

## Batavia Marching Band – Parent Guide for New Members - 2018

Welcome to the Batavia Marching Band family!

Just as each band member is a critical dot on the field, each parent is critical to the Batavia Marching Band (BMB). It takes parents banding together to support BMB.

We welcome you to the BMB family and hope your entire family enjoys the marching band experience and that you find this information helpful.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Section Leaders – BMB is built on the leadership of our students. Without them, BMB would not be successful. Section leaders have interviewed for this role, received a handbook for guidance and go through training before band camp starts. They will be an excellent role model for your students and can help with nearly any issue your student may have.

Encourage your child to communicate with their section leaders for any questions, issues or concerns. Now is the time for your teen to take responsibility and not rely on parents/guardians to ask questions for them.

Remember that section leaders were new to marching band too at one time, they have faced the same issues as your teen. Let them mentor your teen. They can provide advice on how to interpret a dot book to how to get homework done.

Welcoming Parents – We recognize there will be times you just want to chat with another parent. While any marching band parent will certainly help you, there is a group that has volunteered to welcome new parents. You will be hearing from them and please feel free to contact them at any time. Whether is a question over email or a chat over coffee, they are available to welcome you and make you feel comfortable in the marching band family.

Michele Benz	parent of Tim, sophomore, mellophone, 2 <sup>nd</sup> year in BMB	benzmike@sbcglobal.net	630-768-1733
Kim & Steve Mazur	parents of Joy, senior, clarinet section leader, 4 <sup>th</sup> year in BMB	klmski@att.net	630-761-0105
Jamie Richard	parent of Calvin, alto saxophone, 8 <sup>th</sup> year in BMB	jamie.e.richard@gmail.com	630-770-7651
Jennifer Schmelder	parent of Nolan, junior, front ensemble and Amanda, 8 <sup>th</sup> grade trombone, 3 <sup>rd</sup> year in BMB	cjschmelder@sbcglobal.net	630-533-3035
Sara Szydowski	parent of Theo, senior, low brass euphonium section leader, 4 <sup>th</sup> year in BMB	sarateaches@comcast.net	630-334-4593

Directors- There is an amazing team of talented professionals led by two very dedicated band directors.

Chris Owen – [chris.owen@bps101.net](mailto:chris.owen@bps101.net)

Brian VanKley – [brian.vankley@bps101.net](mailto:brian.vankley@bps101.net) (the teens call him BVK)

Email – Directors communicate primarily via email. Once school begins there will be a weekly newsletter. Take the time to read it. Marching band is a fast moving group! The directors typically make it easy to read the weekly newsletter by highlighting new information.

Remind app – a free service, the band directors often use a reminder app that will be detailed in weekly emails. Parents may sign up as well, but be prepared to receive many texts about rehearsals, schedules, and competition instructions

Bataviamusic.org – your best friend online during marching season! Click on Extra-curriculars, Marching Band. Itineraries for competitions will be posted as soon as they are available.

## **KEY DATES**

**Refer to [www.bataviamusic.org](http://www.bataviamusic.org) for calendar and complete list of dates**

July 23 – New Member Camp – veteran BMB parents will be available to chat with new parents at drop-off (4:50-5:30 pm) and pickup (8:15-9:15).

August 3 – mandatory parent meeting at Batavia High School band room at 7 p.m. The band room is located on the Wilson side of the school, you will see an entrance set back to the left of the Batavia Fine Arts Centre entrance.

August 4 – Tag Day. The teens cover the community seeking donations. It is one of the key fundraisers for BMB.

Last day of band camp, evening – Parent Preview and Social – come see a preview of the show and enjoy a potluck dinner – meet other parents and get to see the results of band camp

August 17 – Corn Boil – the kick off for Batavia High School fall athletics and marching band season. A fun event not to be missed! Enjoy great food, purchase spirit wear and support the teens – 5-7 p.m., rain or shine, there are tables for eating but also a large crowd so bringing a bag chair is a good idea, dinner of hot dog or brat, ear of corn, chips, water/soda, check prices and info online at [bataviabulldogboosters.org](http://bataviabulldogboosters.org)

August 31 – first home football game!

September 8 – first competition! Check the schedule on [bataviamusic.org](http://bataviamusic.org) for all competition dates

October 30 – Marching Band Banquet – be sure to come and celebrate the season! There is always a special treat for parents to end the season on a high note

## **WHAT DO EXPECT**

Each and every band member's attendance at band camp every day, at all rehearsals and all competitions is important. You will hear about your teen's dot. That is their place on the field. Unlike athletic teams, there are no substitute players, there is no one to cover their parts. Each dot is critical. A missing dot is very missed.

The show is designed to be watched as the entire band performing together. It is tempting to watch your teen perform their dot but it becomes impossible to track and you will miss out on the whole show. Be sure to enjoy the entire band. Your teen is enjoying the entire band, you should too.

Just as they perform as a team, they work as a team. No one leaves until everything is put away.

What is the show? **CONNECT**

Music: Electric Counterpoint (Reich), I'm Coming Home (Diddy), Lost Vegas (Michael Daugherty), City Trees (Markowski), Take Me Home (Pentatonix)

Have you noticed how much time society spends with technology? Texts and notifications derail both serious and light hearted conversation. Technology provides the illusion of connection, but it is ultimately driving disconnection. As we become more connected digitally, we have lost the ability to communicate face-to-face. Simple interactions, that one generation ago were taken for granted, are now more complicated than ever. The 2018 BMB production explores this breakdown in human connectivity, and challenges our audience to seek out new ways to engage with one another in genuine human interaction.

**Band Camp** – yes, it is three weeks in the summer and the hours are long but the results are many. You will see your teen make new friends, improve on their instrument, struggle at times but come out at the end of camp better for the experience. It significantly helps the transition to high school. Your teen will start the first day of school with 100 friends, many that are upperclassmen.

The entire camp will be held at Batavia High School. It is important for the band to practice on the turf and to practice in the evenings under lights as those are the same conditions they will encounter during competitions. Band camp is long hours because it can take hours to learn what ends up being less than one minute of a show. If you multiply the number of minutes in the final show by the hours it takes to master each minute you will have an idea of why band camp and all the rehearsals once school starts are necessary.

Yes, the days are long and tiring but at the end your teen will have a sense of accomplishment, will be in better physical shape, will know dozens of friends the first day of school, and will have improved musically plus they will be able to march and play their instrument at the same time which is not easy!

There are usually section parties or other gatherings during band camp and in the fall. Encourage your teen to attend as it will help them get to know their section members better. While it may be a leap to think of freshmen at the same party as seniors, you will find those seniors will be mentors and some of the best people your child could hope to have as friends. If you have any concerns talk to the section leader or their parents.

**Competitions** – the best place to watch BMB is at competitions. You are VERY encouraged to attend competitions. For many parents this becomes the highlight of the season. The band does make changes throughout the season so the show at the first competition will be different than the last. You may choose to watch BMB, their entire division or spend the day. An awards ceremony follows each division. To learn how competitions work, refer to Attachment B and consult [www.ilmarching.com](http://www.ilmarching.com).

This is the second year BMB will be competing at Bands of America in St. Louis. It has been a very exciting step up for the band. There will be parents traveling to the competition so consider going to see this exciting event. If you have questions, contact one of the welcoming parents listed earlier.

For all competitions there are things to know before you go:

- If you are flying solo and a bit hesitant contact one of the welcoming parents – maybe there can be carpooling or a meet up. If you are hesitant for any reason, don't let that stop you from going – make a call and we will help you out.
- Itineraries will be posted on [bataviamusic.org](http://bataviamusic.org) as soon as they are available. Links to the competition are provided when available. Most competitions are true to their schedule but do plan to arrive early just in case plus it will take time to park and enter the stadium (see the etiquette section in Attachment A for more details about the timing on that).
- Band members and chaperones take buses to and from the competitions. Sections ride together. Much fun is had.
- You may notice lunches and dinners for the band sometimes be at odd times. This is to fit into the schedule of competitions. The teens will survive these odd times. Pack some snacks.
- The day for the band usually starts at BHS with a rehearsal. The day can be long but the kids will survive and thrive.
- For family attending:
  - There are usually entrance fees to the competitions, refer to the competition link in the itinerary that will be posted on [bataviamusic.org](http://bataviamusic.org) for specifics.
  - Concession stand food is typically available at the competition. BMB often makes it into the finals and there is typically enough time to drive to a local restaurant and eat before the finals.
  - Check out the parking! The parking lot at the host school is used for marching band buses so don't expect to park there. Competition links usually provide details on parking options.
  - Be prepared for the weather. You will be sitting in football stands – some have individual seats but most are bleachers.
  - Do not expect to visit with your teen during a competition day, they will be busy with the band. Visit with other parents and expect to have fun!

**Football Games** – BMB performs at half-time during all home games and at the end of the game. Parents and families are encouraged to attend the games. Cheer on the Bulldogs and the BMB half-time show. A concession stand and indoor bathrooms are available. The teens eat dinner during the third quarter of the game.

Consider joining the Bulldog Boosters. There is a reserved area for Bulldog boosters. This area is reserved for booster members and opens at 7:00 p.m. for the general public. Joining the Boosters is a GREAT deal and helps to pay for the turf that our marching band uses. Batavia is a big football town and the games are very well attended and a booster membership provides great perks. Joining the Boosters is not the same as joining the Music Buffs.

Booster membership is available at different levels and can include: passes to home football games, reserved parking (as long as space is available), entry to endzone tent for meals, reserved seating (as long as space is available) and meals. Membership helps the Boosters cover costs including their contribution to the cost of the turf, which benefits the marching band. For booster information: [bataviabulldogboosters.org](http://bataviabulldogboosters.org).

There are other areas to sit outside of the booster reserved area but it does fill up quickly. It may seem like a good idea to sit on the visitor side but be aware the marching band performs for the home stands and sitting on the visitor side means you will be watching the back of the band from a distance.

### **ADVICE**

Band camp – water bottle, sunblock, athletic shoes, hat, most teens wear sleeveless shirts to avoid the farmer’s tan.

During games and competitions for the band members:

- Black socks – have plenty! Teens should always put an extra pair in their bag when going to games or competitions.
- Hand warmers – hard to believe after the sunshine of camp, there will be cold. Hand warmers are life savers!

For the parents:

- If you plan on attending games and competitions, stadium seats are worth the investment. They provide an amazing amount of comfort. You can buy wherever you want but the boosters sell them with the Bulldog logo and you can have them personalized.
- Layers, layers, layers. Games and competitions can go long and it will get cold.

Buy spirit wear! There is so very much to be proud about so proudly wear BMB gear. Watch emails for information on ordering.

Professional Photos - Jolesch Enterprises ([joleschenterprises.com](http://joleschenterprises.com)) takes photos during ISU Marching Band Championships and Bands of America (they also take photos during SuperState for Wind Symphony). Stop by their booth at the ISU Championships and Bands of America as they offer special framing and discounts that are only available during the competition (photos and other frames are available later). They offer professional photos of the entire band and on-turf shots. Take a look through their gallery, you may find a wonderful photo of your teen.

## **HOW PARENTS CAN HELP**

Your teen will hone their skills and develop new ones. That is not just a teen thing. Parents can hone and stretch too. Volunteering is how you will meet and get to know other parents. From helping with uniforms to transporting the band, there are many roles. If every single person can do some, it's amazing how much can get done.

It takes parents banding together to support a marching band. You will see opportunities to volunteer forwarded as a sign-up genius. Please consider where you can help. You will be happy you did.

Consider joining Batavia Music Buffs. The Batavia Music Buffs is a volunteer organization that supports the music programs in all K-12 Batavia Public School District schools. Contributions are tax deductible. This organization is vital to the musical life at the Batavia schools. Details at [bataviamusicbuffs.org](http://bataviamusicbuffs.org).

## **BENEFITS OF MARCHING BAND**

The benefits of marching band are many:

Social – meeting life-long friends

Visibility – BMB is the largest organization at Batavia High School and one of the most visible

Travel – travel locally to marching competitions and venture farther to Cedar Point, Disney World and Pearl Harbor in Hawaii

Physically – marching band will keep you in shape.

Musicianship – marching band will improve your musicianship, you will improve technique and endurance

Competition – when done in a healthy way, competition is great for improvement and goal setting

Time management – marching band is a lot of time but is also forces you to plan wisely

Colleges – colleges like to see students who are involved academically and athletically or musically

Teamwork – learn life skills including how to work well with others

Community – BMB plays at parades, community events and athletic events that contribute directly to the Batavia School spirit

Fun – lots of it!

Marching band will teach some amazing life skills and lessons, such as: setting and achieving goals, success requires hard work, how to win/succeed with class, how to lose/fail with dignity, success requires sacrifice, how to deal with pressure and stress., you're responsible for yourself, life isn't always fair, there will be tough times, how to manage time efficiently, respect everyone, focus on what you can control.

## **QUESTIONS?**

Hopefully this has answered many of your questions and has provided an overview of the program from a parent's perspective. If you have questions at any time, feel free to contact one of the Welcoming Parents (contact info on the first page) and they will be happy to chat with you. Enjoy the march!

## **Attachment A**

### **MARCHING BAND COMPETITION ETIQUETTE**

Here are a few etiquette pointers (courtesy of [ilmarching.com](http://ilmarching.com))

A Marching Band competition is not quite a concert, and it's not quite a sporting event. There are some elements of each which are encouraged, while others are discouraged. Some schools bring a whole cheering section of fans, while others have only their Pit Crew to cheer the band on. Many parents (especially those new to the activity) are unsure as to when it is appropriate to cheer or applaud. Below are some tips to help you become contributors to a performance, without being a distraction.

If you've never attended a marching band competition, you'll be surprised and amazed at how quiet and attentive most people are during performances. This is very different from football games where the halftime performance is just background noise for peoples' conversations. For this reason alone, you should try to get to as many competitions as possible.

The best marching band fans are those who cheer for every band. Sure, you're going to cheer loudest for your band, but every band is out there to entertain or move the audience in some way. They all deserve your applause, and every band should get a standing ovation at the end.

Here are some basic Dos and Don'ts:

- Do get to the show early to get a good seat. Sit as high and centered in the bleachers as possible, so you can get the full effect.
  - Don't have one or two over-zealous parents try to save a whole section of bleachers for just our fans. Seating is generally first-come, first-served.
- Do wear your school colors proudly!
  - Don't wave pompons or pennants, or hold up big banners or signs! This only serves to distract the performers and obstruct the view of other audience members.
- Do share and converse with those around you (even those from other schools) between bands.
  - Don't talk during ANY band's performance! And, don't try to get up or down the bleachers during performances. This is essentially a concert. There are people around you that want to hear every note and see every effect. Save your comments for between bands, and pick one band to miss as you get a hot dog or use the restroom.
- Do find the positives in each band's performance, and applaud their efforts.
  - Don't make negative comments while within ear-shot of other audience members. You never know who is sitting around you-it could be staff members, parents, or siblings of the performers on the field. If you must point out flaws, wait until the drive home!
- Do watch the band as a whole.
  - Don't just zero in on your own teenager for the entire show. You'll miss a lot!
- Do applaud often. It's not like a concert, where you wait until the end to applaud. It's appropriate to applaud for stirring musical moments, cool visual effects, soloists, or anything else that strikes your fancy! Even the occasional "Yeah!" or "Woo!" is great, where appropriate.

- Do concentrate on what is going well in each band's performance.
  - Don't react vocally with an "Oh!" when something goes wrong. Especially in the early shows, rifles will be dropped, kids will slip and fall, etc. You're not making them feel better about it by reacting negatively.
- Do applaud each band's placement at the awards ceremony (whether you liked their show or not).
  - Don't boo or otherwise comment negatively on anyone's placement. Don't cheer or otherwise react when another band places lower than expected. Wait until your band is actually announced, and then cheer your head off! Don't get up to leave until all awards have been announced (even if you are unhappy with the results).
- Do trust that the adjudicators are professionals who are doing the best they can, to judge what is ultimately a very subjective activity. On any given Saturday, with any given judging panel, anything can happen.
  - Don't for a moment think that anything is "rigged" or that there are "hometown favorites". Bands that seem to "win all the time" do so for a reason: they're really good, and they're really consistent.

## **Attachment B COMPETITION FAQs**

So how does the judging at competitions work? This information is from [ilmarching.com](http://ilmarching.com). It's a great resource to track BMB's competition results and links to scores.

**Before we get into the judging explanation, please understand there is currently NO "recognized" Illinois State Championship. Illini Marching Band Festival and State of Illinois Invitational Marching Band Championships are separate festivals.**

### **How are bands classified and scored ?**

Bands in Illinois are classified differently competition to competition. Most local shows in Illinois are classified by band size. Illinois State, Illini Marching Band Festival, and Bands of America events are done based on school size. Each contest provides score sheets that typically add to a possible 100 point total. Score sheet systems vary from contest to contest. There is no set standard.

### **Do classes affect judging?**

No. In a typical event, one set of judges works the entire event, and "all bands are on the same scale" so results can be compared between any two bands. In large events two panels may be used; in concept they are on the same scale, but there is no way to guarantee the results will correlate. An example of this is that U of I has separate panels for 1A-3A vs. 4A-6A.

### **How many judges are on a panel?**

There is no standard system mandate in Illinois. Early local contests may have a small panel of 3-5 judges. The most common Illinois systems use a 7-judge panel based on the Bands of America system, with four music judges and three visual judges. Several variations and other systems exist. Individual events often add "special" judges focused on color guard, drum major, or percussion for specialized feedback and awards.

### **Where do judges come from?**

Depends on location and the contest budget. Judges are typically booked by the band director/contest director/sponsor, individually, up to a year in advance. They may be local (within driving distance) or may be flown in and provided housing.

### **How are bands classified on band size?**

Most Illinois shows have classes based on instrumentation-basically, anyone who plays an instrument (brass, woodwinds, percussion). Usually, there are 3 classes (Class A is up to 64, AA is 65-96, and AAA is 97 and up.)

### **What about school size?**

U of I, ISU, and Bands of America are different in how they classify their bands.

Both Illinois State and University of Illinois run their shows on a 6 division system, and Bands of America uses a 4 class system (Grades 10-12 only!) to determine where the band will be.

ISU's enrollment classes have been: (1A-6A)

1-800 / 801-1275 / 1276-1700 / 1701-1999 / 2000-2500 / 2501+ (in 2010)

1-800 / 801-1400 / 1401-1750 / 1751-1999 / 2000-2500 / 2501+ (in 2011)

University of Illinois used this enrollment breakdown for 2010 and 2011: (1A-6A)

1-350 / 351-800 / 801-1100 / 1100-1600 / 1601-2500 / 2501+

Bands of America will be using a slightly modified classification system starting in 2012. (A-AAAA)

1-600 / 601-1225 / 1226-1674 / 1675+

### **What is a Bands of America event?**

Bands of America is a program of Music for All, Inc.

Music for All is one of the largest and most influential national music education organizations in support of active music making. Music for All is unique in that it combines programming at a national level with arts education advocacy. Bands of America (BOA) and Orchestra America are programs of Music for All, first founded in 1975, with a heritage in providing spectacular educational experiences and performance events for instrumental music programs and students. Music for All is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational organization.

<http://www.musicforall.org/who-we-are/our-mission>

In 2012, Bands of America will present 15 regional and super regional championships across the United States, and the Grand National Championships in Indianapolis. These shows are open to any band that would like to sign up and participate. 30 bands are accepted at regionals, 60 at super regionals, and 90+ at Grand Nationals.

Bands of America Regional Championships are complete championships and educational events in their own right, not qualifying events for the Grand Nationals. Thirty bands typically perform in preliminary competition with ten bands advancing to the evening Finals.

Super Regional Championships are 2 day championships that involve up to 60 bands, with 12 or 14 bands advancing to the night finals on Saturday, depending on the amount of bands enrolled.

The Grand National Championships involve 90+ bands competing in preliminary competition. 30 (or more) bands advance to Semifinals on Saturday, and 12 bands advance to compete head to head for the prestigious title of Grand National Champion. Note: In all BOA events, should a class champion not be in the top scoring bands to be invited to the night show, they will be invited to perform in special exhibition at the night show.

### **What do the judges do?**

Each judge has to rank, rate, and evaluate the achievement of each band's show, based on the content and the performance, within his/her score sheet provided by the contest. Evaluations are recorded for the director. "What" (content) plus "how" (performance) equals achievement. "Rate" involves the specific score and "rank" involves position (1-2-3 etc.) relative to other bands.

### **Using the Bands of America scoring system, what are the judges looking for?**

Captions: Music Performance Individual and Music Performance Ensemble, Visual Performance Individual and Visual Performance Ensemble, Music General Effect (2 judges), and Visual General Effect. Each of these sheets are out of a possible 200 points, and the sheet is divided by 10 to get the score for each caption.

### **The total score (100 possible) is based on a panel of seven caption judges as follows:**

Music General Effect: two judges in the press box each with a 20 point sheet.  
Music Performance Individual: one judge on the field with a 20 point sheet (averaged).  
Music Performance Ensemble: one judge in the press box with a 20 point sheet (averaged).  
Visual General Effect: one judge in the press box with a 20 point sheet.  
Visual Performance Individual: one judge on the field with a 20 point sheet (averaged).  
Visual Performance Ensemble: one judge in the press box with a 20 point score sheet (averaged).

**A typical set of “caption awards” would be:**

Best Music (from the average score of MPI and MPE)

Best Visual (from the average score of VPI and VPE)

Best General Effect (from the total score of three GE judges)]

**Music Performance Individual and Ensemble (20 points, caption is averaged):**

This caption involves the technical accuracy of the musical performance of the wind and percussion players, and also considers the difficulty level of the music. One judge is on the field evaluating individual performance, while the other is in the press box evaluating ensemble performance.

**Visual Performance Individual and Ensemble (20 points, caption is averaged):**

This caption involves the technical accuracy of the marching and visual evaluating accuracy, frequency, and accessibility of movement as well as how well individuals carry themselves. The other judge is seated in the press box evaluating execution while considering technical demand and drill content and construction.

Now, we delve into General Effect, which can be a lot more difficult to explain.

**Music General Effect (2 judges, 40 points.)**

They consider how musically the instrumentalists play, how effective their performance is, and how well the show is put together to present a unified production. These judges are located in the press box. This caption consists of a possible total of 40 points.

**Visual General Effect (20 points)**

These judges, both located in the press box, evaluate how well the marching formations interpret the music presented in the show, as well as the visual coordination of the instrumentalists and color guard.

**For a more in depth explanation of the judge’s sheets, please download the Bands of America Adjudication Handbook at:** <http://www.musicforall.org/what-we-do/marching/grand-national-championships/adjudication-handbook>