

2020-2021 Stone Bridge High School Marching Bulldogs

The Stone Bridge High School Marching Band is an extra-curricular ensemble consisting of musicians and visual ensemble known as the color guard. While the drum major and color guard positions are open by audition only, all musicians with sufficient musical training and willing to put forth the required effort are welcome to join the marching band. Most years, the group performs at a variety of functions including all home varsity football games, some away games, marching band competitions, local parades, community events, pep rallies, etc. Most activities generally take place during the late summer and autumn months but other opportunities may arise throughout the year. As we learn what the coming months will look like, we will do our best to adjust to and thrive within the changing situations.

All marchers are awarded varsity letters or chevrons for each year successfully completed. Marchers must meet all attendance requirements in order to receive these awards. Most years, marchers are allowed two excused absences and one unexcused absence (for those absences where parents and director disagree on the need for an absence) **from rehearsals**. There are very few acceptable reasons to miss any performance. In any year, absences for performances and rehearsals should be arranged as much in advance as possible. Social events, hair appointments, concerts, homework, other group meetings, club sports, etc. are not considered excused absences. Optional events are not mandatory. We may find that the coming year has more “optional events” than other years once we learn the guidelines in place. Band members attending events when the band is in attendance are expected and required to participate with the band instead of choosing not to participate.

During the fall season of the school year, the Marching Bulldogs typically rehearse from 4:10-6:30, Tuesday through Thursday. **PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS ON REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE DATES**. If possible **PLEASE** urge medical/dental doctors to schedule Monday appointments. Depending on guidelines presented by authorities this year, we are also tentatively reserving Mondays as possible rehearsal days while we await guidelines and start dates but Mondays will be designed as “easier” to miss if necessary. Due to the nature of a marching program, one person absent from a rehearsal or portion of rehearsal affects **EVERYONE**. Missed rehearsals may result in marchers not marching a performance. Each individual Marching Bulldog is equally important and necessary to a successful rehearsal or performance.

We are making plans to conduct our mandatory Band Camp during August, although we realize guidelines may not allow this to be possible. Still, we must have a plan. If held, the **mandatory FULL** band camp will be held August 10-14 and 17-18 from 8:00 AM-12:30 PM **AND** from 4:00-8:30 PM (two mandatory sessions per day), as well as August 19-21 from 4:00-8:30 with a dinner break during the evening rehearsal for bag dinners (please do not order pizza, etc. during this time). **Before attending Full Band Camp, rookie marchers and leadership team members are also required to participate in the Rookie Camp on August 6 & 7 (9:00 AM-4:00 PM)**. Leadership team members would start on August 4 and 5 from 9:00-4:00. All members would continue evening rehearsals August 24-27 from 4:30-7:00 PM (no dinner break on these days.) Missed rehearsals during August will be counted as absences. Our annual Ice Cream Social and Parent Performance would be scheduled to be held on Friday, August 21. As guidelines for school activities are announced, we will adjust as necessary.

LCPS-MUSIC DIVISION-EMERGENCY INFORMATION FORMS ARE MADE AVAILABLE WHEN YOU COMPLETE THE ON-LINE REGISTRATION MATERIALS. BEFORE ATTENDING ANY MARCHING BAND EVENTS, THESE FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED! Anticipated show music will be made available this summer. We will hopefully be able to issue school-owned marching instruments over the summer. Our first home football game and performance of the year is listed on the calendar as Friday night, August 28th against Centreville. Please continue to work over the summer to be prepared no matter when we are given approval to have formal rehearsals!

We will be conducting all marching band registrations online this year. The online registration is due by June 8th and is considered to be a formal commitment to the season even though we are waiving deposits until first rehearsal. The online registration is located on Mr. Keller’s staff page on the Stone Bridge High School website. To access this information, visit the Stone Bridge High School website, hover on “ABOUT” and click “STAFF DIRECTORY”. Find David Keller and view website in the alphabetical listing of staff members and then click on the Marching Band Registration link. The information requested in this form is required and will be used to set up a Charms Office Account. Charms Office will be used as the primary communication vehicle for the Marching Bulldogs 2020 season and by the Stone Bridge High School Music Boosters Association (SBHSMBA.)

When you sign up for a Charms Office account, all contact information will be used by the SBHSMBA to facilitate communication. Using Charms, parents and students can:

1. Access a centralized calendar of main events
2. Sign up to volunteer at music events and fundraisers
3. Access handouts and files
4. Check whether required forms have been submitted
5. Review any instrument inventory or uniforms that have been assigned
6. Make payments to the SBHSMBA online using PayPal.
7. Check student fundraising account balances.

As marching programs are expensive to operate, participation in the Marching Bulldogs full, normal season requires a fee of \$175. These fees help cover the cost of band t-shirts, festival fees, outside instructors, equipment, band letters/awards, drill design, music, etc. **As this year COULD be an adjusted calendar, fees may be reduced once we are given local and state guidelines.** Please contact Mr. Keller if other financial arrangements will need to be made. The entire fee (in full or at lowered rate) will be due on the first day of band rehearsal and is non-refundable at that point. We are waiting to collect fees until after we have information which allows us to create a realistic budget for the season. Through your Charms Office account, you can pay online using PayPal—if you are new to Charms, once you complete the online registration, we will send you instructions via e-mail to access your Charms Office account. You may also choose to pay by check. Checks are payable to **SBHS MBA** (our Music Boosters Association) and should be brought to the first day of rehearsal. On the memo line, please write “2020 Marching Band” and the participating student’s name. Families with more than one student marcher will only pay a fee of \$150 for each student if full payment requirements stand. Please note that other required materials will also need to be purchased including white gloves, shoes, marching shorts, etc.

The Marching Bulldogs also generally offer a great opportunity for students and parents to participate TOGETHER! Within a typical season, the marching band can be a great way to spend time participating in an activity with your family members. Parent volunteers are ALWAYS needed for various roles such as driving the trailer, uniform care, chaperoning events, etc. All parents are also encouraged to join the Stone Bridge High School Music Boosters Association. Thank you for your time and interest. We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

K. David Keller
Band Director
Stone Bridge High School

Proposed Varsity Football Game Schedule:

August 28th-SBHS v. Centreville--Home
September 3rd -SBHS v. Madison—Home
October 2nd — SBHS v. Rockridge – Home-8th Grade Night?
October 9th –SBHS v. Riverside – Homecoming
October 23rd –SBHS v. Briar Woods – Senior Night
November 6th – Optional Pep band to SBHS v. Broad Run at BRHS
Regional/State Playoff Games and Other possibility of travel to away games TBA

Potential Festivals/Competitions/Events—Please note these are not finalized calendar events:

Car Wash Dates TBA
September 7th PM POSSIBLE BAND ACTIVITY IF SCHEDULE NECESSITATES
September 12th Band Activity TBA
September 26th Band Activity TBA
October 3rd —Band Activity TBA
October 17th —Band Activity TBA
October 24th --Band Activity TBA (VBODA State Marching Assessment?)
October 31st—Band Activity TBA and Leesburg Kiwanis Parade
November 7th —Band Activity TBA

PLEASE NOTE:

The above dates reflect open Saturdays on September 19th and October 10th. We will continue to monitor guidelines and publish updates as soon as we have additional information to share.