



The Dog Days of Summer



For Marching Students Only: A guide to making the 2018 Blue Devil Band Camp the best ever!

See Kimberly Collins' "[Things I Wish I knew as a Freshman Marching Band Parent](#)" at the end of this document.

Please be sure we have a valid email for all students and parents. Send updates or questions to henryclayband@gmail.com See calendar and lots of other info at www.henryclayband.org check the handbook and forms section and **submit all forms and payments on time.** (Note: Marching Band includes Color Guard)

Band Camp is an exciting, intense experience. A new band is formed, students learn new skills and a new marching show begins to take shape. The success of the marching band season depends on the preparation and participation **of each band member.** Following the tips below will allow each student to make the maximum contribution to the success of the camp and the marching band.

Be There. Attendance is the key! Marching band is the ultimate team activity. There is no first team, everyone participates. A few hours missed will put a student behind the rest of the band and additional rehearsal time will be needed to catch up. Please schedule vacations, camps, appointments, etc. for dates and times that do not conflict with camp schedule. (Attendance at band camp is a requirement for a band letter.)

Be On Time. If you arrive on campus at the scheduled start time, you will be late for rehearsal. Allow plenty of time to obtain your instrument or apparatus from the band room, put on sun screen, eat that last bite of breakfast and be ready to go, in the right location, at the scheduled start time.

Be Prepared. Most of camp is outside, in hot weather and involves vigorous physical activity. Get regular exercise, in the heat, during the weeks prior to camp. Keep your chops! Play your instrument or practice with your flag regularly prior to camp.

Bring the Right Stuff.

Eat a good breakfast

Bring water jug (insulated, ½ gallon size) **with** water, drink lots of water throughout each day

Dot Book (spiral bound index cards)

Bring sack lunch (and supper for the long days)

Wear loose, athletic type clothing (Shirts required)

Wear comfortable shoes with socks (sandals and flip flops are not appropriate)

Use lots of high SPF sunscreen. Camp can really be a bummer with bad sunburn!!!

Wear hat & sunglasses

Bring instrument, sticks, flags, music, reeds, valve oil, etc. as applies to you

Rest. Get plenty of rest and sleep each night before a camp day

2018 Marching Band and Color Guard Camp Schedule

** Lunch Breaks each day where applicable: Noon - 1 p.m., Supper: 5:00-6:30 p.m. during 1st week.**

Sunday, July 22

Mandatory Pre-Camp Meeting in HC Theater: 6:00 p.m. All Marching Students and **at least one parent** should attend.

July 23 – 27

Marching Band Camp All Winds, Percussion & Color Guard: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

July 30 – August 3

Marching Band Camp All Winds, Percussion & Color Guard: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

August 6 – 10

Marching Band Camp All Winds, Percussion & Color Guard: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday, August 10

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Family Potluck and Show Preview. 9:00 – 11:30 p.m. Pool Party

August 13, 14 & 16

Full Marching Band Rehearsal: Mon. & Tues: 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Thurs: 3:45 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

August 17

Home Football Game- All band members (marching and non-marching) perform

Marching Band will normally rehearse after school 3-4 days per week. MB will also perform at all home football games and all day Saturday MB contests. There will be MB rehearsals during Fall Break and on some other days when school is not in session. This schedule is listed on the band calendar at henryclayband.org/.

Things I Wish I knew as a Freshman Marching Band Parent

By Kimberly Collins

1. If your child is not generally active, make sure they walk a lot this summer, or even start running (I highly recommend couch to 5K). Otherwise, they will have a very hard time once band camp starts. It is an intensive boot camp, but necessary to prepare them for the rigors of marching with an instrument.
2. Before band camp, make sure your child has plenty of athletic (breathable) clothing. They will be outside a lot during band camp, and many afternoons once school starts. They will definitely get plenty of use out of them. You can get good prices at Target and Old Navy.
3. Make sure to purchase an insulated drinking cooler (at least a half gallon) before Band Camp. A bottle of water won't cut it when it's above 80 degrees out and you have 8 hours of camp. They need to be hydrated to avoid heat related illnesses.
4. Do not make plans to go out of town for Fall Break—there will be at least one day of Band Camp and possibly a football game as well.
5. While you're at it, don't make any plans to be out of town on Saturdays during September and October. There will be a band competition almost every Saturday, and it will take all day, because they will practice in the morning. Depending on the location, sometimes they will not get home until around midnight. Make sure to check the band calendar and sync it with yours. (There will be at least one weekend off, but until the calendar is finalized, you have to wait).
6. When school starts, they will have practice after school 3-4 times a week, usually scheduled until 6 or 7 pm. That does not mean your child is ready to get in the car at 6 or 7 pm. There is a lot of equipment to put away, and the work is distributed among all students. Many times, they are there a half hour later than what is scheduled.
7. The "show" (the routine they learn) is fluid throughout the season. It will look very different from the parent night at the end of band camp all the way up until the final competition. Each week they will add new things or take away some things depending in judges' feedback at the prior week's competition. They have a parent showcase at the end of the last practice of the week—it's a lot of fun to watch the show unfold in a different way each week, so make sure to attend.
8. When they are at a competition, they will be fed by the band boosters. It's like feeding a small army, and it is organized very well. You will be asked for donations throughout the season (drinks, snacks, etc), and if you are able to volunteer your time, it is much appreciated. However, when they have a morning practice before a competition, they will need to bring a lunch (or go out to get one) before they load up (they usually get an hour break).
9. Although it sounds like a lot of sacrifice (it is), your child will enjoy marching band more than you ever thought possible, and will make close friends very quickly. It's a great transition from middle school to high school, as they will have many friends before school even starts, many of them upperclassmen!
10. I highly encourage you to jump in and get involved by volunteering with the marching band. Our directors bring out the best in these kids, and it is a delight to get to know them!

Kimberly Collins, parent of two former HC band students.