



# THE BAND OF BLUE



Dear Band of Blue member:

We hope you are having a safe and enjoyable summer! **All Rookies need to attend the drill session Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00am - 11:00am. Percussion and Guard rookies will do this session too.** The Band fee for this year is **\$200.00**. This fee is used to help pay for the marching show and additional instructors we may use during Band Camp. We split this up into 4 easy payments. The first payment (\$50) was due at the end of school. **If you have not paid this fee, you need to NOW!** Please see our bookkeeper in the front office at CCHS to pay for this. An additional \$50.00 will be due by the beginning of Band Camp (July 27), your third \$50 payment is due August 17 (start of school) and your fourth \$50 payment by Labor Day (Sept 7). This fee covers the cleaning of your NEW UNIFORM. The fee also covers the cost of your band T-shirt, compression shirt and shorts, gloves and other undergarments, drinks for ballgames and contests. **Please have your fees in order, you will not be allowed to participate in social affairs with the band (trips, dances, cookouts, etc...) and possibly performances. Please take care of your fees on time.**

You need to reserve ALL Friday nights beginning August 21<sup>st</sup> through the end of football season including the play-offs. Each band member will need a pair of khaki shorts for the first few games. Please make plans to purchase or borrow a pair. You need white lace up band shoes with white soles and black lace up shoes with black soles. Rookies need to order these thru Artimus Concepts (order form is in mail out). You can still order shoes if you have not done this. Band Shoes are \$76 for both or \$33 for a pair. Guard members will be told more information about your uniform and shoes. Start practicing your instrument. If you would like to come by and check out a school owned instrument, call us first (893-6026) and set up a time for you to pick one up. If your instrument needs to be repaired, please have this done before camp starts. Mr. Phillips from Pecknel Music (843-870-4894) in Monks Corner can help you with this. You need to have your instrument the first day of practice. Brass players should be sure their tuning slides will move. Start getting in good physical shape. You need to get outdoors and get used to the summer climate. We will be working on lining the field and need help the week of July 14-16.

**ALL Percussion Pre-Camp will start Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> and go thru Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. Color Guard Pre-Camp will also start Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> in the auxiliary gym and go thru Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>.** Times for Guard and Percussion and Front Ensemble are from 9AM-Noon 1PM to 4PM.

**Full Band Practice (for everybody) begins Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am.** Meet on the band field in the parking lot for body warm up first. We will take breaks at mid morning. We will have water available, but please feel free to bring you own labeled water bottle. Please park in the student lot near the school. Don't park in the lot directly behind the band tower. We will use the parking lot field for teaching drill and fundamentals early in the morning. We need 2 BIG jars of Gatorade powder now for the parents to keep you hydrated. We also need at least 2-24 packs of bottled water for the season. Lunch break will be from 11:30-1:00. You may leave for lunch with your parent's permission or you may bring your lunch and eat it here. The District will have free lunches available for the band during camp. Afternoon rehearsals will be from 1:00 to 3:30 and are generally held inside. These times are subject to adjustments. Different sections may need to plan on staying after 3:30 on select days according to which section needs more practice. Drumline and Pit need to be prepared to stay until 4:30 if needed. Guard may have to rehearse in the afternoons at the National Guard Armory. This will be our schedule until August 7. Once school starts we will practice on Monday nights (6-9) and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:30-4:30. We also rehearse on Friday's when we don't have a game.

We are very excited about this year's show, "**Light 'Em UP!**". The marching show will feature music written by John Meehan. Mr. Meehan wrote this show in 2012 for the Eden Prairie (MN) High School Band. "**Light 'Em UP!**" begins with an ominous sample mimicking live electrical wires. Multiple instrumental groups add voicing to this effect to create a strong cohesive statement by the full ensemble. A fast paced musical lead is passed from one voice to another creating a frenzied feel with those same underlying ominous tones coming back to haunt, finally culminating in an electrical crashing of all circuits. The ballad gives the audience the impression of a "reboot". Synthesized electricity noises help keep the dark feeling of the first movement while front ensemble and woodwinds fight to get the system back up and running with their lighter tones. The third movement boots the program back online and introduces a techno influenced drum solo, clearing the stage for the closer. A regal opening from the winds gives way to dissonant tones and then builds the suspense again with power chords. Interlaced within the build are the electricity misfire sound effects previously heard. The ending embodies a great use of drastic volume changes and builds into sudden silence giving the band a challenging and skillful opportunity for a show stopper. This show will be very different and very innovative!

We will take a spring trip to Carowinds in May 2016. The trip will be in the \$65-70 range. We will let you know when deposits are due. We have been invited back to the New Orleans Endymion Mardi Gras Parade in February of 2017. We so much planned on the horizon this year and next. We will challenge you with great music and demanding drill. We may have a few alternates this year. You may start out doubled at camp. Battle and work hard and you will earn a spot. We will have all of the music and drill ready for you after July 10<sup>th</sup>. We were in the top 12 at 4A State last year and we would like to move up and WIN! We have a great show and we have great instructors. Now, I challenge you to dig deep and give your best. We have a strong tradition and history of being one of the finest bands in South Carolina! Our goal is to do your best and go after the Lower State and State Championship Titles.

The Band of Blue is a big family! We really care about all of our musicians. Together we will produce a great show that all of friends and family can be proud of! You can count on your staff to do everything it takes to give you a competitive show. We need to count on you to do your very best. **Get your parents involved with our booster club! Our first meeting is Monday, August 3 at 6:00pm at CCHS. If you have not received an email from me this summer with music and mp3 files please email me at [TFinigan@lowcountry.com](mailto:TFinigan@lowcountry.com). Enjoy the rest of your summer and let's get ready to "**Light 'Em UP!**" for another great year for our BAND OF BLUE!!**

Musically,

Tom Finigan, Director of Bands

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