



Houston County High School Black and Silver Brigade

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www.hocoband.com

EXPECT EXCELLENCE. BEAR DOWN.



Welcome to the Houston County Black and Silver Brigade.

You are now part of one of the finest band programs in the state of Georgia and we are glad that you are here! The Black and Silver Brigade provides musical activities that encompass a wide range of musical experiences that allows every member an opportunity to find their level of commitment and reach their highest possible level of excellence. In addition to the legacy of excellence created by the successes of each performing group of the HCHS Band, the individual members of the Black and Silver have distinguished themselves as gifted and talented musicians from their selection to the Georgia Music Educators' Association All State Band, the Governor's Honors Program, District Honor Band, and many collegiate and local honor ensembles.

Hard working students, dedicated staff members, involved and active parents, and a supportive administration and community all combine to make it possible for the Houston County High School Band program to flourish and thrive. Our students are expected to set and reach high goals for themselves and their program. The rewards of meeting those expectations are immeasurable in the development of our students as well-rounded human beings. Members of the Black and Silver will develop musically, emotionally, mentally, socially and physically during their time in the band program at Houston County High School. This handbook is intended to be used by the students, parents, administrators, staff and directors as a convenient source of information regarding the varied aspects of the HCHS Band Program. Students and parents must read this handbook carefully and are expected to abide by and understand all rules and regulations set forth in this handbook.

Welcome again to the Black and Silver Brigade! We promise to give you one of the most rewarding and fulfilling experiences of your high school career.

Looking forward to a great season! Bear down!

Jay Davis
Director of Bands

Rebekah Daniel
Assistant Director of Bands

About the Directors...

Jay Davis

Director of Bands

Jay Davis has a Bachelor's Degree from Georgia College and State University (with Honors) and a Master's Degree from Auburn University, both in Music Education. At Auburn, he served as a graduate teaching assistant with the marching band and performed with the faculty brass quintet, the Auburn Brass. Prior to his appointment at Houston County High School, Jay most recently served as the Director of Bands at Eagle's Landing Christian Academy in McDonough, GA.

Bands under his direction have consistently received Superior ratings at adjudicated events throughout the southeast in both the concert and marching areas. Students under his direction have placed in many honor groups, including the Georgia All State Band, Spirit of Atlanta Drum and Bugle Corp, and the Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony. Jay has served on the faculty of the GCSU Symphonic Music Camps, the Encore Music Camp, and Camp ExtravaBANDza. Jay currently performs with the oldies band, Reunion, and the symphonic band, The Wellston Winds. He has also performed with, and served on the board of directors for, Tara Winds. He holds or has held memberships in the International Trumpet Guild, Pi Kappa Lambda, GMEA, the National Band Association, and has served as Province Governor for Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, a fraternity for men of music. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Georgia College Alumni Association.

Jay is married to Dr. Tina Holmes-Davis, Assistant Professor of Music Education at Georgia College and State University, and is the proud father of 12-year-old twins, Emma (an aspiring trombone player) and Jonah (an aspiring percussionist).

Rebekah Daniel

Assistant Director of Bands

Rebekah Daniel serves as Assistant Director of Bands at Houston County High School in Warner Robins, GA. At Houston County High School, she conducts the Concert Band, assists with the Black and Silver Brigade, and is actively involved in all other facets of the school's band program. In addition to her teaching responsibilities at Houston County High School, Ms. Daniel serves as a brass instructor for Alliance Drum & Bugle Corps and a private brass studio instructor with students from throughout Middle and South Georgia.

A native of Dublin, GA, Ms. Daniel graduated magna cum laude from Georgia Southern University earning the Bachelor of Music Education Degree, and served on the Southern Pride Marching Band Leadership Team as Drum Major. Following her graduation from Georgia Southern University, she served as the Associate Director of Bands at West Laurens High School, where she assisted with the Raider Brigade Marching Band, conducted the eighth grade band, and co-conducted the Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Band. Bands under Ms. Daniel's direction at West Laurens received Superior ratings at adjudicated festivals.

After teaching at West Laurens High School, Ms. Daniel completed the Master of Music Degree (M.M.) in Conducting at Georgia Southern University, where she was actively involved in teaching all facets of the Department of Music's Band Program. As a graduate assistant, Ms. Daniel worked on the staff of the Southern Pride Marching Band and served as a Graduate Assistant Conductor with the Georgia Southern University Wind Symphony and Wind Ensemble.

As a trombonist, Ms. Daniel has held principal positions in numerous collegiate and community ensembles and has traveled across Europe participating in concert tours. She spent a summer working with the World Youth Symphony Orchestra at Interlochen Center for the Arts and has received national recognition for her leadership as a young woman in music education.

Ms. Daniel's professional affiliations include Georgia Music Educators Association, College Band Directors National Association, Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society, and Tau Beta Sigma National Honorary Band Service Sorority.



2017-2018 Marching Band Handbook

PARENTS: PLEASE READ ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION **WITH YOUR STUDENT**.

Marching Band Program:

The HCHS Black and Silver Brigade enjoys a rich and varied history of excellence in the marching arts. All band students are eligible to participate in the Black and Silver Brigade. Students must participate in a band class to be eligible to participate in the Black and Silver Brigade. Marching band begins in July with practices at the school during our marching band camp. Once school begins, the marching band rehearses after school from August through the end of football season in early November (could be extended further depending on the football team's success.). The program fields two marching bands each season.

Social Media and Website:

The HoCo band has a fantastic website that is full of information about the band program. **This should be your first stop for getting your questions answered.** The website is located at www.hocoband.com. Please visit this page often to stay fully connected to the daily activities of the BASB. Please also follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for the latest band information.

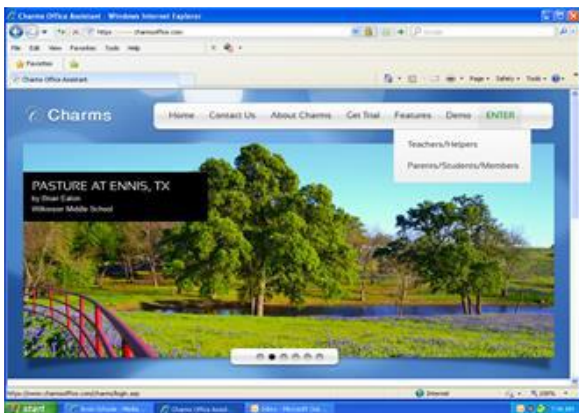
CHARMS:

Every member of the HCHS Band program is assigned a login for CHARMS. CHARMS is the program that we use to stay in contact with parents and keep up with the financial responsibilities of the individual student within the band program. It also contains the calendar for all band events.

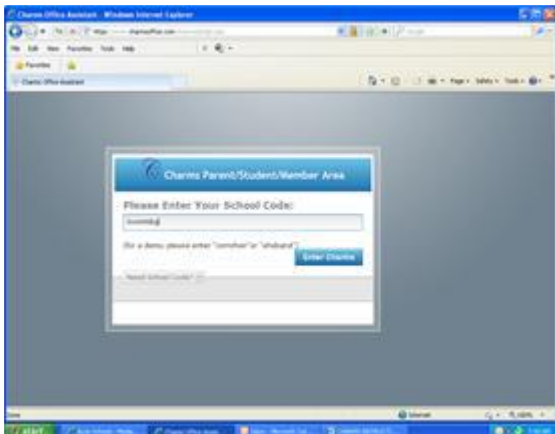
WWW.CHARMSOFFICE.COM

You may use the direct link to this page also:

<https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/parents.asp?username>

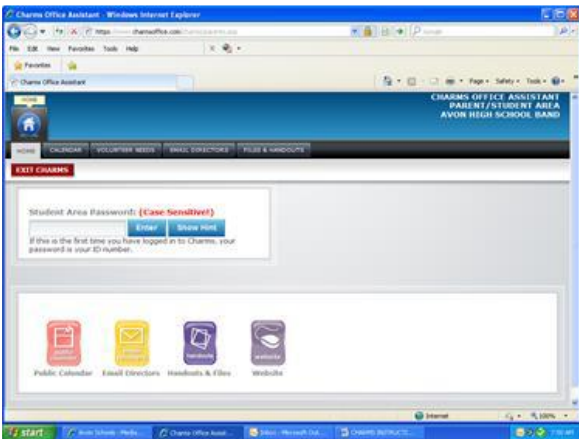


When you go to Charms, this is the screen you will see. Click on Enter and then on Parents

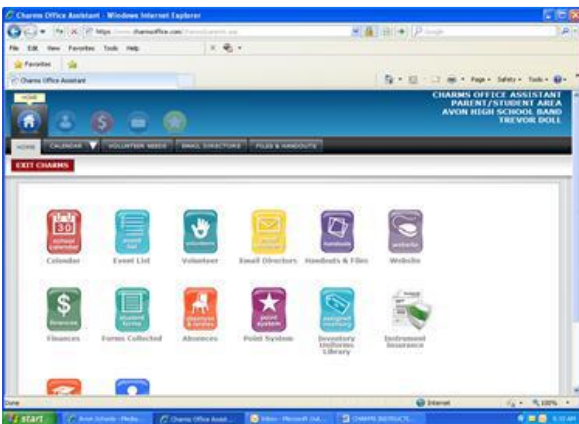


Your school code is Houstonchband (make sure the H is capitalized)

Click on Enter Charms:

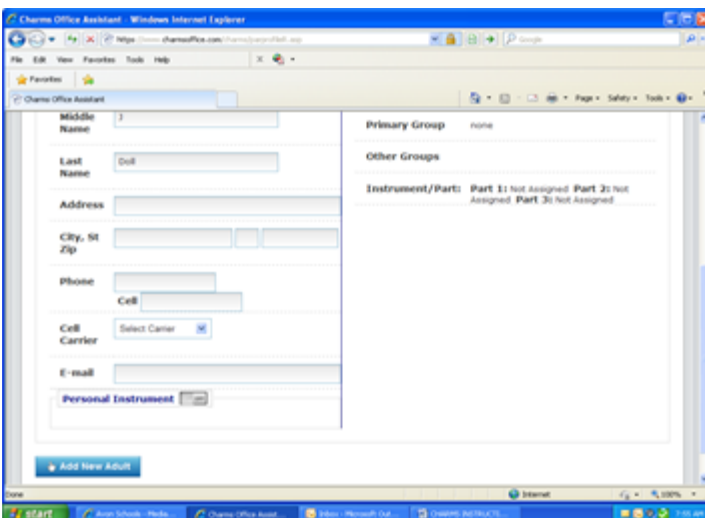


You will enter your student's ID number as the password and press enter. Please ask your student for their ID number.

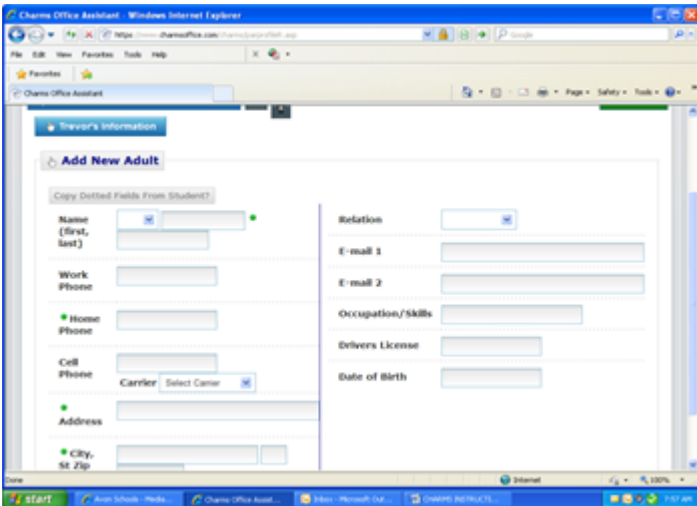


You are now at your student / parent page.

The first thing you need to do is to go to Update Info. This is the orange box in the bottom left corner. Click on that box.

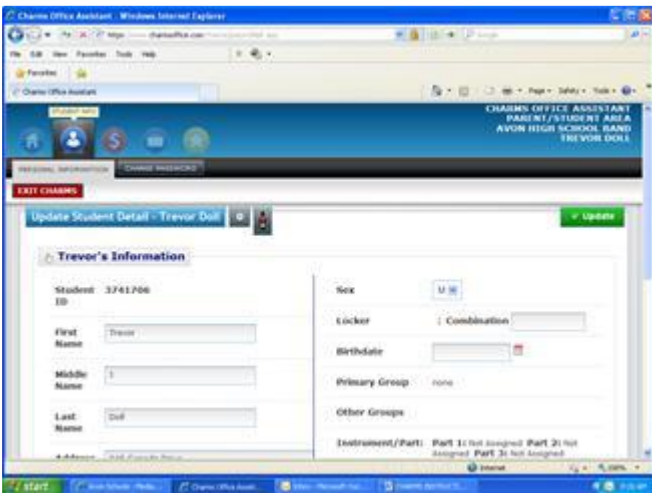


On this screen you will update the information on your student. At this time you should find their name, address and parent's information. We would ask you to please check all this information to make sure it is correct as shown. Correct it if it is not correct!



Then please click on Add a New Adult which will take you to this screen:

It is very important that you take a minute and enter all the information on any family members. The e-mail addresses entered on this file will now be the email address that will be used for all email communication. You may enter any number of family members.



Once you have entered this information you may click on the tabs at the top of the screen to go to home, students, their account, etc...



Clicking on Home will take you back to this screen. You can see all the choices you have from here. Take some time to explore-not all of the information will be available to you or will be something we will use at this time.

General Band Rules:

In addition to all the behavioral rules and policies outlined in the school handbook, students are expected to follow the code of conduct outlined below that deal with band-specific rules/regulations. Professed ignorance of policies will not be accepted as an excuse for misbehavior.

- DO WHAT IS RIGHT AT ALL TIMES!
- Have a positive attitude about the work that is to be done. Every rehearsal is hard, but we work to improve everyday.
- To protect your feet, athletic shoes and socks must be worn to all marching rehearsals.
- Chewing gum is not permitted in any rehearsal or the band room.
- No food or drink is allowed inside the band room at any time unless announced by the Director. (Water is the only exception.)
- Band members must respect the band uniform at all times.
- There is absolutely NO HAZING allowed within the Black and Silver Brigade.
- Be in your seat, prepared for rehearsal on time.
- Treat others as you would like to be treated.
- Respect other people's property.
- Overt public displays of affection are not allowed.
- Remember to always show your support for other groups' performances.
- Show respect for all adult staff/chaperones assisting with our band program at all times.
- Profanity is not allowed. You never know who might be listening!
- The Black and Silver Brigade is, and always has been, a class act, one that exudes professionalism in everything we do. Always conduct ourselves with character, integrity and maturity.

Consequences:

- 1st Offense-Verbal Warning
- 2nd Offense-Meeting with Directors
- 3rd Offense-Parent Contact/Detention
- 4th Offense-Possible dismissal from program/ Office referral
- In cases of major infractions of school policy or blatant refusal to cooperate, student will be referred to the office immediately. The band staff will have the final say in these matters.

Attendance Policy:

Rehearsal attendance is necessary for the success of both competition and football bands. You have made a commitment to this activity. It is your responsibility to arrange your schedule in such a way that you make practices and performances. Keep this in mind when you consider joining other extracurricular activities or get a job.

Any absence or tardy from all or part of a rehearsal requires a note or email from parent, teacher, or doctor with a thorough explanation or reason for the absence or tardy. All notes should be emailed to Ms. Daniel at attendance@hocoband.com as soon as possible. We need all band members present in order to set drill and clean forms. For that reason, you will not be able to participate in a performance if you miss the practice before a performance.

Reasons for excused absence from practice:

- Illness
- Family emergency that has been communicated to the band staff.
- Conflicts with other school activities require prior approval by band staff.

Although a student may need to leave the practice field temporarily for health reasons, abuse of this situation will not be tolerated. Repeated unauthorized breaks will result in an unexcused absence. **On practice days, students should schedule their tutoring and test make-ups before school.** A signed teacher pass is required to be admitted to practice from detention, club activities, tutoring or test makeups. These need to be given to your captain upon arrival in order for the absence to be excused.

A student will be marked absent if they are not in place by the time roll is taken. Excessive tardies and unexcused absences could result in the student not being able to perform at that week's performances. **Any student who misses the final practice before a performance will not be allowed to perform that week (excused or unexcused).** Excessive tardies or unexcused absences will result in removal from the marching program. Absence from a performance must be approved by Mr. Davis at least two weeks prior to the absence.

Rehearsal Etiquette:

- Rehearsal's need to be as silent as possible to ensure that everyone hears instructions.
- Attendance will be taken by the section leaders at the start of practice-be present and be on time!
- Students are to have their music and drill at each rehearsal, whether inside or outside.
- Make sure you are aware of where and when you are to be back on field following breaks.
- The Black and Silver Brigade is, and always has been, a class act, one that exudes professionalism in everything we do. Always conduct ourselves with character, integrity and maturity.

Dress Code:

This dress code applies to practice. Performance dress code is addressed in another section. All school dress code rules apply with the following exceptions/clarifications-

- All students must wear tennis shoes or Bandos at practice
- Shorts must be at a modest length.
- Shirts can be sleeveless but not tank tops. No t-shirts with cut out sleeves. Shirts cannot be ripped down the side.
- No one is allowed to take off or hike up their shirts.
- The Black and Silver Brigade is, and always has been, a class act, one that exudes professionalism in everything we do. Always conduct ourselves with character, integrity and maturity
- In all dress code matters, the band staff will have the final say concerning the appropriateness of the attire.

Cell Phone Policy:

Cell phone use should be limited to breaks during rehearsal only. At no point should cell use interfere with an active rehearsal or performance. Cell phone use should be limited to third quarter break at football games as well. If student abuses this policy, the student's cell phone will be confiscated. Students must see Mr. Davis after the practice or performance to have their phone returned.

Bus Assignment:

Bus sign up will be done by grade level prior to the first performance.

Game Day and Performance Procedures:

Report time will be 5:30 for all home games. Report times for away games will be announced as travel plans are finalized.

What to wear: bibbers, solid black socks (calf or higher), band dry fit shirt, and Bandos. Shorts must be worn under the uniform. Make sure you have your water jug as well. Pants cannot show under bibbers. If you lose or forget your shirt, socks, or gloves, a replacement set will be issued to you by the uniform crew and your account will be charged. Hair should be styled in such a way that it does not touch the collar. Long hair should be pinned and tucked under the shako. Small post earrings or studs in school colors are the only acceptable jewelry that can be worn with the uniform.

Home Games:

- Students will report to the band warm-up area in front of **Perdue Primary**. Band will enter the stadium as a group. Students will be picked up in the same area as drop off. Students should arrive dressed as stated above. All students must be picked up in a timely fashion following the game.

Away Games:

- Load your instrument on the Connex (if not loaded during class). Percussionists and guard bring your equipment to the loading crew at the semi. Do not expect someone else to load it for you. If your instrument is not loaded before the semi departs, it will ride with you to the event.
- Get your uniform and hat box from the uniform room
- Confirm that you have your hat, plumes, gloves and gauntlets as needed.
- Report to the theater for further instructions. Use the restroom. Sit with your section.
- Section leaders will do a uniform check for all in their section.
- Buses will be loaded by gender. Report to the bus you have been assigned to.

Bus Rules:

- All county bus rules apply.
- What to bring: Necessary band items, personal items, water (no glass containers), jacket (if needed).
- Seating: Female band members a required to sit in the back of the bus and male band members ride in the front. Chaperones or staff will be located in the front, back and middle of the bus.
- When we arrive at any location, stay on the bus and wait for further instructions.
- A signed note from your parents must be emailed to the chaperone chair if you wish to ride home with your parents. These must be emailed by the end of Thursday's practice in order to give the chaperone coordinator time to organize the notes. You and your parents must check in with a **staff member** before you leave the event.
- Absolutely no undressing on the bus. All band members are to ride to and from events in bibbers or costume.
- Every student will be assigned bus, theater or band room cleanup during the football season

Seating in the stands (current band members only):

- Assigned seating
- No switching instruments
- No eating or drinking anything other than water while wearing uniform jacket.
- Parents may not bring anything other than water for students in the stands.

Stands Etiquette:

- No solo performances. We play as a group.
- Injured football player – students will sit and remain quiet until situation is cleared
- No inappropriate cheers. Only preapproved and organized cheers are permitted. Everyone is required to participate in stands music and cheers.
- Proper language is to be used at all times.

Third quarter break:

- This is a chance for students to eat, use the restroom and relax. It can be taken away if behavior warrants.
- All students must be back in the stands with two minutes remaining in the third quarter.
- You may not bring any food or drinks back into the stands.
- Concession stands are off-limits during third quarter. Meals will be preordered and ready to go following the halftime performance.
- Failure to clean up following 3rd quarter break could lead to loss of break privileges.

End of the game:

- Wait for instructions.
- Instruments will be returned to Connex and students check in with chaperones and board the buses.
- If you are riding home with parents--Mr. Davis, Ms. Daniel, or another band staff member must acknowledge that your parents have you. You are responsible for making sure your uniform and equipment are returned safely to the school that evening. Don't forget to email your note to the chaperone chair!
- Upon arriving at the school, students assigned bus cleanup must remain on the bus when others have departed to fulfill their duties. All other students report to the theater
- Students will be dismissed by grade level. Percussion and section leaders will be called first. All students must put your instrument away and turn uniform before you are allowed to leave.
- Please remember to be respectful of other performing groups during the game. All band students work very hard to perform at the highest level possible. Be supportive of your peers efforts at all times.

Competition Day Procedures:

- All Game Day Performance rules apply. Competition arrival procedures are the same as the game day procedure. We will practice at the band field prior to departure.

Competition Etiquette:

- Show respect and support for all bands.
- Silence cell phones.
- Do not talk or enter/exit during a performance.
- Be mindful of what you are saying at the performance or putting on social media.
- *Each band performing at this event has their own story to tell. Some come from urban areas, some come from rural areas. Some come from large schools, others come from small schools. Some have overcome odds just to have a marching band in which to participate. Some may have experienced difficult setbacks, while others are experiencing their most positive marching season ever. Regardless of each band's particular circumstances, every student who takes the field has made the choice to make music and art. As spectators, we each have a responsibility to recognize those efforts by simply being a good audience.*

Student Leadership:

Students may audition for the following leadership positions: Drum major, section leader, drum captain, color guard captain, and band captains. Auditions will be held in April. All interested parties are required to complete an application and go through an interview process. A panel of judges not associated with the band will handle auditions for drum major and guard captain. Student leadership requires a time commitment above and beyond that of a student in a non-leadership position.

Internet Etiquette:

There are an abundance of newsgroups and social media outlets that can be utilized by band members and parents. These programs and apps are a great way to discuss performances and schedules and share pictures from various band events. Please be mindful about what you post on social media. Our digital presence is just as important as our on-field presence and everyone, **students and parents**, should be very judicious in what is posted. We always want the Black and Silver Brigade to be presented in the most positive way possible. If this policy is abused, appropriate steps will be taken according to system policy to handle the situation.

Band Letters:

Band Letters are earned through exemplary participation in marching band for the fall season. In order to be considered for a Band Letter, a student must:

- Register for a band ensemble class for the entire year (waived for Colorguard members)
- Participate in the marching band for two years

- Maintain exemplary attendance

Important Contact Info:

- Jay Davis-jay.davis@hcbe.net
- Rebekah Daniel-rebekah.daniel@hcbe.net
- Kay Hanson, President-hocobandpres@gmail.com
- Katie Bagay, Vice-President-hocobandvp@gmail.com
- Mike Huber, Treasurer-hocobandtreasurer@gmail.com
- Carol Hamilton, Co-Treasurer-hocobandcotreasurer@gmail.com
- Tammy Alderman, Secretary-hocobandsecretary@gmail.com
- Wendy Edwards, Ways and Means-hocobandconcessions@gmail.com
- Norm Bester, Chaperone Chair-hocobandchaperones@gmail.com
- Attendance Email Address-attendance@hocoband.com

Social Media Forums:

- Website: www.hocoband.com
- Instagram: hocobands
- Twitter: @HOCObands
- Facebook: Houston County Black and Silver Brigade- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/234738346548685/>

S-Spirit
U-Unity
D-Determination
A-Attitude

The Houston County Black and Silver Brigade

