**Marching Band Camp and Pre-Competition Rehearsals**

Your Band journey begins with **Color Guard,** **Percussion** **and New Band Member Camps.** These activities will introduce you to marching and color guard fundamentals and get you ready to join the experienced band members. All color guard members are required to participate in a one-week **Color Guard Camp scheduled for June 6-10, 2016.** The Color Guard Camp focuses on teaching dance and equipment basics in preparation for Full Band Camp and the upcoming marching season. **Percussion & New Member Camp is** also scheduled for **June 6-10, 2016**. The Percussion and New Member Camp is an exciting time of “setting the drumline” and teaching the basics of marching and playing for the new members! **Full Band Camp** runs two weeks beginning July 18- August 5, 2016 and Camp is held at PLD High School. You must attend Camp to insure a spot in the competition show.

**2016 Band Camp Dates and Pre-Competition Rehearsals (Mandatory)**

**May 20-21 Mini Camp -Kickoff to season-Required for all members**

**June 6-10 Color Guard Camp-9:00 am-5:00 pm**

**June 6-10 Percussion & New Members Camp**

**July 18-Aug. 5 Band Camp 2016!**

**August 10 First Day of School**

**\*\*DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK ONLINE CALENDAR AT www.pldband.org REGULARLY!\*\***

Typical **Band Camp** days involve marching rehearsals in the relative cool of the mornings and musical rehearsals indoors in the heat of the afternoons. Marching rehearsals begin each day, weather permitting, on the lower parking lot - our practice field.

Parents are invited to visit during the mornings of band camp and sit on the **"beach"** in lawn chairs in the sun or under the trees. Parents offer support, cold cloths, water and ice to help cool band members down. A well-stocked first aid kit is always near the band.

Parents also provide meals during the two-week camp for the band directors and staff. Sign up to help with this committee if you would like help.

A **preview** of the competition show and **picnic** will be held one evening during band camp (date still to be determined) which allows families and friends to hear the band play the music from this year's show, to share food, and to build friendships.

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**Preparing for Band Camp**

**Before Band Camp**, band members are encouraged to:

* Build stamina by walking before mid-July.
* Get used to the heat by spending time outside during the day. Begin drinking additional water to keep hydrated in the heat.

**During Band Camp:**

* Drink plenty of water every evening, and each day before, during, and after practice. If you feel thirsty, then you may already be dehydrated.
* Eat a good dinner.
* Get a good night's sleep.
* Eat a good breakfast.
* **BE ON TIME FOR PRACTICE!** At 9:00 a.m. you must be on the field ready to go - not just arriving.
* Wear a hat and/or sunglasses and light-colored and lightweight clothing.
* WEAR SUNSCREEN EVERY DAY! It is best to apply this as you are getting dressed.
* Wear shoes that are comfortable and that provide support. You will be marching forward and backward on the pavement. Don't break in new shoes at camp. Your shoes may end up spray-painted as you learn positions. DO NOT WEAR SANDALS OR FLIP-FLOPS OR GO BAREFOOT.
* Bring water jug / cooler each day. If you prefer bottles, then bring a cooler with ice and several bottles. Fill cooler 1/2 full with ice & 1/2 full with water so it stays cool. Drink the water.
* Drink your own water. Never drink after each other!
* Bring and eat a nutritious lunch. You may store it in the cooler you bring for water.
* Have a good time learning the music and show!

**Marching Season**

Once school starts the after-school rehearsals begin. Sectionals are held for wind and percussion players on Monday from 3:30-6:00 p.m. and Color Guard from 6:00-9:00 p.m. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday we will practice from 3:30-6:00 p.m. We will practice on Friday if there is no home football game on Friday night. In addition, the Band rehearses on weekdays when school is out for professional development or record days. Rehearsals may be held on Saturdays as the competition schedule allows.

Marching Band competitions begin in September and continue through October. The Band develops a single show for the marching season. Shows may consist of four or five parts, and the Band develops each part – “puts them on the field” – as rehearsals and the season progress. Each year the Directors design a **show shirt** to represent the season’s show. The **Dunbar Band Parents Association (BPA)** provides all students with a show shirt, which becomes an informal uniform during the season. Additional show shirts are available for purchase by families and friends.

The official uniform, also provided by the Dunbar BPA, consists of black bib pants, custom designed jacket with insert, hat and plume, gauntlets, gloves, and black shoes. Fitting for the uniform will occur during band camp. Students must wear a Band t-shirt and black gym shorts (“blacks”) under their uniform as it is often necessary to change in or out of uniforms while traveling. Students are expected to furnish black socks and black marching shoes. The shoes will be measured and purchased as a group in August. The shoes cost approximately $35.00. No jewelry can be worn with the uniform. Hair cannot be below the collar, or you must wear a hairnet. The entire uniform will be stored in the uniform room.

**Football Games at PLD**

The Band performs at varsity football home games during the season when marching competitions do not conflict. The Band plays the National Anthem at the start of the game, plays pep tunes during the game, and performs the competition show at half-time. Band Members take a break during the third quarter and then come back to perform more pep tunes until the end of the game.

**Marching Competitions**

The Band attends competitions at local, state, and national levels. Bands compete with others of their size-class (based on high school enrollment) and also vie for best overall honors. Judges at each competition evaluate the performances according to established criteria. Most local and state competitions use the same criteria – those sanctioned by the **Kentucky Music Educators’ Association (KMEA).** The criteria at national-level competitions such as **Bands of America** **(BOA)** differ slightly from those used at state and local competitions.

**Local Competitions**

The Directors will determine which competitions the band attends. Several schools and marching band programs in Kentucky host competitions within easy driving distances of Lexington. In recent years Dunbar has attended competitions held at Tates Creek High School, North Laurel High School, and Louisville Male High School. These competitions are held on Saturdays in early fall. The Band travels on school or charter buses. Each bus has two bus chaperones. Depending on the timing and length of the trip the BPA provides food and water or students supply their own before departure.

**Overnight Trips**

Trips to some competitions may be overnight trips. These trips typically last from Friday through Sunday. The Band travels in charter buses, and the BPA provides food and housing for the trip. During overnight trips we are usually not the only guests at the hotel. Hotel staffs are typically very complimentary about our Band's behavior. Families have the opportunity of volunteering as bus or hotel chaperones and helping with food service, uniforms, and the pit.

**What to Expect and Etiquette at Competitions**

Band competitions are festive occasions full of color and sound. Family members usually wear the PLD show shirt and sit together to support the band during competitions. Spectators should not enter or leave the stadium while any band is performing. Applause and cheering for the bands is appropriate. Talk should be limited during the performance. Remember we are there to support the hard work/efforts of all the competing bands. The stands, concession lines, and other gathering points are crowded and you never know whose parent or friend you are next to. Please be positive! Admission to local contests ranges from $5 to $10. Things you may want to take to a competition: seat cushion, camera, poncho, binoculars, pen or pencil to record the results. Some venues prohibit umbrellas and backpacks. Be prepared.

The Directors prefer to give the band members the results of competitions. They can provide context and interpretation and know how they want to use the results to motivate the students. ***Those of us in the stands need to refrain from telephoning, text-messaging, or discussing any results with the students until the Directors have had the chance to report the results to the Band.***

**Band Contest etiquette rules**

Spectators come to see and hear the band shows – not people around them talking on a cell phone or to each other. The band contest etiquette rules presented below are guidelines every band parent should read and understand before you attend your first competition.

**DO NOT...**

* **Enter or leave the stands during any band’s performance**: Most contests cordon off the entrance to the stands when a band is performing. Enter or leave the stands **only** when a band is not performing.
* **Talk during any performance**: Spectators come to hear and see the band shows – not you talking.
* **Make negative comments about any of the bands**: All the band kids work hard. Do not belittle that work ethic by making a negative comment.
* **Compare another band's performance to our own in a negative manner**: This is the same as making a negative comment. Don’t do it!
* **Use your cell phone during a performance**: Again, spectators come to hear and see the band shows – not you talking on your cell phone. Turn your cell phone off or excuse yourself during a break.
* **Block another spectator’s view**: Stay seated. Band shows last a maximum of 10 minutes. Whatever you have to do can wait 10 minutes.
* **Leave trash in the stands**: This is a bad reflection on you and our school.

**DO FEEL FREE TO...**

* **Apologize if caught doing any of the above:** We all make mistakes. Don't get angry if someone shhh's you so that they can hear their band! You have probably earned it!
* **Clap for every band to show your appreciation:** BOA requests that everyone stand and clap for each band performing... a great tradition!
* **Make at least one positive comment about each performance**
* **Compliment other band's members and parents on their performance**
* **Congratulate other bands on their accomplishments**
* **Gently remind other parents / family / fans of proper contest behavior**

**Always set a good example for our students**