

A Virginia Honor Band for 26 Consecutive Years



LAKE BRADDOCK BRUIN BAND



PARENTS' GUIDE

Prepared by:
The Lake Braddock Bruin Band Boosters, Inc.
(2007-2008 Edition, August 2007)

Website: www.lbband.org

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Welcome

The Lake Braddock Band program is one of the most highly acclaimed band programs in Virginia and is well known across the United States for its pursuit of excellence and high achievement year after year. The success and prestige of the program is brought about by hard work on the part of all concerned: the directors, the booster members', families, and especially the students.

The Marching Band brings honor to Lake Braddock Secondary School through various performances and contests during the fall. The concert band continues this fine tradition during performances in the winter and spring. The Color Guard is an integral part of the Marching Band and also performs in Guard competitions in the spring.

We welcome those of you who are new to the Bruin Band Family as well as those who have been associated with the program for many years. You and your family are part of a group that enables your child to grow musically and socially. We hope that you will take the opportunity to join the Bruin Band Boosters and further support the band programs.

You probably have some questions about how the band program works. This guidebook attempts to answer as many questions as possible such as: "*When does it happen? Who does what? How much does it cost?*" And especially, ***HOW CAN I HELP?*** The information within this guide is up to date at time of publication any changes and new information are published in the *Bruin Bandstand* (the booster newsletter, which is mailed periodically to all students' homes throughout the school year) and posted to the band website, www.lbband.org. Parents are also notified of changes and other important items via the phone tree, general e-mail, and at general membership meetings. If you have any questions, please ask any member of the Band Boosters Board of Directors or Committees. Their names, phone numbers, and email addresses are in Appendix I of this handbook.

In June, before the end of the school year, your child should have turned in a Pre-School Marching Band Rehearsal Forms. It is important to ensure the information is complete and accurate as these forms provide information that is included in the Band Directory and assist in emergency care if needed. The Directory is created yearly for parents and usually published in August. The directory not only has all the names and phone numbers of the band members but also has a calendar of all band events occurring during the year. Ask your child for it during the start of the Pre-School Band Rehearsal. **NOTE: Emergency Care Forms must be completed and turned in before your child can participate in Pre-School Band Rehearsal.**

Parents are welcome at all events (no matter what you might hear from your own child). In fact, it's the parent attendance that generates much of the excitement at games, competitions, and concerts. The students work too hard to be ignored and deserve our utmost support.

Come to the home football games and sit with us. It's not hard to find us. There are a lot of yellow jackets and purple sweatshirts in this part of the crowd. **(NOTE: Band families generally sit on either side of the band on the home side -that's either around the 50-yard line or the far 20-yard line.)**

We are happy to have you with the band and look forward to seeing you at Burke Lake Park at 6:00 pm on Friday, August 24th, for the annual student and family band picnic. Be sure to bring your checkbook as you will have the opportunity to purchase fundraising items. (See Sections on Fundraiser and Spirit Wear for details on items that will be available)

Band Boosters Organization

The LAKE BRADDOCK BRUIN BAND BOOSTERS, INC. is a non-profit public charity (501.c3) incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia to provide financial and organizational support to the band programs, their directors, and the school they represent. Volunteer activities are organized and promoted by the Board of

Directors and committee chairpersons. See the "Volunteer Opportunities" paragraphs of this handbook for some of the many ways you can support the Band Booster programs.

Membership in the Bruin Band Boosters is open to any interested person. In past years, the membership fee has been \$5.00 per person per year. Membership entitles you to participate in all booster-sponsored activities; to attend free of charge the scheduled band concerts at Lake Braddock and to vote on all issues brought before the organization at meetings of the general membership.

General Membership meetings are held approximately four times per year, generally the second Mondays of Sept, Nov, Feb (or Mar), and May. These meetings provide the membership with an opportunity to meet other band parents, the members of the Band Booster Board and Committees, and band directors. It is an opportunity to ask questions on any band subject. The meetings last about one hour, are held in the large band room at Lake Braddock Secondary School, and are advertised in advance via email, the band webpage and in the newsletter. Additional meetings are scheduled at the start of the year, prior to concerts, and prior to the spring trip.

The Boosters are always striving to improve the Band Parents' Guide please provide any suggestions you may have for next year's edition to the Secretary or President of the Boosters.

Band Performance Categories

High School Advanced Bands

Advanced band class is designed for the sequential study of instrumental music literature and advanced rehearsal and performance techniques. It is a performance organization for selected students of high achievement and talent. Marching band techniques, performance, and rehearsals, both in and outside of school, are required in this class. Additional performance experiences such as full symphonic orchestra are recommended when schedules permit. After-school rehearsals and performances are required. Membership is by audition and instrumentation for the group will be at the discretion of the directors. Please don't be confused by the FCPS course descriptions for band, which list 2 levels for band; there are 3 "advanced" credit bands at Lake Braddock (Symphonic and Concert Bands I and II). The "total experience" is what enables your child to achieve "advanced" band credit.

Intermediate Band

Intermediate Band credit is available for students wishing to improve their skills in order to become members of one of the advanced performing groups. This group of students does not march.

Jazz Band

The Jazz Band is a select performing group that meets as a separate class during the school day. Membership must be approved by Band Director's and concurrent membership in a performing group (advanced band, orchestra, or guitar) is required. Contact Mr. Michael Luley, Jazz Band Director, for additional information.

Percussion Ensemble

The Lake Braddock Percussion Ensemble is an extra-curricular musical group open to the Lake Braddock high school percussionists. The Percussion Ensemble rehearses once a week after school and performs with the Jazz Band and Trombone Choir several times throughout the year. In this ensemble, members are exposed to the many different percussion instruments and types of music ranging from melodies on mallets to drum line cadences.

Marching Band

The Marching Band is composed of all members of Symphonic Band, the two Concert Bands and the Color Guard. The Marching Band maintains an extensive performance and competition schedule in the fall quarter. The season begins with mandatory Pre-School Band Rehearsal and requires after-school rehearsals through the end of football season. In addition, section leaders can and do call mandatory sectional rehearsals outside of school or band rehearsal hours. They can be on a regular schedule or on an as needed basis to address problems in marching, color guard drill, or music performance. All of these commitments are part of the band course. Expenses for competitions and festivals in the fall and winter are borne by the individual band members and are included in the transportation fee which, along with the uniform fee, is collected during Pre-School Band Rehearsal. The Pre-School Band Rehearsal fee is collected in the months of May and June preceding the start of Pre-School Band Rehearsal. For more information, see specific headings in this guide.

Color Guard

The Color Guard functions as an essential part of the Marching Band. Auditions are held each spring. The Color Guard rehearses approximately ten times throughout the summer and then follows the Pre-School Band Rehearsal schedule. Color Guard members support the bands during the concert season. They also perform in their own Spring Guard competition and also receive the whole-hearted support of the band and band parents at these times. During Spring Guard season, Color Guard captains will notify your students of their practice times. Throughout the marching band and concert seasons, the high school band director keeps in touch with the Color Guard captains and keeps them informed on items announced in band class. This allows the captains to relay band information to the Color Guard members and their parents. If you have questions, please call the Band Booster Color Guard chairperson.

Trombone Choir

One of the most unique and enjoyable band ensembles is the Lake Braddock Trombone Choir. The trombone choir welcomes all high school trombone players to join them on Tuesday nights at 8pm for practice. They play under the direction of Mr. Mike Wheeler and perform at the same concerts as the Jazz Band. This fun and challenging experience will improve skills and be a rewarding experience.

Band Directors & Band Booster – Contact Numbers

See Appendix I for contact information.

Communications

The Lake Braddock Band is a large group of students that must play together in unison and also work in unison to be successful and thus communication is paramount. There are several means of communication:

- **Verbal Instruction** from directors in class
- **Handouts** by band directors
- **Newsletter** – The *Bruin Bandstand* (the newsletter mailed to parents) provides information to parents and supplements information to students. The newsletter is mailed to all members households and is sent generally seven times during the school year.
- **Webpage** – located at www.lbband.org. Please check the band website often for up to date information
- **Email Reminders** – Periodically, emails will be sent to Band families with reminders of upcoming events.
- **Phone Tree for urgent messages** – Families of all Band members are placed on a calling list. **Volunteers** call or email 6 to 8 families on an as needed basis with urgent information.

Competitions

Specific dates, times, and locations of fall marching competitions and spring concert festivals are published on the Band website (www.lbband.org), in the *Bruin Bandstand* and in the Directory (which goes home during Pre-School Band Rehearsal). Parents are encouraged to attend these events. There are 3 marching competitions each fall and a small admission fee of about \$5.00 is generally charged for spectators (admission fee is waived for chaperones, uniform closet volunteers and the pit crew). Only those parents who are officially signed up to be chaperones travel on the buses with the students (no younger siblings are allowed to ride the bus). Carpooling has been successful for those parents who wish to attend local events.

Each student supplies his or her own food, beverage, and treats for these one-day band trips. The band director will announce to the students if food stops will be made or if brown bagging is required. Students are allowed to carry small coolers, etc. on the buses. County policy prohibits the possession or consumption of alcohol or any banned substances. Sufficient chaperones are necessary for each trip and activity.

Concerts

Three to five concerts are scheduled each year—Winter (usually December), Pre-Festival (February or March), and Spring (May/June). These concerts are held at Lake Braddock Secondary School in the Little Theater. Admission is \$2.00 per person (Members of the Bruin Band Boosters are admitted free). In addition, there are generally two Jazz Bands and Small Ensemble (i.e., Trombone Choir) concerts during the year and individual or group recitals in the spring.

Band members are required to arrive early (as specified by the director) in order to dress, tune, and warm up. They are expected to remain for the entire concert. **The band director must approve exceptions well in advance.**

Concert CD Recordings

Each concert is professionally recorded and CDs are available for purchase. Prepaid orders are taken the evening of the concert and the CD is delivered to the school several weeks later. Orders can also be mailed to the recording company within a week of the concert. For an additional charge, CDs can be mailed directly to an address you specify. The cost of the CDs is determined by the recording company (approximately \$18 per CD).

DVD/Video Yearbook

The Bruin Band Boosters produce a very popular video yearbook of marching band memories that it offers for sale. Members of the video committee record the activities of the marching band throughout the marching season. The video usually includes shots of summer marching band rehearsal, band performances at home football games (both on the field and in the stands), competition performances, Tag Day, car washes, along with clips from prior year marching seasons. DVDs of the videos can be ordered starting at the Band picnic in August 2007 for delivery in June 2008. Order forms are included in the newsletters and on the band website.

Extra-Band Opportunities/Requirements

District Band

District Band is open to all students on an audition basis. Symphonic and Concert Band members are strongly urged to participate in this audition. Symphonic and Concert 1 Band members are required to

participate in either District Band auditions or the Solo and Ensemble Festival. District Band auditions are usually held in early January at a designated Fairfax County school. Information about registration and required fees is available from the band director.

Instrument Petting Zoo

The Instrument Petting Zoo (IPZ) is a community outreach and education project sponsored by the Women's Committee of the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO.) Children (and their parents) have the chance for hands-on fun with instruments they see professionally played on stage. LB band and orchestra students have the honor to be the instrument demonstrators. Typically there are four events held throughout the year, which are determined by the NSO. They include the annual Kennedy Center Open House Festival, selected NSO Family Concerts, and a summer concert at the Carter Barron Amphitheater.

Events and dates are announced in the newsletter, in band e-mails, on the website and during class. Any student may volunteer. A month prior to the event sign-up posters are placed in the band and orchestra rooms. Participants are selected on a first-come basis. On the day of the event students wear band/orchestra t-shirts, nice slacks or skirts, and comfortable shoes and are transported via carpools between LB and Washington, D.C. All instruments and mouthpieces are provided by the NSO. Participants receive service hours and band students may include the event towards earning a band letter.

Pep Band (Football Season)

Pep Band provides school spirit for away football games. Membership is limited. Interested band members may indicate their interest by signing up with the band director who will then select those who will participate in the Pep Band. The school provides transportation on school buses. Uniforms are not required for this school activity. Chaperones are always needed for Pep Band.

Solo and Ensemble Festival

Solo and Ensemble Festival is open to all students. Symphonic and Concert Band members are strongly urged to participate. Symphonic and Concert I Band members are required to participate in either District Band auditions or the Solo and Ensemble Festival. The Solo and Ensemble Festival provides an opportunity for a student to learn a different genre of music and perform at a variety of skill levels. Each soloist or ensemble plays with a personally chosen accompanist (if the music requires) before a trained adjudicator and receives a grade and written critique. The Solo and Ensemble Festival is held each spring in April. Information about registration and required fees is available from the band director.

Tri-M Music Honor Society

The Tri-M Music Honor Society is the international music honor society for high school students that motivates and recognizes student's musical ability, academic excellence, school involvement and community service. Founded in 1936 by Alexander and Frances Harley, incorporated and renamed Modern Music Masters in 1952, and in 1983 recognized as the Tri-M Music Honor Society, a program of MENC (National Association for Music Education). Tri-M has helped young people provide years of service through music in thousands of schools throughout the world. Through more than 4,100 chartered chapters, thousands of students have received recognition for their efforts and honor for their musical accomplishments.

There are several requirements to maintain your membership in the Tri-M Music Honor Society:

- **Maintain Your GPA.** All members must maintain a 3.0 overall GPA and a 3.5 or higher in music.
- **Complete the Service Hours requirements:** Each member must complete six service hours per semester. These service hours may include any of the following recommended activities:
- **Assist any Music Teacher**
- **Tutor a student in music**
- **Assist at a music concert**

