



Houston County High School Black and Silver Brigade

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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 providing every member an opportunity to reach their highest level of potential and excellence. In addition to the legacy of excellence created by the success of each performing group of the HCHS Band Program, individual members of the Black and Silver Brigade have distinguished themselves as gifted and talented musicians by the Georgia Music Educators Association All State and District Honor Bands, the Governor's Honors Program, and many collegiate and local performing ensembles.

Hard working students, dedicated staff members, involved and active parents, and a supportive administration and community 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 these expectations are immeasurable to the development of our students as well-rounded human beings. Members of the Black and Silver Brigade will develop musically, emotionally, mentally, socially, and physically through their involvement with the band program at Houston County High School. This handbook is intended to be used by 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 established.

Again welcome to the HCHS Black and Silver Brigade! We promise to provide you one of the most rewarding and fulfilling experiences of your high school career.

We are looking forward to a great season! Bear down!!!

Jay Davis
Director of Bands

Rebekah Daniel
Assistant Director of Bands

2016-2017 Band Staff

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 is on the faculty of the GCSU Symphonic Music Camps and has served on the staff for 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 11-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.

Miguel Castro

Percussion Instructor

Miguel studied music from 1977 to 1983 at the "Conservatorio Nacional de Música" in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic earning a Master's Degree in Music Performance. After that, he went to New York to study at Drummers Collective International in 1984-85 where he had the opportunity to study with some of the world's leading percussionists including Steve Gadd, Doug Allen, and Frank Malabé.

In 1989, Miguel moved to Germany where he played in numerous Latin American, jazz, pop and chamber groups as well as pursuing an extensive recording career. He did tours throughout Europe with various groups and performers, amongst them the Puerto Rican Salsa star Marvin Santiago.

Miguel has been a recording artist with ARC Music record label since 1992 and has produced 17 Compact Discs since then. He has played in various orchestras (Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional of Dominican Republic, Swiss Philharmonic Orchestra, Carol Morgan Operatic Society, Orquesta Sinfónica de Maracaibo), and currently performs with The Macon Symphony Orchestra in Macon, Georgia and the Ocmulgee Symphony Orchestra in the Middle Georgia area.

In 1992, he returned to the U.S. where he has continued as an active performer as well as a teacher of all percussion disciplines. He served as Director of Percussion Studies at Mercer University in Macon for eight years. At the present time, he serves as Director of Percussion Studies and Jazz Band at Middle Georgia College in Cochran, Georgia since the beginning of the Instrumental Music program (established in 1998 by Mr. Louis Foster, Director of Bands). Mr. Castro is also currently the Percussion Coordinator of the Houston County School System. He is regularly in demand as a percussion clinician (Percussive Arts Society International Convention, Georgia Music Educators Association Conference, Georgia Percussive Arts Society Conference, and Southeastern United States Band Clinic), adjudicator, composer, arranger and recording artist, maintaining a busy schedule in and outside of the United States.

Laura Byrd

Visual Tech / Band Logistics

Laura has been on the Black and Silver Brigade band staff since 2004. She works with the drill and is in charge of logistics for the band. She is an Advanced Placement and Honors chemistry teacher. She has taught chemistry since graduating from the University of Georgia with a bachelor's degree in science education. She has also earned a master's of education in leadership and a specialist in leadership from Columbus State College. In addition, Byrd coaches swim team.

Kelsey Byrd

Visual Tech / Band Logistics

Kelsey Byrd, the visual tech for the Black and Silver Brigade, marched on HOCO's drumline during her time here at the school. She then went on to join the drumline of UGA Redcoat Marching Band marching bass. After graduating UGA with a bachelor's of science, she moved back to Warner Robins and became a science teacher for HCHS.

Andy Hunt

Percussion / Webmaster

Sarah Laughlin

Colorguard

Contact Information:

Jay Davis – jay.davis@hcbe.net

Rebekah Daniel – rebekah.daniel@hcbe.net

Laura Byrd – laura.byrd@hcbe.net

Kelsey Byrd – kelsey.byrd@hcbe.net

Band chaperones – hocobandchaperones@gmail.com

Band attendance – attendance@hocoband.com



Houston County Black and Silver Brigade



@HOCObands



@hocobands

2016-2017 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 diverse history of excellence in the marching arts. 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 depending on the football team's success). The program fields two marching bands each season. The first of these is football band, which will perform at all football games and pep rallies and includes every member of the Black and Silver Brigade. The second is an auditioned and competitive marching band which will perform with the football band at football games, but perform separately from the football band at GMEA sanctioned marching events.

Website:

The HoCo band has a fantastic website that is full of information about the band program. **This should be your first stop for questions!** The website is located at www.hocoband.com. Please visit this page often to stay fully connected to the daily activities of the BSB.

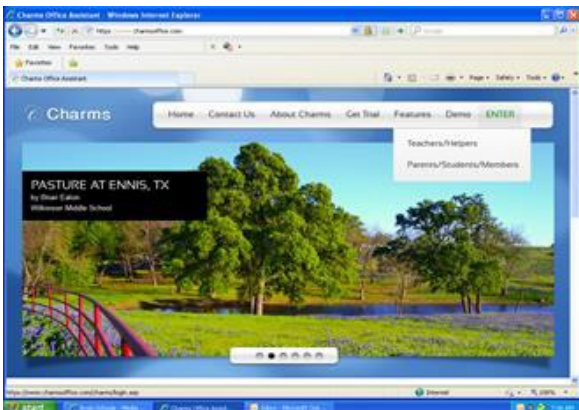
CHARMS:

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

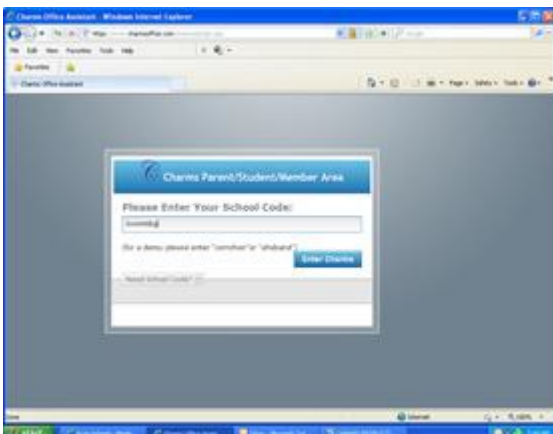
WWW.CHARMSOFFICE.COM

You may use the direct link to this page also:

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

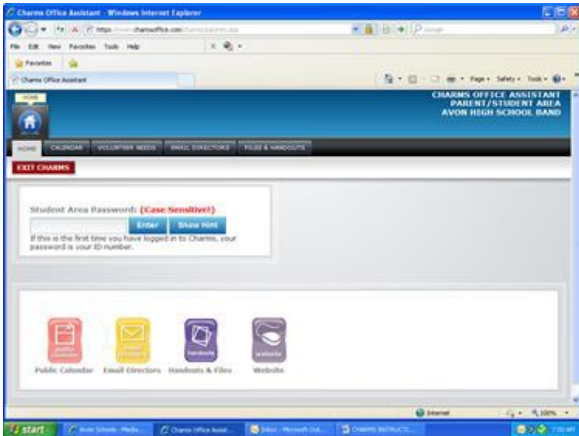


When you go to Charms, this is the screen you will see. Click on Enter and then on Parents



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

Click on Enter Charms:

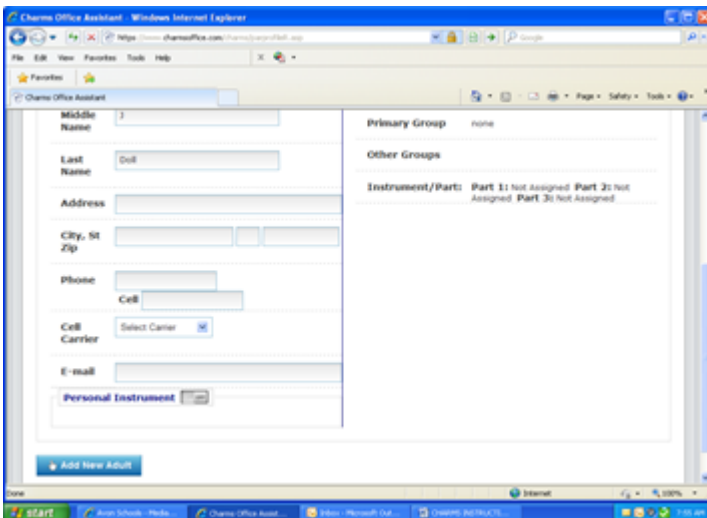


You will enter your student's ID number as the password and press enter. Please ask your student for their ID number.

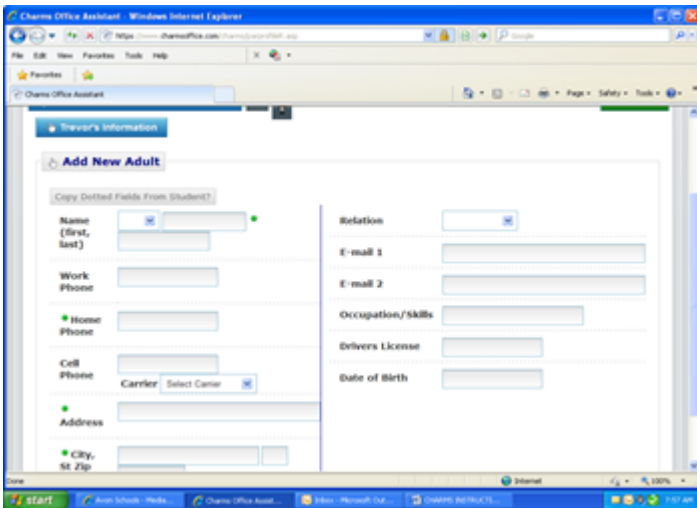


You are now at your student / parent page.

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.

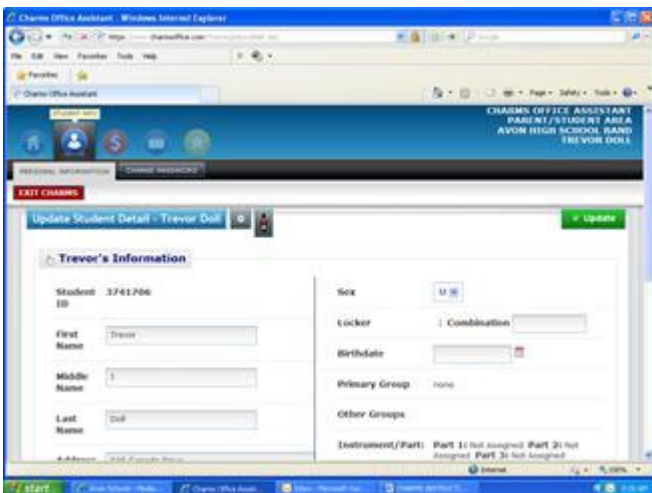


On this screen you will update the information on your student. At this time you should find their name, address and parent's information. We would ask you to please check all this information to make sure it is correct as shown. Correct it if it is not correct!

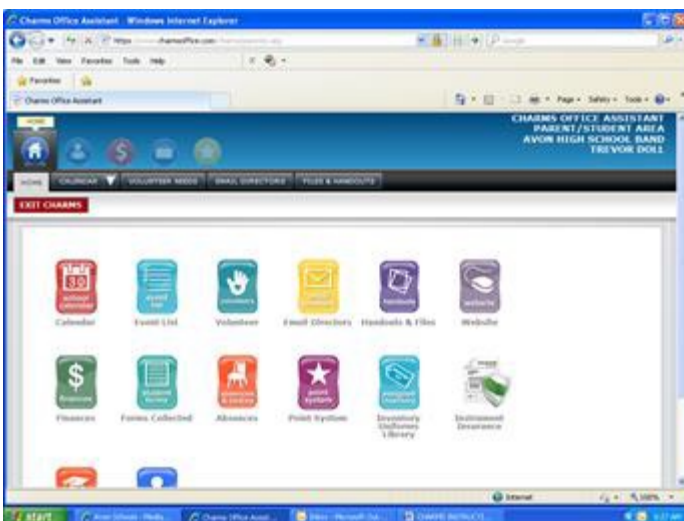


Then please click on Add a New Adult which will take you to this screen:

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.

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 of 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 of what is posted to social media. We want the Black and Silver Brigade to continue being represented as a positive, successful, and professional organization.

Dress Code:

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 no tank tops or t-shirts with cut off sleeves.
- No one is allowed to take off or hike up their shirts.

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
- Have no more than one unexcused absence from rehearsal within a calendar year (Students with more than one unexcused absence may not be considered for a Band Letter)
- Have no more than one unexcused absence from a performance within a calendar year (an NI that results in a missed performance will disqualify a student from lettering)

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 deals with band-specific rules/regulations. Professed ignorance of policies will not be accepted as an excuse for misbehavior.

- 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.)
- A band member must respect the band uniform at all times
- There is absolutely NO HAZING allowed within the Black and Silver Brigade
- Be in your seat and prepared for rehearsal on time
- Treat others as you would like to be treated
- Respect other people's property
- Public displays of affection ("coupling") are not allowed while at a band function
- Remember to always show your support for other performing groups
- Show respect for all adult staff/chaperones assisting with our band program at all times
- Keep your language clean-You never know who could 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

Attendance Policy:

Rehearsal attendance is necessary for the success of both the competition and football band. You have made a commitment to this activity, and it is your responsibility to arrange your schedule so that you can make practices and performances to fulfill your commitment. Keep this in mind when you consider joining other extracurricular activities or applying for part time jobs.

Any absence or tardy from all or part of a rehearsal or performance requires a documented excuse via email from a parent, teacher, or doctor with an explanation regarding the absence or tardy (see the HoCo Band attendance email address under "Contact Information"). If you know you are going to miss a practice, submit an email to attendance@hocoband.com at least 3 days in advance. If you leave early from school on a rehearsal day due to an unexpected excused absence, as outlined below, you must still submit an email to the email account above.

In the subject line of the email please include:

- Name of Student
- Date of Rehearsal or Performance to be Missed

In the body of the email please include:

- Instrument
- Explanation Behind Absence or Tardiness

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 prior to that performance.

Reasons for an excused absence from practice:

- Illness
- Family emergency that has been communicated to the band staff
- Conflict with other school activities. Prior approval by band staff is required.

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 when possible. A signed teacher's note or email submission is required to miss practice for detention, club activities, tutoring, or test make-ups.

A student will be marked tardy if they are not in place by the time roll is taken.

Two unexcused tardies will count as one unexcused absence.

Multiple unexcused absences will result in removal from the marching program.

An absence from a performance must be approved by Mr. Davis.

Cell Phone Policy:

Cell phones are NOT allowed on the practice field. They may be kept on the sideline for emergency use only. At football games, cell phone use is only allowed during third quarter breaks. If student violates this policy, cell phone will be confiscated. Students must see Mr. Davis after the practice or performance to have their phone returned.

Bus Assignment:

See Laura Byrd to sign up for buses. Bus sign up will be done by grade level. Band members who fail to sign up will be assigned a bus.

Game Day Procedures:

Report time will be posted in the band room, the band website, and on CHARMS. Be early.

What to bring: Water jug and money for concessions at away games

What to wear: Bibbers, solid black socks (calf or higher), band dry fit shirt, and Bandos. 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 CHARMS 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. Extra requirements for guard include dance shoes and gloves. Guard is required to arrive an hour earlier than posted report time. Costume, makeup, and hair styling will be done during this time. The band room will be open 30 minutes prior to the posted arrival time.

Home Games:

Students will report to the band warm-up area in front of Perdue Primary, and the 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.

Away Games:

When you arrive at school:

- Load your instrument into the appropriate Connex. Percussionists and guard bring your equipment to the loading crew at the semi. Do not expect someone else to load your equipment. If your instrument is not loaded before the semi departs, it will ride with you to the event.
- Get your uniform and shako box from the uniform room
- Confirm that you have your shako, 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 within their sections.
- 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 are required to sit in the back of the bus and male band members in the front. Chaperones and/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.
- Bus changes must be made by the end of practice on Wednesday of each week. You cannot switch buses during a trip. Please see Laura Byrd to make any bus changes.
- A signed note from your parents must be given to your bus chaperone if you wish to ride home with them. 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 once during the football season. If you participate in competition band, you will be assigned a second round of cleanup duty.

Seating in the stands (current band members only)

- Assigned seating
- No switching instruments
- No eating or drinking anything other than water while wearing the BSB uniform jacket.
- Parents may not bring anything other than water to 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.
- Cell phone use only allowed during 3rd quarter break. Violators will have cell phones confiscated.
- 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 at 2:00 on the clock during third quarter.
- You may not bring any food or drinks back into the stands.

End of the game:

- There may be a possible comp show performance after home games.
- Wait for instructions.
- Instruments will be returned to Connexes and students will 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, you must give your bus chaperone a written note signed by your parents.
- Upon arriving at the school, students assigned bus cleanup must remain on the bus 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 return proper uniform components in before allowed to leave.
- Please remember to be respectful of other performing groups during football games. 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:

Competition Etiquette:

- Show respect and support for all bands.

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 set-backs, 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.

- 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.

Competition arrival procedures are the same as the game day procedure. We will practice at the band field prior to departure.

Student Leadership:

Students may audition for the following leadership positions: Drum major, section leader, drum captain, color guard captain, and band council. Auditions will be held in April. All interested parties are required to complete an application and go through the interview process. Auditions for drum major and guard captain will be handled by a panel of judges not associated with the band program.