

# CHS Band Parent FAQ

**Welcome to the Clements High School Band family.  
Below you will find many nuggets of information about life in the CHS Band...**

## **Practice Calendar**

- All students have been given a calendar of dates and times for practices. Please keep in mind that dates and time may need to be changed. Students will be given updated information as needed, and any changes will be posted to this web site on Mondays for the week.
- It is also common for us to have several Stadium Rehearsals during marching season. Dates and times will be posted on the blackboard in the band hall, and on this web site.

## **Parking and Pick-Up**

- The marching band practices on the teacher's parking lot. Yard lines and hash marks have been painted on the lot to make it resemble a football field.
- Any cars parked in the practice area during scheduled practice times will be removed.
- Students are not to park in the teacher's parking lot.
- Carpool Line:
  - The carpool line goes in one direction only. Please enter the teacher's parking lot at the farthest entrance from the school building (nearest the softball field), make a sharp right turn, and drop off or pick up students in the designated lane. The exit is right turn only.
  - Parents should follow the carpool line when picking students up from practices – there are students, instruments, and additional equipment on the practice marching field. It takes a while after the students have been released to get the practice field completely cleared.
- When picking up students after games, contests or other activities (outside of school hours), do not block the carpool line. The 5 to 7 buses that transport students will enter and follow the carpool lane and park to allow the students to exit the buses.
- Equipment trucks will be backing up to the band hall doors, so please do not block this area.
- It is best for parents to park in the designated parking spaces and walk up or wait for the students to come to them.

## **Summer Marching and After School Practices**

- What to wear
  - Comfortable, cool shorts, white or light-colored T-Shirts, comfortable sturdy sneakers with socks (if you begin experiencing leg pain, old worn out shoes are usually the cause – try shoes with better support)
  - Hats or caps are highly recommended
  - Sunglasses are allowed
  - Sunscreen is a must
- What to Bring
  - Water Jug!! (1/2 gallon or more)
  - Instrument, flip folder, and music
  - "Chill Ties" are a big hit during hot practices
- Instruments and cases are stored in slots in the band hall
- Beginning and ending times of practices are actual playing/marching times. Please allow extra time for drop-off, pick-up and securing instruments
- The Drill
  - The halftime drill is written in the spring for the upcoming fall.
  - Drills are written for a specific number of students. At the time the drill is written, it is not known exactly how many students will be in the band in the fall. To allow for the fluctuation of numbers of actual students, "Squad A" is used for extra students.
  - Students will be moved to and from Squad A as needed by the directors.
- Kick-Off Camp 2005,
  - Full Band: May 31 - June 2 at the band hall 8 am-Noon
  - Percussion and Color Guard: May 31- June 3 at the band hall 8am-Noon and 1-4 pm
- Summer marching practice begins August 1<sup>st</sup>. Please check the rehearsal calendar for specific dates and times.

## **Football Games**

- Monday of game week, the game day schedule is posted on the blackboard in the band hall and on the web site.
- Students will report to the band hall at the posted time, wearing shorts, band t-shirts, black socks, marching shoes, and ALWAYS WITH THEIR WATER JUGS.
  - Contrary to what upper classmen may tell you, ALWAYS wear shorts and t-shirts under your uniform!
- Students will wait in the uniform line to obtain their assigned uniform and hat box. Uniforms are fitted the first few weeks of school and are usually kept at school.
- After getting uniforms, the band will do a run-through of the drill, then load the buses (the band is always transported as a group via bus, except for stadium rehearsals where they meet at the stadium), and depart for the game.
- After the game, the students load the buses, return to the school, turn their uniforms into the uniform room, get personal belongings, and go home.

## **Parent Tickets**

- Your student can purchase football tickets for you at a reduced price from the Athletic Booster Club during lunch in the CHS Commons. Tickets can also be purchased at the gate for each game, and season tickets are available through the FBISD Athletic Department.

## **Game Meals**

- The Booster Club offers parents the opportunity to pre-pay (\$80.00) for dinners that will be delivered to the school on game days. You can order game meals on the Membership Form.
- Meal choices will rotate weekly, but are likely to include pizza, subs, wraps, etc.
- This is a great way to ensure that your child has a good meal before football games ... and it's very convenient for you too!

## **Rain**

- In case of rain, always report to the assigned place at the assigned time, and a decision will be made at that time. Every possible effort will be made to protect the instruments while at the same time, trying to utilize every possible practice time.
- Rain Ponchos may be purchased from the Band, Stars and Guard Booster Club for \$10.00 and are strongly recommended.

## **Parent/Student Kick-Off Party**

- To begin the new season, parents are invited to Clements on Monday, August 15 at 7pm to watch the kids march/dance on the practice lot (BYO chair), followed by a parent forum in the band hall from 7:30-8:30 pm to answer any questions related to the Band, Stars or Guard program and to learn more about our fall marching plans. Students will join the parents at 8:30 pm for an ice cream social, visiting and celebrating the upcoming season!

## **Parent Night at Mercer Stadium**

- Parent Night at Mercer Stadium is usually scheduled during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of school.
- The students will have a stadium practice from 4:30-6:30pm. After practice, the students will buy a pizza dinner and then take to the field to perform for the parents. Parents are invited to join us for a pizza dinner and then watch what your student have been working on for the past few weeks.
- This is a great time to learn where your student marches on the field – when they are all in uniform, they look alike and it can be difficult to find them.
- Time permitting; the parents will be invited to join the students on the field for a mini marching lesson. Come out and support the students and meet some of the other band parents.

## **Contests**

- This year, the marching band will participate in the Katy Marching Contest, FBISD Band Night, and the UIL Marching Contest (CHS in hosting this contest).
- The State Marching Contest is held for 5-A schools every other year and 2005 is not a State year. We were selected to compete at the State Marching Contest in 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2004.
- In the spring, we participate in FBISD Concert and Sightreading, UIL Concert and Sightreading, and at least one other event.

## **Trips**

- The band takes an in-state trip each spring and every fourth year, the band takes an out-of-state trip. Last year was a big trip year – the band traveled to Chicago to perform in Symphony Hall.
- The next out-of-state trip will probably be to New York City, in 2008.
- This year's trip will be to either Dallas or San Antonio in late April. The students/parents are responsible for the costs relating to this trip.
- Depending on the outcome of various competitions, an additional trip may be taken (for example, the State Marching Contest in San Antonio).

## **Fundraising**

- Each student has a trip account set up, maintained, and managed by the band directors, and money can be accumulated several ways:
  - Product Sales – The students will participate in a product sale in the fall. A percentage of their sales go directly into their trip account
  - Parent Direct Contribution – To avoid being hit with a large trip payment, parents can make direct contributions to their student's account balance
- Grocery Certificates – 5% of your family's total grocery expense can come back to the Booster Club to help with transportation costs of the band, stars and color guard to contests and performances.

## **Concert Season**

- Concert season is the second half of the band year. Students perform or compete according to their band placement (Symphonic, Concert, or Varsity). Spring Concerts will be held in May.
- All of the bands will compete in the UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest in April.
- Students may also compete in the Solo and Ensemble Contests in February.
- Region Band Auditions are held in the November and December. Additional information will be available in late July, at the TMEA website (<http://www.tmea.org/>).

## **Concert Season Uniforms**

- Ladies – The girls are issued long black dresses, and are responsible for supplying their own black shoes and black hose.
- Gents – The guys are issued tuxedo pants and jacket, and are responsible for supplying their own black socks, black shoes, white tux shirt, black bow tie and cummerbund.
  - If the number of guys is too great then one band will perform without jackets
- All school owned concert attire is kept at home and turned in to the school before Spring Finals.

## **Parent Participation**

- Parents, we encourage you to come and support the Band, Stars, and Guard at all of their different activities. The students love the applause and you get to see some great shows. You also get to meet lots of other parents – just look for the CHS parents sitting behind the band, rooting for the Band, Stars and Guard.
- You can further support the Band, Stars and Guard by attending our monthly Booster Club Meetings, held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm in the small band hall. Learn all the important news first and meet/visit with other parents.
- Parent involvement is crucial for us to have a successful year. Volunteer jobs vary from making homecoming mums, hauling equipment, hemming uniforms, working on show props, to chaperoning and decorating for parties. There are plenty of jobs for our dads, too! Please fill out a volunteer form on the Booster web page and join us for an unforgettable year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the Booster Club officers.  
**Again, welcome to Clements High School's awesome Ranger Band!**