



Grosse Pointe South High School Band & Orchestra

11 Grosse Pointe Boulevard
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
Telephone: 313.432.3641 | Facsimile: 313.432.3502

WWW.GPSBO.ORG

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May 8, 2019

Hello everyone! This year has gone by quickly, but I'm excited for the summer and to get things going with the 2019 Blue Devil Marching Band! I am VERY excited for the coming show; the theme is called "Royalty," and it includes the music of Beyoncé (the Queen Bee), Aretha Franklin (the Queen of Soul), Elvis Presley (the King of Rock), and Prince. It's going to be a ton of fun! **Is marching band required at South?** No, it is not. However, it is a GREAT way to have fun and meet people. And YES, you can play sports and be in marching band; we have students who do this every year, including team captains.

Here are the dates and some notes to be aware of (I have also included the season calendar):

▪ **June 3, 8:00 PM... Parent/Member meeting, South High School Band Room**

▪ **June 11-14 (Tu-F), after school... Mini-Camp at South High School**

- Mini-Camp allows us to get acclimated and get some things out of the way prior to August, like marching fundamentals and a head start on our music. See the schedule for times.

▪ **July 29-August 2 (M-F), 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM... Band Camp at South High School**

- As always, Band Camp will take place before fall sports begin.
- Wear tennis shoes, comfortable clothes, bring water/sunscreen, and be ready to be outside!
- Students need to be at these dates to fully participate in the Marching Band... please schedule vacations and other summer camps around them. Missing rehearsals (especially when learning charts for halftime drill) really sets members back and causes them to fall behind the band. If there is an unavoidable conflict with a date, please let me know as soon as possible so we can make accommodations. **KEEP IN MIND THAT WE HAVE ONE GAME AT WAYNE STATE BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS THIS YEAR... PLEASE PLAN VACATIONS ACCORDINGLY!**
- **Rehearsals** have been moved to **Wednesday evenings** this year.
- I've included an order form where students will need to order the following: their marching band t-shirt/baseball hat (if they do not already have them) and marching shoes.
- We are always in need of parent help with Band Camp (water, etc.), the Booster Tailgate, the Homecoming and Santa Parades, and uniform distribution.
- Students will also need a flip folder to hold music if they do not already own one. Clarinets and Saxophones will need a lyre to hold the flip folder as well. These are purchased on your own.

Please return the attached forms and payment to your band director by **Monday, June 3**. If you're on the fence about doing marching band... get off and join us; it's a lot of fun and the group will be better with you in it! Please feel free to contact me with any other questions... email works best. Looking forward to a spectacular season!

Christopher Takis, Director of Bands
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GROSSE POINTE SOUTH BLUE DEVIL MARCHING BAND

2019 Calendar

(Please note that weekly rehearsals have been moved to Wednesday evenings this year)

| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION | TIME |
|-----------------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| June 11 | Stand Music Rehearsal | South HS | 4:00 - 6:00 PM |
| June 12 | Halftime Music Rehearsal | South HS | 4:00 - 6:00 PM |
| June 13 | Halftime Music Rehearsal | South HS | Noon - 2:00 PM |
| June 14 | Mini-Camp | South HS | Noon - 6:00 PM |
| July 25-27 | Drumline Camp | South HS | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM |
| July 29-August 2 | Band Camp (uniform distribution at 5:45) | South HS | 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM |
| | POST-CAMP ACTIVITIES: | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MONDAY... ice cream ▪ TUESDAY... lawn games/rock painting ▪ WEDNESDAY... movie night in band room ▪ THURSDAY... bowling ▪ FRIDAY... community performance @ 4:30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior uniform distribution Junior uniform distribution Sophomore uniform distribution Freshman uniform distribution Cook-out, Windmill Pointe Park @ 6:00 PM | |
| August 7 | Rehearsal | South HS | 6:30 - 8:30 PM |
| August 14 | Rehearsal | South HS | 6:30 - 8:30 PM |
| August 21 | Rehearsal | South HS | 6:30 - 8:30 PM |
| August 28 | Rehearsal | South HS | 6:30 - 8:30 PM |
| August 30 | AWAY FOOTBALL vs. Birmingham Groves | Wayne State | 2:30 PM bus |
| September 4 | Rehearsal | South HS | 6:30 - 8:30 PM |
| September 11 | Rehearsal | South HS | 6:30 - 8:30 PM |
| September 18 | Rehearsal | South HS | 6:30 - 8:30 PM |
| September 20 | HOME FOOTBALL vs. Utica (8th grade night) | South HS | 5:30 PM report |
| *September 21* | *Groves HS Marching Band Invitational* | Groves HS | *TENTATIVE* |
| September 25 | Rehearsal | South HS | 6:30 - 8:30 PM |
| September 27 | HOMECOMING PARADE | Maire ES | 4:30 PM report |
| | HOME FOOTBALL vs. Port Huron | South HS | 6:30 on field |
| October 2 | Rehearsal | South HS | 6:30 - 8:30 PM |
| October 9 | Rehearsal | South HS | 6:30 - 8:30 PM |
| October 11 | HOME FOOTBALL vs. LC North (senior night) | South HS | 5:30 PM report |
| October 16 | Rehearsal | South HS | 6:30 - 8:30 PM |
| October 18 | HOME FOOTBALL vs. North | South HS | 5:30 PM report |
| November 25 | Parade Rehearsal | South HS | 7:00 - 8:30 PM |
| November 29 | Santa Parade | South HS | 9:00 AM report |
| December 15 | Rehearsal | South HS | 7:00 - 8:30 PM |
| December 16 | Band-O-Rama (uniform turn-in afterward) | South HS | 6:30 PM report |

* - TENTATIVE (we will receive official word in August)

There is a possibility of the band performing at playoff games the weekends of October 25/26 and November 1, 8/9, or 15/16. If the football team keeps winning, we will keep playing! This may lead to additional rehearsals.

Victory March of the Blue Devils

Blue and Gold, we're backing you
 We're loyal to our colors true
 We're fighting onward for your fame
 And for the honor of your name (GO SOUTH!)
 We've got a strong and mighty team
 We're really full of pep and steam
 And we'll fight and fight for Grosse Pointe South
 And we're sure to win this game!

Grosse Pointe South Alma Mater

Here beside St. Clair's blue waters
 Stands our tower bold
 And our noble Alma Mater
 Glorious to behold
 Swell the chorus, let it echo,
 Raise it to the sky
 Hail to thee, our Alma Mater
 Hail to Grosse Pointe High



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BLUE DEVIL MARCHING BAND UNIFORM CONTRACT

The South Marching Band uniform includes the following pieces:

- Jacket/Color Guard top
- Black Pants/Bibbers (white for drum majors)
- Rain Parka w/Grosse Pointe South imprint
- Shako Hat + Box, plume (except tubas/color guard)
- Black Cotton Gloves (students must purchase these for \$2, except drumline/color guard)
- Garment Bag w/ Grosse Pointe South imprint

SUMMER/RELAXED UNIFORM... ALL STUDENTS MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

- Blue South Marching Band t-shirt (must be purchased)
- Baseball Hat (must be purchased... will also be used with the official uniform)
- Khaki Shorts and Blue Jeans (no rips/holes... weather will determine which will be worn)

OTHER UNIFORM POINTS:

- Students are responsible for the care and well-being of every piece of the uniform at all times, and are required to replace lost/damaged items. The replacement costs are as follows:
 - Marching Coat: \$262 (Color Guard top: \$68)
 - Bibbers: \$102
 - Rain Parka: \$55
 - Shako Hat + Box: \$45
 - Plume: \$18
 - Garment Bag: \$11
- Underneath your uniform, students should wear their marching band t-shirt and a pair of gym shorts. Do NOT wear jeans or long pants underneath! Thermals are acceptable if it is cold. Black gloves and baseball hats are required at every game. Hats should be kept in the shako.
- Students must keep a lunch-sized plastic/zip-lock bag in their pants pocket at all times. When it is not being worn (i.e. rain), the plume should be stored in the bag and kept in the pants pocket.
- Students also purchase black Drillmaster marching shoes (\$32 from DeMoulin Uniforms) and wear **solid** black socks with the uniform. These can also be worn with tuxedos. Drum majors purchase white shoes/gloves and wear white socks.

Failure to have all parts of the uniform (baseball hats/gloves included) or not wearing black socks may result in the student not being allowed to march that particular game. Students are responsible for the repair/replacement costs of any lost or damaged part of the uniform.

INSTRUMENTS:

Students must provide their own instrument or sign an instrument out from the school (mellophones, baritones, tubas, percussion, color guard). Wood clarinets should not be used.

BLUE DEVIL MARCHING BAND CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of the marching band is to provide spirit and entertainment at athletic events and Grosse Pointe community functions. Students are expected to be a positive, contributing member of the group at all times, and are representing Grosse Pointe South High School and the surrounding community. Be sure to conduct yourselves accordingly.

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND EXPECTATIONS:

All absences must be filled out using the online “**Marching Band Absence Form**,” which will be emailed out prior to the season starting or listed in Schoology:

- This form must be filled out for each individual event a student will be absent from.
- It must be filled out AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE EVENT.
- Inform your section leader directly... color guard members must also contact Danielle personally.
- We only have ONE practice per week and everyone's attendance is crucial to our success.
- All communication must come from YOU... not a parent, other band member, or by word of mouth.

EXCUSED ABSENCES ARE FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Games/meets (athletes are excused from rehearsal if they run at the same time)
- Planned family vacations (please avoid if possible, but it's understandable in August and at Thanksgiving)
- Sickness or other emergencies (you must inform Mr. Takis why)

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE NOT EXCUSED ABSENCES:

- SCHOOLWORK... it is your responsibility to plan ahead. EVERYONE is in the same boat with homework, tests, papers, projects, and AP/honors classes.
- WORK... you MUST plan ahead with your employer.
- BIRTHDAY PARTIES
- ATHLETIC PRACTICE... I will speak with coaches if necessary, but again, we have ONE practice per week as opposed to every day in athletics and you need to be able to split your time. I am willing to work collaboratively with sports if the marching band receives the same courtesy from athletics.

If you must miss rehearsal for a reason not listed here, contact Mr. Takis immediately with the specifics.

- Students are expected to be at all events and rehearsals. Athletic **competitions (games, meets, etc.)** are excused, but we have ONE required rehearsal per week; band members are actively encouraged to play sports, but collaboration is necessary to be successful.
- If a student has an unexcused absence from a weekly evening rehearsal or Friday pregame rehearsal, they will not be permitted to march the halftime show at the next game. They will be expected to be in uniform at the game and play in the stands.
- Students that are consistently late to rehearsals or performances may be subject to removal from the group.

ON GAME DAY:

- All uniform guidelines must be strictly adhered to; all uniform pieces must be at every game, including baseball hats, gloves, and black socks. The entire uniform is worn the ENTIRE time.
- When we are sitting in the bleachers, all band members (except color guard) wear their baseball hats and set their shakos off to the side.
- When in uniform, long hair must be tied back, kept neat, and put up inside the shako hats.
- Members are not permitted to be on their phones while in uniform (third quarter aside).
- When the band is sitting in the stands, students stay with their sections and in their assigned area.
- Non-marching band members are not permitted to socialize with the marching band seating section.
- We will leave the bleachers to go to the track with five minutes remaining in the second quarter.
- After halftime, students have the third quarter off. Students must keep their uniform jackets zipped up and return to their seats in the bleachers **before the third quarter ends (when the clock hits 0:00)**.
- All members stay for the entire game or until the entire band is dismissed.
- ALL MEMBERS must clean the band & orchestra room after the conclusion of every game so it is ready for class the following Monday morning. Remember that we share the room with other students and classes!
- Mellophones, euphoniums, tubas, and drumline members must make sure their instruments are placed on top of the lockers at ALL TIMES when they are not being used.

Turning in a signed Information/Commitment Form acknowledges that every student and parent understands the policies regarding the South Marching Band Uniforms and Code of Conduct. Failure to adhere to all rules and policies listed may result in removal from the South Marching Band.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH BLUE DEVIL MARCHING BAND 2019 INFORMATION/COMMITMENT FORM

| STUDENT INFORMATION | | | | |
|---------------------|--|------------------------|---|-----------|
| NAME: | | 2019-20 GRADE: | | |
| ADDRESS: | | CITY, ZIP: | | |
| PHONE: | | EMAIL: | | |
| INSTRUMENT/SECTION: | | T-SHIRT SIZE (circle): | S | M L XL 2X |

STUDENTS AND PARENTS: Please sign up for text message alerts! Text @GPSOUTHMB to 81010

| PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------|--|
| NAME: | | | |
| PHONE: | | EMAIL: | |
| PHONE: | | EMAIL: | |

| PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! |
|--|
| The success of our program relies heavily on parent support. Please consider volunteering for at least one event by contacting Courtney Bocci (313-575-0812 or courtcat@gmail.com). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Band Camp Help <input type="checkbox"/> Booster Tailgate <input type="checkbox"/> Uniform Distribution <input type="checkbox"/> Parade Assistance |

We, the undersigned, certify that we have read the letter, calendar, expectations, uniform contract, and code of conduct given with this form, and are ready to make the necessary commitment to make the South High School Marching Band successful.

STUDENT NAME: _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PARENT NAME: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

*Please return this form to your child's band director by **Monday, June 3.** Contact Mr. Takis at takisc@gpschools.org with any questions or concerns.*

