

# 20 Questions

## you didn't know to ask!

1. **What is Marching Band?** Marching Band is an extra curricular activity for students. Students do not receive credits for participating in Marching Band. The band performs at football games, in parades and at Marching Band competitions. The students work together all season in an effort to earn a "superior" rating at the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association (VBODA) State Marching Band Festival that is held the last weekend in October. A superior rating at VBODA puts Colonial Forge one step closer to being an Honor Band.
2. **What is Honor Band?** If the Marching Band receives a superior rating at VBODA and the highest graded concert band receives a superior rating at their state festival, the Colonial Forge band program becomes a Virginia Honor Band.
3. **What is Band Staff?** Band staff is a group of students selected through an interview process to take on leadership responsibilities within the band. Band Staff positions include: Band Captain, Drum Major, Executive Officer, Office Manager, Librarians, Historians, and Captains. The freshman class will choose a representative during band camp that will participate in Band Staff. The Band Staff is required to arrive early and leave late at most practices and performances and is a vital part of the successful function of the band.
4. **Is there a cost to participate in marching band?** There is a fee to participate in Marching Band. Amounts differ depending on whether your child plays an instrument or is part of the Colorguard. Refer to included handouts for amounts. Fees are used to help cover the expenses required to operate a marching band. Fees are due on the last day of Band Camp and can be placed in the green box in the band room. All payments should be made payable to the Colonial Forge Music Boosters (CFMB).
5. **What about shoes?** You will need to purchase marching shoes for your student. Your student will be fitted for these shoes during Band Camp. You will need to send a check with your student that day. Refer to included handouts for the date and amounts. Band shoes need to be maintained. Each veteran band member has their own way to keep those shoes white. Try Mr. Clean's Magic Eraser or Softscrub and finish with white shoe polish. An old toothbrush will get into those little cracks! It is recommended that cleaning be done after each performance, as this will reduce the amount of staining from dried grass and mud and help to ensure your child's shoes stay in good shape.
6. **What else do I need to provide for my child?** Your child will need a pair of Docker type khaki pants, and at least one pair of knee-high white tube socks. Some students will need flip folders and lyres, these can be obtained at most local music stores. When the weather gets cold, students may want something warm to wear under their uniform such as long underwear. Since the competition pants are white and bright colors are visible through them under the field lights white or light gray undergarments are needed. Warm white gloves can also be worn under the uniform gloves, along with instant hand warmers (sold in Wal-Mart's hunting section) if they do not interfere with the playing of your child's instrument. In addition, suggestions for a Band Camp Survival Kit are available at the bands web page [www.cfband.org](http://www.cfband.org).
7. **Am I responsible for Uniform Maintenance?** No, marching uniforms stay at school and are sent out for cleaning on a regular schedule. During the week of Band Camp (August 23-27), volunteer band parents will measure and tailor a uniform for your student. If you can help with hemming or ironing the uniforms, any and all help during the week of Band Camp would be greatly appreciated. Contact Diane Sasportas at [dsasportas@yahoo.com](mailto:dsasportas@yahoo.com)
8. **Are there any other expenses?** A Spring Trip is usually offered. This is not a mandatory event and is open to Marching Band students only. In past years the trip has been to various theme parks in Florida and has run around \$500.00 per student. More information and a schedule of payments will be available later in the fall.
9. **Fundraising?** The Colonial Forge Music Boosters sponsors several fundraising endeavors throughout the year. Fundraisers may include Tag Day, White House Ornament Sales, Cookie Dough and Pie Sales, a Gift Wrap Booth at Spotsylvania Mall and others. Funds earned may be used for private lessons, reeds, to help offset the cost of the Spring Trip or any other band related expense approved by Mr. Coston.

10. **Student accounts?** Each student in the Band Program will have a student account. These accounts are used to keep track of student owed fees and/or earnings from fundraising and are maintained by the Colonial Forge Music Boosters Treasurer. Student account funds can be accessed by the student to pay for any band related expenses when approved by Mr. Loft. Band account balances are posted in the window of Mr. Loft's office and are updated periodically. The form required for students to debit their band account is available from Mr. Loft.
11. **What is Tag Day?** Tag Day is the band's biggest fundraiser. Students, dressed in their Marching Band uniform, are driven by chaperones to neighborhoods in the CFHS attendance zone. They go door-to-door in groups of 2-4 and ask for donations. The Colonial Forge community has been extremely supportive in past years, the success of this fundraiser keeps band fees down. Tag Day will be Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup> this year.
12. **How often does the band perform?** The Marching Band will perform at every home Varsity football game, one Wednesday night game, and local away games. They will also attend several band competitions, which generally take place on Saturdays. Please refer to the included calendar for dates and times. Updates will be made as information becomes available.
13. **When does my student need to arrive for performances and band rehearsals?** Again, please refer to the enclosed calendar. **Please be aware that Mr. Coston believes that early is on time and on time is late!** Have your student at each event about 15 minutes prior to the posted arrival time.
14. **Where do I drop off and pick up my student?** When dropping off your student, please pull into a parking space on the band room side of the school. **DO NOT** drop your student off at the curb. Cars stopped at the curb pose a safety concern for other students as well as blocking a fire-lane, please be considerate of others. When picking up your student, park your car in a parking space and wait for your child to complete their business inside.
15. **Will my child be able to eat at football games?** Our concession stand has been gracious enough to offer a delivery service for the Marching Band. Your student will want to bring a few dollars to the game if they want to eat from the concession. Orders will be taken and paid for prior to leaving the band room. Those orders will be delivered to the students in the stands during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter eliminating the need for standing in line.
16. **Does my child have to be in a concert band?** Yes, involvement in Marching Band is restricted to those who participate in a concert band. There are three concert ensembles at Colonial Forge. All three concert ensembles play in concerts throughout the year. The school also has a Percussion Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble.
17. **Is there a specific dress for concert ensembles?** Yes, Concert Band and Symphonic Band wear similar outfits. Ladies wear uniform green dresses while gentlemen wear black pants, tuxedo shirts and bow ties. In Wind Ensemble, Ladies wear black pantsuits, pearl earrings and pearl necklaces while the gentlemen wear tuxedos. Specific information regarding your child's concert band uniform will be provided with the syllabus for that class the first week of school.
18. **How will I receive information throughout the year?** Most information will be passed from Mr. Coston directly to the students. Flyers are often sent home with students regarding upcoming events and reminders, check with your student regarding new information. Information is also made available to you through the school newsletter, at Music Boosters meetings (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month) and is generally posted at the Colonial Forge Band website, [www.cfband.org](http://www.cfband.org), which will be updated weekly with events and reminders. A group email system is also in place and informational/reminder e-mails are sent periodically. Laura Truman, New Student Representative for the Colonial Forge Music Boosters, is also available to answer questions. As a senior parent she can relate to your questions and help you get the answers you need. She can be reached at [2vp@cfband.org](mailto:2vp@cfband.org)
19. **Can I buy Forge Sound & Guard apparel?** YES! Refer to the enclosed handout for details on the prices and availability of shirts, sweatshirts, hats and bumper stickers, magnets, sting bags, jackets and more to come. Show off your **Forge Pride** and support the Bands at Colonial Forge.
20. **How can I help?** Volunteering with the Bands at Colonial Forge is a very rewarding way to be involved in your child's activities at the school. No matter what they might say to the contrary, they are proud to see you participate in something they work so very hard at. It's also a great way to meet their friends and to see first hand just how dedicated and talented the Forge staff is. Volunteers are welcome at Band Camp, in the Concession Stand, on the Pit Crew, chaperoning events, helping with uniforms, participating in fundraising events and assisting with the All-County and All-District Auditions. Come out and get involved. The Music Boosters would love to have your help and your child will enjoy knowing you support their activities. Contact Richard Truman, CFMB President, if you would like to help at [president@cfband.org](mailto:president@cfband.org)