



The Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School Marching Band

2025-2026 Handbook

Welcome!!

Dear Students and Parents,

First, let me welcome all new and returning members! We are so excited to be starting another season of marching band, even though I know that you are just starting to enjoy not thinking about school for the summer. This packet will give you information about rehearsals expectations, attendance policies, and events and performances.

The BR Marching Band is an extracurricular activity that includes high school musicians and colorguard. Current 8th grade students may also participate.

Marching band focuses on growth in three areas for every student: musicianship, marching, and maturity. Being involved in marching band builds a strong sense of teamwork, self-esteem, musicianship and leadership skills. We perform at competitions, parades, football games and various school and community events. Opportunities for official leadership roles include being a section leader or drum major, but we also emphasize that leadership exists even without an official title or position.

Policies

Attendance Policy

Marching band is a team sport, so it is crucial that every member is at every rehearsal, parade, field show or other event. Absences will be considered excused if a written note or email from your parent/guardian is provided **at least 24 hours** in advance of a rehearsal and at least **2 weeks** in advance of any performance or event. Reasons for an excused absence include but are not limited to illness, family commitments, and religious observance. For those of you that work, please give your schedule to your supervisor. Work is not an excused absence.

We understand that band members are involved in many activities and conflicts may arise. Communication is key! The sooner we know about a conflict, the sooner we can work to resolve it.

Attendance will be taken. If you don't practice, you don't perform. It is not fair to the rest of the band to have fellow students be regularly arriving late or leaving early, yet still getting all the benefits of performing. Consistent absences, tardiness, or early departures will result in sitting out parts of performances this year, and any opportunities for solos or leadership positions will be forfeited. For the 7 hours a week of rehearsals (once school starts), for the 8 weeks of the competition season (September 3-October 26), being at marching band on time every time, for the whole time, should be the goal for all students.

Rehearsal start times are not the time you get there. It's the time you're ready to go and physically in the location you are supposed to be.

Communication

Communication from director to students is primarily through the Band app. All students and parents should join the app. Students without a phone will be communicated with via email. There is no way that students should be aware of what is going on with the band, where to be and when, etc.

Communication from director to parents is done in duplicate and sometimes triplicate simultaneously: 2025 MB Parent chat in the band app, 2025 MB Parent google group for email blasts, and the BR Music Boosters facebook page. There is no way that parents should be unaware of what is going on with the band's schedule, etc., which is why it is all duplicated in multiple places.

Download the Band App from your app store, or go to band.us. Here is the link that should get you right into the BR Marching Band. Once in, shoot me a message through the app, and I will get you in the appropriate group. <https://band.us/n/aea4AaZ9m1l31>. This is where most communication goes out so that you can easily comment, ask questions, and message me.

All parents should join the BR Music Boosters Facebook Group [here](#).

Marching Band Fee & Budget Information

This year, due to uncertainty in the school district budget, we do not yet know the exact cost of participating in marching band. If the override vote does not pass, the user fee for marching band could increase significantly. At this time, we are anticipating a potential range of **\$900-\$1400** for the season. This amount is not set by the music department — it is determined by the School Committee and will be consistent across all sports and extracurricular activities at BR.

If the override does pass, the marching band user fee will remain at \$200, the same as last year.

Over the past few years, much work has been done to clarify where marching band expenses come from. While the district has begun to play a larger role in funding, that support depends heavily on the budget from year to year. Additional support comes from our music parent group, the BR Music Boosters, who help cover many costs for the marching band. The third source of funding is the student user fee.

Last year, the user fee was increased from \$150 to \$200 for the 2024–2025 school year, which is still well below the \$360 athletic fee. If the override passes, this \$200 fee will remain in place. If not, families will be informed of the new rate once it's finalized.

If your student qualifies for the Federal Free/Reduced Lunch Program, the fee will be waived — the district shares that information with me directly.

If you are not on that program but are facing financial hardship, please reach out. You do not need to share any details — simply send an email to plynch@bridge-rayn.org or message me in the band app. Even a simple “\$” is enough to start the conversation, and I’ll follow up with options.

The fee can be paid online through schoolpay.

The schedule for payment is as follows.

- **\$100 deposit due by July 4** (to help us finalize our numbers for the drill writer).
- The rest of the cost is due by the first day of band camp, **August 25**.

I will keep you informed on the band app of changes in fees as the information comes out.

These two-payment options are available by check only (made out to BRRSD, with “marching band user fee” in the memo line). You are also welcome to pay the full amount in one check.

The student fee covers marching shoes, track jackets, gloves, t-shirts, transportation, and more.

I appreciate your flexibility and support as we navigate this uncertain time.

PE Credit

If you are in 9th or 10th grade and plan to be in the fall Marching Band season (including mandatory band camp and the full competition season), you will receive PE credit so you do not have to take it as a class. You do not need to opt of PE if you do not want to, but it is a great way to make sure you have room in your schedule for other electives in addition to Concert/Symphonic Band. Just let your guidance counselor know.

Rehearsal Expectations

Things to bring to every rehearsal:

- Instrument, flag, stick bag, etc.
- Extra Reeds, valve oil, slide grease, etc.
- Music (this includes parade, stands and show music as directed)
- Pencil
- Water bottle (1 Liter or more)
- Sunblock /Bug Spray
- Hat / Sunglasses
- Comfortable, weather-appropriate clothes
- Show T-Shirt on Saturdays (uniform appearance helps to set drill)
- Sneakers (only)

Uniforms

On a date in August, you will be measured or re-measured and assigned a uniform by a small group of parent volunteers. Your uniform, once checked out, is your responsibility. You will be responsible for the following two parts:

Band:

Garment bag: assigned with your uniform, this bag (and hanger) must contain your pants, jacket, and cape.

Shako box: assigned with your uniform, this box must contain your shako

Guard:

Your uniform(s) are arranged and designed by the color guard coordinator. While the same rules for receiving and returning your uniforms apply to you as well as the band, there are differences determined as we go through the season in regard to what uniform to wear when, etc. Speak to either your color guard coordinator or the marching band director with any questions.

All:

It is your responsibility to keep your uniform clean and taken care of during the season. Band uniforms CANNOT go in the washer/dryer. Uniforms may need to be dry-cleaned if they are extremely dirty during the season.

Once all performances that require you to wear your uniform are over, the director will set a time frame for uniform return. Before your uniform is returned by the set date, it is your obligation to have the uniform dry-cleaned. Please note uniforms MUST be returned with the original hangar. Do not send the original hanger to the dry cleaners as you will not get the same one back.

On a date set agreed upon by the director and parent volunteers, you will need to bring all of your uniform parts back in, where they will be checked over by parent volunteers. Uniforms that are missing parts or that have not been dry cleaned will not be checked in. All parts must be returned, and all uniforms must be dry cleaned (unless a specific conversation between parent and director has taken place). Failure to do so will result in the HS main office holding a missing "obligation" on the student's record.

Your user fee covers your shoes, gloves and track jacket. They are yours to keep and do not need to be returned with your uniform. You can use the same shoes, gloves and track jacket from year to year, as long as they still fit.

Here are some uniform basics:

1. Pants and jacket sleeves can be adjusted from within the uniform using the sliders.

Note: no part of the uniform may be cut.

2. Please do not store the uniform in a closed garment bag after a performance. They need to air out. Make sure they are hung neatly on the hanger so they aren't wrinkled for the next performance.

3. Students must wear a non-white t-shirt or non-white wick dry tops under jackets and any non-white compression shorts or wick dry thermals under white pants. ***No baggy shorts/pants underneath.***

4. Please wear high, black socks.....skin should not be seen between shoes and pants.

6. Students are not allowed to eat with their jacket on.

7. Students are not allowed to wear lipstick or lip gloss while wearing their uniforms.

It is suggested that you do not keep your shoes in your garment bag. ...they will start to stink, and then so will your uniform!

Important Dates

Band Camp (MANDATORY)

August 18-22 - 9am-3pm

Mini Camp (Highly recommended, but not mandatory)

August 25-28 - 11am-3pm

Weekly Rehearsals:

Wednesdays 5-9pm

Fridays 3-4:30pm

Sectionals (TBD with Section Leaders)

All competitions are Saturdays at 6pm except for Sunday 10/18 which is 10am. We have warm up rehearsals before each competition (besides 10/18). Transportation will be provided to the competitions from BR via bus.

Warm up rehearsal times depend on when we are set to go on and how far away the comp is.

Championship time is TBD.

Football games are subject to change. They may be moved to Thursdays or Saturdays and I will update as soon as possible.

BR Marching Band 2025 Event & Rehearsal Schedule

Date	Event	Time
9/12	Home Football Game	Students arrive at 5 pm for rehearsal, game starts at 7 pm
9/13	Home Competition	Students arrive by 10am Comp is 12-2:15 followed by clinic until 6 pm
9/19	Home Football Game	Students arrive at 5 for rehearsal, game starts at 7 pm
9/26	Home Football Game	Students arrive at 5 for rehearsal, game starts at 7 pm
9/28	Raynham Community Day	Event is 12-4. Performance time TBD
10/4	Competition at Durfee High School, Fall River	6 pm comp start- Performance time TBD; Arrival time TBD
10/17	Home Football Game	Students arrive at 5 for rehearsal, game starts at 7 pm
10/25	Competition at Dartmouth High School	3 pm comp start- Performance time TBD; Arrival time TBD
11/1	State Finals at Stoughton HS	11 am comp start- Performance time TBD; Arrival time TBD
11/11*	Tri-Town Veteran's Day Parade (date not yet confirmed)	TBD
11/25	Senior Show	
11/27	Thanksgiving Day Home Football Game	Students arrive at TBD for rehearsal, game starts at 10 am

Weekly Rehearsals

Wednesdays 5-9 pm

9/3, 9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/19 *No practice 11/12

Captain's Practice Fridays 3-4 pm

9/5, 9/12, 9/19, 9/16, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/25, 10/31

Saturdays 9 am- 1 pm

9/6, 9/20, 9/27, 10/11, 10/18, 11/8 **No practice 11/15*

11/25 Tues, 5-9 pm

Contract

I understand the attendance policy for the BR Marching Band.

I understand I am responsible for coming prepared and on time to all rehearsals and performances.

I understand I am responsible for the care and maintenance of my uniform.

I understand that the BR Marching Band is a team commitment. I understand it will be hard work, but I will bring a positive attitude and contribute towards the pride and excellence that is the BR Marching Band!

Electronic signature needed here by both student and parent/guardian:

<https://forms.gle/jnUn1yq9mvTQWpxRA>