



**Somerset-Berkley
Regional High School
"Blue Raider"
Marching Band**

2011-2012

Student Handbook



Somerset - Berkley Regional High School "Blue Raider" Marching Band



David M. Marshall – Director of Bands
(508) 324-3115

Somerset - Berkley Regional High School
625 County Street
Somerset, MA 02726

Dear Somerset - Berkley Regional High School "Blue Raider" Marching Band Students and Parents,

The entire Somerset - Berkley Regional High School "Blue Raider" Marching Band Staff is extremely excited about this year's marching band season. We all believe that the talent of the returning membership continues to grow and we will be welcoming an extremely talented group of freshman members to the band. This year's band looks to continue to grow considerably in both numbers and talent. We hope this to be an exciting and challenging season for all who participate. For those of you new to the marching band program, the Marching Band performs in many area parades and in all Musictown related events. This year we will also continue to perform at local NESBA and USSBA marching band competitions. We will also perform at the USSBA New England Championships in Bridgeport, CT and the USSBA National Championships in Allentown, PA! More information regarding details for those events and expenses will be disseminated in the weeks to come. This will involve preparing and presenting a three-song field show which this year is an original composition by me with percussion by our own Adam Willoughby entitled "Vertigo". Efforts are presently being made to make this our best yet! Work on our field show is currently underway! The entire show is non-stop high energy featuring an emotionally charged symphonic score that will both challenge our band and entertain our audiences with its thematic and energetic melodies. Music from our show and up-to-date information regarding the field show, festivals we will participate in, schedules, expectations and fundraising events will be discussed at the **Marching Band Introductory Meeting on June 21, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the Somerset High School Auditorium.** All new and returning members, potential members and parents are encouraged to attend!

Participation in Marching Band is a privilege! Marching band season displays numerous emotions for you as a group and as individuals. That is why we need you to go the extra mile as an individual to make the group the best it can be. Putting all your effort into the work will help our group grow as a whole as well as help you grow as a performer. Marching Band is very much a **sport**, one that requires **100%** physical endurance and mental concentration.

Once the regular season (beginning at band camp) starts, the only way we can accomplish our goals is for everyone to make a **commitment** to the ensemble, the staff and yourself! The Marching Band is a **team** of young musicians and guard members that work together to accomplish a common goal. Each member, regardless of the part he or she plays, is part of making this team successful. If you miss a rehearsal or performance, the group as a whole is weakened. Your commitment to this group is to participate in all rehearsals and performances, and become the best marching band member that you can be. Included with this letter are the rehearsal and performance calendars. Any changes to that schedule will be made far ahead of the event and a new calendar will be posted in the band room and on www.somersetmusic.org as well. As far as attendance, other than extreme emergencies, all unavoidable **scheduling conflicts must be submitted in writing to Mr. Marshall two (2) weeks prior to the absence on the Excused Absence Form! Parents must fill in all dates a student will be expecting to be absent.** This will ensure a positive and productive atmosphere for the entire season. Additional information regarding membership and attendance policies will be outlined in the 2011-2012 SBRHS "Blue Raider" Marching Band Handbook.

Our first goal as a group is to learn our field show, parade and pep music, as well as visual squad/percussion basics and fundamentals. We have gotten a great jump on that this year and will most definitely be far ahead in terms of the shows creation than in years past as long as we all remain focused and work hard! Every musician will receive sheet music and all members are asked to download the music from our web site. **START PRACTICING IMMEDIATELY!!!** Summer rehearsals will take place once or twice a week depending on your section of the ensemble to get us ready for Marching Band Camp. Summer Practices prior to marching band camp are scheduled so that students can build new skills and begin to learn the field-show music prior to Marching Band Camp. This allows us more time at Camp to work on the visual portions of the show. The attendance policy is less strict during these sessions. The rule is; if you are in town, show up and if you are vacationing ENJOY and we'll see you next time. Please let me know at the rehearsal before that you are not going to make it to the next one! **Band Camp this year will take place on Monday, August 22 through Thursday, September 1.** Band Camp is a 2-week-long set of rehearsals in which the basics of marching band technique are taught and the field show starts to be pieced together. This is why it is imperative that you attend all rehearsals beginning at Marching Band Camp. Enjoy the summer and get ready for an exciting season of music and fun!

David M. Marshall

Somerset - Berkley Regional High School "Blue Raider" Marching Band Director

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2011 – 2012 Handbook

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List of Required Materials and Due Dates

2011-2012 “Blue Raider” Marching Band Student Handbook Agreement - Due to Mr. Marshall by June 28, 2011

Somerset High School Music Department Permission Slip - Due to Mr. Marshall by June 28, 2011

Somerset High School “Blue Raider” Marching Band Health Form - Due to Mr. Marshall by June 28, 2011

Uniform Cleaning and Apparel Order Form - Return to Mr. Marshall by July 12, 2011

“Blue Raider” Marching Band Excused Absence Notification Form - Due to Mr. Marshall two-weeks prior to an absence

Marching Band Instrument/Equipment Loan Form 2011-2012 – Due to Mr. Marshall prior to a student taking a school-owned instrument home for practice

Chaperone and Pit Crew/Prop Volunteers Form – Due at earliest convenience

**SBRHS “Blue Raider” Marching Band Uniform Agreement – Due to Mr. Marshall before a student is assigned a uniform for usage (THIS FORM IS NOT INCLUDED WITH THIS PACKET)
(This form will be filled out by Uniform Managers with uniform sizes and numbers and sent home with students for parent / guardian signatures)**

Proper Performance Dress

Horn Section, Pit Percussion and Battery

- Footwear – Black Speedsters and Black Socks (*Apparel Order Forms are included in this handbook.*)
- Undershirt – Official Gray Sports Undershirt (*Suggested by the marching band uniform manufacturer in order to prevent perspiration-staining of the uniforms. Apparel Order Forms are included in this handbook.*)
- Warm-Weather Uniform Shirt and Hat (*Apparel Order Forms are included in this handbook.*)
- Shorts – Official Blue Sports Shorts **also part of Warm-Weather Uniform** (*To be worn underneath the uniform to avoid bib pant bunching and to provide proper ventilation. Apparel Order Forms are included in this handbook.*)
- School-Owned Uniform – Uniform Bib-Pants, Jacket and Shako
 - *Uniforms will be assigned to you at marching band camp and their care and maintenance while in your possession are your responsibility. Damage to any part of the uniform not considered by the Marching Band Director to be average/expected wear and tear will be the student's responsibility to pay for.*
 - *School-owned uniforms will not be distributed for students to take home. Uniforms will be assigned and handed out at each performance by band parents in-charge of uniforms (Uniform Managers).*
 - *Uniforms require dry-cleaning many times during the season. A fee of \$35 will be due by **Monday, July 12, 2011**) to cover the cost of dry-cleaning.*
 - *Plumes will be handed out at each performance and are to be handed back at the end of the performance.*

Color Guard

- Uniform as stated by Visual Staff (*Changes to adapt to show design.*)
 - *Students may be required to purchase their own uniform (Prices will be announced as soon as they become available)*
 - *Care and maintenance of the uniform is the student's responsibility.*
 - *Uniforms should be dry-cleaned at the student's expense when needed. Discounted prices for Somerset High School Marching Band students may be available at The Press Club, Ltd. on Rt. 6.*

ABSOLUTELY NO EARRINGS OR JEWELRY OF ANY KIND WILL BE ALLOWED TO BE WORN WITH UNIFORMS!!!

NO COLOR GUARD MEMBER SHOULD WEAR FAKE NAILS OF ANY KIND!!!

1. The appropriate performance dress, as specified above, is one of the many responsibilities of a student member of the ensemble. If a student arrives to a performance with the inappropriate performance dress, as deemed by the Marching Band Director or one of the marching band instructional staff, the student will be sent home to change before being allowed to perform. If a student does not have the proper performance dress, they will not be allowed to perform and the parent will be contacted to help resolve the situation after the performance.
2. All school-owned uniforms must be transported to away performances in a garment bag! When the uniform is not on your body, it is to be neatly placed in your garment bag! **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR UNIFORM UNATTENDED IN YOUR INSTRUMENT LOCKER!** Uniforms must go be handed in to the uniform manager upon returning to the school!
3. Students must sign an agreement before they are assigned a school-owned uniform which details maintenance and usage.
4. This is the dress code for all performances. If you do not own a piece of apparel (other than those stated as school-owned uniforms or apparel) please make arrangements to purchase or borrow them as you will be required to adhere to this dress code for the entire marching band season.
5. Under no circumstances should uniforms or parts of uniforms be worn outside of SBRHS "Blue Raider" Marching Band performances! (i.e. at Friendly's or McDonalds after a performance!)

Your parents and the music department went through years of hard work to purchase these new uniforms. Treat them with the respect that they deserve! When you are wearing any school uniform, you are representing The Towns of Somerset and Berkley, The "Blue Raider" Marching Band, SBRHS, your Instructors, you parents and yourself! WEAR THE BLUE AND WHITE WITH PRIDE!

Equipment Usage

1. A student using a **SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENT/EQUIPMENT** is responsible for that instrument/equipment, including keeping it clean and in good playing condition at all times. Students and their parents must **sign out** school-owned instrument/equipment with the Marching Band Director in order to take that instrument/equipment home to practice. If damaged while in a student's possession, the assigned student will be responsible to pay for any damage done to said instrument/equipment. *The Instrument/Equipment Loan Form* is included with this packet.
2. **PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT** will be stored in a designated area in the band room when not in use and will be transported to and from performances in proper cases. It is the percussionists' responsibility to check their equipment before rehearsals and performances. If any problems are found, they must **immediately** be reported to the Marching Band Director and/or Percussion Instructor. Percussion students are responsible for keeping the equipment in playable condition. If percussion equipment is negligently damaged or lost while in a student's possession, the assigned student will be responsible to pay for the damage.
3. Students are responsible for their own **PERSONAL INSTRUMENT/EQUIPMENT** and are expected to keep their instrument/equipment in good playing condition at all times. All students are responsible for making arrangements to repair their own equipment! If you wish to have your instrument repaired by SBRHS's outside instrument repair contractor, you may leave the instrument with the Marching Band Director along with your name and phone number and SBRHS's outside instrument repair contractor will contact you with an estimate. You are also encouraged to bring your instrument for repair to the following local repair shops:

The Symphony Music Shop
94 State Road (Rt. 6)
N. Dartmouth, MA 02747
(508) 996-3301

Friends Music Shoppe
1093 State Road
Westport, MA 02790
(508) 675-7889

4. **DO NOT TRY TO FIX OR ALLOW A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER TO TRY TO FIX AN INSTRUMENT THAT IS NOT WORKING PROPERLY!**
5. When not in use during the school day, all instruments/equipment are to be stored in the **STORAGE CUBBIES** on designated shelves located in the Band Room. ***Students will be NOT allowed to store their instruments over-night in the music department.*** If instruments are left behind without prior permission from the teacher/instructor-in-charge, penalties will be administered.
6. Do Not Leave Instruments on a chair or the floor while doing other things as well as on the bleachers during a football game. Always put your instrument in its case when not in use and make sure that clasps are fastened securely. Instrument lockers are for instruments only and are not to be kept there overnight! Please do not put books and clothes in your instrument locker!

Music & Drill Book Usage

1. **SHEET MUSIC** will be issued by parts throughout the season and is to be placed in your concert binder for rehearsal and performance use (Show Music) or in your marching band music folio with lire that will be supplied to you (Parade and Stand Music). ***At the end of each season, original copies of music must be returned to the librarians in the same condition in which you received it.*** Students will be financially responsible for misused sheet music.
2. Members of the Marching Band are required to have a **THREE-RING BINDER** (1½ inches or more) along with at least 25 **PLASTIC SHEET PROTECTORS** for show music and warm-up music storage. These music binders must be brought to every rehearsal, stored in the **storage cubbies** (*not all over the band room*) during the school day when not in use and taken home over-night. If music binders are left over-night without prior permission from the teacher/instructor-in-charge or left out in the music department during the day, penalties will be administered.
3. Each Marching Band instrumentalist will receive a **MUSIC FOLIO** and **LYRE** in which to place his or her parade music. New music will be added as needed during the season and should be kept neatly in each student's music folder.
4. Each Marching Band Member must purchase a **DRILL BOOK** (small, lined memo book with a lanyard or string attached). These items are extremely affordable and can be purchased at CVS, Brooks, etc. These drill books will be used on the practice field to mark individual drill spots. Having these drill books at each rehearsal is the responsibility of each marching band member (instrumentalist or visual squad member)!

Performance Rules and Regulations

1. **PERFORMANCE ANNOUNCEMENTS** will be given to students throughout the year both through verbal and written announcements. These announcements will be available in ample time (2 weeks) and are to be brought home to parents as notification. The Fine and Performing Arts Director, High School Principal and Marching Band Director will approve of all scheduled performances.
2. All members will ride the **BUS** to and from performances. ***No student will be allowed to leave a performance venue with another student driver.*** If a student wishes to leave early with a parent, a note must be presented to the Marching Band Director in advance of the scheduled performance. Parents are to notify the Marching Band Director before leaving the performance with their child.
3. All members are expected to **CONDUCT** themselves in a **MATURE MANNER** while participating in any music department-related function. **REMEMBER:** You are representing yourself, your family, your school, your town and your instructors! (*For further information regarding student conduct, see the SBRHS Student Handbook*)
4. **NO SMOKING** is allowed on the bus, at any performance, at any time while on school property or during any music department-related events. Any student violating this rule will be referred to the Vice-Principal for disciplinary action. (*For further information regarding student conduct, see the SBRHS Student Handbook*)
5. In order to participate, all members are to **CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS** given by the Marching Band Director, Teacher/Instructor-in-charge and/or Parent Chaperone. Students who fail to do so will be referred to the Vice-Principal for disciplinary action and will be considered for expulsion from the activity. (*For further information regarding student conduct, see the SBRHS Student Handbook*)
6. During **FOOTBALL GAMES** and **MARCHING BAND COMPETITIONS**, all Marching Band members are to sit in the designated areas of the stands when not performing. (*Instrumentalists sit in one designated area and visual squads in another. No Parents, Friends or Significant Others are allowed in the Marching Band Area.*) Permission to leave the assigned area may **only** be granted by the Marching Band Director, Teacher/Instructor-in-charge and/or designated Parent Chaperone while being escorted by one of the above mentioned adults.
7. **FOOTBALL GAMES:**
 - a. Pay attention and be ready to play, especially at the end of the 1st and 3rd Quarters of the game. We will play often when the opposing team has the ball. We will not perform when we have the ball or when the cheerleaders are performing.
 - b. There will be no talking or playing if any player is injured on the field.
 - c. No Food or Drinks during the game! We will have our drinks after the halftime performance! **BE SURE TO EAT BEFORE THE GAME!!!**
8. **MARCHING BAND COMPETITIONS:**
 - a. Students will be under the direction of the Marching Band Staff from the moment we step off the bus, through warm-ups, to the performance and after the performance for Staff/Student Recaps. Following the recap discussion, students will report to designated parent chaperones. All members with the two-piece, instrumentalist marching band uniforms will remove their jacket portion of the uniform and replace it with a **Blue and White SBRHS Winter Letterman Jacket (can be purchased from Mr. Powers at the school during Band Camp)** so that you can eat!
 - b. **ONLY DRUM MAJORS** will report for the awards ceremony.
 - c. After the awards ceremony, students will report to the busses with their designated chaperones to wait for the staff who will be in Judges' Critique for a few minutes after the show.
9. Marching Band will perform in a total of 8 NESBA/USSBA marching band competitions. Your standing and membership in this ensemble may be affected by absences at rehearsals and performances as well as all participants must be deemed Academically Eligible by the SBRHS Administration.

Attendance Rules and Regulations

In order for our Marching Band to complete their goals of producing progressively more sophisticated and exciting shows and performances of increasing difficulty and enriching music; complete group attendance at all rehearsals and performances becomes a vitally important issue. Unexcused absences will be dealt with by the Marching Band Director and the Coordinator of Fine and Performing Arts and consequences will be faced by the unexcused student. Therefore all Marching Band Students are required to make all rehearsals and performances with the following exceptions:

1. Every member of all the Marching Band must attend all rehearsals and performances. An **EXCUSED ABSENCE** will be accepted under the following conditions:
 - Written notice (Excused Absence Form) from parent or guardian two (2) weeks prior to the absence. (***The Excused Absence Form is located in this packet.***)
 - Student Illness with parental notification.
 - Death in the family with parental notification.
 - Family Emergency with parental notification.**IMPORTANT – Student Jobs are not an acceptable excuse and Verbal Notification is not an acceptable form of absence notification!**
2. All members are expected to be **ON-TIME** for each rehearsal and performance. Being early demonstrates your commitment to the organization, to your classmates and to the instructional staff. This makes for a pleasant working environment. *To be early is to be ON-TIME; to be on-time is to be LATE!*
3. All members will remain at each rehearsal and performance for its full duration unless proper written notification has been given to the **Marching Band Director** and/or the **Teacher/Instructor-in-charge!**
4. **EARLY DISMISSAL** will only be permitted when the Marching Band Director has been informed, in advance (in writing), by a parent or guardian.

Drum Majors and Captains

In order to assist the instructional staff, Drum Majors and Captains are auditioned for and selected by the Marching Band Staff with the assistance of Music Department Personnel and qualified Parent/Community Members. Not only do these positions teach students the importance of teamwork, leadership and pride in what they do, it also gives the students a sense of ownership. Audition dates and requirements are made public two weeks prior to the audition. Requirements, Terms, Regulations and Responsibilities are made available at the time in which auditions are announced.

2011 – 2012 SBRHS “Blue Raider” Marching Band Drum Majors

Kevin Goddu and Kelsey Lazaro

2011 – 2012 SBRHS “Blue Raider” Marching Band Color Guard Captain

Mikayla Smith

Color Guard Section Leaders, Battery Percussion Captain, and Pit Percussion Captain TBA

Organization Officers

Student President(s) of the Somerset High School “Blue Raider” Marching Band will be elected by the Marching Band Staff. That student or students will be responsible for taking attendance at all rehearsals and performances, conducting at select performances and boosting the student membership’s moral. That person is to assist the Marching Band Staff and Drum Majors in maintaining order and protocol during rehearsals and performances.

2011 – 2012 SBRHS “Blue Raider” Marching Band President

Brian Johnson

Practice

Every Marching Band student is expected to practice daily to enhance his or her proficiency. ***Rehearsals are not meant to replace individual practice time.*** Each individual is expected to become proficient on his or her part for every rehearsal/performance. It is essential that each student take on the responsibilities of practice to ensure their individual physical and musical development. Practice time increases proportionately to the number of ensembles in which a student participates. The quantity and quality of your practice will determine the level of success and enjoyment you experience within your participating ensembles. In order for one to improve, as well as uphold one's responsibilities to the entire ensemble, this effort cannot be emphasized enough.

- Practice until you get it right! Then practice being right!
- Confidence in performance comes with the knowledge that you can do it!
- Build that confidence through repetition!

REMEMBER: Practice does NOT make perfect! Only PERFECT practice makes PERFECT! YOU CAN DO IT!

Private Instruction

All students are strongly urged to study their instrument with a private music instructor. Rehearsal time is devoted to musical and ensemble skills; therefore the instructor cannot address the individual needs of every student. Private instruction provides for remedial work and as well as enrichment for each student. Nothing during rehearsal can equal the one-on-one attention and focus from the private lesson environment. Students who need recommendations for finding an appropriate private lesson instructor should see the Coordinator of the Fine and Performing Arts and/or Marching Band Director as soon as possible.

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Somerset - Berkley Regional High School "Blue Raider" Marching Band 2011-2012 Student Handbook Agreement

I have read and discussed the 2011-2012 SBRHS "Blue Raider" Marching Band Student Handbook with my parents and wish to participate in the ensemble under the said guidelines within the ensemble's 2011-2012 Student Handbook with no exceptions.

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

I have read and discussed the 2011-2012 SBRHS "Blue Raider" Marching Band Student Handbook with my child and permit my child to participate in the ensemble under the said guidelines within the ensemble's 2011-2012 Student Handbook with no exceptions.

Parent Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent Email Contact Address: _____

RETURN THIS FORM TO MR. MARSHALL BY JUNE 28, 2011