

## Blue Darter Bands Frequently Asked Questions!

Updated May 2022!

*All questions were generated by incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and answered by current 9<sup>th</sup> grade members and Mr. Langford!*

### Band Topics

- 1) Is Marching Band Required?
  - a. Yes! And you are going to have a blast! Our fantastic Blue Darter Marching Band is where we all come together to connect and represent our community to bring life and energy to our football games! Through this environment our members connect and find incredible camaraderie that carries with them throughout high school and beyond. The time requirement is not as intense as some might think – and – it will be a game changer to be part of this incredible performance ensemble!
- 2) What Is The Best Part Of Band Camp?
  - a. Connecting/Reconnecting with friends! Band Olympics! Learning the halftime show! Learning pregame! The drill downs! Pushing yourself to be better with each rep! Finishing!
- 3) How Does Band Practice Work Each Week?
  - a. For Marching Season, we rehearse on Tuesday's after school from 2:45 PM – 5:30 PM. We meet in the courtyard at 2:45 PM and march out to the field together. On Game Day's, we meet on the field for a run through prior to our performance. For Spring, each individual band (Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, etc.) meets typically one day per week for 45 minutes to rehearse with percussion in January/February.
- 4) What Type Of Bands Are There?
  - a. We offer our Marching Band (Everyone!), Three Concert Bands (Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band), Percussion Ensemble, And multiple Jazz Ensemble classes. Color Guard is also an option within our band's umbrella.
- 5) Is Marching Band Hard?
  - a. No! It is FUN! Things are always "what you make of it" in life, however, we work hard to have a great together in rehearsal and performance. Our Blue Darter Marching Band is a vibrant part of the campus experience and we continually work to ensure that we are working hard – but – keeping it real and enjoying our time together.
- 6) How Do You Manage Your Schedule With Band, Sports, Clubs, Etc.?
  - a. Get in the habit of putting down your phone. Get to bed as early as possible or you'll be dead all the next day.
  - b. I prioritized. My practices were often a half hour or so after school so if I had any homework I would often be able to knock it out before practice. I would go to practice and then come home and practice my instrument. If I had a game the same day as after school marching band I would leave band a little early to get to the game in time. Practice is usually every day so if I had a club after school one day I would go to that and then if I had time, stop by practice for a little bit and catch the end of it.

- c. I keep a paper calendar in my room where I write down all of my practices and meetings and homework.
  - d. 168. This is one of the first lessons you will learn in band. This time management tool will be a great resource to understanding that managing your schedule will be a tremendous benefit to your ability to make your schedule work at school, home, sports, clubs, etc.
- 7) Is It Possible To Switch Instruments For Marching Band?
- a. Maybe... depends on what you are trying to switch to, what the band's instrumentation needs are, and, how fast you are able to pick it up to ensure you are being successful in performance.
- 8) How Will I Know Which Band Class(es) I Am In?
- a. Mr. Langford will work with the AMMS and WLMS Directors to ensure new students are placed in the correct concert class (All members are in a core band class, typically Symphonic Band, Concert Band, or Percussion Ensemble for new members) and will be placed in jazz if there desire to join that ensemble as well. Placement in a jazz band class does require membership in a core band class.

## Academic Topics

- 1) Can You Describe The Engineering Magnet?
- a. It is designed to offer you a connection into the world of engineering with multiple tracks being offered that also include the opportunity for robotics and competition!
- 2) Can You Describe The Medical Magnet?
- a. You learn about bloods and other types, such as DNA.
  - b. The medical magnet is very hands-on with a Lot of new information but is extremely fun and interesting. You'll learn a lot about forensic sciences and careers in the medical field. Towards the end of the year you start to learn about patient care.
  - c. The medical magnet has different levels the first year you cut open a lamb heart which is pretty cool and it also is pretty similar to biology so if you take both classes it makes the work a lot easier for the first year and you do quite a few experiments which are fun you do things that you won't really be able to do anywhere else
- 3) Can You Describe The Diesel Program?
- a. Designed to offer students insight into the workings of a diesel engine and how to properly maintain good working order. This program can set you up to enter the workforce upon graduation where you can earn a good salary.
- 4) What Is The Average Amount of Homework Per Night?
- a. It depends on your classes and teachers and if you finish all your work in class and if you take AP and Honors classes
  - b. Depends on the difficulty of your classes. If you have a mix of honors/AP classes with regular classes, it usually takes about 2 hours
  - c. Your amount of homework all depends on your classes and your teachers. This year I'm taking all honors classes and one AP class and the most homework I get is in my AP class and usually we have 3 very large assignments that aren't due for maybe 2 weeks so we have a decent amount of time to get it done. But I rarely have homework in my other classes and if I do it's no more than 30 minutes.
  - d. Depends on the level of classes you have and the teacher.

- e. There usually isn't a lot of homework because most teachers don't give it but it really depends on what classes you have.
- 5) How Do You Manage Your Time?
- a. See above in the "Band" section!
- 6) When Should I Dual Enroll?
- a. Sophomore year to try it out. Then junior and senior years you can do even more classes
  - b. People usually do it by Junior year, I think. It depends on the person
  - c. Anytime!! It's very beneficial and is better than taking AP classes (not that it's not good)
  - d. My guidance counselor suggested in 11 or 12 grade which I'm glad I don't start right when I got in high school because the first year you should use it to navigate your way around high school with work and classes and stuff like that
  - e. People usually do it by Junior year, I think. It depends on the person
- 7) What Classes Should I Take Online vs. In Person?
- a. Driver's Ed online.
  - b. Take hope online. Never take core classes online unless your fully prepared to teach yourself a class
  - c. Depends on your schedule and preference, honestly. I don't take any online classes so I wouldn't know
  - d. HOPE, Spanish, and English if you hope to dual enroll (I would recommend too).
  - e. Take core classes in person and for online, the ones that are easy to get done is HOPE and Drivers Ed!
  - f. If you don't want to do a foreign language that they offer in school do a language on FLVS over the summer or even when you are in school as an extra credit to get it out of the way
- 8) Which Teachers Are The Best?
- a. It depends how you treat them. Respect your teachers and don't take advantage!
- 9) Are AP Classes Worth The Time?
- a. Yes!!!! Helps with college credits and gets you a challenge.
  - b. It depends on if you want to go to college in the state or not. Colleges outside the state are more likely to take AP credits but you can only get the credit for the class if you pass the final exam at the end of the year. If you want to go to college in the state then dual enrollment would be better because as long as you have a B or above all year then you get the credit and colleges in the state are more likely to take dual enrollment credits. It's all about what you want to do for college.
  - c. Yes! Though dual enrollment is a bit better (imo), AP can be beneficial. If you're looking for an AP class that is not too difficult, I would recommend Computer Science Principles/A. AP Spanish if you're bilingual.
  - d. Depends on your wants, needs, desires, and time!

## Sports Topics

- 1) What Are Some Of The Perks Of Playing Sports In High School?
- a. Possible scholarships, new friends, recognition, and new opportunities
  - b. Get to meet new people, finished PE credits.
  - c. Scholarship and free way to college if you want to go.
  - d. You get to experience being on a team and connecting with others.
  - e. You meet some great people and grow a love and passion for whatever you do whether it's a sport, club or band!

- 2) How Do You Sign Up For Sports Teams?
  - a. Tryouts
  - b. They hold meetings before tryouts where The coaches tell you the information you need to sign up.
  - c. If your sport is at the beginning of the year then start checking the apopka high school website over the summer for information about tryouts, open gym, or even conditioning. If your sport is later in the year then information about tryouts and coaches email will often be on canvas or it will be called over the morning announcements. Flyers will often be posted around the gym, library, or offices. You have to get your physical and a ECG screening and I believe you have to email the coach and tell them you want to sign up.
  - d. The school has interest meetings throughout the year for different sports
- 3) How Do You Try Out For Soccer?
  - a. Tryouts!
  - b. The coaches tell you the information you need to sign up.
  - c. Go to the soccer interest meeting
- 4) How Do You Try Out For Golf?
  - a. Coach Jordan is the golf coach at Apopka and he has usually had a sign up table at meet the teacher.
- 5) How Are The Sports Seasons Divided Up?
  - a. Fall Sports – Winter Sports – Spring Sports – Three total season! Visit [bluedarterathletics.com](http://bluedarterathletics.com) to learn more about each sport and their seasons!

## Lunch Topics

- 1) How Does Lunch Work?
  - a. You go up to a stand and get food. You can stand or sit wherever within the bounds of the courtyard.
  - b. You get to hang out with friends inside or outside and get to enjoy some of the foods.
  - c. There are quite a few carts around campus, a line in the cafeteria, and a pick up spot right outside the cafeteria.
  - d. Lunch at AHS is very generous in the fact that people are allowed to sit in a multitude of places
  - e. There are currently 4 lines you can go to, the main line inside the cafeteria, and three other locations in the courtyard, you go in the line you want to and pick what you want to eat.
- 2) How Much Does Lunch Cost?
  - a. For the the 21-22 year it has been Free!
- 3) Is Lunch The Same Food As In Middle School?
  - a. Pretty much, yes!
  - b. Yes. Although I miss those smiley fries from middle school.
- 4) What Is The Lunch Schedule?
  - a. Lunch is based on your 5<sup>th</sup> period! All students in “A” lunch eat BEFORE 5<sup>th</sup> and all students in “B” lunch eat AFTER 5<sup>th</sup>. Each lunch shift is 30 minutes.

## Campus Topics

- 1) How Much Time Do You Have Between Classes?
  - a. 6 minutes!
- 2) How Will I Know Where To Go For Classes?
  - a. There are numbers on the buildings indicating which classrooms are in which hallway.
  - b. On your schedule it says the room number. The first number is the building and the other numbers are the room number.
  - c. You'll memorize it by the 1st week, but they give you a schedule on skyward.
  - d. It's fairly simple, each floor is a numbered by hundred and the halls have numbers on top so you can tell which to enter. There's also adults that help navigate on the first week.
- 3) How Do Busses Work In High School?
  - a. They are in a loop and there is a board that can help you locate your bus. There are certain routes for certain busses. Find out your route on the ocps website.
  - b. Same as middle. Although there is a board close to the bus loop to see where your bus number/where it is I believe
- 4) What Are School Start/End Times?
  - a. 7:20 AM – 2:20 PM Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday!
  - b. 7:20 AM – 1:10 PM on Wednesday! WE LOVE WEDNESDAY'S!

## Miscellaneous Topics

- 1) What Clubs Are You Part Of?
  - a. There are MANY clubs at AHS to join! Visit the open house night and check out all of the tables in the courtyard that will offer insight into who they are!
- 2) Do You Have Time On The Weekend To Enjoy Life?
  - a. Absolutely! Time management is key to staying on top of things, however, you definitely have plenty of time to live well!
- 3) What Are Some Awesome Clubs To Join?
  - a. I recommend joining fca! Fellowship of christian athletes. it's a great community of kids!
  - b. FCA!
  - c. Beta!
  - d. SGA!
  - e. There are many to choose from! Check your Canvas announcements for any upcoming info opportunities!
- 4) What Is The Best Way To Enjoy Your High School Experience?
  - a. Have good friends, make sure to be in the right things.
  - b. Make some good friends and do something you like.
  - c. Sports! Play some sports!
  - d. Relax, if you're constantly worrying or stressing over everything you're not going to be able to enjoy anything. Stay organized and stay on track but also let lose a little and don't take your time for granted. Pick electives and join clubs you're going to have fun in and get involved with the school. Go to the events with your friends, participate in spirit week, and things like that if you so choose.
  - e. Getting yourself into social things, it's just a great way to hang out with people and do something you love doing

- f. Be confident put your self out there even if your scared or embarrassed and if you do something dumb or embarrassing laugh about it it's ok it happens and we are all human and do that and don't be afraid to start conversations if your out going even if your not comfortable being out going but you push yourself to do it it makes high school and life a lot more fun and easy going
- g. Make new friends! It makes class more fun. Turn in your work. It raises your grade and makes you lesser stressed when report cards are due. Be open to try new things.

5) Is High School Easy?

- a. Yes if you put in the effort. If you are lazy and don't do your work it will become hard. Surround yourself with a positive friend group!
- b. it depends on what classes you take and how well you manage your time. your actions decide how easy it is.
- c. It is, but also not. Depends on how you manage your work and the difficulty of the class.
- d. I can't say it's easy or hard but no matter what the effort and determination you put in will help a whole lot.

6) Do You Take Field Trips?

- a. If you are in Band, then yes you get to travel a lot during marching season
- b. Yeah! For some classes/clubs, field trips could happen.
- c. Sometimes. I've gone on quite a few trips for band and I have a couple friends that have been on field trips for AVID or the engineering magnet. It depends on the classes you take.
- d. Do away games count?? Yes you do just with certain clubs and different people/ classes

7) How Would You Rate Your High School Experience?

- a. So far in my freshman year it's been an experience but I like the family I've made
- b. 8 out of 10
- c. 9 out of 10
- d. 7.5 our of 10
- e. You make of it what you will! Give a lot and get a lot in return! Make the most of it!