Broadneck Marching Band

Survival Guide
Welcome to the Broadneck Marching Band!

Now that you’re a member, it’s time to think about the season ahead!

There are many different terms we use, and we have many tips we’d like to give you before the official start of the season—Band Camp.

But *don’t worry* if you can’t remember everything, you’ll get the hang of it over time, and we’re all here to help you have a great season!!
# On-The-Field Terms

These are some words you’ll hear while we’re learning where to be on the field:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drill</td>
<td>The formations the band makes on the field</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dot</td>
<td>A coordinate on the field (where you stand)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dot Sheet</td>
<td>The piece of paper that shows you all of the dots that you’ll eventually go to (printed in size 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dot Book</td>
<td>A spiral-bound book of notecards that holds all your dots (in a font size that hopefully isn’t 3). There’s also an app you can use, it’s called “Drill”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set</td>
<td>A number that correlates to a dot/position. It is associated with the section of music you play while moving to that dot. A “Set” <em>also</em> means to stand at attention and listen for instructions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Step-Off</td>
<td>The first step off of a dot/set (or when marching off-field), which is taken with the left foot</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-to-5 Step</td>
<td>A standard-sized step length; meaning there are 8 steps for every 5 yards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hold (or “Halt”)</td>
<td>A stop in movement, but generally while you still play</td>
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Dot Sheets

Here’s a breakdown of an example dot sheet

**Count:** The number of steps you take in a set

**Left-Right:** Which end zone you’re closest to

- **Left:** The audience’s left. (When you are facing the audience, that is your right.)
- **Right:** The audience’s right. (Your left)

**Visitor-Home:** Which sideline you’re closest to.

- **Home** = “Front” of the field (Audience Side)
- **Visitor** = “Back” of the field (Opposite Side)

**Hash:** A line of dashes that is used for reference to find your dot

- **Home Hash:** Home/Audience Side
- **Visitor Hash:** Opposite Side

**Inside-Outside:** The side of the yard line you are on

- **Inside:** Side closest to the 50
- **Outside:** Opposite side
Finding your Dot
Let’s use this dot sheet as the example, and we’ll focus on the Set 2.

Let’s Look At Each Column for Set #2

- **Set**: We’re looking at Set #2
- **Count**: You have 16 Steps to get to this Set (From Set 1).
- **Left-Right**: You need to be 4 steps inside (toward the Center/50) the Left (Your right) 35 Yard Line.
- **Visitor-Home**: You need to be 8.0 Steps behind (away from) the Home side line.

The “Left-Right” and “Visitor-Home” steps for finding dot positions are always standard 8-to-5-sized steps.

Congrats! You’re on your dot.
A Few Hints

Here are a few things to think about while preparing for the season!

We practice on a field we like to call “The Dustbowl”, because we kill all the grass while marching on it. So, we don’t recommend wearing your brand new school shoes to practice, because they, and everything else you wear, will become dust-colored.

Get to practice early! We want to start practices right away, so if you show up when we’re supposed to start, you’re late!

At competitions, because we are one of the biggest bands, we often go last. This generally means getting home late, so make sure your parents are aware of this!

Both camp and the first half of the season will be especially hot, so bring a hat, sunscreen, and a TON of water (one little bottle won’t cut it!)

Everybody has similar water bottles, so mark yours in a way you can remember, such as a stripe of colorful duct tape.

If you choose to have a dot book instead of the app, have a lanyard to hang it from. This way, when you’re carrying your instrument, you don’t have to balance it and the book.

Be prepared! Get plastic sheets for your music, pack your instrument case with extra reeds, oil, etc.
The Broadneck Marching Band is like a gigantic family, and we have a lot of fun! Here are a few of the activities we do each season. ((Some of these things depend on the section, ask your section leader for details if there’s a * after something))

**Homecoming Parade**
The marching Bruins march from Cape to Broadneck High, with all the floats, to celebrate Homecoming and all its activities (we also eat a lot of food afterwards)

**Spirit Bags***
Little bags of candy and small trinkets that you buy for the person whose name you pull out of a hat

**Section Parties***
Literally a party for a section (and maybe some honorary members)

**Competitions**
Performing for a crowd is rewarding and exciting! Sometimes, the bus rides can be as fun as the competition

**Football Games**
Even if you don’t like football, sitting in the stands with your (band) friends, playing stand tunes, and performing for the school is great

**Homecoming Parade**
The marching Bruins march from Cape to Broadneck High, with all the floats, to celebrate Homecoming and all its activities (we also eat a lot of food afterwards)
Here’s to a Great Season!

Well, those are the basics. You’ll get more details as the season progresses, and if you have any questions, you can always ask someone!

We hope you have a great season, and we’ll see you at practice!!