

Welcome New Parents of the Herndon High School 2016 Marching Band!

This information has been put together by a group of new parents who spent a large portion of their “rookie year” in various stages of confusion. In the many hours spent together watching practices and performances, waiting to pick up kids, and following various school busses, we asked lots of questions.

As novice band parents, of course we wanted to know what we should do. After all, the only people who were even more confused, and looking to us for answers, were our children. We wanted to share with the “upcoming rookie parents” some of the answers to these many questions before we too forget how it felt not knowing what was going on...(of course we still don't have all the answers)!

Being a member of the Herndon High Marching Band program will bring your children an interesting, and fulfilling educational experience. They will work hard and experience many triumphs, as well as downfalls, preparing them for the real world after high school.

We sincerely hope this guide will answer some important questions about time management, time commitment, band fees and how to pay for them, fundraising, and uniforms. We would also like to give you some “insider” information on what it takes to be a band student, and a band parent!

***How Will My Student Have Time?* TIME MANAGEMENT**

How will our children have the time to go to rehearsals after school, perform at four Friday night football games, and compete on Saturdays five to six weekends? How will they have the time to do all of this, within a three-month period, and keep up their grades??

TIME MANAGEMENT will be the most important tool that your children will acquire when they become members of the Herndon band program.

The students quickly learn that they must use every minute of their day wisely. The time not spent in practice has to be spent doing schoolwork, there is no other choice and they know that. At any given time you will find students in the band room, out in the hallway, or in any other space available doing homework. This is taught to them when they first join the program and it is expected of them. Remember, most band members are Honors, AP, or Advanced Diploma students. Your student will learn how to keep a schedule, how to be punctual, and how to manage time priorities.

As soon as we know detailed schedules, they are posted on our website. It will list every rehearsal, football game, and competition your student will be required to attend the next three months. You can view this schedule on the Bands web site at www.Herndonband.org. This schedule will now become a permanent bookmark in your browser. The calendar data is in a Google Calendar format, so it is downloadable to smart phones. Your student will also become punctual. They will be taught the meaning of the phrase...

“If you're early, you're on time; if you're on time; you're late”.

Finally, your student will learn how to set priorities. No longer will you see your children staring mindlessly at the television, or playing video games and computer games for hours upon hours. Band rehearsals and homework will now fill their free time. (If only the band program could teach them to make time to take out the garbage without being reminded 100 times!!!)

Scheduled rehearsal times are always a big question for those new to Herndon. Our published rehearsal times are the times that we will be actively involved in rehearsing the band. For example, if the published rehearsal time says 6:00-9:00, that means that the band will be called to attention at 6:00 and the actual rehearsal will be over at 9:00. That means for a 6:00 rehearsal a student needs to be at the band room early enough to 1) take care of their set-up responsibilities and 2) get their instruments, equipment, and themselves to the rehearsal facility before 6:00. That usually means 15-20 minutes prior to the scheduled beginning of rehearsal would be a good time to arrive. The rehearsal facilities vary from day to day and are at various locations around the Herndon campus. When the actual rehearsal is over it can take from 20-30 minutes to put away the equipment, make announcements, pass out forms, answer questions and get dismissed. Our band is a unit. We do everything together. So we all stay until everyone has completed his or her responsibilities for the rehearsal and everything is put away. The better the students work, the sooner they are dismissed.

What is the Time Commitment?

Without a doubt, band is a big time commitment. There are rehearsals at least three times a week, football games on Friday nights, plus competitions and assessments on the weekends. Band Camp which lasts three weeks, Tag Day, fundraising, practice, and maybe even private lessons. As we discussed above, time management is the key to success.

What About the Pre-Season Marching Band Rehearsals?

YES, BAND CAMP IS REQUIRED if you want a spot in the show. Plan ahead! There have been times when students and families did not realize that there was a pre-season rehearsal time (formally known as "Band Camp"), or that it is required. They are not allowed to leave campus during the sessions. The August/September Pre-Season rehearsals are mandatory. Your student must attend ALL sessions without interruption. Please arrange family vacations, doctor's visits, jobs and family time at a time other than during these rehearsals. Band is the ultimate group activity, and if one member is missing, it has an effect on the entire group. We count on your student to be there and to do their best.

What About Rehearsals?

DOES MY STUDENT REALLY HAVE TO BE THERE?

Rehearsals during Marching Band season are mandatory. One absent member will disrupt rehearsal for all members of the band. To be able to put the best possible musical product on the field, the staff and director need for all members of the band to be present during all scheduled rehearsals. Management of a band this size is a monumental task and it becomes next to impossible if members of the band are absent. Please help your student make every effort to be there.

How Do Parents Get Involved?

PARENT INVOLVEMENT = A SUCCESSFUL BAND PROGRAM

Getting involved in the band program will give you the opportunity to share with your student the last four years of their education, these years that go so fast and are rarely enjoyed by many parents. Your student might say they'd rather not have you around, but most parents actually learn that in reality they appreciate your involvement and will thank you in the future.

HHS is fortunate to have a great instructional staff. The band parents are needed to support the director, and help with the details of fundraising, transporting, feeding and watering an organization this size. The band needs parents to be able to function; it is for this reason that we urge you to get involved. Join one of the many committees; we need your help. Grandparents, siblings, or any member of your family can get involved and make a difference. Join the Band Parents Association; it is a great way to meet the parents and the kids your student will be spending much of their time with for the next few months.

The easiest ways to volunteer is email Volunteer@HerndonBand.org, or respond to one of the various volunteer requests sent by our volunteer coordinator. We also encourage parents to attend the monthly Herndon High School Band Parents Association (HHSBPA) meetings where you will learn more about the program and where it needs your help.

Ask how can I help?" It is fun, and you meet other parents with the same interests as you. As a guideline, it is recommended that every family contribute at least 10 hours to the Band Program.

How Do We Keep Informed?

For up to date information, join the band Facebook page - Herndon Band: The Pride of Herndon. The herndonband.org web site is a place that you will want to visit often not only to keep informed, but also to view the most recent pictures of the band's activities. It is here that you will find the latest information on all upcoming events and fundraising opportunities.

How Do We Pay For This?

There are many questions about the economic impact of the Band Program. While your middle school programs traditionally did not have fees, the high school band program is very different. When we hear the bottom line, we sometimes wonder how we are going to be able to raise the funds needed for our children to be able to continue the pursuit of their musical interest. We do not want the economic factor to keep any student from participating in band. Throughout the year the HHSBPA works hard to offset marching band and spring trip costs for all students. Since new IRS guidelines don't allow us to fundraise directly to student accounts, we have to all work together to make sure our major fundraisers are successful for everyone. Payment due dates are not flexible; however, unique circumstances can always be discussed with the band director or HHSBPA Treasurer.

Keep informed about fundraising opportunities; by visiting the FaceBook page, band website and attending the HHS Band Parent Association meetings. Fundraising does help minimize your payments.

Uniforms, Uniforms – What Do They Wear?

Summer Marching Band & Rehearsals students should wear comfortable closed toe shoes with good support (no flip flops). A light colored t-shirt and shorts are appropriate. Students may want an extra t-shirt in case of a sudden rain shower. A hat and sunscreen are also recommended.

Football Games

Students are required to wear their band uniform for the duration of the game.

Uniform parts consist of:

- Black marching band shoes – These are special marching band shoes that clean up well with shoe polish. All students must wear the same shoes, as it is part of the uniform.
- Band t-shirt will be distributed prior to the first football game
- Shorts to be worn under pants for group changes. Shorts should not be bulky or have large pockets.
- Black socks. We suggest having several pairs exactly alike. Socks need to be mid-calf or higher.
- Gloves- provided at the uniform fitting. These will stay in the uniform room with their hats.

Band Students will arrive early to receive their marching band uniform prior to each game and competition from the uniform room. The uniform does not go home with students, and they must hang it up properly after each performance.

Students will be fitted for the following:

- Bibbers – stored in uniform closet after each game
- Jacket – stored in uniform closet after each game
- Hat (Shako) – stored in uniform closet after each game
- Gloves – stored in uniform closet after each game
- Shoes – worn to and from game

Tips to remember while in uniform:

- No hair showing
- No jewelry or odd hair accessories
- No nail polish
- No makeup (Guard is the exception, it is part of the uniform)
- Cell Phones must remain in uniform room while in uniform

Are There Really Inspections?

Inspections may be held before games. Students should be in place no later than the time they were told to report. Your student and their instrument (even the inside of the instrument) will be inspected as they stand at attention by sections. Students should be sure to not have jewelry or hair showing from under the shako. No makeup should be worn when in uniform. This is an issue of pride and unity.

Helpful Hints to Save You Time and Grief:

- Make your student responsible for being prepared. The first time they forget something will be the last!!! They learn to be resourceful when they have to be.
- At the end of each practice session there are usually announcements – encourage your student to listen up. This is their best opportunity to find out who, what, where, and when things are going on.
- Network – This is how we meet each other. It is also one of the best ways to get helpful hints on band parenting from others.
- Carpool to competitions when parent busses aren't available.
- Be prepared to cheer! The band loves it when they have their own cheering section.
- Don't put uniform items away in the closet or drawers when cleaned. Keep all items (socks, shoes, band shirt, gloves, etc.) in a bag. These tips will save time spent hunting for them each time they are needed.
- Visit the band FaceBook page and web site to stay informed.
- Make sure we have your correct email address for rapid notification.

Terms and Phrases:

- **“Band practice is at 6 o'clock.” “If you are early, you're on time; if you're on time, you're late.”**
When you drop your student off at 5:30, there will be students already there, ready to play. At this point, the anxiety level for being late dramatically increases. The band actually takes the practice field for warm-ups around 5:45. Always allow extra time. There are no excuses.
- **“Where is your drill?”** These are in the folder, which students wear around their necks during Band Camp, that tell them exactly where they stand for different setups.
- **“Where's my dot?” or “Do we line up on the hash?”** This does not refer to insects or food. These terms indicate how the practice field is marked off. Students use their coordinate cards to answer these questions.
- **“When do the students enter the stadium.”** When it is time, the band will march by two's into the stadium. The band enters the stadium and goes to their seating area. No food or drinks are allowed while in dress uniform, except when on break. When they are marching in, they are not allowed to move anything except their feet, not even a smile, so don't distract them! A lot of band parents sit just left of the band (facing the field), which is in the area of the 30-yard line.
- **“Are you working the Pit?”** The pit is not something bad. It's a group of percussion instruments that travel on a trailer and are stationary during performances. Parents in the Pit Crew work feverishly to set up and take down the pit in record time, before and after a performance (and you think race pit crews are fast!!)
- **“Last Time”** This can mean one more time, a few more times, it can mean you're beginning to approach the road to the last time, or it can mean we'll keep doing it until you get it right!

You Know You are A Band Parent When. . . .

- You make three more trips than expected to drop off you student with everything they need.
- You carry spare white gloves, needle and thread, safety pins, and duct tape in your pocketbook.
- You follow buses around all day on Saturdays.
- You can't pick your student out of the crowd because they all look alike.
- You no longer speak of your student as a fourteen-year-old daughter/son, but as a “freshman trumpet, freshman flute,” etc.
- You prominently display a band calendar in the kitchen and have band dates marked on the calendar in your purse.
- You use your oven more for baking goodies for the band than for sit-down meals.
- You know that you will be wearing something red and black every Friday night and on Saturdays.
- On time is late and early is on time.
- You don't leave home without cushions to sit on, or your camera!
- You are cheering with other band parents and make lots of noise.

CONTACTS:

Website www.herndonband.net

E-Mail: Mrs. Jacoby kgjacoby@fcps.edu

FaceBook: Herndon Band: The Pride of Herndon

Go to the band website for a list of the board members and contact info:

<http://herndonband.org>