



Berkmar High School Band

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Welcome to the Berkmar High School Band Program!

This is a brief summary of our band program. A more detailed Berkmar High School Patriot Band Handbook is included with this packet.

Mr. Nicholas Wiebers is our Director of Bands.

www.berkmarband.com is the Band's website and it includes a calendar of events, email addresses, contact information, fund-raising info, band photographs and other valuable information.

The Berkmar High School Band program includes:

Marching Band • Symphonic Band • Concert Band • Jazz Ensembles • Pep Band • Color Guard and Winter Guard
• Percussion Ensemble and Indoor Drumline • Small Chamber Groups • Music Technology

For ALL band programs, participation in after school rehearsals and performances is required.

The Berkmar High School Band Booster Association (Band Boosters) is comprised of active band members, their parents or guardians, and other persons interested in supporting the band program at Berkmar High School. Band Boosters is a parent - volunteer run, 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Booster meetings are scheduled on the last Thursday of each month.

The Berkmar Band is family oriented in that active participation by band students, their parents, guardians and families is vital to sustain and improve the program.

All band students and their parents/guardians are expected to pay band fees and dues. Fund-raisers are always available to assist students in earning money for dues. Participation by all members in all fund-raising events and band activities is mandatory.

Berkmar Marching Patriot Corps – is our primary performing organization during the fall. All band students who wish to attend band trips and take part in advanced band and/or jazz band must be apart of the marching band. All students are capable and expected to be in the Marching Patriot Corps. The Marching Patriot Corps performs half-time shows at football games during the Fall semester, performs three weekend marching competitions in the Fall and other occasional parades or performances. Some activities, rehearsals and performances also continue into the Spring semester such as our band trip to Washington D.C. in April, 2010.

Berkmar Symphonic Band – This program is offered to advanced students by audition permission only. All students currently enrolled in a middle school program are eligible and will be auditioned for a spot in the symphonic advanced band class during the months of February and March in 2010. This ensemble represents the top performing students at Berkmar High School and is to be considered as such.

Berkmar Concert Band – This program is offered to students through the audition process who have shown signs of intermediate musicianship and want to reach an advanced musicianship level. Concert band students will play and maintain the same music as the advanced classes, but focus more on the full development of the student in preparation for the advanced class. This class also is used for students who do not wish to participate in the marching band, but wish to be involved in a band setting. All students currently enrolled in a middle school program are eligible and will be auditioned for a spot in the concert band class during the months of February and March in 2010.

The Audition Process - Auditions take place during regular class time and consist of playing scale excerpts from page 42 and 43 of the blue Foundations for Superior Performance book. Students are to play all 12 major scales one octave with arpeggios as written in the book on page 42-43. Students will then perform the concert Bb chromatic scale exercise on page 43.

Important Dates for 2010:

March 16th – BHS Band Signed Commitment Forms due to Directors.

May 26th, 27th, and 28th - Rookie Camp is a mandatory instructional day camp for all new Marching Band members including rising 9th graders. It will be held at Berkmar High School. The emphasis will be on basic marching and playing skills. 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM - cost is \$5 per day for lunch or students may bring their own.

June 10th – Mandatory Band Meeting for ALL band parents and members, not just marching band. 7:00 PM in the BHS Band Room

July 15th – 16th - Band Pre-Camp - mandatory for all students participating in Marching Band before heading off to camp. 9:30AM - 3:30PM Cost is \$5 per day for lunch or students may bring their own.

July 19th -23rd - BAND CAMP – A mandatory week-long instructional band camp for all Marching Band members including rising 9th graders. Cost is expected to be around \$260.

July 26th – 30th – BAND HOME CAMP – Our final mandatory week-long camp for all marching band members held at BHS much like our rookie camp. It is held from 9:30-3:30 each day in order to finish learning drill and music from the show not accomplished at camp the week before. Cost is \$5 a day for lunch or students may bring their own.

Prior to each date there will be reminders and itineraries detailing each event and times. If you should have any questions, please email Mr. Wiebers or call the BHS Band Room: nicholas_wiebers@gwinnett.k12.ga.us or 770-925-9266 band room office

Dues, Fees, and Fund-raisers

BAND CAMP 2010

Note about band camp 2010 - Due to circumstances beyond our control at North Georgia Technical College, we will NOT be having our annual band camp at this college any longer. The living conditions and facilities have become insufficient and too costly for our needs. We are currently looking for a new place for camp and will know by the June 10th mandatory meeting. The cost for camp will be either the same or LESS as previous years, so the following estimates based on last years camp fees are listed below. We WILL still have band camp July 19-23.

Band Camp Fees: **\$260.00 ***

This fee covers meals, lodging, tubing in Helen, GA, percussion, color guard and band instructor costs plus other costs for the Marching Band Camp held at North Georgia College.

The following are fee estimates based on prior years costs. The final budget for the 2010-11 school year has not been finalized, but fees are expected to be the same as last year. Finalized dues will be provided at the Mandatory June 10th Booster Meeting at 7:00PM.

*Full payment of Band Camp fees will be required *prior* to the start of Band Camp in July. A payment schedule with installment payment deadlines between now and July is available.

Band Member Dues: (Your student will fall into one of the following categories.)

All Bands (1 st Student)	\$300.00 *	Includes Marching & Symphonic/Concert Bands
All Bands (Sibling)	\$250.00 *	Includes Marching & Symphonic/Concert Bands
Concert Band Only	\$200.00 *	Concert Band Uniform, Transportation, Instruction, and more

*A payment schedule for Band Member Dues with installment payment deadlines will be provided. We anticipate the final installment deadline for Band Member Dues will be in November 2010. Plenty of fund-raisers are made available throughout the year so all students may not have to pay any out-of-pocket expense as long as they fully participate.

For a full view and understanding of what all Band Dues include with a budget break down per student, make sure to attend the mandatory June 10th band booster meeting.

Each payment for dues and/or fees MUST be paid in full and on time in order to attend band functions. Band fund-raisers are always made to help off-set the cost of dues and there are plenty of opportunities available so a student and parent NEVER have to pay for anything out of pocket. It is the Band Booster Association and Band Directors personal goal to make sure every student regardless of income, gender, religion, or race has the privilege and ability to attend any band function so long as the student and parent participates and successfully demonstrates a willingness to take care of their obligations to the band program.

Personal Costs:

Marching Band personal uniform accessories: **band bag, gloves, marching shoes ~ \$60.00**

These items are the student's property to keep and maintain throughout their high school career for 4 years and can be renewed independently if the items are worn out.

Fund-raisers:

One of the most important functions of the Band Boosters is to provide supplemental funding for the purchase, maintenance and repair of instruments, travel expenses, music needed supplies, rental trucks for moving equipment, competition registration fees, music purchase for the year, private instruction, uniform cleanings and alterations along with other services necessary to operate our band program through the Boosters.

Fund-raisers for 2009-2010 included: Discount Card sales, concession stand sales, Taste of Berkmar Jazz Coupons, Car Show Ads, Car Show Registrations, Candy Sales, the Annual Fruit Sale in November, Bowl-a-thon in the Fall and Spring, BHS Garage Sale, Krispy Kreme Donuts Sales, and more.

Profit from home football game concessions will be applied to the Band's general account. Parents are expected to work or chaperone at least one of the scheduled games in 2010.

Please Note: Family participation in fund-raisers is mandatory for 2010 – 2011.

Fund-raisers will be designed so that a percentage of profits will apply as future credits toward an individual's band member student account.

***Fund-raisers and Band Dues will be set at the monthly band booster meeting in June to determine the budget for the 2010-2011 school year. This meeting is to set the actual cost of band dues and appropriate percentages of fund-raiser disbursements that will be determined.**



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Berkmar Band Commitment Form 2010-2011

The following provides information about membership in the Berkmar Band. One copy of this form must be signed by both student and parents and returned to your band director by March 16th. Please keep a copy for your records.

Marching Band Dues:

Marching Band Dues may be paid over a seven-month period from May to December, according to the Dues Payment Schedule. The extension of payments over seven months makes participation as affordable as possible for all interested students. Fund-raisers will be scheduled to coincide with scheduled dues payment dates to assist students with making those scheduled payments.

Payment of Marching Band Dues also includes the student's participation in Color Guard, Advanced or Concert Band, Jazz Band and Pep Band and for all band classes both the fall and spring semesters.

Band dues help to supply our students with numerous needs throughout the school year including supplemental instruction, uniform rental and maintenance, equipment transportation, contest entry fees, marching drill, support equipment, props, private instruction, website management, office and mailing supplies, etc. Band dues are to supply funds for our programs that are not supplied by the state and county governments or local school supplements.

Dues for students in Marching Band for the 2010-2011 year are \$300 per student which is the same as the 2009 - 2010 school year. (Siblings \$250) Again, payments can be extended from May to November. That's less than \$43 a month!

Each year the Band Booster Executive Board sets a budget which is presented for approval at the June Band Booster meeting. The following Dues Payment Schedule will be presented at that time. Major changes to the Dues Payment Schedule are not anticipated.

Dues Payment Schedule for Marching Band – 2010-2011

- May 26th - **\$30 Dues Deposit due at Rookie Camp: May 26th- 28th.**
- July 19th - **\$260 non-refundable payment prior to Band Camp: July 19th – July 23rd.**
- August 24th - **\$75 Dues Payment - August Candy Sale: 100% profit to student accounts.**
- September 21st - **\$75 Dues Payment – Bowl-a-thon Fund-raiser Available**
- October 26th - **\$75 Dues Payment – Fund-raiser TBA**
- November 11th - **\$45 Dues Payment – Annual Fruit Sale Fund-raiser**

Other Expenses:

- Depending on budgetary needs, supplemental dues may be charged to students who also choose to participate in additional ensembles such as Jazz Band, Winter Color Guard, Pep Band, or Indoor Percussion. These groups typically perform after marching season and in the spring semester. Costs have averaged around \$40 per year.
- Students who use school supplied instruments will be assessed a \$30 maintenance fee *per semester*. This fee is mandated by GCPS. A limited number of instruments are available.
- Individual expenses for meals and personal items such as T-shirts, Polo Shirts, gloves and shoes will be charged as necessary. Individual participation in select events such as District Honor Band, All State Honor Band, Jan Fest, etc. may result in additional expense as well.
- The Marching Band attends an out of state competition every other year. The Spring 2010 trip was to Washington D.C. Participation in the Spring trip is **strongly suggested** that all advanced band and marching band students attend. The costs associated with these trips vary and are in addition to normal Band Dues. Our next out of state competition is for Spring 2012 and is estimated at \$450.00. ***98-100% of the Marching Patriot Corps MUST attend and participate in the trips. Otherwise, due to instrumentation and costs we cannot attend and will forfeit all deposits. PLEASE PAY ON TIME AND IN FULL.***

Band Camp:

Band Camp will be held **July 19 – 23** and is an intense, but a fun filled week of practice and events held at the Northeast Georgia Technical College in Clarksville, Georgia. Room and board, small group private instruction, adult chaperones, a tubing trip down the Chattahoochee River and other special events are included. All students who wish to participate in Marching Band **must** attend Band Camp. Family vacations and appointments should be scheduled so they do not conflict with Rookie Camp, Pre-Band Camp, Band Camp Home or Away and any band rehearsals. Please mark your calendars.

Note about band camp 2010 - Due to circumstances beyond our control at North Georgia Technical College, we will NOT be having our annual band camp at this college any longer. The living conditions and facilities have become insufficient and too costly for our needs. We are currently looking for a new place for camp and will know by the June 10th mandatory meeting. The cost for camp will be the same as previous years. Either way, we WILL still have band camp July 19-23.

Concert Band Only Members:

These students are those who do not participate in marching band or color guard and are only involved in a band class. Yes, even by joining band and only participating in a band class a student has dues to be paid for items such as but are not limited to: supplemental instruction, concert uniform rental and maintenance, equipment transportation, contest entry fees, music purchases, copier support and accessories, support equipment, instrument repairs, private instruction, etc. These dues are set at a bare minimum to help our program perform and excel past the class room and provide a better educational experience for all band students at Berkmar.

Members of only the concert band are required to participate in two concerts per semester in formal dress uniform provided through the band boosters. Members must participate in the annual LGPE performance held in March at UGA and are eligible to perform in side-by-side or mass concerts with the Symphonic Band. Students are eligible for the annual band banquet.

Participants of only the concert band are NOT eligible to earn a band letter for the year, cannot attend the annual trip, and cannot participate in jazz band, pep band, or indoor drumline unless they are a member of the Marching Patriot Corps.

Concert Band Dues may be paid over a seven-month period from May to November, according to the Dues Payment Schedule. The extension of payments over seven months makes participation as affordable as possible for all interested students. Fund-raisers will be scheduled to coincide with scheduled dues payment dates to assist students with making those scheduled payments.

Dues for students in Concert Band Only for the 2010-2011 year are \$200 per student.

Other Fees:

- Students who use school supplied instruments will be assessed a \$30 maintenance fee *per semester*. This fee is mandated by GCPS. A limited number of instruments are available.
- Individual expenses for meals and personal items such as T-shirts, Polo Shirts, gloves and shoes will be charged as necessary. Individual participation in select events such as District Honor Band, All State Honor Band, Jan Fest, etc. may result in additional expense as well.

Dues Payment Schedule for Concert Band – 2010-2011

- ❑ August 24th - **\$75 Dues Payment. - August Candy Sale: 100% profit to student accounts.**
- ❑ October 26th - **\$75 Dues Payment – Fund-raiser TBA**
- ❑ November 11th - **\$50 Dues Payment – Fruit Sale Fund-raiser**

Fund-raisers:

The primary focus of fund-raisers is to help students raise money for their individual dues accounts and to assist Band Boosters in raising money for general operational needs and future costs of our band programs. Specific details about individual fund-raisers will be provided at monthly band meetings as the time for the fund-raiser approaches.

Fund-raisers for 2010-2011 included: Discount card sales, concession stand sales, Taste of Berkmar Jazz Coupons, Car Show Ads, Car Show Registrations, Candy Sales, the Annual Fruit Sale in November, Bowl-a-thon in the Fall and Spring, BHS Garage Sale, Krispy Kreme Donuts Sales, and more.

Profit from home football game concessions will be applied to the Band's general account. Parents are expected to work or chaperone at least one of the scheduled games in 2010.

Family / Parent Commitment:

The success of any band program is largely dependent on the level of **parental** participation. Our band program and band budget are based on the premise that *every* band family will participate to the extent it can and will pay Band Dues according to the Dues Payment Schedule. Many volunteer opportunities are available to parents including working as chaperones, pit and equipment crew, concession workers, Executive Board and Committee memberships, etc. Please support your student by participating as an active band booster. Your student needs and deserves your support and you will have a fun time working with some wonderful people. These positions are open to ALL band parents regardless of marching band participation.

Consequences for Non-Payment of Dues or for Not Participating in Fund-raisers:

The consequences for not participating in fund-raisers or not paying Band Dues by the scheduled deadlines include, but are not limited to the following:

- Suspension from band performances.
- Loss of eligibility to earn a Band Letter.
- Ineligibility for Band Booster funded trophies and awards.
- Suspension from Band Booster funded events, including the Band Banquet and trips.
- Loss of eligibility to participate in future Band Booster funded or facilitated trips and events.
- Suspension or dismissal from the Marching Band or Concert Band program.
- Loss of eligibility to attend school functions such as Prom, Plays, Dances, Field Trips, etc.
- A student's grades may be withheld in the event a non-payment status is prolonged.
- Senior students may be held from the Graduation Ceremony.
- If a student should withdrawal from the band program at any point, all band dues and fees currently owed by the student are due immediately in full or grades and graduation may be withheld.

There is no intent to exclude any student based on a legitimate financial need. The payment of Band Dues has been extended from May to November to make participation as affordable as possible and to assist those who may need additional time to pay their Band Dues. Any Band student who makes a commitment to the Berkmar High School Band program and later finds that he or she cannot honor their financial commitment because of a family financial crisis or other exceptional circumstance *must immediately bring their situation to the attention of the Band Director and Band Booster Treasurer.* In those circumstances, special arrangements will be offered including extended payment plans, additional fund-raising opportunities, and work-equity opportunities. *Non-payment of Band Dues is not an option.* Your communication with the band director and band booster board is required in order for us to maintain a well run superior program.



Berkmar Marching Patriot Corps Enrollment Form 2010-2011

(Please Print Clearly)

Student Name: _____ Student #: _____

Gender: Male Female DOB: _____ T-Shirt Size: _____

Instrument: _____ (Circle Applicable) Own / Rent / School Yrs. Experience: _____

Name of Middle School Attended: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Father's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Mother's Home #: _____ Work #: _____ Cell#: _____

Father's Home #: _____ Work #: _____ Cell#: _____

Mother's email: _____

Father's email: _____

Student's email: _____

Please initial all that apply:

_____ We have received, read and understand the informational sheets entitled, Welcome to the Berkmar High School Band Program, Dues Fees and Fundraisers, and Marching Band Commitment Form 2010-2011

_____ We understand that all band students and their parents/guardians are required to pay all band fees and dues by posted deadlines and must participate in fund-raising events and band activities held during the year.

_____ I hereby give permission for my child _____ to join the Berkmar Patriot Marching Corps and be enrolled in the appropriate level band or percussion class during the 2010-2011 school year.

_____ My child does not wish to participate in Marching Band during the 2010-2011 school year, but please enroll my child in Concert Band.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____