a tremendous summer program for our school community! GO BLUE REGIMENT!

Things your child will need daily for band rehearsals:

Everyone except percussion:

1. Sling-bag (see Mr. Roesch if you need one)
2. Individual Drillbook (provided by the director)
3. Mechanical pencil

Percussionists need:

1. Sling-bag (see Mr. Roesch if you need one)
2. One-inch binder
3. 50 clear sheet protectors
4. Mechanical pencil

THESE ITEMS WILL BE USED EVERY DAY AND EACH MARCHER MUST HAVE THEM IN CLASS BEGINNING MONDAY, JUNE 22!!

