



Bloomingdale High School

RAJUN' BULL BAND

Mr. Jon W. Sever, Director of Bands

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Dear Parents and Students:

I trust you are enjoying your summer break thus far. The planning stages for next year are well under way as the *Rajun' Bull Band* proudly present *The Music of Journey!* on the field for the 2009 marching season. By the time you receive this letter, you should be able to download your music and recordings of the show from our website. Some items on the web site are password protected so please email me for password access. The following information will assist everyone with planning for the upcoming events. It is the firm belief of the Director that communication is the key to success. Therefore, please review the following information, download the calendar and hang it on the fridge so the *Rajun' Bull Band* will be ready for another season of superior performances!

All-State Information

All students planning on auditioning for All-State should be currently working on their major scales, arpeggios, and prepared etudes according to All-State requirements. To obtain the requirements on All-State auditions, they have been posted on our website and I would recommend that you check www.flmusiced.org/FBA/index.html for any last minute updates. Hopefully, I will track down all of the etudes and have them posted on our web site. You can print out the etudes provided you have Acrobat Reader. However, you may want to play it safe and purchase the appropriate etude books in case I cannot get them soon enough. Don't forget to get the scale sheets from the web page and get to work! Auditions are September 19th from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Fourth of July Parade 2009

All students are strongly encouraged to participate in the Fourth of July Parade. The parade will be Saturday, July 4th this year. Students requiring school instruments will need to meet at Bloomingdale High School between 8:00 - 8:30 am. All band members and Crimson Dolls (along with several Brandon High School band members) will meet at the corner of Lumsden and John Moore in the walk-in clinic parking lot at 9:00 am. Please dress in a band t-shirt, comfortable shorts, and the proper footwear - socks and tennis shoes (you cannot safely march in flip flops!). The parade will begin and we should be finished approximately by 11:15 am. This parade is very important to the local community, which supports the Bloomingdale Band program. It is only appropriate that we give back that support to the community by having a large turn out for this parade. Be there! Any incoming freshmen students are encouraged to join us! Just wear a Burns band t-shirt and jump in line! Music will be available at parade site or you can download it from the web site today! Finally, I will give service hours for all in attendance!

All Leadership (Officers/Section Leaders/Row Leaders/Captains/Co-Captains)

Preparation Meeting Thursday & Friday August 13th & 14th 3:00 - 9:00pm

All Leadership (Officers/Section Leaders/Row Leaders/Captains/Co-Captains) will have a preparation meeting for the preseason training and the fall operations. The first thing that I feel needs to be clarified is the role and importance of **every** position and my expectations for the leadership TEAM. The schedule is as follows:

Freshmen/New Member Preseason Training Saturday, August 15th

All freshmen, new members, and 2009 Leadership are required to attend the freshmen/new member training session Saturday, August 15th. The purpose of the morning session is to get all freshmen and new members accustomed to proper marching and maneuvering. The afternoon session will be dedicated to an inside music rehearsal. The schedule is as follows:

8:00 am – 12:00 pm Morning session.
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch break (bring your own or the Boosters will have food and drinks available for purchase. You are welcome to bring your own food and drink if you wish).
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Afternoon session.

Full Band/Crimson Doll Preseason Training August 17th, 18th, 20th and 21th (EVERYONE)

Otherwise known as band camp, Bloomingdale's preseason training will be August 17th, 18th, 20th, and 21th. Once again, the *Rajun' Bull Band* will have a short band camp/preseason training in an effort to get a head start on the season and it worked wonderfully. Consider the fact that other bands in the state of Florida usually hold 'camp' for a minimum of five days, Bloomingdale's preseason training will be focused on three main goals: 1) Correct Marching and Maneuvering 2) Music Rehearsals 3) Staging pre-game and perhaps some of the opener. By the end of the first day of preseason training, section leaders will be assigning drill spots so it is required that all members attend all sessions of training. Since school is starting later we have very little time to get ready for our first performance, we need everyone in attendance. Please schedule work and other commitments around these important dates just as you would for any priority commitment, like the spring trip (which we are in the stages of planning). The Schedule is as follows:

Monday, August 17th

4:00 pm – 9:00 pm Full Rehearsal (Band and Dolls)

Tuesday, August 18th

4:00 pm – 9:00 pm Full Rehearsal (Band and Dolls)

Thursday, August 20th

4:00 pm – 9:00 pm Full Rehearsal (Band and Dolls)

Friday, August 21th

4:00 pm – 9:00 pm Full Rehearsal (Band and Dolls)

While students are outdoors, they will be given plenty of water breaks and adults will always monitor them.

All members will be issued a band handbook with important medical forms, guidelines, and expectations that all students and parents should review together. This book will be issued during band camp.

What to bring to preseason training/evening rehearsals

Light colored, loose fitting clothing.

Sunglasses

Water container

Hat

2 pair of white socks

Correct footwear – tennis shoes with support!!! Flip flops, sandals will not be allowed while marching.

Sun Screen

Instrument

Required* materials for Marching Season

Flip folder and music lyre for your instrument – available at music showcase.

3 Ring binder and plastic page protectors (about 20) for drill.

Reeds, mouthpieces, oil, cork grease, neck straps, etc.

Pencil!

*Just like any class, these materials are required to be successful in band. In order to keep paper costs down, students will be issued one set of music and drill. Therefore, all students will be required to obtain a music flip folder and a 3 ring binder with plastic page protectors to keep these materials for the entire season.

Uniforms

Uniform fittings have been posted on our web site. The uniform fittings for Juniors and Seniors will be Saturday June 20, from 9:00am - 12:00pm. Fittings for all students will be the following:

August 3	Monday	6-8:30pm
August 6	Thursday	6-8:30pm
August 8	Saturday	9am-12pm
August 10	Monday	6-8:30pm
August 13	Thursday	6-8:30pm
August 15	Saturday	9am-12pm

Please note, the parent volunteers that are fitting uniforms **may** have to cancel for circumstances beyond their control. We will do our very best to keep everyone informed via the band's website. To keep the program in good financial standing and to have clean, mended uniforms ready for the season, we will be requesting a \$100.00 deposit pr family toward your band fees at the time of fitting. When you are issued a uniform, students will be given the rules and regulations for proper wear and care.

Florida State University 'Band Day' optional trip Saturday, September 12, 2009

Once again, the *Rajun' Bull Band* have been invited to the Florida State University to see the FSU Marching Chiefs in action September 12, 2009. This optional trip will cost \$60.00 and will include transportation to and from Tallahassee and your ticket to the football game. What a better way to visit a college campus, watch a college marching band in action and enjoy the atmosphere of division one college football. Space is limited and will be on a first come first serve basis. Details are enclosed.

Welcome FSU intern Anton Donchev!

Anton Donchev is a native of National Park, New Jersey. While attending Gateway Regional High School and participating in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities from athletic to academic, Anton became heavily intrigued by music. He graduated high school with several honors and scholarships and shortly after attended Florida State University playing trumpet as music education major also seeking a Performance Certificate. Anton has stayed quite active across the campus and in the community teaching and performing music and plans to pursue graduate school for trumpet performance. His long-term career ambitions include playing professionally and/or teaching at the collegiate level.

Parents, you are a part of the Band!

As many of you know, the parent (booster) organization is a wonderful and integral part of the *Rajun' Bull Band* program. The parents help with uniforms, equipment, fund raising, chaperoning, and just about anything else. It is an enjoyable way to volunteer at school and to be directly involved with your child's education. The first parent/booster meeting will be announced during preseason training. Be informed! Be involved!!

Communication Communication Communication

I am a firm believer that open lines of communication with the director are necessary to have the best experience in band. Parents and students are encouraged to speak with the director about anything. Specific circumstances for anything should be done in advance (whenever possible) and privately (if necessary) with the director. In short, I have to be informed so every family can have a positive experience and every student can get the best music education possible. If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me via phone, email, or conventional mail. I will be in the office periodically through out the summer and I can schedule an appointment if necessary.

In closing, I am excited about starting the season and I look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Sincerely,

Jon W. Sever,
Director of Bands

P.S. Keep checking the website for wind ensemble results!