



**Student and Parent**

**Handbook**

**CARDINAL PRIDE**

**2008**

**MARCHING BAND**

Dear Elizabeth Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2008 Cardinal Pride Marching Band! The staff, section leaders, drum majors, and I are looking forward to a hard working and exciting season. This season will be filled with great experiences that will be remembered for a lifetime. I am truly honored to work with such a committed group of students.

In this handbook you will find information that will be valuable to the success of the 2008 marching band season. Included is a calendar of rehearsal and performance events. These events are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Notice will be given in advance if any changes or additions are made to the calendar.

Philosophy:

I believe that each student should receive an exciting and comprehensive study in his or her marching band experience. Each student will be given the tools necessary to be successful for not only the season but also the future. The most important tool for success is Respect. As a member of marching band students must respect their peers, staff, and themselves. Without respect the bond that holds the band together will break. I also believe in a focused and discipline rehearsal with a high level of productivity. However, it is always important to have fun, both in and out of rehearsal. This activity is a once in a lifetime experience that will leave a life long impression.

I hope you can take just a few moments to read this information because this experience that you are giving your son or daughter is worth more then any thing else they will do in their time in high school. Again I would like to welcome everyone to what will be an exciting season of learning and performing. If you have any questions please contact me at [nbidinger@gmail.com](mailto:nbidinger@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Nick Bidinger

**Section Leader and Drum Major Philosophy:**

**Expectations:** The marching band is a family. Each member in the family has a role and responsibility that is important in keeping the structure of the family stable. There are no benchwarmers or second-string players in the marching band. Each member is responsible for learning their music, marching their spot in the drill, and performing at a high level. If one of these responsibilities is not met, then the whole band suffers. It is so important that every student is committed to the success of the band; otherwise the band will go nowhere. Saying this I hope it is clear that rehearsals, camps, and performances are not optional. This is a group effort that relies on all the individuals in the ensemble. If problems do arise, including health problems or family emergencies I will make exceptions. Advance notice must be given to me if possible for absences during marching band events. Conflicts that will not be excused include: Work, Lack of Transportation (if you need a ride tell us so we can arrange one), Large amounts of homework (please plan ahead), and any other conflicts that can be avoided, you can always ask me.

**Dress Code:** Students must always wear clothing that does not impede their ability to march. Proper footwear is required at all times. No flip-flops, sandals, boots, skater shoes, and heels. The School Dress code will also apply to all band rehearsals/events. The students must purchase marching shoes (\$35) and black socks. These items are required at all performing events. If a student does not have the proper footwear at an event, we will have plenty of black spray paint on hand if you know what I mean. When wearing your uniform please make sure to wear proper undergarments. Spandex shorts, sliding shorts, athletic shirt (Underarmor), etc. So when you are changing in or out of your uniform you are not exposing your (in the words of Monty Python) “naughty bits”.

**Uniform:** Each student will be fitted for a uniform to be used in competitions. These uniforms are to be kept in pristine condition. If a uniform is damaged or mistreated they will be financially liable for restoring it. The uniform is an honor to have and wear, and remember that you are representing not only your school but also yourself. There will be no consumption of food or drink while in uniform except water. Once you are in uniform you will stay in uniform until the drum majors, staff, or director instruct you otherwise.

**Transportation:** As per the policy created by the school board the busses will be divided by gender. Females and Males will be in separate busses. Administration has advised us that we need to comply with the policy to avoid any complications in the future. That means no “kissy face” with your significant other on the bus.

**Fees:** This years marching band camp fee is \$150, which is due by the end of band camp (checks made out to “EHS Band”). This fee goes towards hired staff, food, music, drill, entry fees into competitions, and much more. If the students need marching shoes that is an additional \$35 due when the shoes are handed out. If a student desires to perform in the marching band and there is a problem meeting the financial requirements, I will not turn that student away. In other words I don’t want to hear about someone quitting marching band because of the cost. If there is a problem, please contact me and we will discuss options.

**The Booster Organization:** The Cardinal Pride Booster Organization is the support structure for the Elizabeth band program, providing logistical support and financial support through fundraising activities. The boosters are made up of current parents of students in the Elizabeth band program. There are NO dues or annual fees to be a member. Everyone who has a student in the band is automatically a member. Through the booster organization you can support your child throughout his or her time in high school.

The Cardinal Pride Boosters perform many of the administrative and logistical functions of the band to leave the staff to do what they do best, TEACH. This is also a great opportunity to positively affect your student's high school career. The more involvement that we have in the booster organization allows for more opportunities for your child.

Some parents are in the fortunate position to be able to give many hours to the organization while others are limited to only assisting occasionally. Regardless of the time you are willing or able to share, your involvement will make a difference, and will benefit an outstanding group of young adults.

**Attendance and Alternate Policy:** Absence at a rehearsal - After a member of the marching band has missed 4 rehearsals they become an alternate. The marching band member must still attend rehearsals and performances. They will dress out for performances but will stand on the sideline during the performance. After that performance the marching band member is no longer an alternate. If the marching band member becomes an alternate for the second time they will be dismissed from the ensemble.

Absence at a performance - If a member misses a performance (football or competition), they will be an alternate at the following performance. If two performances are missed the marching band member will be dismissed. If a member misses four rehearsals and a performance they will also be dismissed.

**Acknowledgement Form – Cardinal Pride Marching Band 2007**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (student name) have sat down and read this handbook with my parents. If I have any questions, comments, or concerns I will speak with Mr. B. I understand that it is my responsibility to be at every rehearsal and performance. If I am unable to attend I will give advanced notice to my section leader and drum major.

I also understand that as a member of the Cardinal Pride Marching Band I represent not only myself but my fellow marchers, parents, staff, director, and school. I will respect my environment, my peers, my staff, and myself. I will treat my uniform with respect and obey the rules set forth when wearing it.

I know that when I am struggling with anything that I can talk with my section leader, drum major, staff, or director at any time. I will give 100% at all times because I know I am apart of a hard working marching program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Parents/Guardians) have set down and read this handbook with my student. If I have and questions, comments, or concerns I will speak with Mr. B.

I understand it is my responsibility to support and nurture my student in the marching band. I will make every effort I can to help my child in his/her time at Elizabeth High School.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date