

Dripping Springs High School Band/Color Guard Parents' Handbook (revised 01/2015)

The DS Band Boosters would like to express their sincere thanks to the Hendrickson "Hawk Band" Directors and Boosters, who graciously let us use their Hawk Band/Color Guard Parent's Guide as the inspiration and template for this handbook. In particular we would like to thank Sandy Robards, who compiled and wrote the Hawk Band/Color Guard Parent's Guide, and Hawk Band Director, Garth Gundersen, for all their help with this project.

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome! Your student is now a part of the award winning Tiger Band and the highly successful Dripping Springs Band program. This is the largest program in the High School and is continuing to grow on a yearly basis. It is a very exciting time to be part of a program that continues to meet, and exceed, the challenges it sets for itself. We look forward to excelling in the year ahead with your student's willing participation and your support.

As HS band parents, you will probably have a multitude of questions that we hope this handbook will answer for you. As we progress through marching and concert season, you will be introduced to new terminology, requirements, and events. We hope to answer most of the questions that arise throughout your Freshman year and beyond, thereby enabling you to enjoy it to the fullest!

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WEB SITES

Dripping Springs Bands - <http://dsbands.org/>

Dripping Springs Band Boosters - <http://www.dsbandboosters.org>

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1. PRE-SEASON: THE SUMMER

1.1 PASSOFF OPPORTUNITIES

At the end of the spring semester, band students are given two sets of dates for OPTIONAL marching show music pass-off opportunities for the summer. One is usually in late June, the other in mid-July. In addition, students are informed of which parts of the marching show music need to be memorized and passed off before Band Camp. Pass-off opportunities are scheduled during the morning when Band Directors are available to help individual students with the marching show music and listen to students play off sections of their music from memory. Students who pass off their music before Band Registration are not required to attend some of the afternoon practices before BAND CAMP.

1.2 BAND REGISTRATION

BAND REGISTRATION is the first major band event of the year and is vital for ensuring you have all the correct supplies, uniform pieces, permission slips, medical forms and contact information and pay any fees necessary for the whole year. In addition, volunteers can sign up for all sorts of opportunities to help support the band program and the students sign up for their rooms at Band Camp. A General Information Packet from the Band Directors is mailed to each family in late June that includes forms for BAND REGISTRATION. All forms, including the physical form completed by a doctor, must be completed and turned in at registration.

It is mandatory for each student to attend BAND REGISTRATION with a parent (even Seniors!) so that we can ensure we have all the necessary items completed at one time. This is a very efficient way to make sure that we do not have to keep coming back to band students or families and asking them for things throughout the school year. Students are REQUIRED to bring a parent/guardian, a 3-ring binder, flip folder, music lyre, and completed forms.

BAND REGISTRATION is held in the DSHS Band Hall at the end of July and it marks the beginning of the preseason practices for the band. An outline of these important summer dates is given to each band family the previous spring so that they can plan summer vacations and avoid potential conflicts. A full calendar of dates for the upcoming year, and other pertinent information and forms, are mailed out in the General Information Packet. These dates will also be available on the band booster website. Please complete the forms before attending BAND REGISTRATION – this makes the line go faster.

Attendance times for each grade are staggered for BAND REGISTRATION, starting with the Seniors, to streamline the process as much as possible. You will be given a work sheet of items to be completed and signed off during the evening before your student can sign up for their room at Band Camp. Payment is due at BAND REGISTRATION for any fees due or items purchased. Payments will be made to the DS Band Boosters. Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted. A 3.1% fee will be added to all credit card payments. Tax is already included in all amounts shown on the work sheet.

1.2.1 FEES

In the Dripping Springs Independent School District (DSISD), every student that participates in Middle School or High School Athletics, including High School Band, Cheerleading and Hi-Steppers, is required to pay an Extra-curricular Participation Fee. For 2014-2015, the High School fee is \$125.00.

The Dripping Springs Band program is trying hard to avoid having to go to a 'pay to play' program, like so many larger schools have had to do. The Band Directors do their best to keep costs down, but there are a lot of expenses involved in maintaining a competitive high school band program. The costs include items such as instrument purchase, maintenance and repair, marching music and drill design, additional band staff for percussion, marching and color guard assistance, props, equipment, uniform repairs and replacement, and equipment trailers and transportation, etc.

The Tiger Band does receive money from the school district but it relies more heavily on funds raised by the DS Band Booster organization.

A sample list of the items you may need to purchase (either at BAND REGISTRATION or separately) for your first year in the band program follows. Many of these expenses will be a one-time purchase and will not need to be repeated in future years. Equipment needs vary depending on the instrument your student plays.

ESTIMATED COSTS FOR DSHS BAND PROGRAM

| | | |
|--------------------|-------|--|
| Band Camp | \$205 | Four-day overnight camp at Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas. |
| Transportation | \$40 | Charter Bus Fee |
| UIL Solo Entry Fee | \$8 | Students are required to participate in the UIL Solo Contest in the Spring |

1.2.5 AWAY GAME MEALS

Band Boosters offer the opportunity for your student to order a series of sandwich meals to be provided before we leave for away football games on Friday nights during marching season. For the majority of the away games we need to leave the school quite quickly after school has finished and so we offer the option of providing a to-go sandwich meal to save parents bringing food to the Band Hall for your student. The students do not have time to leave campus to purchase food on away game Fridays. You can order these Away Game Meals at Band Registration, but you must order for the whole marching season or not at all.

For HOME GAMES, many students bring a “second lunch.” The BAND COUNCIL usually sells hot dogs and hamburgers as a fund raiser.

1.2.6 PARENT OPPORTUNITIES

BAND REGISTRATION also offers parents the opportunity to order Band Parent polo shirts and accessories, join Band Boosters, and sign up to volunteer in any of the multitude of areas that the Band Boosters helps support the DS Band program. For details of Band Booster volunteer opportunities see section 4.8.

1.2.7 INSTRUMENT INSURANCE

If you own your student’s instrument it is highly recommended that you purchase some kind of instrument insurance. The school district does not cover the insurance for any privately owned instruments, even if they are transported to and from school events via school transportation. One instrument insurance agency that is used by some students is,

Music Agency Inc., Ph: (817)557-0031 or (800)421-1283.

Strait Music, in Austin, also offers instrument insurance programs.

Other insurance agencies can be found by searching the web.

1.3 BAND CAMP

Band Camp is usually held for 4 days in the first week of August. It is a very important time of intensive instruction for the new students to learn their marching techniques, all students to become familiar with and learn the music for the marching program and start to put together the music and the drill. In addition, it is a great time and place for the new students to integrate into the band and become a part of the Tiger Band family.

Dripping Springs has been very fortunate to be able to hold a residential (overnight) Band Camp off campus, which really helps to focus the students over the 4 days and form a cohesive unit. Your Freshman will have the advantage of starting High School with a ready-made group of friends and peers from all grades.

We hold Band Camp at Trinity University, a small private college in San Antonio, Texas. It is an ideal campus for us, being small yet able to offer all the accommodation, practice, and recreational facilities that we need.

We take plenty of band parent chaperones (maximum 1:10 ratio of chaperones and directors to students). Students are very busy with practice during the day and there are several traditional recreational activities in the evenings such as an egg toss, pool activities, etc.

Students do sometimes have difficulty with the degree of physical activity during the day, particularly if they have been inactive all summer. We highly recommend that your student become acclimated to the Texas heat, with plenty of sunscreen and hydration, in the weeks leading up to band camp. A conditioning camp may be helpful for your particular child. The chaperones do ensure that the students are well hydrated during practice, with multiple water breaks, and a nurse is on hand at all times.

Upon returning to Dripping Springs (August 8th), the Seniors will have a lock-in (with parent chaperones) where they can stay up all night. The lock-in will be held at the Dripping Springs United Methodist Church on RR 12.

All parents/family members are invited to attend Preview Night at the Dripping Springs High School. The students demonstrate some of the things they have learned, and we have an informal reception with refreshments provided by the band families. This year’s Parents Night is August 12th at 8pm in the Competition Gym.

1.4 SUMMER PRACTICE

Practices are scheduled for the band between Band Registration and the start of school to ensure that the band maintains momentum. An overview of the practice schedule is given to parents in the spring to help with summer planning and the detailed list is sent out with the General Information Packet from the Directors at the beginning of July.

2. MARCHING SEASON: THE FALL

2.1 COMMUNICATION (see addendum at end of handbook for more communications information)

2.1.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The majority of the communication between the Band Directors and the parents is done via a weekly announcement email sent from the Band Booster President (email: presidentdsbb@gmail.com). It is vital that you make sure your email contact information is updated at BAND REGISTRATION and you notify the Band Booster President or Directors of any changes throughout the year. Please keep your contact information updated with DSISD's Skyward as well since the Directors may use that to communicate with you.

You can sign up for text-messaging (Celly) at the bottom of the webpage <http://www.dsbands.org/hs/category/celly/>

Your students will also receive a hard copy of the weekly announcements during band rehearsal and all weekly announcement sheets are posted on the DS Band website (www.dsbands.org).

2.1.2 WEBSITES

Both the band and the Band Boosters strive to maintain up-to-date websites, where all the announcements, news, calendars, contacts, forms, fundraisers, events, photos, etc are posted. Please add these websites to your favorites and visit them regularly. The Band Boosters also have a VERY active Facebook page and Twitter account.

DS Bands -www.dsbands.org

DS Band Boosters – www.dsbandboosters.org

2.1.3 SIGNING OUT STUDENTS FROM OFF CAMPUS LOCATIONS

It is very important for parents to note the DSISD regulations regarding signing out your students from an away game or contest. We provide transportation to and from all away games and contests. If you want to sign out your student from the off campus location you must find the chaperone who is in charge of the bus on which your student traveled. The chaperones have a release form, which the parent or legal guardian must sign, before you may take your student.

The parent or legal guardian may only sign out their own child. If you need your child to be taken from the off-campus location by another parent or legal adult, you must obtain a different form from the DSHS Principal's Office (signed by DSHS Principal and parents) in advance. You must give this form to the Band Directors before we leave DSHS for the away game or contest. Once we have this form, the parent given permission to take your child must still sign your child out with the chaperone before leaving.

If parents do not follow these rules it causes problems and delays for the whole band trying to leave the off campus location to come back to the high school. We have to call the parents of every student who has left without being signed out and confirm they are safe before we can leave.

2.2 PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

Texas high school marching bands are considered among the most accomplished and competitive bands in the country. Football is big in Texas and so are the marching bands that perform during half-time. To be able to compete against the best bands takes a complex musical program, and to master it takes practice - a lot of practice and a lot of hard work. Those hours of practice are essential to the success of the band and having perfect attendance for every practice is ideal.

As per UIL regulations, "the directors are limited to 8 hours a week for practice outside the regular school day" (bands from other states don't have that limitation), so the band really needs every member in attendance for every practice.

It's understood that missing a practice sometimes can't be avoided. But if you want your child to have a successful band experience, schedule that doctor's appointment or orthodontist visit for a time that does not interfere with the practice schedule. Students are required to make up any missed practice.

If your child is involved with other activities, such as athletics or choir, make sure to notify the directors so they can work with you to avoid scheduling conflicts. One of the directors will be glad to talk with a coach, or sponsor, to work out a schedule that takes your child's needs into consideration.

If there is bad weather, students are expected to report to the band hall. If there is lightning in the area or heavy rain, the practice will be held indoors. If there is no electrical activity and only light rain, the band may practice outside without instruments. The band directors use a lightning detector to carefully monitor potentially hazardous weather conditions.

Morning practices before school are at the High School. Students may want to bring a clean shirt (and deodorant) to change into afterwards. Evening practices may be at the High School or at the Stadium at the Middle School. The Director will announce ahead of time the location of evening practices and whether a bus will be available to take students to the Stadium. After practice at the Stadium, students (except those in “The Pit”) may take their instrument and go straight home. Otherwise, students must return to the High School and put away their instruments.

Any changes in performance or rehearsal schedule will be communicated with as much notice as possible, usually via email.

2.3 BENCHMARKS

Many of you will be familiar with the benchmark system from DS Middle School. Every six weeks, students are given a series of “benchmarks”, divided into three-week segments, which they need to play-off in front of a Director. They must pass off all of their benchmarks in order to remain eligible to play in the band. If not, they will remain in an instrument techniques class until they are eligible once again.

In High School, students do not always have the opportunity to pass off benchmarks during the school day, so it may mean making time to do that either before or after school.

2.4 PRIVATE LESSONS

Why pay for private lessons? Every student can benefit from one-on-one instruction, improving their technique, and gaining knowledge of their instrument. Private lessons are optional (mandatory for double reeds). The bands are large in high school, and as a result, the directors are unable to provide significant individual help. Private lessons are essential if your child is to grow as a musician.

The initial sign up for private lessons is at the beginning of the fall semester, but depending on private teacher availability, sign up may be anytime throughout the year on a first come first served basis. The Band Directors will hand out private lesson contract forms to all those who are interested and the relevant teacher will then contact you to schedule a time either during the student's band period or outside the class day.

2.5 DSISD NO PASS, NO PLAY GUIDELINE

For some, the Freshman year proves to be difficult; adjusting to the demands of high school, it is easy to become overwhelmed. DSHS has six-week reporting periods with interim report cards every two weeks.

Students can lose eligibility at the end of the first 6 weeks, and at the end of every 6 week grading period, if they have less than a 70 in any class. If ineligible, the student may continue to practice but cannot participate in contests or play at football games. Students may regain eligibility at interim reporting periods every three weeks. Please note this is a UIL guideline and NOT the Directors’ decision. Once the student has regained eligibility, they will be allowed to participate but will not get their permanent marching position back.

2.6 RESERVES

Marching band drills are designed for a fixed instrumentation. The directors do select a minimal number of students to be “reserves”. They rehearse and perform at all football games with the marching band. These reserves need to be ready to fill a hole in the drill if another student becomes ineligible or sick.

Several criteria are taken into account in the selection of reserves:

- Marching Skills – students will be required to pass-off all the basic marching skills to a band director at band camp.
- Music Skills – there are specific dates by which sections of music are due to be memorized and passed-off. The goal is to have every student pass-off every section of the music.
- Attendance, behavior, and no pass no play eligibility history - the directors continually re-evaluate students’ performance throughout the season. If your student is a reserve initially, it does not mean that they will not attain a marching spot on the field during the season.

2.7 BAND LEADERS

2.7.1 DRUM MAJORS

The Drum Majors direct the band during performances in the stands and on the field, and represent the band on the field during awards presentations at competitions. Current DMs and other Tiger Band student leaders are listed on the high school band website, www.dsbands.org

A Drum Major needs to be not only a great musician and conductor, but someone respected by his/her peers. They need to demonstrate high standards personally, academically, and musically, and handle themselves well in the public eye. The Drum Majors are chosen as part of the Section Leader Tryouts towards the end of the spring semester. Interested students must submit an application along with an essay and DSHS faculty evaluations, as well as complete a teaching and conducting audition judged by local, visiting band directors. Band students may collect “points” by participating in band volunteer events, solo events, etc., that will be used in their evaluation.

2.7.2 SECTION LEADERS

The Section Leader's duties during marching season are: to make sure their section members know their music, to help their section with their marching techniques and drill, to perform uniform inspections before leaving for a game or competition, and to keep the section focused on the task at hand. If your student has any questions regarding the band program they should go to their Section Leader first and see if they can help.

The Section Leaders are chosen as part of the Section Leader Tryouts towards the end of the spring semester. Interested students must submit an application along with an essay, DSHS faculty evaluations, and complete a teaching audition judged by local, visiting band directors. Band students may collect "points" by participating in band volunteer events, solo events, etc., that will be used in their evaluation.

The Section Leaders selected for the current year are listed on the Band Booster website (www.dsbandboosters.org).

2.7.3 BAND COUNCIL OFFICERS

The Band Council is responsible for organizing social activities for the band members. These have included activities at band camp, a pool party after summer practices, the Octubafest (sometimes Novembaritone) Halloween costume party, movie nights, etc. They also are responsible for organizing the end of year Band Banquet in May, where the individual and group achievements of the band are celebrated (see section 3.10).

The Band Council officers are elected by the band students at the end of the spring semester, with the exception of the grade level representatives, who are elected during or after band camp. The positions are president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, historian, color guard representative, and 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade representatives.

The Band Council officers selected for the current year are listed on the Band Boosters website (www.dsbandboosters.org).

2.8 COLOR GUARD

The color guard uses dance moves, flags, sabers, rifles and other props to interpret the music that the marching band is playing. Their costumes and flags are designed to complement the show theme and visually enhance the presentation on the field. A marching band alone might sound wonderful and present an interesting show, but it would lack the color and excitement that a good guard adds. The tradition of the color guard is military based, hence the use of the flags and "weapons" in the show. However, the guard is not limited to those props. In the past, we have used fences, ribbons, gold tires and giant picture frames to name a few. Besides performing during Fall Marching Season, they may also compete in Winter Colorguard (see Section 3.9).

2.9 THE MARCHING SHOW

2.9.1 THE UNIFORM

Marching band uniform design has become quite specialized and detailed to ensure each band gives a uniform appearance on the field, highlighting their marching capability and music, and not distracting from the drill.

A "shako" is the black hat that all the band members wear with the uniform, except the tuba players (who wear a beret so as not to catch in their instrument). The "plume" is the feather that is placed in the shako just before the band goes on to the field to march.

For the majority of football games the Tiger Band wear their black pants to march; however, we change to the white pants for contests. The contrast of the white with the marching field means that our drill and marching technique can be seen much more clearly and it is a sign of confidence to the judges.

The school provides the pants, jackets, shakos and plumes. Students must provide the items to wear under their uniforms, which are a plain white t-shirt with sleeves, black spandex shorts, long black or white socks, and black or white marching shoes corresponding with pant color.

2.9.2 THE MUSIC AND DRILL

In December, the directors have a design meeting, discussing what worked in the previous show and what inspires them. During that meeting, they reach an agreement on a general direction they will take with the next season's show. Then they go to professional music and drill designers with ideas. An overview of the current year's show can be found on the band website (www.dsbands.org). The cost of the music ranges from \$2500 - \$4000, and the marching drill ranges from \$5000 - \$7000. DSBB pays for both.

2.10 MARCHING CONTESTS

The Tiger Band usually competes in 4-5 marching contests each season, in addition to any UIL contests. We compete in contests to get feedback on our performance from qualified judges. From this, we can assess our progress in marching, musicality, performance, and overall development of our program. In addition, it is exciting to see how we line up against other bands across the State.

2.10.1 TYPES OF CONTESTS

The Tiger Band competes in several different types of marching contests each year. They are:

- UIL (University Interscholastic League) - The UIL has divided Texas into 28 regions (1 through 28), which are grouped into 7 Areas (A through G). Dripping Springs is in Region 18, Area D. The UIL also categorizes high schools by student enrollment size; Dripping Springs HS is currently categorized as a 5A High School. Each October, a marching contest is held in each region. In alternate years (1A, 2A, 4A and 6A schools in even-numbered years, 3A and 5A in odd-numbered years); qualifying bands get the opportunity to compete in the State Marching Band Championship (held in November). The bands first compete in a Region competition, and if they receive a superior rating (an overall 1), they advance to Area competition. The top scoring 2-4 bands (depending on the number of competitors) in Area then go on to compete for State honors. In non-State years, the bands compete at the Regional level but only for ratings, not placement.

Our area is very competitive, with a number of high caliber bands. The Tiger Band advanced to the State Championship for the first time as a 4A school in 2007 and placed 8th in the State. The band returned to State competition in 2009 and won 1st place! In 2011, the band won second place. In 2014, the band's Winter Drumline was the Texas State Champion in Class 4A.

- USSBA (United States Scholastic Band Association) Central Texas Preview and State Contests - The USSBA is the sister organization to the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps. The organization was created in 1988 with the purpose of providing high school band programs with a competitive circuit featuring the best judges from across the country.

- Invitational Contests - The majority of the contests in which the Tiger Band competes are "invitational contests", such as Westlake, Capital City, Sam Houston State in Huntsville, or Centennial Contest in Dallas. Judging at these competitions often uses a mixture of the systems above.

- BOA (Bands of America) - BOA division on Music for All, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that promotes high school music education through competitions and festivals held around the country.

2.10.2 JUDGING CRITERIA

Judges evaluate different aspects of a marching show. At most contests, judges are looking at how well the students are achieving their responsibilities in the areas of marching, music, and color guard. Show design and effect are also evaluated and can be part of the overall score.

For another perspective on competition judging, please read the following article, written by a former long-time band booster from another school. (The following is an excerpt from an article written by George Yenetchi, former Band Booster, R.S.Sterling HS Band.)

Why You May Not Agree with Marching Contest Judges (and why it is not the judge's fault)

"...Some marching show spectators (especially band members and their parents) find that they sometimes disagree with marching contest judges' decisions. That is OK. There are many reasons you might be in honest disagreement with good judges. Judges look for performance excellence not entertainment value. A skilled performance of a dull show will score better than a mediocre performance of an interesting show. (Of course, the ideal is a great performance of a great show.) Audience members are impressed by entertainment value, as well they should be. They should not compare their opinion of a show, which was based on how well they were entertained, with the opinion of the judges who were evaluating how well specific skills were demonstrated.

Contest guidelines require that bands demonstrate certain specific skills in performance. For example, guidelines often require that bands demonstrate both loud and soft playing (BOA guidelines specify "all dynamic levels".) A band that only plays loudly, no matter how well they do it, will lose points. A loud thrilling show that brings the audience to its feet cheering and clapping may therefore score poorly. Another area that often lowers the scores of bands that look and sound very good is woodwinds. Increasingly, judging guidelines want the woodwinds to get equal time with the brass and percussion. The days when clarinets could be seen and not heard are past. Judges pay very little attention to (band) size, uniforms etc. Just like an elephant, a 400-piece band is impressive just by being there. However, judges give no points for being there. At most contests, judges ignore who has the nicest uniforms, the prettiest flags, or the best props. It is hard when you have just spent \$80,000 on uniforms and band parents have worked for four weeks making props, to realize that the judges are more worried about how your band's feet look.

Judges can only judge the one performance they see. Judges do not know how hard the kids have worked. They don't know that the soloist got sick. They don't know that the band performed the show better last week. They don't know what special adversity your band overcame. If they knew, they might be even more impressed than you are, but they don't know.

Judges detect small mistakes. Judges have the training and experience to detect problems with intonation, tone quality, balance, ensemble, etc. These subtleties aren't even noticed by normal people. These small differences separate the very, very good from the merely very good. Just because these differences are tiny does not mean that they are not real.

All artistic judgments are subject to subjectivity. Even the best judges do not always agree. One judge may be more concerned with intonation while another will care more about ensemble. These are not evil biases. These are legitimate artistic differences. At some contests, you get judges who tend to pay less attention to the particular weak points of your band and at other contests you don't.

As we enter the 3rd Millennium, the average level of school band performance is as high as it has ever been. It is still improving. As the real quality differences among the bands decrease, the judges' job becomes harder and the rankings mean less..."

2.10.3 YOUR ROLE

One of the most uplifting aspects to attending competitions is how supportive most of the other parents and fans are of every band that competes. But there are exceptions. Some parents from other schools have been overheard loudly grumbling about the ineptness of a particular band, how the judges messed up, and/or how they show their favoritism to a particular band. Your role is more than just to cheer on the Tiger Band (although you are encouraged to do so!); when you are in the stands in your Tiger Band show shirt or DS Band Booster shirt, you represent our band and our community. Try to keep in mind that everyone is there to cheer for a particular band, and be supportive and kind to all.

- Keep any comments about other bands or color guards positive.
- Be courteous and don't talk or get up to walk around during a performance.
- Don't boo, jeer, use irritating noise makers (such as air horns), or otherwise be obnoxious.
- Don't grumble or complain about the judges' decision. Be a good role model.

MARCHING BAND CONTEST ETIQUETTE

One of the most important parts of a band show is the audience. It is very disappointing for band members who spend weeks and months preparing a show to walk into a large stadium and find that the seats are empty. There are many types of spectators at a band show and they have many different reasons for coming to the show. However, they all have one thing in common and that is that they should be allowed to enjoy the experience.

Things you should do at a band show:

Support all bands. Regardless of which band is on the field you should applaud or even cheer when they do a good job. Reaction from the crowd will encourage the band to perform better and will result in a more enjoyable show for the audience.

Watch the whole show. Observe different elements of the bands performance. Your interest may be percussion, but you might be surprised with the work the color guard is doing. Often, several things are going on at once in a show. If you watch a show several times, you may see something new on each occasion.

Show up early. This is especially true for supporters of larger class bands. Many smaller class bands have great shows. Arrive early at the next show and see what you have been missing.

Buy something from the concession stand. In many cases a band competition may be the major source of a band programs yearly budget. They have made a large investment and would appreciate your support. In most cases you will find that the prices are much less than what you will pay at your local movie theater.

Things that you should avoid at a band show:

It is important to realize that although it is fun to visit with family and friends during a contest, it is unfair to distract other spectators from enjoying the show. This is true at any performance, including a marching band performance. Be respectful of all other spectators and hopefully they will extend you the same courtesy.

Do not leave or enter the stadium while a band is performing. Try to avoid any unnecessary movement, especially while a band is performing. At most contests, the time for each band is fifteen minutes. Each show lasts around 7 to 9 minutes so that gives you plenty of time between bands to leave the seating area for concessions or to enter the stadium.

Do not talk on your cell phone. Turn off your cell phone or set it to vibrate. If someone calls you on your cell phone you can return the call between bands. Please do not talk on your phone during a performance.

Do not allow children to play in the stands and distract other spectators. Obviously, children are the future of this activity. It is good for them to see why big brother and big sister are always at practice and are not at home. However for their safety and as a courtesy to others, they should not be allowed to run up and down steps and play in the aisles, so others may enjoy the show.

Do not make negative comments about other bands. That color guard uniform that you don't like may have been made by that guard member's mother that is sitting behind you. That man sitting in front of you could be the arranger or drill designer or even the band director. If you don't have something nice to say then you probably should not say it. Remember how hard your bands members have worked to get their show ready for the field. Chances are that the other bands have worked just as hard to get their show ready.

Do not obstruct the view of others. Please avoid standing in front of people trying to watch the show. If you have a banner to display, try to do so from the top of the stands or in some way that others can still see the bands.

Do not boo other bands or the contest results during the awards. Unfortunately, everyone is not going to agree on contest results. Booing the award winners, or the judges, will not accomplish positive results.

Hopefully these tips will make your experience more enjoyable as you cheer for your favorite band and support all the performers of this amazing art form.

2.10.4 WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Here are some things you learn after a season of marching contests, but you wish you'd known before it:

- Take a hat and sunscreen, wear a cooling neck wrap - and for Westlake, bring an umbrella! (ask experienced band parents).
- Buy patches. They are inexpensive and can either be put on your child's letter jacket when he/she earns it or put in a shadow box for display. It can be impressive to have patches representing all the competitions in which your child participated.
- Don't buy the first DVD offered at the first contest. Yes, it can be exciting to see that performance over and over again. However, production values are not very good at some venues, and the band improves as the season progresses.
- Check out the SmugMug Gallery of photos on our band booster website, for close ups of your child. Our band benefits from your purchases. Can't find a shot you like? Check out the Jolesh Photography Web site. When you see several professional photographers on the field during a UIL competition, it's likely they are with Jolesh Photography. If you want a close-up, action shot of your child marching, Jolesch will probably have a good one available to order a few weeks after the competition. Their packages are not cheap, and our band does not get any of the proceeds, but their photographs are unique.

2.11 INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

The TMEA (Texas Music Educators Association) coordinates an individual competition to select students for District, Region, Area, and All-State Bands. These are concert bands rather than marching bands, however only the Region and All-State bands actually perform. The TMEA utilizes similar Region, Area and enrollment size designations as set by UIL.

Your student will receive their Region audition music at the beginning of the school year in August. The same music is provided for all grade levels and playing ability, so it can be quite challenging for the Freshmen, however, everyone is encouraged to audition as it provides excellent experience for future years.

Region auditions are held in November or December. Participation in Region auditions is mandatory for students in DSHS Wind Ensemble but optional for students in Symphonic and Concert bands. It does count towards DSHS leadership tryouts at the end of the year. From the Region auditions students may be placed in the District band and the top-scoring students are placed in the Region Concert or Symphonic Band (sometimes called the Wind Ensemble). The very best students are also designated to advance to the Area competition. The Region Concert and Symphonic bands have a clinic and performance in December or January.

The Area contest takes place in January and from that the top scoring students are placed in the Texas All-State band. This is a huge accomplishment to be ranked among the top players in the State! The All-State Bands participate in a clinic and performance at the TMEA conference in February.

2.12 DRUMLINE CONTESTS

The Drumline will be competing in their own specific contests during the year, primarily during Winter Drumline. DSHS now hosts their own Drumline Contest - traditionally on the 3rd Saturday in September - at which the Tiger Band Drumline performs an exhibition.

2.13 BAND JARGON

Some terms you may not have heard before:

Auxiliaries: another term for Color Guards.

Battery: the group of percussionists who play a variety of marching percussion instruments (drums, cymbals). They are known for their ability to do the “crab-step”, a step-over sideways marching step.

The Pit: also known as the Frontline or Front Ensemble. It consists of stationary percussion instruments such as the marimba, vibraphone, bells, xylophone, electronic timpani, cymbals, and chimes.

Drumline: consists of the Battery and the Pit.

Quads: a set of multiple tenor drums worn by percussionists in the drumline.

2.14 FOOTBALL GAMES

Home games are currently held at the Stadium at the Middle School. For home games, a bus will take students from the High School to the Stadium and back to the High School after the game. At home games, the Tiger Band marches to the stadium from the band hall about a half hour before the kickoff. When the second quarter of the game is almost over, the band leaves the stands and goes onto the track to begin warming up. The Tiger Band performs their marching show on the field during the half-time break. They remain on the track in front of the home crowd, playing spirit songs to pump up the crowd for the beginning of the third quarter, before returning to the stands for the rest of the game.

At each game, the Band Directors nominate a band member as “Marcher of the Week” and the Band Council nominates a band member as “Most Spirited of the Week”. Both are announced just before the commencement of the half-time show. **The Marcher of the Week gets to wear the “Nacho Poncho” over their uniform and eat a plate of nachos during the third quarter while the band plays “Macho Man” to them.**

After the game, the band remains at the stadium until most of the crowd has left. Sometimes, they will run through the show one more time in the stands. Members then march out as a group. If the Tiger Band has been in formal uniform there is a strict procedure that the students must follow to return their uniforms to the storage closet, which may take up to half an hour or more to process all the students. If you are waiting for your child, we welcome your assistance with unloading trailers. Sometimes a video of the performance is shown for those interested in watching, after the uniforms are turned in. Parents are welcome to come and watch the video.

If you want to take your student directly from an away football game please follow the procedures for signing out your students with the chaperones as detailed in Section 2.1.3. Students must ensure they have delegated someone responsible to return their uniform to the closet in the band hall and put up their instrument for them.

3. CONCERT SEASON: THE SPRING

3.1 COMMUNICATION

Announcements from the Band Directors or email via the Band Booster President continues to be the main method of communication during concert season. Weekly announcement sheets are given to the students, and Celly texts are sent out for rehearsals and performances. Up-to-date information is also posted on both the band and booster websites (www.dsbands.org and www.dsbandboosters.org) as well as the booster Facebook page (Dripping Springs Tiger Band Boosters, and we encourage you to continue to check them regularly.

The same rules for checking out students from off campus contests apply as set out in Section 2.1.3.

3.2 CONCERT BANDS

Dripping Springs High School has three concert bands: Concert, Symphonic, and Wind Ensemble. Auditions for placement in these bands takes place at the end of the previous school year in April or May, utilizing specific band audition music. Placement for Percussion is in December after Marching Season.

3.3 SECTIONALS

Concert and Symphonic Bands, and the Wind Ensemble, have a sectional practice schedule that will be distributed at the beginning of the spring semester. Sectionals can either be scheduled before or after school. The Band Directors will ask the students to let them know of any potential conflicts before they schedule the sectional practice times.

3.4 CONCERTS

All three HS bands give three concerts during the year. The first is the Holiday Concert in December, followed by the Winter Concert in February and finally, the Spring Concert in May. There may also be opportunities to watch the bands rehearse with outside clinicians during the season.

3.5 CONCERT UNIFORM

The band program provides the concert uniform. It utilizes the black marching pants with a plain black jacket. Students must provide their long black socks and black marching shoes, and a plain t-shirt with sleeves to wear under the jacket.

3.6 COMPETITIONS

Although concert band season is not nearly as hectic as marching season, there are several important competitions:

- UIL (University Interscholastic League) Solo and Ensemble - competition for high school students. All DSHS band students are required to compete. Pieces are selected at different “class” levels for each student depending on playing ability. All Seniors must perform a Class 1 piece. Students are graded on a level 1-3, with 1 being the highest rating. If a student receives a Level 1 on a Class 1 piece that has been memorized, they qualify to attend the State UIL Solo and Ensemble competition at the University of Texas. Ensembles do not have to memorize the music, but must receive a Class 1 to qualify to attend the State contest in May. Please make sure that your student is available on the weekend the State competition is scheduled, particularly if they are part of an ensemble.
- UIL Concert and Sightreading - competition for High School bands. This is typically held in April and the bands can receive a rating between 1-3. A 1 being the highest rating.
- State Honor Band - A recording of the Wind Ensemble’s UIL music is submitted for judging on the Region level. If the band receives a high enough score, it goes to compete in Area. If the recording is determined to be one of the top two in Area, it goes on for judging at the State level. The top scoring band at the State level is designated State Honor Band for the following year and they are invited to perform at the Texas Music Educators Clinic and Convention in February.
- Additional Concert contests may be scheduled for the Wind Ensemble during May, at the discretion of the Band Directors.

3.7 WINTER DRUMLINE

Winter Drumline competitions are held indoors, usually in gymnasiums, in the spring, often in coordination with the Texas Color Guard Circuit (TCGC). The Winter Drumline may consist of percussion students as well as non-percussion students, the latter often performing on the cymbals or keyboard. A large, colored tarp is often used to cover the floor, helping to set the stage for the performance. Units are judged on the effect of the design of the show, and the aptitude of the members in movement and equipment work. Competitions are generally held from January through early April, with circuit championships in early April. Fees to participate in Winter Drumline are in addition to regular band fees.

3.8 WINTER GUARD

Winter Guard (color guard) competitions are held indoors, usually in gymnasiums, in the spring. Winter Guards perform shows set to edited, recorded music and utilize the usual guard accoutrements of flags, sabers, and rifles, as well as other props. A large, colored tarp is often used to cover the floor, helping to set the stage for the performance. Units are judged on the effect of the design of the show, and the aptitude of the members in movement and equipment work.

Competitions are generally held from January through early April. Winter Guard International (WGI) sponsors widely attended regional championships leading to the national championship. The Texas Color Guard Circuit (TCGC) offers another competitive outlet, with circuit championships in late March or early April. For the Varsity Guard, there may be additional costume fees depending on the show concept and needs. There may be some overnight hotel fees that each student is responsible for depending on when and where the contests are located.

3.9 THE BAND BANQUET

In May, the Band Council coordinates a Band Banquet to which all band family members are invited to attend. It is a celebration of all the Band's group and individual achievements throughout the year. Awards are given out, the Seniors are recognized, the volunteers thanked, and there is a slide show reflecting on the year's successes.

3.10 JAZZ BAND

The Jazz Band meets for a daily class period throughout the year. All band instruments are eligible except flute, clarinet, oboe and bassoon. In addition, other instruments such as bass guitar and keyboards are included. Students playing these non-traditional band instruments do not need to be a part of the DS Band program but will need to audition with the Band Directors prior to signing up for the class.

The Jazz band performs at several events during the year. Past events include:

- An Evening of Jazz at the Salt Lick in February
- Founders Day Festival Celebrations in April
- Various events at the Middle school and Elementary schools
- Texas State University Jazz Band Concert in the Spring

3.11 BAND TRIPS

3.11.1 BIG BAND TRIP

Once every four years, the Tiger Band and Color Guard take a "Big Trip" for 5-6 days out of state. Attendance on this trip is optional. It is usually scheduled for 2 days before Spring Break until the Monday or Tuesday of Spring Break. The 2013 trip was to Orlando, Florida, and included time at Universal Studios and Disneyland and the opportunity to visit the Disney Studios and record a cartoon soundtrack as a session musician. The next big trip is scheduled for March 2017 and the destination is yet to be determined.

3.11.2 INTERIM BAND TRIP

In the second year between the big trips, the Tiger Band goes on a shorter band trip, within the State of Texas, either during the marching band season or second semester during concert season.

4. DRIPPING SPRINGS BAND BOOSTERS

4.1 PURPOSE

The Dripping Springs Band Boosters is incorporated as a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization to provide both fiscal and organizational support for the Dripping Springs Band Programs at the High School and Middle School.

The school district is not able to cover all the items necessary to make the DS Band Program competitive with the best bands in Texas. By offering volunteer support to manage many of the organizational tasks associated with such a large program, we can enable the band directors to do what they do best, teach our students.

4.2 BAND BOOSTER BOARD

The DS Band Booster Board is elected on an annual basis at the Annual Meeting in April for the following fiscal year, which runs from June 1st – May 31st. Any Booster member may seek election for office. If you have a child in band, you are a member. Dues are optional.

The Board is compiled of the following officers eligible to vote, with the exception of the President, at the Board meetings. See http://www.dsbandboosters.org/dsbb_about/dsbb_booster-board/ for how to contact the Board members.

President - responsible for the overall coordination of the Band Boosters, the general communication between the Directors and the band parents, and presiding over all booster board and general membership meetings. Votes only in the case of a tie.

Secretary - responsible for taking the minutes at all board and general membership meetings, posting the approved minutes in the Band Hall and on the website, maintaining files of previous minutes and agendas. The Secretary keeps copies of all the by-laws and other legal documents, and gives all notices as provided in the by-laws or as required by law.

Treasurer - responsible for the financial record keeping of the organization including preparation and tracking of the budget, all deposits and withdrawals, and writing of checks. A monthly financial report is given at every general membership meeting.

VP Fundraising - responsible for overall coordination of the fundraising events. Most of these events have separate organizing committees.

VP Concessions - responsible for coordinating the work and volunteers for the concession stand for home football games during the setup and first half of the games on both Thursday and Friday nights.

VP Chaperones (incl. pit, prop, trailers)- responsible for coordinating the chaperones for home football games and all away events.

VP Uniforms - responsible for coordinating the fitting, distribution and check-in, maintenance and cleaning of all uniforms.

VP of Pit Crew - responsible for coordinating the volunteers who help move the percussion pit equipment onto the field before the show, and off the field when the band finishes.

VP of Trailers - responsible for coordinating the transportation of all band equipment, overseeing both volunteers and trailers themselves.

VP Membership - responsible for collating all the booster membership forms (MS & HS) and providing a membership directory.

VP Communications - responsible for maintaining the booster website and social media accounts. Also responsible for coordinating any publicity articles in local publications and on DSISD websites related to the DS band programs and/or Band Boosters.

Color Guard Liaison - represents the Color Guard in the booster organization.

Percussion Liaison - represents the Percussion group in the booster organization and is the lead coordinator of the annual Drumline Contest.

Middle School Liaison(s) - represent the middle school band students in the booster organization. The middle school is currently comprised of two Beginning Bands (Maroon and Gold), a Concert and a Symphonic Band, and a Wind Ensemble. The liaison supports the MS Band Directors when requested.

In addition, the Booster club has the following appointed positions, who are not eligible to vote at the Board meetings:

President Elect - responsible for working with the President, presiding over booster board and general membership meetings in the absence of the President. Votes only in the case of a tie and only when acting in the capacity of president.

Historian - responsible for keeping a photographic record of the band activities throughout the year.

Parliamentarian - responsible for ensuring that the business of the organization is conducted within the existing by-laws and procedural regulations.

HEB Card Program Coordinator(s) - responsible for coordinating the logistics of the HEB card program through mail-order and neighborhood contacts.

**Current board members, with contact information, are listed on the DS Band Booster website
(www.dsbandboosters.org)**

4.3 MEMBERSHIP

Any family who has a child in either the middle or high school band program is a member of the DS Band Booster organization and is entitled to vote at the general membership meetings. There is a suggested Band Booster annual membership donation of \$25/yr per family. This covers families with siblings even if they are in both the middle and high schools.

The Band Booster membership form is distributed with all the documents to be filled out for BAND REGISTRATION in July, however, families may join at any time throughout the year. Membership forms can be downloaded from the Band Booster website (www.dsbandboosters.org).

Each year, the Band Boosters compile a membership directory for all those members who provide their information and agree to its being shared. This directory is for Band Booster use only. Members may elect not to be included in the directory.

4.4 COMMUNICATION

Most of the communication regarding Band Booster volunteer needs and events takes place via email from the Band Booster President. It is very important that we have your correct email information on paperwork collected at BAND REGISTRATION. If your information changes during the year please be sure to let the Band Directors and the Band Booster President know. The Band Booster website and Facebook page (Dripping Springs Tiger Band Boosters) are also very valuable sources of information.

4.5 MEETINGS

Band Booster general membership meetings are held the third Monday of the month, at 7:00pm in the HS Band Hall. There are some occasions throughout the year when the third Monday is a school holiday, in which case those meetings are rescheduled. A full list of all meetings throughout the year is available on the Booster website (www.dsbandboosters.org).

The April meeting is designated as the Annual Meeting, when elections take place for the next year's Board officers.

4.6 WEBSITES

The Band Boosters has its own website (www.dsbandboosters.org) The booster website covers the following:

- News Items about the Bands
- Upcoming Events and a Booster Calendar
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Board Contact Information
- Meeting Agendas and Minutes
- Information on all the Fundraisers
- Parent Information/Booster Forms
- Sponsors and sponsorship information

The Band Program website, www.dsbands.org, is updated by the directors and contains information for your student including:

- Band Program calendar
- Band Program overview
- Copies of the Weekly Announcements, Celly feed
- Band Forms
- Information for Students, including current leadership list
- Photos/Link to SmugMug
- Band Music
- Tiger Band Achievements

We have tried to avoid duplication of information between websites wherever possible. These are both very useful sources of information throughout the year, and we encourage you to add them to your favorites and visit them regularly.

4.7 FUNDRAISERS

The Boosters organization holds several fundraisers throughout the year to be able to pay for items in the band program budget that are not covered by the school district. Currently, these include items such as music and drill for the marching program, additional instructors for percussion and color guard, props for the marching program, a music library, percussion supplements, smart music program, an electronic timpani, etc. Any items purchased by the booster organization are intended to benefit the band program as a whole.

4.7.1 HEB CARDS

Purchasing HEB/Central Market Gift cards each month is an easy way for you, your family, and friends to support the band without spending any additional out-of-pocket money. You simply purchase gift cards at their face value (\$20, \$50 and \$100 increments) and HEB donates a percentage of the card value to the Dripping Springs Band Boosters. Gift cards can be used on all food, gas, pharmacy, cafeteria, or photo purchases --anything you usually write a check for at HEB or Central Market. The Boosters sell HEB Cards through Neighborhood Contacts and by mail-order. To learn more about this program, including how to purchase cards, please go to the DS Band Booster website (www.dsbandboosters.org) or email hebcards@dsbandboosters.org

4.7.2 CONCESSIONS

The Band Boosters have a contract with the Athletic Boosters (renewed once every 10 yrs., most recently in 2011) to coordinate and provide volunteers for the preparation and operation of the concession stand throughout the first half of all home games at the MS stadium (Thursday JV/Freshman and Friday Varsity). The season's profit from the concession stand is split equally between the Athletic and Band Boosters.

4.7.3 AN EVENING OF JAZZ AT THE SALT LICK

In late February, the Band Boosters hold their biggest fundraiser of the year. An Evening of Jazz at the Salt Lick. The event is held at the Salt Lick Pavilion on FM 1826 and the food is catered by the Salt Lick BBQ Restaurant. The High School Jazz Band provides the entertainment and there is a large Silent Auction. This is a fun event for both students and parents (max. 750 attendees) and thanks to the generosity of the Salt Lick, it is an excellent fund raiser.

4.7.4 DRUMLINE CONTEST

The Band Boosters holds an annual Drumline Contest on the 3rd Saturday in September. We rely on sponsorships, drumline registrations, and concessions to help raise funds for the band program.

4.7.5 NO FUSS FUNDRAISING

Many area businesses will give a percentage of specific proceeds to the band boosters. See which businesses on our website! The boosters also receive a percentage of proceeds from Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com) when users select Dripping Springs Band Boosters Inc when they sign in.

For more information about any of the fundraisers listed above, please visit the website (www.dsbandboosters.org).

4.7.6 SPECIFIC GROUP FUNDRAISERS

Specific groups, such as Percussion or Color Guard, may do their own fundraisers throughout the year to supplement their specific group's needs. The parents of students in these specific groups lead the volunteer effort to coordinate these fundraisers.

4.8 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

None of the volunteer positions described below require any kind of previous experience and we promise to provide all the "on the job" training necessary, you just need to show up and have fun! The first opportunity to sign up to help in any of the areas described is at BAND REGISTRATION in July. There will also be plenty of other requests for help throughout the year!

4.8.1 CHAPERONES

We need parent chaperones for every football game (home or away) and all marching contests or UIL events that the band attends. Chaperones check students on and off the buses, and sign out any students who leave from the off-campus location. You will stay with the band in the bleachers throughout the event; at full-day marching contests, you also stay with the band for warm-up, meals, nap time, etc. If a student becomes ill, a chaperone may need to stay with that student on a bus and fore go seeing the band's performance. We strive to have a nurse accompany the band to all events, either as a chaperone, or in addition to the chaperones.

We prefer that chaperones ride the buses to away games or marching contests, as we need two chaperones on each bus (in addition to one Band Director per bus). If you want to help and absolutely cannot ride the bus, you may drive yourself or ride with a trailer puller.

4.8.2 PIT AND PROP CREW

For every game (home and away), or marching contest, we need a group of parents to help move the percussion pit equipment, and props, onto and off of the field, before and after our show respectively. This is key to helping our performance run smoothly. The band students will direct you regarding what to take and where to place it. For away games and events, pit/prop volunteers can also be part of the chaperone crew; but for home games, pit/prop crew can watch the game from the stands, then join the percussion group on the track 6 min. before half-time, and return to the stands by the 3rd quarter.

4.8.3 TRAILER PULL

The band takes two large trailers to all away games and events, to transport all our instruments and equipment. Occasionally we also need to take a smaller trailer, particularly if the marching show includes large or multiple props. DSISD Transportation pulls the large trailers, but we do need one willing parent with a 1/2 ton truck and bumper pull (2 5/16 inch ball hitch) to pull our smaller trailer when needed. This trailer is about the size of a medium horse or stock trailer, but is quite heavy when fully loaded. In addition, the Color Guard requires a parent to pull the small trailer to contests during the Winter Guard season in the Spring semester.

Your auto insurance policy should cover the trailer once it is hooked up to your vehicle, but you might want to confirm this with your particular insurance provider.

4.8.4 UNIFORMS

The Uniform VP and volunteers do an amazing job fitting all the uniforms within the first few weeks of school. This involves fitting, making alterations, and pressing. If you have basic hand sewing or ironing skills and would be willing to help, they would be most grateful. This can be a fairly flexible job time-wise. The uniform crew has a very organized system for distributing and collecting uniforms on game and contest days. This includes volunteer help upon the bands return to the Band Hall. This is a great volunteer opportunity for parents of non-driving students, as you would just be helping out while you're waiting for your student anyway.