Caravel Academy Marching Buccaneers FAQ

**What is the time commitment**? There is Band Camp in August, which is mandatory for all first-year members as they learn traditional corps-style marching at this camp. Returning members need to speak with Mr. Merritt if they need to miss band camp for any reason. As for the level of commitment during the school year, Marching Band meets during every H period for the first two weeks of school, and then settles into meeting on just Fridays during H periods for rehearsal before the games. **The ensemble also meets Thursday evenings from 6 to 8pm starting the second week of school.** The CAMB performs at all home and away varsity football games. We play the pre-game show at away games and the halftime show at home games. Members must stay with the band at all times unless dismissal has been previously arranged with Mr. Merritt. Buses are provided by the school for all away games and competitions. ALL students MUST ride the bus TO the event. If you wish to drive your child home after, they **must be signed out** with Mr. Merritt. We will also be performing at the University of Delaware Band Day in September, the Star Spangled Banner at a Blue Rocks Baseball game in May or June, and other parade and field show events as scheduling warrants. All transportation is TBA. Please see the attached schedule for all events. **ALL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN MARCHING BAND MUST ATTEND 80% OF PRACTICES AND PERFORMANCES.**

**What is Band Camp, anyway?** Band camp is two intense weeks of work and fun where band and colorguard members learn the basics of traditional style marching, the music and routines for the show, and the drill (field positions taught via charts) for the ‘show’. It is important to be there so every person learns their position and their responsibilities for their part in the show. Lunch is provided, they receive their shirt for the year (which is to be worn under the uniform), uniforms are assigned, games are played, and much learning is done in one intense camp.

**What are the costs incurred with the CAMB?** Band Camp fees, personal marching shoes (~$27.00), maintenance of your instrument (reeds, valve oil, etc.), and replacement gloves if you lose the pair assigned. You will also need some black socks and shoe polish. For colorguard, you’ll have those same camp fees, and we ask that you purchase a personal equipment bag ($25) and fingerless guard gloves (~$16); the shoes are optional for you. Whatever money you choose to give your child to spend at the concession stand at football games is at your discretion. At this time, please anticipate a cost for the Blue Rocks baseball ticket (around $10) for your child, plus whatever admission needed for other family members who would like to attend. As for UD Band Day, if you would like to attend but NOT chaperone, the UD game tickets for Band Day are usually around $20 and sell out fast. You may want to reserve your seat when the date is announced. The uniform is provided, however, if it is soiled between games, it is your responsibility to clean it before the next performance. (See ‘What level of equipment maintenance is expected?’)

**What is the typical schedule of a football game?** If it’s a Friday game, marching band and colorguard members are welcome to stay in the band and chorus rooms after school between 3:00 and game time so parents don’t have to run around getting them back to school on time. Dinner is provided at 5:15 for home games. Students start getting dressed as soon as they’re done eating (no later than 5:45), then assemble in parade block and march down to the stadium at 6:10, and sit in the stands until after the visiting marching band performs their pre-game show. We perform Star Spangled Banner and Alma Mater, and all students remain in the stands until halftime. We perform halftime show on the field, then have the 3rd quarter off to grab food, use the restroom, visit parents, chat with friends. Students must be back in their seats, ready to play stand music at the start of 4th quarter. Students are expected to put all equipment away, as they found it, when we return to the band room.

For an away game or event, the report time will be dependent upon the kickoff time and distance between CA and the target school. Students will arrive at CA at the time designated, pack their instrument, music, uniform, and equipment on the bus, and are responsible for all of the above during the excursion. Depending on how far away the event is, students may need to change before leaving the school or on the bus (they won’t be made to sit in the uniform for an extra hour if they don’t need to). We will play the pre-game show at an away football game, and will have first quarter off for food, chatting, restroom use, and relaxing. Band members are expected to remain with the band in the stands for the remainder of the game and will NOT have third quarter off. At the end of the game, students will load and return to the buses and travel home to CA. Students are expected to put everything away as neatly as they found it when they return back to the band room.

**What level of equipment maintenance is expected?** The uniform is expected to be clean at all performances. Colorguard: Your uniform is machine-washable on gentle cycle with Woolite, Dreft or a similar gentle detergent. All equipment should stay in the bags unless you are using it, to prevent damage. If an end-cap pops off or a flag rips, see Ms Hudson to repair/replace it before the next performance. Band Members – **the jacket and pants are dry-cleaning only**. Shoes should be free of mud for each performance.