

Bonita Springs High School

Marching Bull Sharks Band

Student & Parent Informational Handbook 2025-26



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Welcome from the Directors

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome to the Bonita Springs High School Marching Band! We applaud you for your decision to join us as a significant enhancement to your high school experience. As a member of our Band, you will find yourself in a circle of supportive, encouraging, & dedicated individuals who are driven to make their mark on this school's history. Band is a place of friendship, pride, devotion, learning, & fun, and we believe that with us, from football games to pep rallies to parades, you will make memories to last a lifetime.

This Band Handbook exists to acquaint you with the “who, what, where, & why” we are. It is designed to answer your questions, so please take the time to read it carefully. If a question arises, students should consult the handbook first, then their student leadership, and if an answer still cannot be found, *then* the directors. Staff & student leadership are available to answer your questions, listen to your concerns, suggestions, & help you along the way. Thank you for joining us! We cannot wait to embark on this year's journey with you!

Marching Band Staff

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Student Leadership Staff

Hannah Banks Woodwind Section Leader
Jayden Torres Brass Section Leader
Adrianna Biasi Drum Captain
Jamaira Laycock Dance Captain
Vanessa Tatak Dance Captain

Goals of the BSHS Marching Bull Sharks Band

The Life Experience

- To learn more about ourselves and the human experience through teamwork, focus, commitment, energy, and a deep love of sharing music.

The Complete Entertainment Package

- To provide a high energy, high quality, and *memorable* musical and visual performance at various events. The quality of a performance is in the details: every note, move, step that are rehearsed and cleaned to perfection. The goal is for each performer to contribute all that they have to offer in every performance.

“They may not remember what you did, they may not remember what you played, but they will ALWAYS remember how you made them feel.”

Responsibilities as a Member of the Marching Bull Sharks

Responsibility to Yourself

- You owe it to yourself to always TRY! Try to play, march, and perform at your best. Trying to be positive and productive. Trying to get along with others. Trying to get the most *commitment, focus, and energy* possible out of yourself.

Responsibility to Each Other

- Respect the rights and opinions of others.
- Get along with each other! Antisocial behaviors – excessive talking, rumors, bad manners – will only breed the same in others and bring trouble to our Band.
- You are either part of the **solution** to any given obstacle, or you are part of the **problem**. Think carefully before you act and speak!

IMAGINE THIS . . .

“Pay It Forward”

Imagine that you did someone a favor, something BIG that really changes their day or even their life. What if, instead of expecting them to pay you back, all you asked was that they pay it forward to three others? And when they paid it forward, all that THEY expected in return was for those people to pay it forward? The next day, those three others each paid it forward to three DIFFERENT people, and it continued the next day, the next day...

If each day, everyone “paid it forward” to three others, imagine how many lives could be touched at the end of one week, one month, one year, if we all followed this simple practice of giving. Be the one to give, to help, to inspire!

2025-26 BSHS Marching Band Schedule

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Thu, July 24–Fri, July 25	Drumline Preparatory Camp	12pm–4pm
Fri, July 25	Leadership Workshop	9am–11:30am
Mon, July 28–Fri, Aug 1	Band Camp Week 1	9am–4pm
Mon, Aug 4–Fri, Aug 8	Band Camp Week 2	4pm–8pm
Mon, Aug 11	First Day of School	
Tue, Aug 12	Weekly Rehearsals Begin	2:30pm–5pm
Fri, Aug 22	Game #1 v Ida Baker	7:30pm kickoff
Fri, Aug 29	Game #2 @ Mariner	7:30pm kickoff
Fri, Sep 5	Game #3 @ Cape Coral	7:30pm kickoff
Fri, Sep 12	Game #4 v North Port	7:30pm kickoff
Fri, Sep 19	Game #5 @ Palmetto Ridge	7:30pm kickoff
Fri, Sep 26	SENIOR NIGHT v Aubrey Rogers	7:30pm kickoff
Fri, Oct 3	HOMECOMING v Gateway	7:30pm kickoff
Thu, Oct 9	Game #8 @ Barron Collier	7:30pm kickoff
Fri, Oct 24	Game #9 v Lely	7:30pm kickoff
Fri, Oct 31	JAWS v CLAWS @ Estero	7:30pm kickoff
Sat, Nov 1	Marching MPA @ Ft Myers HS	Timeline TBD
Mon, Nov 3	MPA Rain Date	
Sat, Dec 6	Coconut Point Holiday Parade	Timeline TBD
Sat, Feb 21	Edison Grand Parade	Timeline TBD

Weekly Rehearsal Schedule

Tuesdays & Thursdays after school, 2:30pm–5:00pm

Beginning on Tuesday, August 12th, 2025.

Criteria for Success as a Member of the BSHS Bands

The following 5 simple criteria are rules that have been put in place to ensure the best possible experience for ALL members of the Marching Bull Sharks family. Please read through this section carefully and intently.

#1. YOU are responsible for the actions & behaviors of BSHS Bands & each other.

- Be punctual at every rehearsal and event – *“early is on time and on time is late!”*
- Be organized, prepared, present, & proactive!
- Be a POSITIVE member of the band!
- Have all music and routines memorized.
- Be respectful and patient with yourself and each other.
- Take immaculate care of all equipment and rehearsal/performance spaces.

#2. Give 100% effort, 100% of the time.

- How you practice determines how you perform! Every single member of our Band is responsible for the success of the entire group.

#3. Represent the Band & BSHS well at all rehearsals, performances, & functions.

- Vulgar language, PDA, inappropriate behaviors, etc. are not acceptable. Be especially mindful of times when you are in the public eye.
- If you would not do it standing next to any of the directors, then it is probably not appropriate behavior and should not take place.
- You can be professional, classy, AND still be productive while having fun!!

#4. Always be a part of the SOLUTION and never a part of the problem.

- Always come prepared with what you need to every rehearsal: instrument, equipment, music, water, appropriate shoes, and a positive attitude.

#5. Communication will ALWAYS be part of the solution.

- Communicate early, communicate respectfully, & communicate often.
- Communicate conflicts maturely and within a timely manner.
- *Communicating will solve 99.99% of your problems!*

Please see the following page for more general policies surrounding the Band experience. Failure to meet any of the expectations laid out under the Criteria for Success or General Policies may result in removal from a rehearsal, a performance, or from the band altogether.

General Policies

#1. Food, Gum, Trash

- Food is not allowed at rehearsals unless during breaks or other approved times.
- Food and gum are not to be consumed while playing instruments.
- NO trash is to be left behind at any rehearsal or performance venue.
 - *Leave EVERYTHING better than you found it!*

#2. Football Games

- All Band members are to be in the stands, organized by section, at all times.
- Due to space and safety, no non-Band members may sit in the band stands.
- Band members will be given the 3rd quarter of each game to use restrooms, get food, visit family, etc. & must be back at the time designated by the director.
- Having 3rd quarter off is a *privilege* and may be revoked at any time.

#3. Busses and Transportation

- Travel by bus is required for all performances not occurring on campus.
- Report times for all bus travel and performances will be given by directors.
- Students are expected to ride the bus unless given prior approval by the director to use alternative transportation AND a **transportation form** has been filled out.
- The bus is the bus driver's office!! Use this space respectfully just as you would use any other office; poor behavior, excessive noise, etc. is not acceptable.
- Always ensure that you have transportation arranged in advance to pick you up ON TIME from all rehearsals and performances. Have a back-up plan ready.

#4. Sportsmanship

- THINK before you speak & act. "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all."
- Remain positive and supportive of all BSHS activities on social media.
- Always be honest, but respectful, when giving criticism or feedback to others.

#5. Cell Phone Use

- Cell phones should always be OUT OF USE during rehearsals and performances.
- Always communicate if cell phone use is absolutely necessary.

#6. Leadership Team

- Auditions for the leadership team will occur in the Spring semester. Positions available are up to the discretion of the directors.

#7. Water & Proper Clothing

- You are REQUIRED to have water at ALL rehearsals.
- Water will be provided at football games.
- Students should wear cool, comfortable shoes and clothes to all rehearsals.
- Florida is HOT, and you should expect to be outside during every rehearsal. You are responsible for yourself FIRST – take care of yourself and stay hydrated/protected from heat related injuries.

Attendance Policy

First rule of attendance is that **we need everybody at everything**. Missing people from rehearsals, games, parades, etc. affects the entire Band's performance. We want to guarantee that everyone has the best experience possible as a member of the Bull Shark Band, & that starts with YOU!

Weekly Rehearsals

- Rehearsals will be held **every Tuesday & Thursday from 2:30pm to 5:00pm**, beginning in the first week of school & continuing through November.
- Rehearsals will begin promptly at 2:30pm. *Criteria #1: be on time!!*
- Any additional rehearsals will be communicated in advance by the directors.
- ****New this year: attendance will be taken by student leadership at all rehearsals and performances starting Monday, July 28th.**

Conflicts and Communication

***New This Year

- If you must miss a rehearsal, a performance, leave early, come late, etc., you must fill out the **absence request form** with your name, date of requested absence or conflict, & the reason/nature of conflict.
- Filling out this form submits a REQUEST, meaning your conflict is not a guaranteed approval. Directors will review each on a case-by-case basis.
- Do not consider your request complete until you receive an email or written reply from a director saying "approved" or "denied."
- ALL KNOWN REQUESTS for the entire marching season should be submitted by the first day of school, Monday, August 11th.

If you miss the last rehearsal before a performance, you will not perform halftime!

None of us would disagree that we want the *absolute best* for this Band and its ability to create memorable experiences for us and our audiences. In order to achieve this, it is absolutely imperative that we know EXACTLY how we will sound in the final rehearsal (the dress rehearsal!) before any performance. Only students who have submitted an absence request form FAR IN ADVANCE and had it APPROVED will be allowed to miss the "dress rehearsal." Students who miss this rehearsal without approval will be barred from performing halftime for that game but will still be expected to show up and perform in the stands, marching in and out of the stadium, etc.

Failure to communicate conflicts in a timely manner may result in loss of 3rd quarter breaks, removal from rehearsals, performances, or the band altogether.

**Please remember, the weekly rehearsal schedule has shifted this year to reflect the change in the Lee County School District's bell schedule. Rehearsals will remain on Tuesday and Thursday, now from 2:30pm-5:00pm. Always plan ahead when possible – Criteria #4: be part of the solution, not the problem!*

Fees, Instrument Loans, and Replacements

You are extremely privileged being a member of the BSHS band because we are the only band in Lee County and maybe the entire Southwest region that does not require you to pay a band fee. Upon joining the Marching Bull Sharks, you only pay a ONE-TIME fee that gets you your band shirt and black marching shoes. Once you have paid that amount, you are done! Please see the amounts below required for purchasing each item of the uniform.

Band Shirt	\$\$ Determined during camp, expect \$20-30
Band Hat	NO FEE, given to you!
Band Track Jacket	NO FEE, Checked out during camp
Band Track Pants	NO FEE, Checked out during camp
Black Marching Shoes	\$\$ Determined during camp, expect \$60-75
Black Shorts	***New This Year: NO FEE, WEAR YOUR OWN
Dance Uniforms	Please see Mrs. Harrison for uniform information!

Instrument Loans

All instruments used by members of the BSHS Marching Band are provided by Bonita Springs High School. Students are permitted to use a personal instrument if desired.

Signing the form at the end of this handbook acknowledges the necessity for student responsibility with all instruments and equipment.

Uniform Policy & Care Procedures

Our uniforms are a great symbol of pride for ourselves and our school. Always be sure to respect those feelings by taking immaculate care of your BSHS Band Uniform and representing yourself and the school well any time you are in public eye.

BSHS Band Uniform

You are either fully IN uniform, or fully OUT of uniform. All parts of the uniform should be worn at all times unless given permission otherwise. Please see the above section for details regarding band fees & uniform parts provided. Your uniform includes:

- BSHS Band Shirt
- Band Track Pants
- Band Track Jacket, zipped up
- Band Hat, worn forwards
- Black Marching Shoes
- ***NEW: Your OWN Black Shorts

Uniform Policies

- Check your uniform weekly for any needed repairs – hems, buttons, zippers, etc.
- *Criteria #1: be proactive* in reporting needed repairs or issues ASAP. Some emergency repairs can be fixed at a performance, but not all.
- Follow *General Policy #1* for rules about food and drinks. Always be extremely careful of eating in uniform – no sticky, bright-colored messes!!
- Emergency fittings for extensive damage may be done as needed.
- There should be no horseplay in uniform.
- No dangling earrings should be worn and no visibly distracting makeup/jewelry.
- Minimal face paint is okay but IN THE BSHS COLOR PALETTE: green, blue, black
- At the end of the season, track pants and jackets must be returned *in good working condition*. The hat and band shirt are yours to keep!

Uniform Care

- Parts of your uniform – BSHS Band shirt, track suit jacket & pants – can be washed the same as many other clothes: with like colors & cold water.
- All clothing parts of the uniform should be washed after EVERY use. You don't want to smell it, we don't want to smell it.

Replacement Costs

The only person who can guarantee that you don't have to pay for anything beyond the one-time fee is YOU. Any uniform parts that are lost will be your responsibility to report missing and get replaced within a timely manner. For items that have been LOST or damaged beyond repair, please see the following replacement costs:

BSHS Band Shirt	AMNT EQUAL TO WHAT YOU PAID DURING CAMP
Track Jacket	\$200 REPLACEMENT
Track Pants	\$150 REPLACEMENT
BSHS Band Hat	\$40 REPLACEMENT
Black Marching Shoes	AMNT EQUAL TO WHAT YOU PAID DURING CAMP
Dance Uniform	SEE MRS. HARRISON

Criteria for Success as a LEADER of the BSHS Bands

The following information is intended for all leaders of the BSHS Bands. While some students may hold official titles – Section Leaders, Drum Captain – it is important to understand that ANY student can be a leader by embodying the following principles & expectations. Please read through this section carefully & consider how, in conjunction with the Criteria for Success detailed earlier in this book, your positive *behavior* can have a positive *influence* on the culture & prosperity of the Band.

#1. Lead by example.

- A student leader's job during rehearsal is to help make things as efficient, productive, & positive as possible while being the model for music & marching.
- Always ask yourself questions like, "where should I be right now? Should I or others be talking? Should I be trying to give constructive feedback? Is this an appropriate time for a joke or side comment? What is the main goal of the rehearsal at this moment?"
- Being a model for others also includes following the Criteria for Success & General Policies intently; for example, using appropriate language in uniform, treating everyone you meet with kindness, & encouraging others to do the same.

#2. Work as a TEAM.

- You must work TOGETHER to create the rehearsal environment you want to be a part of. We are our own support system for one another, and we are much more effective when we work together!

#3. Advocate properly for members of the Band.

- If you sense that band members are upset, if you have a question, comment, praise, or suggestion about how things are being done, etc., it is your job to express that to the appropriate person at the appropriate time.
- *Criteria #5: always communicate/ASK before making assumptions!*

#4. Encourage ownership & accountability.

- Understand that EVERY member's individual contribution has an effect on our overall performance, and that can be positive or negative.
- Hold each other accountable – be kind but firm in the belief that excuses are the only things that stand in the way of the Band reaching its goals.

#5. Remember that leadership means SERVICE.

- Being a leader is not about being in charge or telling people what to do; it's about being helpful! There is always something to do, so be the one to ask around and help get it done!

Handbook Acknowledgement Form

(SIGN and RETURN!)

By signing this page, I acknowledge that I have read the above handbook in its entirety and agree to its terms, including the:

- 2025-2026 Schedule
- Criteria for Success & General Policies
- Attendance Policy
- Uniform Policy
- Band Fees

Student Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

*****MUST FILL OUT: UNIFORM SIZES (XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL)**

T-Shirt: _____ Shoes (run large, specify Men's or Women's): _____

Please return this form SIGNED to Mr. McCarty, Mr. E., or Mrs. Harrison by the morning of **WEDNESDAY, JULY 30th** in order to be a part of that day's mass uniform order.