

**Old Bridge High School  
Marching Knights  
Information Packet and Agreement 2019**

**Director- Melissa Thatcher**

**Assistant Band Directors- Nicholas Ahr and Nancy Arabia**

**Colorguard Director- Jeremy Hickson**

## Requirements for participation in the Marching Knights

1. A genuine love for music.
2. Willingness to work hard.
3. A strong desire to perform, push yourself to a high level of achievement.
4. Self- Control
5. Commitment to attend all rehearsals, competitions, and parades.
6. Always on time for rehearsals, competitions, and parades.
7. Always prepared with proper equipment and supplies for rehearsals, competitions, and parades.

## Attitude and Conduct

It is important to realize that behavior, attitude and conduct are a reflection of the Marching Knights. All band members are expected to treat peers, instructional staff, and others in the community with respect. Everyone in the band is **only** responsible for his/her self and should not offer criticism to other members in the band. It is important to keep a positive atmosphere in the band, since we are together for many hours. Any member that cannot contribute to the band in a positive manner will be sent home from rehearsal. If this becomes a problem, members will jeopardize their participation in the band program.

## Attendance

Attendance at all rehearsals, competitions, and parades are mandatory. Mrs. Thatcher must approve any absences before the missed event. You must email Mrs. Thatcher prior to the absence for approval. If you are absent on a school day, you will not be permitted to rehearse or perform with the band on that school day. If you attend school, you must be at rehearsal. A doctor's note will be required if you miss rehearsal and were in attendance at school that day. Only emergency absences will be permitted (ex. Death in the family or illness) or excused absences from school. **Any unexcused absences cannot be tolerated. After three unexcused absences members will be dismissed from the band.**

## Instruments

Each member is responsible for his or her own instrument. This includes making sure that it is loaded and unloaded to and from the equipment truck. Each member is also expected to maintain and upkeep their instruments. It is important that the instruments remain in good playing condition at all times since there will be numerous performances that the band will be involved in. We must sound and look our best.

All instruments loaned to students from the school will be signed out with their section leader and returned when the member is no longer involved in the program. The sign out sheet will be submitted to the director. Any member that does not sign his/her instrument back in to school will be held financially responsible for the replacement cost.

## **Uniforms**

Uniforms will always be stored in the closet of the marching band room in Sandburg. Only on special occasion will the members be permitted to take their uniforms home. It is not permitted to clean the uniform at home. Warm clothing may be worn under the uniform if necessary. This includes under armor and fitting clothing that does not bulge under the uniform.

Since the uniform can easily identify you as a member of the Old Bridge Marching Knights, it must only be worn at official performances. Remember that when wearing the uniform you represent the band and your actions reflect the program. Cursing, disrespectful attitudes, and inappropriate, boisterous behavior will not be tolerated and could jeopardize your membership in the band.

Please be aware that the uniform is school property and part that is lost or damaged will need to be replaced by the member.

### **All members are responsible for purchasing the following items:**

#### **Musicians:**

- 1. Black Marching Shoes (Purchased through the band ) approx. \$32**
- 2. High Black Socks (no ankle socks permitted)**
- 3. Black Marching Band Member and tour T-Shirt (Purchased through the Band) approx. \$8 (member- worn under the uniform) and the tour- a t shirt that reflects our theme of the show and included in the band camp fee**
- 4. Gloves (Purchased through the band) approx. \$5**
- 5. Colorguard: Marching Shoes (Purchased through the band) Approx. \$32**  
**Undergarments appropriate for the uniform**  
**Gloves (purchased through the band) Approx. \$15**  
**Tour T-Shirt approx. \$15 Included in the band camp fee**

Please memorize and give your section leaders the numbers of your uniform parts. Do not take anyone else's uniform parts. **If you loose any parts, you are responsible for the replacement parts.**

During rehearsals, be sure that you are prepared for all types of weather. We will be outside during most rehearsals, so be prepared with the proper clothing.

## **Part, Position, and Section Assignment**

Part, position, and section assignments are the director's decision and are constantly subject to change. Changes thought to be in the best interest of the band will be made throughout the school year. A balanced instrumentation is extremely important. Any student who is not capable of playing his/her music and/or marching will not be permitted to perform, or will be assigned another part, or may be dismissed from the band.

## **Personal Conduct**

All students must remember that when they are with the band they are representing themselves, the organization, and the school. This means that they should act appropriately at all times. If at any time a member does not act in an appropriate manner, they will not be permitted to continue in the organization.

There will be no smoking at any time

Possession or consumption of alcohol or any other illegal substance will not be permitted at any time. These matters will be referred to the high school administration and law enforcement. A violation of this type will result in immediate expulsion from the marching band program.

Members should always be respectful and polite to other school bands

Students are expected to respect each other and each other's personal belongings. Do not touch anything that does not belong to you.

No physical contact

Disrespectful and negative attitudes will not be tolerated. Anyone demonstrating these attitudes will be asked to leave the rehearsal or event and potentially be removed from the program. If a member is asked to leave, it will be counted as an unexcused absence.

## **Requirements for all members**

All marching band music and colorguard routines **must be memorized**. Any member that does not have their parts memorized will not be permitted to perform and may be removed from the program.

All members must have their dot book, drill charts, music and a pencil at every rehearsal.

Any drum major or section leader missing a performance or rehearsal for any reason other than an emergency or sickness will be removed from his/her position. The director must be notified prior to the absence.

## **Sectionals**

Sectionals are held by student leadership as a way to spend a little extra time on trouble areas with their music and/ or marching. Although these are not mandatory activities, it is strongly encouraged for members to attend if they are available. Over the years these sectionals have allowed the band to achieve higher levels of success.

## Video Assignments

As technology gets more advanced, so does our assessment of students progress. VIDEO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE GIVEN OUT TO ALL MEMBERS AND THEY ARE MANDATORY TO COMPLETE! This will be a weekly playing or marching assignment that they will have to prepare and video themselves performing the assignment. This will be posted on a private BAND APP group where instructors and members in that section can offer positive comments and constructive criticism. This is a way to assess all members and offer individual comments to help them get better. This has been a tremendous tool and has allowed the band to get better as a whole. Again these assignments are mandatory and must be completed by every member in order to be a part of the Marching Knights. There are numerous ways we can submit these videos if they do not have their own phone. Please see the band director if you have any concerns.

**Every member must be present at all sessions of band camp, all rehearsals, and performances.** Rehearsals will start in June twice a week. (Refer to the schedule that is attached to this packet.) In addition, the schedule will be posted on the marching band calendar located on a link at the bottom of OBHSMK emails and on the BAND App. Band camp will always take place during the last 2 weeks of August or the last week of August and the first week of September if school starts on the second week. Summer vacations must take place before the last 2 weeks of August. **In order to participate in the marching band, every member must be present for all sessions of band camp. During the season, members are expected to be at every rehearsal.** Any extenuating circumstances that will necessitate an absence from a practice or event must be emailed to the band director for approval. Three lates will count as 1 unexcused absence. Members with an unexcused absence preceding a performance may not be permitted to perform at the next performance if they are unprepared (at the discretion of the band director). More than three unexcused absences will cause dismissal from the marching band program. Vacations are permitted during the summer months before the start of band camp. Up to 2 weeks will be excused (4 missed rehearsals) if submitted in an email to the band director well before the vacation is scheduled.

Only band members, staff, and chaperones will be permitted in the band room before performances.

When the band returns from a performance there will always be a meeting with the staff and members prior to dismissal.

Once band members report to rehearsal or performances, they will not be permitted to drive or ride with another student.

There will be no parking on the road behind the band room. It is strictly reserved for staff members only.

All band members must leave and return on the same bus when going away to a performance. All members must leave and return with the band. Any parent wishing to pick up their child from the performance site should speak with the band director prior to the event and provide a note. If permission is granted to leave from a performance site, the member will only be permitted to leave with a parent or guardian and must see the band director before leaving.

In order to be a member of the marching band, each member must commit to the entire season, which includes the St. Patrick's Parade, Memorial Day parades, Mini Band Camp, Relay for Life and any other parade/ performance the band program requires. If you do not march in the required parades or attend rehearsals for the parade, you will have not completed an entire season with the marching band. PLEASE NOTE, ANY UNEXCUSED ABSENCES WILL RESULT IN A MEMBER NOT RECEIVING THEIR END OF SEASON PINS, LETTERS, OR CERTIFICATES. Any absences should be submitted in an email or private message through the band app for approval. Unfortunately, family functions and/ or events are not excused. Family weddings for close family members will be approved. Parents must also fundraise or submit a \$200 for each season. **This is a requirement for every student to be eligible for a Senior Scholarship.**

Improvisation is not permitted during any performance.

During football games, all band members must sit together with their respective sections. All members will perform on their respective instruments. No outsiders are permitted to sit with the band. During the third quarter, members are permitted to get snacks at the concession stand with the band director's approval. Members are never permitted to leave the stadium or performance area. All members must return to the stands for the beginning of the fourth quarter. If you are late, you lose your privilege for the following game. Everyone will stay in full uniform during the entire game or performance, unless specified by the band director.

All long hair must be pulled back in a bun or put under the aussie for performances.

All members should arrive to rehearsal 15 minutes earlier in order to get equipment and be at the location of practice on time.

Note that rehearsal ends at 9PM. Therefore, please allow time for the members to march back to the band room and perform clean up duties. Generally they are ready to be picked up no later than 9:20PM after a rehearsal.

All band members will be assigned a job in order to maintain the organization and cleanliness of the band.

When the band arrives at a performance site, all members must remain on the buses until the staff gives directives.

On performance days every member is responsible for his or her own equipment. It must be brought out to be loaded on the proper bus or truck. Section leaders are in charge of insuring that all equipment from their section is loaded.

### **Physicals**

It is mandatory that all members of the marching band receive a physical in order to participate. The school is encouraging parents to go to their regular physician for a school physical. The physical must be completed and filled out of the school physical form. **PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR DOCTOR FILLS OUT EVERY PART OF THE FORM OTHERWISE IT WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU.** The school's doctor does perform physicals at the high school on specified dates. If you choose to use the school doctor to perform the physical, every student **MUST** go to pre-screening and get a physical appointment. The physical form must be filled out by a parent prior to the pre-screening and given to the nurse at the pre-screening time. A copy of the physical form can be obtained in the high school and middle school nurse's offices. Members without physicals will not be able to continue in the marching band. Please be sure to make a copy of the physical form for your records. **All physicals must be submitted by July 15<sup>th</sup>!!**

### **Band camp/ summer sessions**

Band camp and summer sessions are extremely important parts of the development of the marching band. A large amount of time must be spent in the months preceding the season preparing the field show. There will be a huge demand put on the performer to memorize music, marching techniques, and over 100 positions on a football field. In order to accomplish this, rehearsals will be held over the summer and band camp will take place during the last 2 weeks of August into the 1<sup>st</sup> week of September. **Band Camp is Mandatory.** In future years, band camp will **ALWAYS** take place during the last two weeks in August or the last week of August and the first week of September if school starts on the second week. **Unexcused absences will lead to dismissal from the band program.**

### **Schedule**

A schedule of events and practices are posted through a link at the bottom of OBHSMK emails and on the Band App.

**Please submit any absences to me through email. Any questions or concerns can also be submitted through email. I will get back to you as soon as possible. The BAND APP is extremely important for you to**

**stay up to date with all information regarding the band and the calendar. Please get the app and I will give info for how to be accepted into the group.**

**The Marching Knights email is [obhsmarchingknights@gmail.com](mailto:obhsmarchingknights@gmail.com)**

### **What they will need for all rehearsals**

Comfortable clothes

Sneakers must be worn always (athletic sneakers with ankle support)

Sunscreen

Hat or bandana must be worn always

Insulated Water Jug

Rain Gear

2 1/2 Inch binder with at least 50 plastic protective sheets

Laminating Sheets

Plenty of pencils

Small notebook to jot down notes given during meetings

Instrument supplies such as reeds, valve oil, and cork grease

Highlighters

### **Payment Information For Trips and Show Fees**

Please refer to the separate form

All Payments and trip fee checks must be payable to OBHS

### **Fundraisers**

There will be various fundraisers to help defray the cost of the season fees.



### **Member Agreement**

I have read, understand, and agree with all the procedures and regulations outlined in this information packet. I will commit myself to the marching band program and realize that any absences from rehearsals, competitions, and football games must be brought to the band director for approval. I understand unexcused absences and/or misconduct and/or not being prepared for rehearsals/ performances will jeopardize my involvement in the marching band program. I also understand that it is my job to make sure that I know all my parts, marching responsibilities, and complete video assignments to be a member of the Marching Knights.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Parent Agreement**

I have read, understand, and agree with all the procedures and regulations outlined in this information packet. I will ensure that my child is at all rehearsals, competitions, and football games. I understand that unexcused absences and/or misconduct and/or my child not being prepared for rehearsals/ performances could jeopardize my child's involvement with the marching band program. I understand that this is important for the success of the program. I also understand that it is all member's job to make sure that they know all their parts, marching responsibilities, and complete video assignments to be a member of the Marching Knights.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_