

Dear Coatesville "Marching Red Raider" Band Member and Parents,

Congratulations on your decision to be a member of the COATESVILLE MARCHING RED RAIDER AND SYMPHONIC BAND.

The marching band is one of the largest organizations at The Coatesville Area Senior High School. With over one hundred fifteen members this year, the band attracts some of the most talented and active students in the school. Band members are involved in numerous clubs and service organizations on campus. They are Class Officers, National Honor Society members, Academic Honor Students, members of all our athletic teams from Girls Softball to Boys Baseball, and they hold after school jobs. So when you join the band at Coatesville you become a member of a very special family that derives its strength from its diverse and active membership.

Read all the information carefully, ask your parents to read it and then go over it with them. Take time now to put the enclosed dates on your summer and fall calendars. Preparation is one of the keys to success, so plan now for next year. Complete the Coatesville Marching Band MEDICAL FORM and BOOSTER INFORMATION SHEET and return them during the summer rehearsals or on the first day of BAND CAMP. We will be rehearsing at North Brandywine for the entire summer, including band camp.

Being a member of the "Marching Red Raiders" also known as "The Pride of Coatesville", offers you the opportunity to continue being a part of setting our own traditions for the years to come. Traditions are important to organizations such as marching band. Our tradition is one of hard work and great performances all over the tri-state area. Hard work is the secret behind this tradition and it will take a maximum effort from you to maintain superior standards set by those before you. Hard work will enable us to continue to grow into one of the finest high school bands in the state of Pennsylvania.

It will be the marching band's goal to support our football team by attending and performing at every football game. Another goal will be to earn Top Honors in the Cavalcade of Bands and the United States Scholastic Bands Association competitions. In 2004 the band earned Gold at the Cavalcade of Bands Championships in Hershey, Pa. winning also HIGH MUSIC, HIGH PERCUSSION, HIGH COLORGUARD AND HIGH VISUAL AND MUSIC PERFORMANCE. Last season the Band competed in a larger division and brought home the Silver. The band did win HIGH MUSIC, HIGH PERCUSSION and HIGH COLORGUARD at that same championship. It will also be our goal to perform throughout the Coatesville Community whenever possible in order to represent the Coatesville High School and show the community what a fine organization we have.

To that end, please allow me to welcome you to this musical family and charge you to meet the challenges that are before you. With the right attitude and a commitment to try your hardest, you will reach goals you never before dreamed possible. As you grow, our band family will grow.

Should you need to ask any questions concerning the enclosed materials, don't hesitate to call the Coatesville High School Band Office at 610-383-3730 extension 81558 and leave a message for the me or email: [ottoe@coatesville.k12.pa.us](mailto:ottoe@coatesville.k12.pa.us)

Musically Yours,

Ed Otto  
Band Director 9-12  
Coatesville Area Senior High Campus

Coatesville High School Marching Band  
General Information and Policy

1. Band Rehearsals – Once school starts, marching band rehearses on Tuesday & Thursday Nights from 6:15pm to 9:15pm. Each section of the marching band has a sectional practice once per week. Woodwinds & Brass sectionals are Thursday's at 5pm. Starting in mid-November the practice schedule is reduced until the first week(s) of December culminating with the Holiday Parades. (please see the enclosed schedule)

**Sectional Rehearsals** – Woodwind & Brass sectionals are Thursday at 5pm. Music & Marching check-offs will be administered by the instructional staff during this time. Staff are also available (by appointment) for check-offs on Tuesdays after school.

**Marching Shoes** - Cost of the shoe for bandmen is \$35.00. Cost of the shoe for color guard is \$TBA. We will order shoes during the week of band camp. At that time, anyone who needs to purchase shoes may do so. Make checks payable to "FINAL TOUCH". Note: If you don't try them on when they arrive and they don't fit, you will be responsible for the shipping costs to replace them.

**Uniforms** – You will be fitted during basics camp. Your uniform dry cleaning fee (which is already a part of your band fees) dry-cleaning of pants, jacket and hat. At band camp you will be given a Marching T-shirt, Flip Folder, Ball-cap, one pair of gloves and a dot book. Students must purchase black socks and black marching band shoes on their own.

**Music and Equipment** - All instrumentalists will be provided with a packet of stands & pre-game music at the beginning of band camp. Band Members are expected to arrive at the first July rehearsal with a letter size 3-ring notebook with clear plastic page holders, which will hold their competition music. Flip Folders are provided as part of the uniform fee. Students will need to visit a music store to have their instrument fitted for a lyre attachment brace if there is not one already on your horn. We are recommending that the following instruments try to step up to a new mouthpiece other than the stock mouthpiece that came with the instrument. Clarinets should be on a David Hite Artist JM43, Van Doren B-45 or a Larry Combs. Alto Saxophones should be on Selmer Single "C" Star or Meyer Hard Rubber Medium Bore. Tenor Saxes should be on a Selmer Single "C" Star and for jazz band an Otto Link #6 star metal. Baritone Sax should be on a Selmer Single "C" Star and for jazz band a Meyer Hard Rubber Medium. French Horns will need a Farkas HOH2850. Trumpet players should be on a Bach or Blessing #3C or a Laskey #3 Model 65MC. Trombone and Baritone players should consider Bach or Blessing 6 1/2 AL. Tuba should be on a Dennis Wick 1XL or Perantucci Model PT50. Moving up to a better mouthpiece will allow you to play in tune with better tone quality and develop your embouchure. **\*\*\*ALL BRASS PLAYERS MUST HAVE TWO BOTTLES OF VALVE OIL AND ONE CONTAINER OF TUNING SLIDE GREASE.** The suggested valve oil is the "Al Cass *FAST* valve, slide and key oil."

Clarinets and Saxophones are expected to have two working reeds at all times. High school players should be playing on medium and medium hard strength reeds by now. Having a quality reed helps to assure a good sound. LaVoz, Mitchell-Lauree and Van Doran reeds are recommended.

**Attendance Policy** - You must attend all practices. You will not be excused from practice for work or a doctor's appointment. Absence due to illness must be documented. Present a note from your parents to the band secretary at the next practice you attend. You are allowed only three(3) unexcused absences. Every unexcused absence after the three will result in your participation grade for the marking period being lowered one grade. Too Many Unexcused Absences will result in your removal from marching band. This policy is not intended to frighten anyone who has a legitimate absence excuse. Our time is quality time so it is important that all of our members be present, be on time, and stay until the band is dismissed.

You must attend all performances. It is your responsibility to clear all performance dates on your social, personal, family, and work calendars. You will not be excused from a performance unless you are severely ill.

An unexcused absence from a performance will result in your dismissal from marching band. Avoid Conflicts. It is very difficult for other students, and many other problems occur when we have to perform in competition with "holes" out on the field. Marching Band is a team effort and the whole team needs to be there. Also be aware that the marching band practice schedule is cut back after Cavalcade of Bands Championships in November.

**Unannounced performances.** We can expect many requests for our marching band to perform and represent the Coatesville High School and community throughout Chester County. All performances that are given to you now on the "Marching Band Calendar" will be required performances. As requests for our marching band to perform come in, the band staff will evaluate whether we are able to perform based on known conflicts. When an extra performance is pending, students will be asked to identify conflicts with the date. If we confirm that we are able to perform, requests to be excused from that performance will be handled on an individual basis.

**Demerit system** - Students can receive demerits for talking during rehearsal, inappropriate behavior, failure to learn and memorize music and drill, tardiness, or failing inspection. Students must work off their demerits the day they are received by completing a small work detail to assist the band and/or doing pushups on the spot. Demerit assignments are made at the end of each practice. Everyone is expected to cheerfully comply with the work detail as it is usually less than fifteen minutes and provides a necessary service. If you fail to serve your demerit, you will not perform that week and you may be dismissed from marching band. See demerit policy attached.

**2.5 Eligibility** - Marching Band students with less than a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.5 will not be eligible for competition status. This means you can practice with the marching band but cannot travel to or perform at marching contests until your GPA improves to a 2.5.

**Band Managers / Runners** – provide a vital service to the marching band. They are expected to be present at all practices and performances to assist the band in handling equipment. They are considered regular members of the marching band. They march with the band to and from the stadium and at parades. If any band member has a friend that would like to be apart of the marching band, have them contact Mr. Otto.

**Band Dues** - This year the annual amount due for each member is \$65.00 (which includes uniform dry cleaning expense (\$45), T-shirt fee (\$15) and membership dues (\$5). It must be paid by no later than the September 15, 2007. Please note Checks should be made out to: "**Coatesville Parents Music Club**". Please know that this cost can be paid 100% by our first fundraising campaign.

## MARCHING Red Raider BAND RESPONSIBILITIES

I am responsible for:

1. My conduct, remembering that each person represents the entire band. projecting school spirit, congeniality, and happiness. SMILE!
2. Maintaining good relationships with the other band members, cheerleaders, and other school groups.
3. Reporting uniform and equipment maintenance problems to the Uniform Moms.
4. Performing at practice with pride, poise and enthusiasm.
5. Being respectful to my director, my fellow members, and any officers.
6. Working together with others at practice and for paying attention without talking or commenting.
7. Seeking help on a routine/music when needed.
8. Speaking with the director if I feel that I have been treated unfairly.
9. Contacting my director as soon as possible if I am unable to attend a
10. Practice or performance.
11. Arriving on time to all functions.
12. Attending all practices and being in school on that day in order to perform.
13. Attending all performances in full uniform even if I am unable to perform.
14. Fulfilling my financial obligations on the date requested.
15. Seeing that I meet all the requirements of inspection.
16. Maintaining a 2.5 or better Grade Point Average.
17. Bring a note the day before an event if I intend to leave that event with my parents. I may only leave the event with my parents if I am not going home.
18. Bringing a note documenting my absence from my parents the day I return to practice.

I \_\_\_\_\_

understand my responsibilities as a member of the Marching Red Raiders

Band and will comply with all of the above statements.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date:  
Member Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date:  
Parent Signature

## Demerit Policy

Demerits are a form of discipline utilized by this marching band. You can receive them for several reasons:

**Tardiness** - Excuses for tardiness will not be accepted. If you are late because of some unforeseen reason that is not your fault, you will still need to serve a demerit after that practice. The procedure for being tardy is for you to report to the band secretary upon arrival so you can be marked present. See Mr. Otto after practice about why you were late.

**Improper Dress** - All school rules apply to the clothing worn to marching band. Students will be allowed to wear hats and sunglasses to practice. This also includes wearing the wrong footwear or rehearsal attire.

**Gum** - There will be "zero tolerance" towards gum. We don't want it left in the music suite and proper breath control for playing your instrument cannot be accomplished when you are chewing gum.

**Music** - You must have all of your music during practice. We will always be learning new songs from your folder, so have it handy.

**Instrument** - Unless otherwise noted, always bring your instrument to practice.

**Disrespect** - This is the most severe demerit you can receive. The band director will be notified by the "drum major" about anyone receiving this demerit. Always try to treat others like you want to be treated.

**Talking** - Talking will not be tolerated while at attention or when being addressed by staff members. Bands that talk do not usually earn superior ratings or rehearse well.

**Missing equipment and/or Instrument** - Every band member must have his or her instrument, drill and music binder at each rehearsal.

**Memorization** - The band director or section leader will give you a date when each song and drill movement must be memorized. If it is not then a demerit will be issued that day. Another demerit will be issued the next day if the music still has not been memorized.

**Sectionals** - Extra sectionals may be announced from time to time. Ample lead-time will be given to allow members to adjust their schedules. A demerit will be issued for skipping. If you can't make an extra sectional called by a section leader, clear permission to be absent ahead of time from a director.

**Missed "setup or tear down" assignments** - Each section is assigned a duty for each practice. This assignment is posted. Sometimes you will setup or tear down a practice. If you decide that you have to go and not help the others, this results in a demerit.

**Directors Demerit** - Usually issued for horseplay and the like, you do not want to be singled out for a directors demerit.

### Serving Demerits

All marching band members who break the rules will receive a warning for the first offence of the day.

The second time the same rule is broken, band members will be required to do 10 pushups on the spot. If the behavior is still not corrected the student will be given a demerit.

When you receive a demerit you are required to stay after practice that day (usually 15 to 20 minutes) in which time you will be required to do any or all of the following:

Playing test, Marching fundamentals, Cleaning and Organizing the band room, Carrying equipment back to the band room. You must serve the demerit the day you receive it. "Work" or "my parents have to get going" are not excuses. If you know you have to get going after practice, don't get a demerit!!

### Consequences of Demerits

If you receive three demerits in one week, you will not have a third quarter break at the football game. If you have four demerits in one week, you will not have a third quarter break and you will clean the band room after the game and Mr. Otto will contact your parents. If you receive ten or more demerits, a conference will be held with your parents and you may subsequently be removed from marching band class.