

First Colonial High School Bands



Virginia Beach, VA

First Colonial Band Booster Handbook

www.fcband.org

This handbook is to serve only as a guide and general information.
Information included is subject to change at any time deemed necessary by
the band director.

First Colonial Band Boosters

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Introduction

On behalf of the First Colonial Band and First Colonial Band Boosters (FCBB), we extend a warm welcome to you and your family for participating in this year's band program. The parents and staff work together to provide the highest level of music education in an effort to provide positive experiences and opportunities for each member of the band. This will be a unique and very rewarding experience for both you and your student.

Both parent and student will receive a large amount of information in the first few months of the band year. Although things may seem overwhelming, with a little help from parents who have been there before, you can enjoy the experience as much (if not more) than your child. This PARENT handbook is designed to provide you, the parents and family, with general information and to guide you when you have questions or concerns. The Director provides & maintains the STUDENT handbook available on the website/Charms. ***The Director at any time may override information in this handbook as seen necessary. The Director has the official and final word.***

The First Colonial Band Boosters are a non-profit organization. The general membership meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00pm, unless notification is otherwise give. General membership includes parents and guardians of students participating in the band. Membership is free, and your volunteer participation as a supporting parent or guardian is expected to support the many activities that the FCBB sponsor to provide the best for our students. Committee chairpersons will be contacting you to schedule your support for the various functions and fundraising activities that the FCBB sponsor. Please do what you can to volunteer your time and talents to support the FCBB. ***Every little bit helps and volunteers are always highly appreciated!***

The purpose of the FCBB is first, to stimulate and sustain interest among the FCBB and students at First Colonial High School in band activities by cooperating with school authorities and the First Colonial Band Director, and second, to raise and distribute monies, as required for the activities of the band, not funded by Virginia Beach City Public Schools. All fundraising activities are organized at the recommendation of the Executive Board.

The FCBB also maintains a direct line of communication in keeping parents informed through the website, Charms, and monthly meetings. (If you have any concerns regarding your student and the band, please see the Band Director.)

Band Staff

The band staff is comprised of the following positions that are filled by members whom are skilled in assisting our students in being successful in the First Colonial Band program.

- Director
- Music Arranger
- Percussion Staff
- Woodwind Staff
- Brass Staff
- Guard Staff
- Choreographer
- Drill Designer
- Visual Staff

Student Ensembles

The First Colonial Band Program has several performing ensembles that receive all levels of support from the FCBB throughout the year. *The FCBB's hard work and efforts don't stop after marching season!*

- **Marching Band with Color Guard:** The largest, most visible and most well-known ensemble of the First Colonial Band Program, the **Marching Patriots**, is comprised of band students and color guard members.
- **Winter Percussion:** The winter percussion ensemble is focused on developing well-rounded percussionists. The percussion ensemble will transition to competition in the near future.
- **Jazz Band:** The First Colonial Jazz Band is designed to both expose band students to jazz music and enhance their ensemble skills by playing jazz. The group is open to all band students by audition. Other instruments for try-outs include guitar, piano, and bass instruments.
- **Percussion Ensemble:** The percussion ensemble is a curricular class where all of our percussion students continue to refine their skills on the many facets of percussion pedagogy. The percussion ensemble performs at various concerts throughout the year. Students from this class are assigned to fill percussion parts with each of the bands.
- **Concert Band:** A performance group concentrating on the mastery of basic to intermediate levels of the Virginia Music Educators' Association (VMEA) Standards of Learning. The goal of this group is to attain a superior level of performance and develop technical and musical skill. Open to all students with instrumental experience.
- **Wind Ensemble:** A performance group concentrating on the master of advanced levels of the VMEA Standards of Learning. Our goal is to attain a superior level of performance in a variety of musical literature. Open to students by audition only.

Dues

As with all great programs, there is a lot of preparation and support required to make everything work. Dues are an important part of the support to run a band program of this magnitude. Every effort is made to keep these nominal. Dues will be collected from every marching student and the other ensembles as deemed necessary by the Executive Board and the Director. Dues help pay for out of state transportation, food, hotels, music, camp supplies, staff salaries, and many other things as delineated in the budget. The budget expenses are published and reviewed every month at the FCBB meetings. *If there is any hardship in paying your student's dues please communicate this with the director by completing a hardship letter.* Every effort is made to help those in need but help cannot be given if the need is left unknown. Checks should be made out to FCBB and dropped off in the box by the music office.

FCBB supported events, fundraisers, and volunteer opportunities

There are several events and fundraisers that are run and supported by FCBB. These events and fundraisers help keep the dues down to a reasonable level and provide funding for budgeted items not covered by dues such as uniform maintenance, band banquet, staff fees, and many other things. Our students are privileged to be able to experience and enjoy the First Colonial Band throughout their high school years. The success of the band, however, can only be accomplished with the support of *all parents*. ***All parents are expected to volunteer a portion of their time and talents to one or more of the activities that make the First Colonial Band program a top quality program.***

There are numerous positions, activities and committees that parents can volunteer their time. Some require a few members to help out and some require a large amount of volunteer participation. Information on volunteer opportunities is available throughout this handbook.

The success of the FCHS band program is due to the combined efforts of dedicated, wonderful and extremely talented directors/instructors and the very supportive parents and families that make up the FCBB. The FCBB supports all six ensembles throughout the entire school year. The FCBB's work is not done after marching season. The entire band program is extremely dependent on the FCBB all year long. While dues are critical and provide the financial support, dues are not enough. All parents are requested to in addition to paying your dues **PLEASE** seek out opportunities to volunteer your time as well. If you have a special talent or idea that is not listed, please **SPEAK UP**, we want to hear from you. **THE FCBB NEEDS YOU!**

- **Home football games [Volunteer Opportunity]**

The Marching Band performs half-time shows at all home football games throughout the football season and any playoff games. Parents and family are encouraged to attend games to support the band/guard, football team, and cheerleaders. We are in need of several chaperones to assist the band in the stands as well as moving equipment to/from the field for halftime.

- **Homecoming [Event Information & Volunteer Opportunity]**

The Marching Band marches in a parade through the local neighborhoods before the game and around the track during halftime. The Marching Band will perform their half-time show at the end of the game since half-time is used for homecoming festivities.

- **Senior Night [Event Information & Volunteer Opportunity]**

Occurring once a year during the football season, Senior Night usually takes place at the last regularly scheduled football game. The purpose of Senior Night is to honor the seniors and their parents from the football team, cheerleaders, marching band, color guard, and other fall sports teams. The seniors and their parents are honored by having the parents escort their senior across the football field at a ceremony before the game. As the student and their

parents walk across the field, they are introduced to the audience and a list of student's accomplishments and future plans are announced. Traditionally, at the end of the Marching Band half-time show, the seniors in the marching band, wearing white socks, will leave their shoes on the field.

- **Local Competitions [Event Information & Volunteer Opportunity]**

The marching band performs many Saturday competitions in September and October at local high school band competitions.

- **Bands of America (BOA) Competitions [Event Information & Volunteer Opportunity]**

BOA presents a prestigious nationwide series of regional competitions. These competitions are held at various venues of state. Some require more extensive travel and present an opportunity for educational adjudication by leading experts from around the country. The marching band performs in regional/super regional BOA which are the highlight of the marching season.

- **Band Banquet [Event Information & Volunteer Opportunity]**

The band season ends at an annual banquet held in late May/early June. Students and their parents are honored at this dinner which includes a student created slide-show of the season followed by an awards ceremony for all of the students. The catered banquet is planned and put on by the FCBB parents and is conducted at the high school.

- **Prop Crew [Volunteer Opportunity]**

The parents of the FCBB will work together and create/build props as necessary for the band's show that year. This group of parents may also help with bringing the props onto and off of the field at performance times.

- **Pit Crew [Volunteer Opportunity]**

The Pit Crew organizes heavy percussion instruments and equipment at football games, performances and competitions. They also load/unload the equipment on the trailer/trucks for away/travel events. The Band is allocated a limited amount of time for setup and takedown of the equipment at football games, performances and competitions; therefore, this group requires a lot of skill in completing their task quickly and accurately.

- **Equipment Transportation [Volunteer Opportunity]**

The FCHS band owns a trailer that is used to haul band equipment to events. Parents of the FCBB help by loading, unloading and towing the trailer to wherever is needed.

- **Spirit Wear / Accessories [Information & Volunteer Opportunity]**

Students say that there is nothing like being on the field and looking up into the stands and seeing a "Sea of Blue"! The FCHS band is known for having a dedicated group of parents

and families and supporters decked out in blue. Anything (Columbia) blue goes. The FCBB has a group of parents that help provide any and every one with all the spirit wear and accessories needed to help the students feel supported.

- **Chaperones [Volunteer Opportunity]**

The FCBB provides a group of parents to chaperone our wonderful students. These parents work extremely hard to keep the students safe while traveling. They are a great peace of mind for all parents, students, directors, and instructors of the entire band program. They are called to duty not only for traveling on the buses and being in the hotels, but also to be with the students at football games. When traveling, the chaperones are the first ones awake early in the morning and the last ones to go to bed. This volunteer opportunity is one with a great amount of work and responsibility.

- **Band Uniforms [Volunteer Opportunity]**

Many parents are needed during the summer band camp season to fit, iron and mend/sew the uniforms. Once performances and competitions begin, parents are needed to assist the students in retrieving/returning uniforms to the proper storage locations.

- **Guard Uniforms / Flag Maintenance [Volunteer Opportunity]**

Parents are needed to measure the guard for costumes. Parents may need to make alterations after the costumes arrive. Parents are also needed to mend and launder old flags. There might also be a need to create and sew new flags.

- **Medical [Information]**

The FCBB follows all Virginia Beach City Public Schools policies regarding medical care during school events. It is not uncommon for many parents of the FCBB to have varying levels of medical training, and some of these parents have CPR training. It is strictly on the Good Samaritan basis that parents while present at events may provide basic first aid, including CPR, if necessary. **It is not necessary to have medical training to help support the director, instructors or students at any band event.** All parents are appreciated to step up and help if they feel comfortable. If at any time the student needs to call his or her parent, assistance will be provided to that student. Also, the parent volunteer aiding the child may contact the parent as well. The director and instructors are made aware of every injury and illness and are very concerned for the safety of each and every student. Please refer to the Virginia High School League website for great information on preventing and treating heat related illness www.vhsl.org. The director and instructors count on parents being present so they can call on them in time of need.

- **Gatorade Brigade [Volunteer Opportunity]**

The Gatorade Brigade provides Gatorade, water and fruit to the marchers during Band Camp in August. It's a great way to meet other people and to watch your marcher. There are different shifts—bring your lawn chair and join the team that keeps our marchers hydrated.

- **Amazon Smile [Fundraiser]**

Amazon Smile is a program which donates 0.5% of eligible purchases back to the band which supports the band programs by purchasing and maintaining uniforms, instruments and equipment. It also helps pay for music instruction, marching instruction and competition expenses. Most items available on Amazon are also available under the Amazon Smile program. Visit smile.amazon.com to shop. Link your account to support First Colonial Band Boosters. There is no extra cost to participate and it is a wonderful way to support the FCBB.

Events, fundraisers and volunteer opportunities may vary on a yearly basis depending on the director and current members of the FCBB for that year. *Again, information provided in this handbook should only be used as a guide and any changes may be made without notice at the discretion of the director.*

Parent/Family Conduct at Events

Parents/friends/family try to sit together in a section to cheer on the Marching Patriots as they perform. Most wear their Spirit Wear, school colors, and/or Parent Show Shirt (if purchased.) Please be courteous, encourage and cheer for other bands. The students travel and stay together during competitions. They must follow the director's instructions regarding any food/concessions based upon length of attendance. If you have any question regarding this during the event, an event chaperone may be able to assist in providing that information to you. It is important that the students are attentive to the director and focus on their performance.

- **Practice and Rehearsals**

While parents are always welcome, there are a few considerations we must give the staff and our students:

- ✓ Remain quiet.
- ✓ Watch from an area away from the instructional area as to not interfere.
- ✓ Please remember there is no **smoking or pets allowed on school property.**
- ✓ Please heed any special instructions of the band staff while observing practice.

- **Football Games**

The Marching Band performs half-time shows at all home football games throughout the football season and any playoff games. Parents and family are encouraged to attend games to support the band/guard, football team and cheerleaders.

- **Competitions/Events**

The FCBB looks forward to a successful and entertaining season. Half-time shows offer an opportunity for the band to perform for the entire community, while band competitions allow the finer points of a performance to be appreciated.

At competitions, special considerations are needed for everyone to enjoy the performances. When representing our community and our students, **we have a responsibility to be positive, supportive and courteous.** Please keep these points in mind when you are enjoying a competition:

- ✓ Save your conversations for times between performances and be sure to turn off cell phones and pagers.
- ✓ Wait until a band completes their show to enter or leave the stands to avoid causing distractions for the band performing or other patrons watching the show.
- ✓ Be careful of your remarks about other bands because you never know who is sitting near you. Your remarks may hurt the feelings of a parent whose child has worked just as hard as yours and may leave a lasting negative impression of the Marching Patriots community.
- ✓ Always applaud a band's performance. All students work hard to perfect their performance and relish your appreciation to their efforts.
- ✓ Be prepared for inclement weather—bring a poncho! Avoid umbrellas because they can block the view of those behind you and the spokes can be dangerous in the close quarters of stadium seating.
- ✓ **DO NOT POST ANY PRACTICE, EVENT OR COMPETITION PERFORMANCE ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA.**
- ✓ If you video-tape, stand where you will not block the view of other members of the audience. **Please note that BOA forbids the use of recording devices.**

Traveling Information

The FCHS band ensembles are no stranger to traveling. They are accustomed to local and long distance travel. All supported by the FCBB. The director and staff do a phenomenal job at not only organizing amazing travel opportunities for our students, but also ensuring their safe return. The director clearly communicates expectations from students and parents alike. ***At all times follow the directions of the director*** and below are a few helpful hints.

- **Bus Procedures**

For football games and local competitions, school buses are utilized. Students are divided into buses by sections and color guard. For longer trips and out of state competitions, coach buses are utilized. The student will choose a bus buddy and sign up for a bus a few weeks prior to the time needed. Bus captains will be assigned for each bus. Students will meet in the auditorium for announcements before loading buses. At the performance site, buses will not unload until told to do so by the Band Director or drum major. Anyone wishing to pick up their child following a local competition must provide a written request for approval prior

to the competition. Please plan, if possible, to pick them up after the awards ceremony at the buses. There are several logistical issues associated with putting away instruments, returning plumes and retrieving belongings on the bus that will be locked until the entire group returns.

- **Overnight Trips**

Room list sign-ups will be before all overnight trips. Before checking into the hotel, room captains will pick up keys to distribute to roommates. All bus captains and chaperones will be responsible for checking attendance each time the buses are loaded. ***No one may change buses or rooms without permission from the Band Director.*** All band members will ride the bus to and from events unless special permission is given by the Band Director before the trip. Anyone wishing to pick up their child following a competition must provide a written request for approval to the Band Director prior to the competition. The student will not be able to leave prior to the completion of the awards ceremony. The logistical barriers apply. The student would also have to bring their belongings from the hotel, if applicable, which will be stored on a locked bus until the group returns to the bus. Please plan accordingly. Again, please discuss questions or concerns with the directors **prior** to the trip.

- **Hotels**

All rooms will be assigned 4 to a room by sex and no changes will be made except those made by the Band Director. Students and their roommates will be expected to keep their room neat and clean. If the room is messy at checkout time, students and their roommates will clean the room before any bus departs. ***Any missing or damaged items will be charged to the students/parents of those assigned to the room.*** Students must follow the curfew set by the Band Director and be polite to each other, hotel staff and other hotel guests.

Marching Band

Introduction

The largest, most visible and most well-known ensemble of the First Colonial Band Program, the **Marching Patriots**, is comprised of band students *and* color guard members. This ensemble is known not only for its extremely high level of talent, but also for transforming the students while in the marching band. Most notably are the rising freshman as they leave the comfort of middle school and enter high school. Marching band alumni describe marching band as having helped them make roughly 50 friends for the first day of high school. Transformation continues to occur throughout the students' career as a Marching Patriot as they are provided the opportunity to perform in various leadership roles. Students are encouraged to apply and audition for roles such as Drum Major, Squad Leader, Equipment Manager, Field Manager, Band Librarian and possibly other leadership positions. The Band Director awards the leadership designations.

The Marching Patriots normally attend all Friday night home football games, performing at half-time, and compete at local and national competitions. The band also supports the local community by marching in various local parades as requested by the city.

Band Practice

The Marching Patriots begin practicing over the summer (Color Guard and Drumline have practices, clinics, tryouts and placement in late spring of the previous year). Students should attend all summer practices/rehearsals/sectionals. We understand that many families take vacations during the summer months. Care should be taken to schedule these vacations around the scheduled band camp sessions. The Band Director normally has the summer practice schedule available to all parents and students on Charms/website by January 1st. As a hint, the band camp in August is **MANDATORY** and any absences need to be discussed with the director. As a general rule of thumb, do not schedule any events or appointments during band practice sessions.

Basics Camp:

Basics Camp is usually held in the middle of July. New members will go over the basics of marching. Color guard and Drumline are included in this week of camp but their schedules may be different. Please get the specific "Guard" or "Drumline" calendar from the director.

Music Camp:

Music Camp is usually held the week after Basics Camp. All band members will learn the music for the upcoming show.

Guard and Drumline Camp:

Guard and Drumline Camp is usually held the first full week in August. Continued refinement of music and technique is focused on at this camp.

Band Camp:

Band Camp usually begins the second week of August and runs for approximately 2 weeks. Details regarding Band Camp and Full Band Rehearsals can be found on the FCHS Band website (www.fcband.org). Attendance at all practices/rehearsals is required, so parents should plan accordingly. **Rehearsal is held rain or shine.** It is recommended the students bring the following to Band Camp:

- water jug
- sunscreen, hat, sunglasses
- comfortable tennis shoes (**no sandals/flip-flops/boots**)
- extra socks and foot powder
- pencil
- dot sheets at all times

Families are strongly encouraged to schedule any summer vacations before Band Camp begins.

Sectionals:

Sectionals are small learning ensembles for each instrument (i.e. flute, clarinet, dumline, etc.). They are generally held before/after the regularly scheduled rehearsals, on day designated in advance by the Band Director or squad leader. Sectionals provide a great opportunity for team building and for band members to get to know each other.

After School Rehearsals:

Students are expected to attend every rehearsal and performance. Dates can be found in the Student Handbook, on the website and on Charms. Homework, clubs, sports and tutoring are **not** valid reasons for missing practice. Missing practices for unexcused reasons will result in a student losing the ability to perform and can result in the student being removed from the ensemble.

Fall Camp:

One Saturday in September there is normally an all-day practice for all Marching Band members. The focus of this rehearsal is to usually finish the show.

Band Uniforms

Items provided by the band:

Band:

Uniforms are fitted during band camp. Each student is assigned a numbered jacket, pants, shako (hat) gauntlets. These are provided by the band. The uniforms must remain in the band room, properly hung, stored in garment bags when not in use. Students are responsible for properly handing and storing their uniforms and shakos. The plumes (feathers in the shako) are provided at the time of performance. These are real feathers and will be placed in the shako and removed by the uniform parents using gloves. The students will be provided with a show shirt and the Director will advise the students when to wear them. If not instructed to wear their show shirt, the students will be informed of what to wear under uniform.

Guard:

The guard members are measured for uniforms during spring training/try-outs prior to competition season. Gloves are normally present at the fitting so students may try on various sizes to determine the best fit and shoe sizes are recorded as provided by the guard member. Uniforms are then provided to the guard members during marching season to use and then return at the end of the season.

Items provided by the student:

Band:

The student will be responsible for purchasing gloves and dinkles (shoes), both of which are purchased through the band. It is important to order shoes during band camp so they will arrive in time for the first performance. The student should immediately write their names on the inside of the shoes. The gloves can be purchased throughout the season in the band room prior to each performance or trip. The students must also purchase plain, long black dress socks to wear at each performance. Please make sure these are very long socks and do not have any logos.

Guard:

Students are required to purchase gloves, shoes, and any necessary make-up or accessories. The students will keep these items at the end of the season. During all performances, there is to be no nail polish or wrist or ankle bracelets present.

Personal Grooming

All hair must be tucked under shako (except sections that do not wear shakos.) Hair must be neat and off of the collar. No earrings, jewelry, or nail polish is permitted for performances. No makeup is allowed for instrumental players. Guard members will be instructed on the required hair and makeup. Dinkles (shoes) must be clean. Uniforms must be clean.

Damaged or Lost Items

Marching band uniforms cost *several* hundreds of dollars per student. Students are responsible for keeping up with all of their uniform items and should be mindful off carefully checking numbers of shakos prior to pulling them off the shelf. Each piece of the uniform has a different number and they are uniquely assigned to your student. The students are not allowed to eat or drink while in uniform, including candy and gum. They are not allowed to engage in running or horseplay while in uniform. Damages should be reported immediately to the uniform parents as well as any lost items. Any damage to or loss of part of the provided uniform will require the student to pay for the item lost or damaged.

Appendix I

Parent Survival Tips

1. **Your student is probably more capable than you realize.** They should and will begin taking responsibility for themselves (preparing snacks/lunch, transporting instruments, bringing water, etc.). If needed, you can work with them to create checklists for everything they need to bring.
2. **Get out of the car and come join us.** The “practice field” is located in the parking lot by the band room for most of the summer & in the stadium as our competitive season begins. The last moments of practice often involves the kids running through portions of the program on the practice field. Come out, listen and talk to some fellow parents.
3. **End of Practice:** The students will be crossing from the practice field to the band room in large groups. Some will be pushing instruments and equipment. Please do not block the ramps by the band room and use caution when driving through this area. Be aware that students are not permitted to leave until all equipment has been put away, the band room is clean and we have gone through our dismissal tradition.
4. **Pick up at school following competitions:** The entire row of parking closest to the school is reserved for our buses, trailers and other transportation vehicles. When the band is returning on school or charter buses, please keep this area clear of all vehicles. The buses park near the portables by the building in this lane and the trailers park directly in front of the band room. All equipment must be unloaded and the students assist in this progress.
5. **Football Games:** Your student will be in full uniform and sitting with the band at football games. They are not permitted to eat/drink (including gum/candy) while in uniform. Please do not attempt to give them anything during the game. The FCBB provides bottled water to each student after their performance. The students are also required to have a chaperone accompany them to the restroom. They are not permitted to go with parents or staff. Sit back and enjoy! They are just as entertaining in the stands as they are when they perform on the field. Bring your camera, but please do not post any videos online! The show is a work in progress and is adjusted throughout the season and after each competition. We do not want others to view the shows prior to competitions and there are also copyright issues when doing so.
6. **What to bring:** Always bring warm clothes to be prepared and something to sit on. There are charges to get into football games and competitions. Consider bringing CASH. It is suggested to review the BOA website (musicforall.org) to see the souvenir merchandise with your student. There will be very little, if any, opportunity to coordinate with your student at the event what they desire to purchase and quantities are limited. If purchasing apparel at a BOA event, an iron-on decal with the event and our school name will be available for purchase, along with options to add their section, finalist and other options. The event volunteers apply these to your purchased items (most have them applied to the sleeves.). Of particular short supply are patches with the location/city of the event. These items are also available online.

7. **Band Directors are people too.** But they are BUSY people. They work long hours and their main focus is the students. If you have a specific concern about your child and the band program, it is best to set up a time to discuss it. If you have general information questions, often the website or FCBB members can answer them.
8. **We Need YOU!** Come to the FCBB meetings, volunteer in multiple areas. There are many opportunities. Volunteering also provides an opportunity to meet new friends (often life-long) and to stay in tune to what is going on with the band.
9. **Join CHARMS, constantly check email, become a member of our Facebook community and frequently check the website.** There are many avenues used for the flow of information. Stay connected!
10. **No milk products the morning of Band Camp.** Historically, this causes upset stomachs.

Appendix II

Student Survival Tips

1. ALWAYS be on time, which really means 10-15 minutes early.
2. There's a difference between interest and commitment. When you're interested in something, you do it only when it's convenient. When you're committed to something, you accept no excuses---only results.
3. When in doubt, stop talking.
4. Show respect to everyone and listen to what experienced members have to say. They're probably right.
5. Don't expect to know everything the first day. Even people who have marched before have plenty to learn.
6. Take things seriously, but not TOO seriously.
7. We are very good at what we do because we can focus when we need to.
8. Stay well rested (7 hours per night), fed and hydrated. Avoid dairy products before band camp.
9. Always have all your materials on you or close enough that you can get them quickly. "Close enough" means on the side of the field, not the band room. This is your responsibility and nobody else's.
10. Know how to work hard, but also how to relax. Know that the two NEVER occur at the same time. EVER!
11. Keep up on your schoolwork. Take every opportunity to do your homework. Study with peers during band study hall. On the bus, extra time in class, at appointments—do whatever it takes. This is a team activity and your greatest ability is your availability. You cannot help the team if you are withdrawn for academic reasons.
12. Be as productive as possible all of the time. Wasting time is unforgivable.
13. You will be called out eventually. Don't take it personally (unless you should). When it happens, view it as a learning opportunity and improve from it.
14. Trust the instructors. Especially when you think they aren't right. They are rarely wrong.
15. You may want to quit at first or when things become difficult. But **DON'T QUIT!**

Appendix III

Glossary of Terms

BOA (Bands of America aka Music for All): You will hear the term BOA used quite a bit. It is a national program for various types of music—not just marching bands. There are State competitions, Invitationals, Regionals, Super-Regionals and BOA Grand National Championships held in Indianapolis. Bands from all over the US go to these events.

Captions: Awards given in competitions acknowledge specific excellence in the areas of *Music*, *Visual*, and *General Effect*. There is a relationship between these awards and the final competition scores, as the captions are subcategories used in the overall scoring. It is possible to win the caption awards and still not win the competition, although more often the winner of *General Effect* is also the winner of the competition.

Charms: A website used to convey information from the directors to the parents. The master calendar is available through Charms. Some tests are issued on this site.

Class A, AA, AAA, AAAA: Designations assigned by school size or band size depending on the competition venue.

Dinkles: The black marching shoes worn by our students. Marchers are required to purchase Dinkles.

Dot sheets/books: Your child will be required to maintain a notebook/collection of coordinate sheets that is their personal map of the show. The dot book contains their specific show coordinates, spot on the field, relation to other people, relation to the form, direction that they come from and the direction they move. They also include counts for each set and extra notes such as step size and visual details. If a show formation is the map, the dot book is the “YOU ARE HERE” for each band member. The band members build and maintain their own dotbooks.

Drumline: All percussion instruments including the pit.

FCBB (First Colonial Band Boosters): The success of the band program is threefold: the dedication and talent of the staff, the hard working dedicated students and the ongoing efforts of the parent volunteers. If you have a child in any of the First Colonial Band programs, you are a member of the FCBB. The FCBB is made up of parents, some alumni parents, grandparents and other family members that work year round to make sure the band has everything they need to be successful.

Hornline: If you can blow wind through the instrument, it is on the hornline. The hornline consists trumpets, mellophones, baritones, sousaphones, flutes, clarinets, piccolos, and saxophones.

Mellophone: Is a brass instrument that is typically used in place of the horn (sometimes called French Horn) in marching bands or drum and bugle corps. First Colonial marches with mellophones.

Props: Short for 'properties' are used to enhance the shows. Flags, hoods, sabers, all manner of structures, are all props. We make most of our own show specific props and it is a huge undertaking. Whether we need carpenter skills or sewing skills depends on the show. Watch for requests to help out.

Sections: Each instrument is a 'section'. Each section develops its own pride and personality.

Shakos: The hats worn by the marching band with the big plumes on top.

Squads: Each student is assigned to a family within the band family. These groups are not based on section or seniority and are led by a Squad Leader. Members report directly to their Squad Leaders for attendance, questions, or most other things.

The Pit: The non-marching portion of the band. Includes keyboards, certain drums, some percussion instruments and whatever instrument that is not practical to march. The pit requires a 'pit crew' to help get equipment on and off the field. If you are going to be at the show anyway, consider helping out.