

Carman-Ainsworth "Blue Brigade" Marching Band

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WEEK

As we prepare to enjoy this final week together as the 2014 Carman-Ainsworth *Blue Brigade* Marching Band, we should all take a few minutes to reflect on what a great year it has been. As one big team, the students, parents, staff, and directors have worked countless hours to ensure that our ensemble continues to reach new levels of excellence. After Saturday, the 2014 marching season becomes a part of history and will serve as an exciting indicator of what is to come in our *future*. Please be sure to take advantage of this week to thank those around you who have helped you through the season in any capacity. This includes booster parents, volunteers, staff, fellow marching members, friends, etc.

Although we have known of our State Finals qualification throughout the year, this is still an amazing opportunity for our organization. With that being said, there is a lot of information to disseminate to our family and friends regarding the logistics of the State Championship experience. We understand that there is a lot of information in this packet, but we ask that you please take the time to read through it so that you are not surprised at Ford Field on Saturday.

The *Blue Brigade* will be performing at **8:30am** on Saturday. It is highly advised that all spectators arrive prior to the beginning of Flight II, which begins at 8:15am. The "prime seating" will be taken very quickly, so you should plan to arrive early, especially if you are needing to purchase tickets. Please show your support by wearing all your *Blue Brigade* attire!

A few special rules, regulations, and general information parents and friends should be aware of regarding Championships at Ford Field:

- Ticket prices are \$18.00 for adults and \$14.00 for students/senior citizens. Gates A & G are the best places to enter the stadium; these gates open at 7:15 am. **Tickets are CASH ONLY.**
- In order to receive a hand stamp, a person must either hold a complete ticket or be exiting Ford Field with a ticket stub. To re-enter Ford Field, a person must produce a ticket stub **AND** have a stamped hand.
 - Students will be stamped as they exit the bus
 - Staff members must have proper credentials to re-enter Ford Field
- Ford Field, in accordance with the "NFL Best Practices" policy, has very strict restrictions as to what is allowed into the stadium. To avoid any possible frustrations upon your arrival, please refer to the guidelines (pg.3) as to what is and is NOT permitted into Ford Field. You can also visit www.fordfield.com for more information about the stadium policies.

Parking:

The Ford Field Parking Ramp is located on St. Antoine St. across from Gate G of Ford Field, along with Ford Field Parking Lots #4 and #5 (located on Montcalm St. on North side of Stadium). Parking is \$6.00 – carpooling is highly suggested. If these lots are full, there are many other parking facilities in the area, although price varies and is controlled by the owners of those facilities. The People Mover does not begin operation until 9:00am on Saturdays, so this would not be an option. For general parking information, go to www.fordfield.com and click on "Your Guide To Ford Field" and then to "Parking."

Spectators: Entering Ford Field and Purchasing Tickets

Spectators (ticket holders) may enter Ford Field through Gates A and G beginning at 7:15 A.M. The ticket booths are located at both Gate A and Gate G. Handicapped persons must enter through A or G and should provide their own wheel chairs if needed. Ford Field wheelchairs are for EMERGENCY use only. Adult ticket prices are \$18.00. Student/Sr. citizen Tickets are \$14.00. [CASH ONLY]

Directions to Ford Field – Buses and Equipment Vehicles

Follow southbound I-75 (Chrysler Freeway) to I-375 and exit at Madison Avenue (exit on the left). Turn right at the first light, St. Antoine Street, and left onto Beacon.

Directions to Ford Field – Spectators

Follow southbound I-75 (Chrysler Freeway) to I-375 and exit at Madison Avenue (exit on the left). Turn right at the first light, St. Antoine Street. The Ford Field Parking Deck is located on St. Antoine across from Gate G of Ford Field.

MCBA Championship contest Chaperone Ticket Policy

Being a member of an equipment crew, a bus driver, or chaperone does not qualify one for free admission into the MCBA championship contest. Field passes and/or armbands will be issued to all “pit crew” which will admit them into the TUNNEL and onto the performance field at no charge. Field Passes and/or armbands WILL NOT admit the holder into the spectator seats OR back into Ford Field after the band has exited the field. These Field Passes only admit the wearer into the tunnel/field to assist the band during performance.

PLEASE REMEMBER: The MCBA work force at Ford Field is volunteer-based, much like our own Cavalier Band Booster group. These workers did not create the policies – it is their job to uphold the rules & regulations of MCBA and Ford Field. Please respect their instructions and notify the band director of concerns about the policies after State Championships.

Photographs

Jolesch Photography will be taking photos after our performance. If you are interested in purchasing a photo, please get the information at the booth located inside the stadium or visit www.joleschenterprises.com

Videotaping

Videotaping equipment may not be brought into Ford Field. There will be mixed camera **Blu-ray and DVD** formatted recordings or each band’s performance available for purchase. The performances will be packaged by Flight. Mr. Video will be doing a live webcast of the State Championships; this is in addition to “Video on Demand” product. To order a Blu-ray or DVD recording, please visit www.mrvideoonline.com/MCBA.htm

Souvenirs

Spectators are able to purchase the items listed below at State Finals. All merchandise sales are CASH ONLY, so please be prepared. *If you pre-ordered Championship apparel, we will pick up these items on Saturday and distribute upon our return to the school.*

- Championship Contest T-shirts & Sweatshirts
- Championship Patches
- Championship Pins
- Championship Programs
- Jolesch photographs or Mr. Video DVDs



ITEMS NOT PERMITTED IN THE STADIUM

The items not permitted into Ford Field, stadium plaza areas, stadium gates, or when approaching queue lines of guests waiting entry into the stadium are in accordance with the NFL Best Practices and are strictly enforced during Detroit Lions home football games and stadium events. Prior to gate entry, guests should return prohibited items to their vehicles. Ford Field is not responsible for any items left at the gates or in the trash receptacles. Under no circumstances will the items be checked at the gates. Prohibited items may also be confiscated by staff. Guests are strongly encouraged to not bring any type of bags. Guests should come prepared to show keys, cell phones or other metal related items in their hands during the screening process. Please follow all signage and direction from security personnel. Early entry is encouraged. As a reminder, smoking is prohibited inside of the stadium. Ford Field reserves the right to expand or modify the prohibited items at any time.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL BE PERMITTED AFTER INSPECTION:

- Bags that are clear plastic, vinyl or PVC and do not exceed 12" x 6" x 12"
- One-gallon clear plastic freezer bag (Ziploc bag or similar)
- Small clutch bags, approximately the size of a hand, with or without a handle or strap can be taken into the stadium with one of the clear plastic bag options. For more information, visit www.nfl.com/allclear.
- An exception will be made for medically necessary items after proper inspection at the following gate entrances: Gate A Executive, Gate D Suite, Gate G Bridge - North Lane and Gate G Media.
- Small radios (must be used with an earpiece).
- Signs and clothing must comply with standards of taste and decency; no profane or offensive messages. Signs must not block another guest's view.

PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED ITEMS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Purses larger than a clutch bag, coolers, briefcases, backpacks, diaper bags, fanny packs, cinch bags, grocery & paper bags, duffle bags, luggage of any kind, computer bags and camera & binocular bags or cases. Visit www.nfl.com/allclear.
- Seat cushions
- Aerosol cans (hairspray, mace, pepper spray, etc.)
- Animals (except service animals to aid guests with disabilities)
- Balloons (air or helium)
- Balls (beach balls, footballs, etc.)
- Banners
- Cameras with lenses longer than five inches
- Decals, stickers, confetti or glitter
- Electronic equipment including laptop computers, video recorders, video cameras and tripods
- Fireworks
- Food, beverages or liquids (cans, bottles, boxes, flasks, etc.)
- Illegal substances
- Knives, pocket knives, box cutters, scissors, etc.
- Laser pointers
- Markers (permanent) and/or paint
- Noisemaking devices (bells, horns, kazoos, whistles, etc.)
- Objects that can be used as missiles or projectiles (sticks, bats, clubs, Frisbees, etc.)

2014 Blue Brigade STATE CHAMPIONSHIP ITINERARY

- 4:00am Report to HIGH SCHOOL and change into uniforms
4:45am Depart for Ford Field
- *We will stop en route to get instruments, hats and plumes off of equipment bus.*
 - *We must move quickly and efficiently!*
- 6:45am Arrive @ Ford Field (unload, hand-stamp, etc.)
7:00am Outdoor Warm-up Block
7:30am Move to Indoor Warm-up Area
7:45am Indoor Warm-up Begins
8:10am Depart Warm-up area and move to staging area (end zone)
8:30am PERFORMANCE
8:45am Move to photo area for group pictures
9:15am Take all equipment back to the bus; enjoy sandwiches & snacks
- *Members will stay in uniform following our performance*
 - *Members should **NOT** eat stadium food in uniform!*
- 10:00am Re-enter Ford Field and watch remaining Flight II performances
11:00am Command Personnel report to Tunnel (field level)
11:15am Flight II Awards Ceremony
11:30am Exit Ford Field and return to buses
1:15pm Arrive at the high school; change out of uniforms; dismiss

**IT IS THE END OF THE 2014 SEASON!
FOCUS AND HAVE A WONDERFUL FINAL SHOW!**