



# Parent Handbook

updated as of summer of 2023

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## Quick Resources:

Sign Up Genius for Premier Center/Convention Center/Pentagon Concessions: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/10c0d4baba929a1fac70-premier>

Raise Right website and enrollment code:

[www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com) Enrollment Code: BBFEEA9166343

Brandon Valley Band Website: <https://www.brandonvalleybands.com>. Website contains valuable information about your band staff and band board, Google Calendar of rehearsals and performances, photos, and some quick links for Premier center signups, your ISA (Individual Student Accounts), and more.

Brandon Valley Band Board email address - please make sure emails from this address are not going into your junk or spam mailbox: [brandonvalleybands@gmail.com](mailto:brandonvalleybands@gmail.com)

Brandon Valley Band Facebook Page | This is the band's public-facing Facebook page. We promote events; post photos of rehearsals, concerts and contests; recognize outstanding musicians, sponsors, and volunteers; and post results of contests. Search Brandon Valley Bands

Brandon Valley Band Parent's Facebook Page (private) | This is a private group used primarily for band-to-parent and parent-to-parent communication, such as volunteering opportunities, logistics about band trips, band meals, fundraisers, etc. Search Brandon Valley Band Families

We strongly recommend that you subscribe to both Facebook pages.

Many of the sections also have private groups for parents, such as BV Saxophone Parents. Ask your student's section leader or any of the band board members if you need more information.

# Section 1: Band Funding, Parent Expectations

## Band Funding

Funding for the band program comes from the Brandon Valley School District and Brandon Valley Band Parents, INC (the band boosters). The school district covers the directors' salaries, uniforms, competition entry fees, and some equipment and transportation costs. The band boosters help with the additional cost of marching band travel, food and lodging, equipment, props, color guard uniforms/flags, band student scholarships, senior banners, all-state band support, the semi-trailer and so much more. The entire bands program and the participating students benefit.

## Needed Parent/Guardian Involvement

The Brandon Valley bands program does not require students to pay 'dues' to participate, while many other bands in the region require it. Brandon Valley avoids those fees with the support of corporate and private sponsors, and many band parent volunteers working collectively to raise funds needed to support the program as a whole.

It is expected that students participating in the bands program are supported by their parents/guardians through volunteer band opportunities during the school year.

# Section 2: Parent Volunteers

The Brandon Valley bands program does not run without volunteers. Each year, the program relies on volunteers to help support many events and activities related to the bands program. A Sign-Up Genius email link will be sent from the Brandon Valley Bands email address on a routine basis asking for volunteers.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities for all band parents range from donations of food items to staffing concessions at the Big Sioux Review marching band competition. Examples of areas where parent volunteers are needed include but are not limited to:

- snack / drink donations
- set-up / clean-up after performance event
- social media support (capture photos)

- various support roles for Big Sioux Review and Turkey Supper, both are large fundraising events for the program
- event and committee chairs
- band board member (board members are elected each June and meet on a monthly basis)

### **Marching Band Volunteers**

Families of marching band students are asked to volunteer in various areas throughout the season. Specific areas needing volunteers during marching band season include but are not limited to:

- trip chaperones
- prop builders and movers
- uniform helpers

If interested in helping with any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact

[brandonvalleybands@gmail.com](mailto:brandonvalleybands@gmail.com).

## **Section 3: Fundraising**

### **Full Band Fundraising Events**

#### **Premier Center/Convention Center/Pentagon Concessions**

Families and band students are **expected** to work concessions at the Premier Center/Convention Center/Sanford Pentagon. This is our largest fundraiser and covers tens of thousands of dollars in expenses. Shifts are tracked based on how many shifts a student/family is expected to work.

- All band students are expected to work 1 shift
- All marching band students are expected to work an additional shift (2 total shifts)
- All indoor drumline students (BVi) are expected to work an additional 3 shifts (5 total shifts)
- All winter color guard students are expected to work additional shifts (total number TBD)
- *NOTE:* Family members/parents can work on behalf of their student
- Students who do not complete their shifts each year are not eligible for band scholarships their senior year
- Working concessions is a great way to meet other families and students

#### **Big Sioux Review**

This is a marching band competition hosted at Brandon Valley High School in September. Several bands from South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota attend, so it takes several volunteers to make the event a success. Volunteer opportunities include helping direct parking, hosting bands, working

concessions, and donating food for the hospitality lounge. A Sign-Up Genius link will be sent out from the Brandon Valley Bands email address for these volunteer shifts. ***It is expected that all BV Marching Band parents help with this event, it is a major fundraiser for the BV Band Parent Boosters.***

### **Turkey Supper & Indoor Marching Show**

This fundraiser combines our long-standing turkey supper with our annual indoor marching show at Brandon Valley High School. Many volunteer opportunities - including serving dinner, taking tickets, set up, and clean up - are available for BV band parents. A Sign-Up Genius link will be sent out from the Brandon Valley Bands email address for these volunteer shifts.

### **Pops and Pie Concert**

This spring fundraiser combines a pie and ice cream social with our annual 'pops' concert. Volunteers are needed to bake/donate pies, set up, serve, and tear down. A Sign-Up Genius link will be sent out from the Brandon Valley Bands email address for these volunteer shifts.

## **Individual Fundraising Opportunities**

There are several events throughout the year to help with individual fundraising. These funds are deposited into an individual student account and can be used for the major band trip that happens every four years or for WGI Championship trip expenses for Brandon Valley Indoor.

### **Additional Premier Center/Pentagon Shifts**

After the Premier Center/Pentagon shifts listed above are completed, then a minimum of \$50 per "extra" shift that is worked is added to the student's ISA. Please note that some shifts pay more (determined by Premier Center, Pentagon, and Convention Center), but all shifts pay a minimum of \$50.

### **Winter Fundraiser**

This fundraiser happens one time during the school year (typically in January or February) where various items from a fundraising vendor can be sold by students. A portion of the proceeds goes to the general band fund with the majority of the proceeds going to a student's ISA. A percentage of proceeds goes to the vendor. After that:

- 10% of proceeds goes to the general band fund
- 30% of proceeds goes to the student's ISA

### **Raise Right Gift Cards**

Raise Right is a website and app where you can buy gift cards through various retailers for a discount and get a kickback to your student's ISA. This includes clothing stores, cruise lines, and home

improvement stores. If you have a big expenditure coming and watch for a special offer, you could fund a regular year of ISA with just a few transactions.

Electronic gift cards can be purchased anytime throughout the year with profits going into a student's ISA. Twice a year, typically around the holidays and again before graduation season, a large order will be placed for physical gift cards from most major businesses.

Additional Information for how to sign up for Raise Right fundraising can be found on the Brandon Valley Band Website:

[https://www.brandonvalleybands.com/files/ugd/cc3267\\_68eaf2cee3bb49c7892d41655ac61ac9.pdf](https://www.brandonvalleybands.com/files/ugd/cc3267_68eaf2cee3bb49c7892d41655ac61ac9.pdf)

## **Section 4: Marching Band Information**

### **Schedule**

The marching band schedule, including practices, is posted to a Google Calendar accessible from the Brandon Valley Bands website. The Director keeps the Google Calendar current as the schedule may change throughout the season.

[https://www.brandonvalleybands.com/Google Calendar Schedule](https://www.brandonvalleybands.com/Google%20Calendar%20Schedule)

### **Sports physical form**

All students that participate in marching band need to have a sports physical completed and handed in to the high school office prior to the start of marching band season. The physical form can be found on the Brandon Valley High School website.

### **Band T-shirt**

At the beginning of the new school year (June), a band sign-up form is sent out to gather information about the students and their intent to participate in marching band. This form also includes information about purchasing necessary items for marching band and the required Brandon Valley Band T-shirt that is worn under the band uniform, for pep-band, at summer parades, and while working concessions.

### **Show Shirts and Spirit Wear**

A one-time order for the marching band season's annual show shirt will be placed in the summer prior to marching band competition season. These show shirts change every year to match the marching

band's theme and are not necessarily in BV Lynx red and black. Everybody can order these shirts, including marching band students, parents, grandparents, and friends. We encourage fans to wear these t-shirts throughout the marching band season.

In addition, Brandon Valley Band spirit wear will be available once in the summer prior to marching band competition season beginning. Spirit wear has the BV Marching Lynx logo and is in BV Lynx red and black. BV Band jackets will be available for purchase to band students through the Spirit Wear sales.

A link for the order form for both the show shirts and the spirit wear will be emailed out from the Brandon Valley Bands email address. Payment must be made at the time of ordering.

### **Band Camp**

At the beginning of marching band season, a 2-week band camp is held for marching band students. It is important that your band student stays hydrated, eats well, wears sunscreen, and gets good rest during this time. Attendance is required. If your student has to miss for any reason, it is important that they communicate their absence to their section leader. Extended absences should be discussed with the band director.

### **Breakfast with the Band**

Breakfast with the Band is held at the end of the two-week marching band camp. This is an opportunity to see a glimpse of what the students have been working on during band camp for the fall show. This event is held on a Saturday morning and includes light breakfast items for band members and their immediate family. This event is not open to the public.

### **Melon Madness**

Melon Madness is the marching band's preview of their fall show to the public. This event is held in the evening with watermelon served after the preview. This is also a fun time for parents to take the field with their student and see what it's like to be in marching band. The public enjoys this opportunity to preview the show, see the students in their new uniforms each year, and enjoy some socializing afterward while eating watermelon. This early preview typically does not use props and the show is usually not finished or polished, so expect to see great improvements from the students in the weeks to follow.

### **Roosevelt Band Clinic**

BV Marching Lynx participate in the Roosevelt High School Band Clinic. This event is usually held on a Saturday in August. Please refer to the band's Google Calendar on the Brandon Valley Bands

website. The public is invited to attend the Band Clinic Preview Show held at Howard Wood Field in the evening of the clinic.

### **Marching Band Competitions**

Brandon Valley Marching Lynx participate in marching band competitions in various communities in South Dakota and Minnesota. Please refer to the band's Google Calendar on the Brandon Valley Band Website for detailed information. Students are bussed to and from these events with chaperones and band directors/staff on the busses with the students. Optional sack lunches are available for purchase at the beginning of the season for students; however, it is highly encouraged that students pack snacks or have money available for concessions.

### **Festival of Bands**

Festival of Bands is the largest marching band competition in South Dakota. It is held at Howard Wood Field in Sioux Falls and is hosted by all 5 of the Sioux Falls High School Marching bands (Jefferson, Lincoln, O'Gorman, Roosevelt, and Washington). There are 3 sections of competition: a morning parade (BV Marching Lynx typically do not participate in this event), an afternoon preliminary competition, and evening finals for the bands that qualify. Tickets to watch this event are general admission. Information for this event is available online: <https://www.festivalofbands.com/>

### **Youth in Music**

Youth in Music is a one-day event held at US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, MN. Brandon Valley Band Boosters fund the hotel stay for marching band students for this event. Tickets to watch this event are both reserved seating and general admission. Tickets are sold in 2 sections, a morning/afternoon preliminary competition event, and a finals competition event in the evening for the bands that qualify. Information for this event is available online: <https://www.youthinmusic.org/2021/03/2021-youth-in-music-marching-band-championships/>

### **Performance Trip**

Every four years the Marching Band takes a multiple-day trip outside of the region to perform and showcase the band's ability. The Director chooses the trip location based on availability and schedule. Students can utilize their ISA funds to cover the cost of this trip. The next upcoming trip is during the 2023-2024 school year.



## **Section 5: Other Ensembles**

### **Brandon Valley Indoor Drumline (BVi)**

Comprised of 8th-12th graders, the indoor drumline is a type of marching ensemble consisting of battery and front ensemble instruments. It differs from a traditional percussion ensemble by featuring not only musical performance but also theatrics and marching.

#### **BVi expectations, winter camp, rehearsals**

Auditions occur in November with rehearsals beginning in December. Students and families should plan for a choreography camp that occurs over the school winter break. The competition / performance season runs from February - April.

Additional information is provided at the parent meeting that occurs at the conclusion of the marching band season.

#### **BVi Fundraising**

In addition to the three extra shifts at the Premier Center/Pentagon Brandon Valley Indoor students need to work, additional fundraising and volunteering is needed to support the activity. Information is shared in October when the BVi kick-off meeting is held.

### **Brandon Valley Winter Guard**

Comprised of 6th - 12th graders, winter guard is the sport of indoor color guard. Modern color guard is a combination of the use of flags, sabers, mock rifles, and other equipment as well as dance and other interpretive movement. The winter guard season mirrors the Indoor percussion season and runs from February - April. The director is Aubrey Lipetzky.

#### **Winter Guard Fundraising**

In addition to the extra shifts at the Premier Center/Pentagon Brandon Valley Winter Guard students need to work, additional fundraising and volunteering is needed to support the activity. Information is shared in October when the Winter Guard kick-off meeting is held.

**Brandon Valley Pep Band** | All band students are divided into two pep bands and asked to play at Brandon Valley home basketball games.

**Brandon Valley Jazz Band** | This auditioned group typically practices after school during winter and spring months and performs at concerts and an occasional community event.

### **Other Programs, Opportunities and Information:**

**All-state Band** | This audition is in the spring and selects the top musicians across the state to participate in a concert held in the spring.

**All State Jazz Band** | This audition is in the spring and selects the top jazz musicians across the state to participate in a concert held in the spring.

**Lettering requirements** | Band students have the opportunity to earn a varsity letter in band if they:

- Earn an A in band in the first three quarters
- Complete at least THREE of the following:
  - Participate in Marching Lynx
  - Drum Major or Section Leader in the Marching Lynx
  - Attend at least two or more extra pep band games
  - Earn a division 1 rating (superior) at solo/ensemble contest
  - Be accepted to participate in an honor band festival (Augustana, SDSU, USD)
  - Audition for All State Band, All State Jazz Band, or All State Orchestra
  - Be accepted to participate in All State Band, All State Jazz Band, or All State Orchestra
  - Participate in jazz band, winter percussion, winter guard, or pit orchestra in the musical
  - Attend a summer band camp (SDSU, USD, Augie, Sioux Falls Parks Band, etc.)
  - Participate in an additional music ensemble outside of school (SDYSO, Municipal Band, Chamber Group)
  - Take weekly or bi-weekly private lessons outside of school (instructor letter required)

You can also find information

**Band Scholarships (as of fall 2023):** Brandon Valley Band Parents (BVBP) award several scholarships. Some of these are funded by the Brandon Valley Band Parents Inc., others are administered by Brandon Valley Band Parents Inc but funded by other organizations, and two are funded and administered by other organizations but promoted by Brandon Valley Band Parents Inc.

#### **Brandon Valley Band Parents, Inc. Leadership in Excellence Scholarship**

- Several \$1,000 scholarships available (subject to change per decision of the BV Band Parents Board)
- Based on GPA, excellence and leadership
- Must work all Premier Center shifts

#### **Brandon Valley Band Parents, Inc. Lynx Spirit Scholarship**

- Several \$1,000 scholarships available
- Based on GPA, engagement and demonstration of Lynx Spirit
- Must work all Premier Center shifts

### **Landon Wulf BVHS Scholarship (Through Sioux Falls Community Foundation)**

- \$2,500 (subject to change by family)
- 2 years at Brandon Valley High School
- Participation in both school choir and band for at least 3 high school years
- Plan to attend an accredited 4-year college/university
- Cumulative GPA of 3 +

### **Shon Trimble Memorial Scholarship (Through Sioux Falls Community Foundation)**

- \$750 (subject to change by family)
- BVHS senior
- Plan to attend accredited 4-year college or university
- BVHS Band for 2+ years
- Cumulative GPA of 3.0+

### **George Gulson Music Endowment Scholarship (judged by Band Board)**

- \$1,000 (subject to change by family)
- Brandon Valley HS Band senior
- Participated in band 3+ years
- Cumulative GPA of 3.3 +
- Short essay (75-100 words)
- Participate in band at college for at least 1 year

### **Del Hubers Music Education Scholarship**

- \$750 (2) or \$1,500 (1) - may be adjusted by Mr. Hubers
- Participation in BV Music during HS career - complete year
- Preference for instrumental music study for all four HS years
- Continuation of music education post-secondary
- Music education major

### **Jake Meeker Memorial Band Scholarship**

- \$250 (subject to change by family)
- BVHS band senior who regularly participated in rehearsals and performances
- Cumulative GPA of 3+
- Minimum B average in Band
- Short essay (75-100 words) on "What impact high school band has had on my life as it relates to my future."