

Eyes with Pride

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Excellence, Education, Enjoyment

*2017 Bishop McDevitt High School Marching
Band Handbook*

*What you need to know about the Marching
Band program.*

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Section I

Student Responsibilities and Conduct

A. Responsibilities

1. Musical Instruments – If you are using a school-owned instrument, it is your responsibility to care for it as if it was your own. If the instrument is damaged or stolen, report it to Mr. Feher or another staff member **IMMEDIATELY!** Repairs to school-owned instruments will be paid for by the school, unless it is determined that the student was negligent and should be held responsible.
2. Color Guard Equipment – All equipment is the property of the school and should be properly maintained. It is the responsibility of each guard member to make sure his or her equipment is present and in good condition before each rehearsal and performance. Damaged equipment will be paid for by the school, unless it is determined that the student was negligent and should be held responsible.
3. Attendance Policy – By accepting membership in the Bishop McDevitt Marching Band, you accept the responsibility to attend all rehearsals and performances.
 - a. Band Camp – **ATTENDANCE AT BAND CAMP IS ABSOLUTELY EXPECTED!** Absence during this time is strongly discouraged, and could prove to be highly detrimental to the entire group as well as the individual. Excessive absenteeism during band camp could result in “benching” from performances until the individual’s performance has improved sufficiently enough to be reinstated. The staff will make this decision.
 - b. Punctuality is expected. Please arrive prior to rehearsal time in order to have all equipment out **BEFORE** the beginning of practice. We need every minute of our rehearsal time.
 - c. Each individual’s excuse for missing rehearsal is valid to him/her, however, our policy is designed to ensure the quality of the Bishop McDevitt Marching Band. **The needs of the group MUST outweigh the needs of the individual.** If you cannot resolve a rehearsal/performance conflict, Mr. Feher must be notified following the policy outlined below.
 1. REHEARSALS: an e-mail from the student or parent at least one day in advance of the rehearsal to be missed.
 2. PERFORMANCES: an e-mail from the student or parent at least ten days in advance of the performance to be missed.
 - d. EXCUSED ABSENCES – The following are examples of excused absences:
 1. Illness
 2. Death in the family
 3. Wedding in the immediate family
 4. School related absence/early excusal

- e. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES – Any absence (except for an emergency) that is not cleared in advance by an email is considered to be unexcused. **WORK IS NOT A VALID REASON FOR MISSING PRACTICE. PLAN AHEAD!** (Absences resulting from detention, in-school suspension, and out-of-school suspension are UNEXCUSED). **Every member of the group plays a vital role in our performance. You need to be at rehearsal.** Unexcused absence may result in benching from performances.
- f. Sports and Other Activities – We as a staff understand that the students of Bishop McDevitt take pride in the fact that they are very active in many activities. We are flexible with the compromises that need to be made in order for students to participate in multiple activities, however, to make this work effectively, all parties involved must keep the lines of communication open and active.

IF YOU DO NOT FEEL YOU WILL BE CAPABLE OF ABIDING BY THE ATTENDANCE POLICY, DO NOT MAKE THE COMMITMENT TO THE MARCHING BAND.

- 4. Music/Routine Memorization – All show-related actions (drill, music, equipment work) must be memorized and performed to the utmost of the student’s ability. It is imperative that you work on guard work or music BEFORE you get to band camp. It is very difficult to learn both drill and music or drill and equipment work at the same time. Set the example – be prepared. Music and equipment work checks will occur throughout the summer rehearsals. A positive attitude and strong work ethic are essential in order to succeed.

B. Conduct

- 1. Football Games – Members are expected to conduct themselves professional at all football games. Remember that you are representing Bishop McDevitt at all times. It only takes one irresponsible act or inappropriate statement to ruin a good reputation. As part of the football community, a major portion of our responsibility as the marching band is to provide enthusiastic support for the football team.
- 2. Competitions – Group and individual conduct at competitions must be professional at all times, constantly displaying respect for other competing groups. Please keep in mind that even though only one group can “win” the competition, this certainly does not indicate mediocrity on the part of all other competing groups! Derogatory comments made to or about any other performing groups will not be tolerated. Displaying poor behavior may result in benching or dismissal from the group.

3. Chaperones – Parents/Guardians of band members graciously volunteer their time in order to help make functions of the Bishop McDevitt Marching Band run smoothly. Although you may not agree with them 100% of the time, please understand that they are involved for your benefit and well-being. Any improper behavior towards the chaperones will not be tolerated and may result in benching or dismissal from the group.

Section II

Rules and Regulations

A. Alcohol and Drugs

The possession, use, sale of any drug, alcohol, and/or paraphernalia that is a controlled substance on school property (buildings, grounds, busses) or on school trips during or after regular school hours is a serious violation of the rules of Bishop McDevitt and the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Students who are found to be under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance shall be subject to the policy of Bishop McDevitt.

This type of behavior is not conducive to the standards and goals of this organization. Students need to be aware of this before contemplating any abuse or disregard of State and/or Federal Law. Understand that any suspicion of offense, either on or off campus, will be investigated fully and reported to the police, school administration, and to the parent/guardian of the student(s) involved.

B. Transportation

Students are to ride to and from all band activities on the band bus. Those not riding the band bus must have a parent e-mail Mr. Feher during the week prior to the trip in question and must travel to and from the activity with an approved family member. Students not riding the bus are responsible for seeing that their equipment gets to and from the performance site.

C. Bus Travel Regulations

1. All members must ride the bus to which they are assigned.
2. No more than two people to a seat at any time.
3. Music must be listened to with headphones and no unnecessary yelling or screaming. Keep volumes reasonable and let those around you rest and relax.
4. No standing on seats or sitting on the back of the seats while the bus is in motion.
5. No glass containers will be brought onto the bus.
6. Abusive language projected inside or outside of the bus will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from the group.

7. Members are responsible for valuables left on the bus.
8. No PDA's or hanging all over your seat partner.
9. Chaperones accompanying each bus have the final word when other staff is not present and will be treated with respect.

Section III Philosophy of the Program

A. Goals of the Program

The goal of the Bishop McDevitt Marching Band is to put together a high-quality musical and visual show through the work of all the young performers and staff. These individuals function as ONE TEAM. Cooperation and mutual respect are a must in order for us to accomplish our goals. Every member of the organization is a valuable asset to the team. **No individual or individual section can ever be considered more important or better than the total ensemble.**

B. Competition

Winning is not the ultimate goal of our existence! It is a reward that is sometimes achieved. This program strives for excellence each time we go on the field, whether that be in practice or in performance. We will always try to do our personal best and to show improvement on a performance-to-performance basis. Winning trophies is not the main emphasis of this program. The ultimate goal is education through musical and visual involvement.

Section IV Schedule of Band Activities

Prior to the marching season, the students and parents should receive a detailed calendar. Please refer to the calendar for all events and activities.

A. Rehearsal Schedule

During the summer months, rehearsals will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday nights from 6 – 9pm. During the school year, rehearsals will be held on Wednesday nights from 6 – 9pm. Students should report to the band room to receive direction to our rehearsal space for the evening.

B. Football Games

The marching band performs for spectators at all home and away varsity football games. The band will also perform from the stands at any play-off game.

C. Competitions

Competitions are held on Saturday afternoon or evening. Depending on the competition schedule, we may practice briefly prior to leaving for the performance.

D. Parades

It is very important to the community that the Bishop McDevitt Marching Band performs in local parades. Some of the parades we may march in include the Harrisburg Holiday Parade, the Harrisburg St. Patrick's Parade, and the Linglestown Parade. Please review the detailed schedule for more information.

E. Car Pooling

Any student that has difficulty acquiring a ride to and from rehearsals in the summer, during band camp, or during the school year should contact Mr. Feher. We will make every attempt to coordinate car-pooling arrangements. Please do not hesitate to ask if you need assistance in this area! Other students please offer assistance as well!

Section V General Information

A. Personal Belongings

Bishop McDevitt and the marching band staff are not responsible for any students' personal belongings. Each student will have the option of an assigned locker. Students are encouraged to bring in a lock and secure their personal items in their locker.

B. Instructors

Additional instructors in the areas of color guard, percussion, drill and music are employed by Bishop McDevitt in order to help develop the program. These folks are an integral part of our success. They will be given your utmost respect and cooperation.

C. Emergency Medical Forms

Parents and members are asked to read and complete the emergency medical form. These forms are kept confidentially in the music office and are carried by a designated staff member or chaperone on every trip. The purpose of the form is to have information available should any member need immediate medical attention.

Section VI Uniform Code

General Conduct

The uniform that you wear each time you step onto the field is the embodiment of all that it is to be involved in the Bishop McDevitt Marching Band. Wearing the uniform puts all the hours of hard work, concentration, setbacks, and ensemble victories on display for the public. It is the physical sign of your self-respect and the respect that you have for those with whom you work. Keeping this in mind, there are some guidelines that need to be followed when you are in uniform:

1. There will be no running or any other behavior that is deemed inappropriate while in uniform. This includes inappropriate language, spitting, PDA, obscene gestures, or any irresponsible actions.
2. Show other units the respect that you want to receive. This includes not breaking their ranks or speaking ill to them or about them. Be a class act.
3. There will be times when you might be provoked by other groups or by other people in general. Keep your cool and rise above it. Remember the honor of the uniform.
4. You may not wear jewelry or colored nail polish when in uniform. Color guard may not wear glitter gel or other face paint unless approved by the color guard staff.

Uniform Basics

1. Respect your uniform and keep it clean.
2. Members are expected to keep the uniform they were given. Do not interchange parts with other band members.
3. Do not make any alterations to the uniform.
4. Uniform inspections will be held before each public performance. The student leaders will do these inspections. If any students' uniform is found in disarray they may be benched for a performance.
5. Members will assume the responsibility for purchasing proper footwear for performances. Footwear is ordered through the school.

The Shako

The shako is another name for the style of hat that we wear. When wearing the shako, it is imperative that no loose strands of hair stick out from underneath. It is recommended that students with long hair either braid or tie back their hair. It is not acceptable to stuff their hair under the hat in a mess. This looks especially tacky when the hat is removed and the hair falls all over the face and shoulders of the performer.

Staff and student leaders will discuss the proper way to wear, carry, and ground the shako at all times.

Uniform Jackets

The jacket is to be worn properly at all times. When the performer is instructed to wear the jacket, it is to be entirely buttoned, zipped, and snapped. The jacket is not to be left open in anyway. When it is on, it is completely on.

Staff and student leaders will discuss the proper way to carry, and ground the jacket.

Uniform Pants and Shoes

When wearing the uniform pants, always use common sense. Your band shirt and shorts are to be worn underneath the uniform. As the weather turns colder, long underwear, leggings, and sweats are permitted as long as they cannot be seen. Jeans are NEVER permitted underneath the uniform.

Official band shoes are to be worn with the pants. Shoes are to be cleaned before every performance. Black socks are to be worn at all times, no other colors.

Color guard Uniforms

Color guard members are expected to treat their uniform with care. Color guard staff will give more specific details about the uniform.

Summer Uniform

We will wear the summer uniforms during performances when the staff determines the weather is too hot for the regular marching band uniform. The summer uniform consists of the marching band polo, khaki shorts, and sneakers. Students will get information on purchasing their band polo early in the season.

Bishop McDevitt Crusader Marching Band Handbook
Contract Portion

Student Name:

Name(s) of Parents/Guardians:

Student Declaration

Having read the information and principles for being a member in good standing of the Bishop McDevitt Crusader Marching Band, I, _____
(student signature) understand the rules of the program listed in this contract.

Parent/Guardian Declaration

Having read the information and principles of being a member in good standing of the Bishop McDevitt Crusader Marching Band, I, _____
(parent/guardian signature) support the decision of my son/daughter to be a member of this group.

Return this contract page to Mr. Feher by **June 28th**.