

For the New Marching Band Mom & Dad

# Marching Band Parenting FOR DUMMIES®

JHS Jaguar Marching Band

## IMPORTANT INFO INSIDE:

Uniforms  
Boosters  
Time Management  
Getting Involved  
other tid bits of data

What does he  
mean he can't  
find his "Bibbers"



## Welcome! ROOKIE BAND PARENTS *(we're all rookies this year!)*

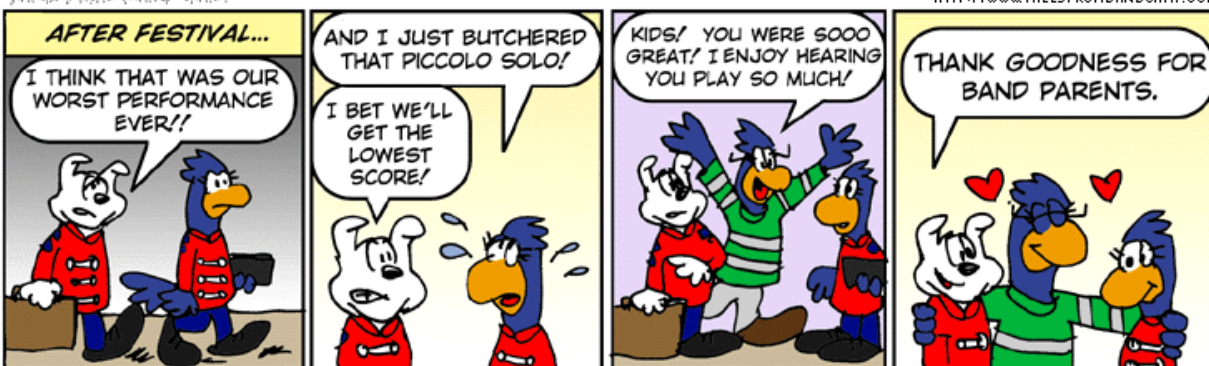
### Let's Get Started

This information has been put together based upon the experience of 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 yellow school busses, they asked a lot of questions. As novice band parents, of course they wanted to know what they should do. After all, the only people who were even more confused and looking for answers were the children. I wanted to share with you, 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 Johnson High School (JHS) Band Program will bring your children an exciting, rewarding and fulfilling educational experience. They will work hard and experience many triumphs, as well as downfalls; two things that will prepare them for the real world after high school. I sincerely hope this guide will answer some important questions about time management, time commitment, band costs and how to pay for them, fundraising, and uniforms. I would also like to give you some “insider” information on what it takes to be a band student, and a band parent!

There is an extended group of people that will be your “Go-To” location for various pieces of information. Although all of the individuals have not been named, appointed or elected you can still start to associate these positions within the Jaguar Band program and simply apply the name as everyone falls into place. For questions concerning general parent involvement, the Jaguar Band Booster Club and any of the various committees, you would speak with the Jaguar Band Booster President or any Band Booster Board Member. Our JBB (Johnson Band Boosters) Board is made up of these wonderful volunteers: Ida Musgrove, Juliette Kroeger, Diana Morones, Christi Townsend and Shannon Cameron. The Head Band Director is Mr. Joey Lucita; assistant directors will be hired later in this spring. Any of the Directors can answer general questions about the functioning of the band program, calendar, schedule, etc..... There will be a Director of Percussion and a Director of Color-Guard; they will be able to address questions regarding those programs. However, Mr. Lucita can answer most questions concerning those programs until all directors are hired.

TALES FROM BAND CAMP



GABROWN

3/8/2005

## ***How Will My Child Have Time?***

### **TIME MANAGEMENT**

How will our children have the time to go to rehearsals four days a week outside school, perform at eight to ten football games, and compete at five or six Festivals? 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 one of the most important skills that your children will acquire when they become members of the JHS 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 will learn that quickly. At any given time you will find students in the bandhall, out in the hallway, or in any other space available, doing homework or studying. This is taught to them when they first join the program and it is an expectation for everyone. Educational research has shown (and parents agree) that the discipline and focus developed in marching band carries over into the classroom and into life in general. Not surprisingly, many Marching Band students are Honors, On-Ramps, AP and/or college bound and receive numerous academic accolades and college scholarships. It is extremely common that the campus Valedictorian, Salutatorian or both, are band students. Additionally, a very large portion of the National Honor Society students in most schools are band members. Yes, even here within both Hays and Lehman high schools that statement holds true. There have been multiple studies showing that band does not simply chose the students that are the most successful, it is that the band students use the skills learned from being part of this organization to become the most successful students.

Your student will learn how to keep a schedule, how to be punctual, and how to set priorities. During the first week of Band Camp, a detailed schedule will be distributed to all band students. It will list every rehearsal, football game, and competition your student will be required to attend over the next three months. Please be aware that unexpected events do arise and some schedule adjustments must be made, however we will do our very best to keep those to a minimum. You can also view this schedule in Charms and on the Band's web site, as soon as it is launched! The band schedule should now become a permanent attachment to your refrigerator, synced with your phone and imbedded into your memory banks. Your child will also become punctual. They will grow to truly understand the meaning of the Jaguar Band's phrase... **"To be early is to be on time; To be on time is to be late; & To be late is to be left behind!"**

Finally, your child will learn how to set priorities. Band rehearsals and homework will now fill their free time. While this may seem daunting - your child will find time to make friends, experience what teamwork is, and (after marching camp) start school with an arsenal of new friends - making band a great place to be!

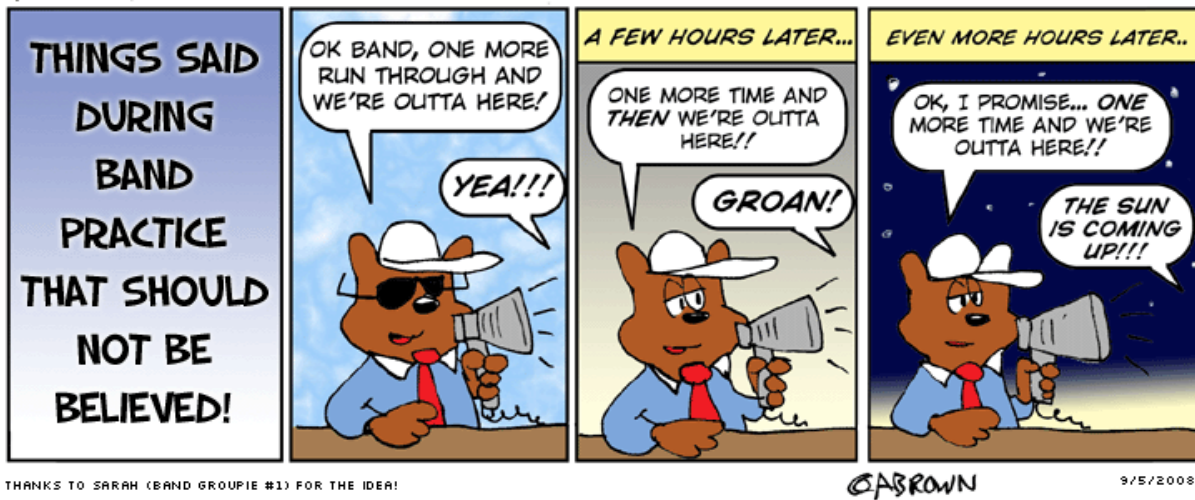
Make sure you and your child sign up for the "Band Remind 101" there is a new one each year.

*The 2019-2020 Full Band code:           Text   @jagband19 to 81010*  
*The 2019-2020 Jaguar Parents code:   Text   @jbparents to 81010*

Remind 101, will be the most convenient, fastest and most consistent means of communication we use in reaching the students. Every student will be required to enroll in the Jaguar Band's "Full Band" remind. If they do not have a phone they can sign up for the email version.

## TALES FROM BAND CAMP

HTTP://WWW.TALESFROMBANDCAMP.COM



## *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 directors need for all members of the band to be present during all scheduled rehearsals. Please see the Band Handbook (a link will be sent out and it will be on the Johnson Band's Webpage) for the rehearsal expectations. The student's membership depends on consistent and high quality participation. Management of a high school marching band is a monumental task and it becomes next to impossible if members of the band are absent. Please help your student meet this goals and expectations – remember PUNCTUALITY!!

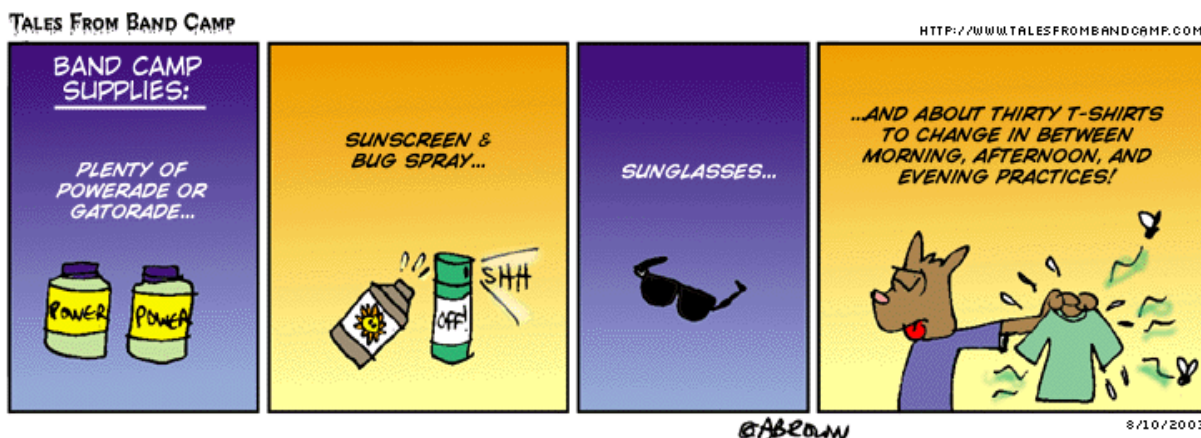
## *How Do Parents Get Involved?*

### **PARENT INVOLVEMENT = A SUCCESSFUL BAND PROGRAM**

Getting involved in the band program will give you the opportunity to share with your child the last four years of their high school education, these years go by so fast and are rarely fully enjoyed by many parents. Your child might say they rather not have you around, but most parents actually learn that in reality, they appreciate your involvement and will thank you in the future. JHS is destined to be an incredible band and will have great students, great directors, great staff and most importantly, great parents. The band parents are needed to support the directors, 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. If you have a child in the JHS Band then CONGRATULATIONS you have now taken the first step to becoming a member of the JBB (Johnson Band Boosters). The JBB organization is a great way to meet the parents and the kids your student will be spending much of their time with for the next four years. The easiest way to volunteer is by attending the monthly Band Booster meetings where

you will learn more about the program and where it needs your help. Booster Meetings will be held in the JHS Bandhall. The first 3 general meetings will be held at 6:30 PM in the Kunkle Room at the Buda Elementary Upper Campus. The dates are Tuesday: April 9<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday: May 14<sup>th</sup>, and Monday: May 3. (Fall 2019-2020 Dates & Times TBA)

In addition to the boosters, there will be many days where parents are arriving to pick their child up from practice and we encourage you to not just sit in the car, get out and ask, "How can I help?" It is fun and you meet the other parents with the same interests as yours. Also at the end of every rehearsal there will be full band announcements for the students and being out of the car and nearby is an incredible opportunity to gain even more information that always seems to get lost the moment your child leaves the band field.



### How Do We Keep Informed?

The JHS Band 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, videos, and posts of the band's activities. It is here that you will find the latest information on all upcoming events and fundraising opportunities. Make sure to visit our web site once it is established. You will find rehearsal times, general publications, schedules, Band Handbooks, Chaperone Guidelines, links to purchase spirit-wear, links to social media and a copy of the weekly Jaguar Band newsletter. Although not up a running yet, you can make note that the web address will be [www.johnsonbands.org](http://www.johnsonbands.org) & [www.johnsonbands.com](http://www.johnsonbands.com) both addresses will take you to our homepage when published.

### Social Media

Like us on Facebook now by searching @johnsonjaguarband and Follow us on Twitter in the near future. The Jaguar Band is in the process of developing and promoting our digital presence on social media. This will be an incredible source of important information, fun facts and countless celebrations!!!!

### Charms

What is CHARMS and how do I use it. CHARMS is an online band management database program used by parents & the band, to manage student contact information, band account tracking, communicate with parents, updated calendar, and work with trips, fees, fundraisers, form collection, and lots more. Your child will automatically be enrolled into CHARMS through the band department. Use your CHARMS login to help you keep track of your child's band involvement! Every student's login will be their JHS Student ID number. You can access CHARMS by copying and pasting this link into your browser: <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/parents.asp?username=JohnsonJaguarBand>

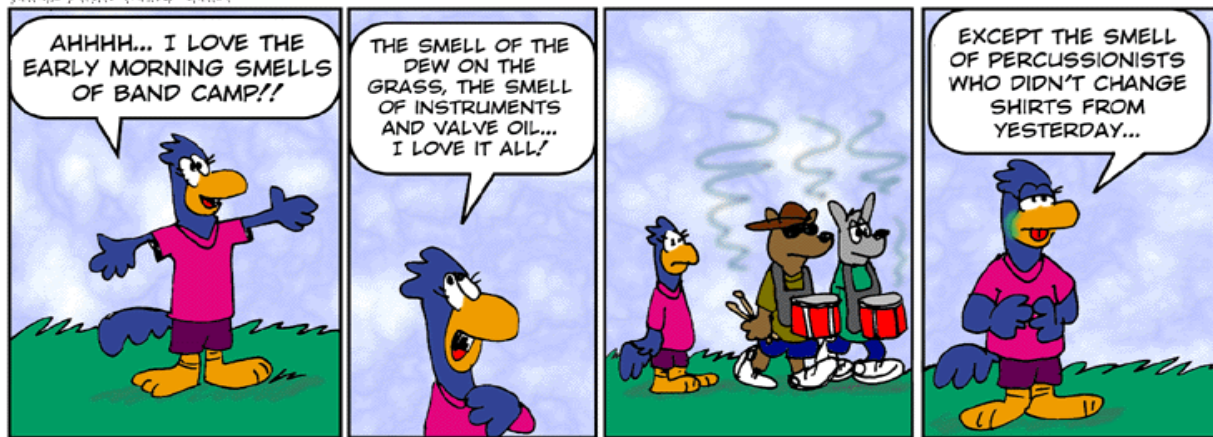
## How Do We Pay For This?

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. Our Directors do not want the economic factor to keep any student from participating in band and will always work with the parents in developing a program or process to ensure that the fees get covered.

The following are the standard costs that are required of the students. Please look and read closely as not all students pay all of the fees. There are also several other costs that are not required, an example of which is the Jaguar Band Meal Plan that covers food for your child when the band performs at football games, camps or are gone for an extended period of time during the day. Speaking of feeding the students – *another great time to get involved!!!* See the Booster Club. There are also additional items students may want to purchase such as a band duffle bag for transporting shoes, clothing, etc...and any spirit gear they are offered by the JBB or at various contests and events. The Directors have tried extremely hard to keep the required costs to a minimum. If you are curious please take a few minutes and Google some of the schools in the Austin area and you will find band fees that are often four or five times the amount of the JHS Band.

- **Supplies & Services: \$300** This is for all instrumentalists: woodwind, brass and percussion. For all incoming rookies (first year members), this fee will also cover the cost associated with the rookie season equipment including that of the Viper Marching Shoes, as well as the shorts and polo shirt that are used for the Summer Uniform. (after their rookie year students will be responsible for purchasing new items if they are lost, destroyed or outgrown.) Additional items covered in this for all students are the cost of gloves, shirt, cap, drill designers, music writers, guest clinicians, marching techs, program designer and production staff. The final aspect that this covers is the visual enhancement of the competitive marching show through items such as props, field screens, tarps, flags and customization of uniforms.
- **Instrument Fee: \$100** This is due only from students that are performing on school instruments (yes percussion is a school owned instrument). Those that must pay the instrument fee are the same that had that fee in Middle School. Many of the students such as French Horns, Euphoniums and Tubas will now receive two different instruments from the school. However the instrument fee will not change, they will receive the second instrument at no additional cost. (\$25 additional if your student wants to take the school instrument home for the summer)

TALES FROM BAND CAMP



## ***Uniforms, Uniforms – What Do They Wear?***

### **Marching Band Rehearsals**

Wear athletic shoes, no flip flops, no boots and no high top tennis shoes. A solid white t-shirt, and shorts (no long jeans or pants). Students may want an extra t-shirt in case of a sudden rain shower or to keep from doing laundry every day because they will get STINKY! (see cartoon above) A towel to do warm ups in the parking lot is essential. Every student will also need a wearable hydration pack. One example of this is a CamelBack, although you may purchase any brand of your choosing. This allows the students to consume water the moment their body needs it, rather than having to wait for a break. It also is a strong deterrent to the students sharing water sources.

### **Games/Festivals**

- Black Vipers - Your child will be sized and shoes will be ordered for them. Their first pair are covered in their Rookie Fee.
- Band Uniform - They will be fitted for their, soon to be traditional, Jaguar Band uniform jacket and pants (bibbers). This uniform will be worn to all football games, parades and community performances. Their uniform will stay at the school at all times when they are not wearing them. A wonderful committee will keep the uniforms clean, and hung up, ready for the next event. Each student will be given a uniform, garment bag and shako (hat) all of which will be stored at the school. Prior to leaving for the game your child will be PUNCTUAL and get to the High School with enough time to change into their uniform for inspection.
- T-shirt (dryfit) / spandex shorts to be worn under the uniform for group changes. Students will change into and out of uniform in the Band suite which has dressing rooms, however there may be times where we do not have access to changing rooms and we want to ensure our students modesty and safety. The spandex shorts and shirt are a must!
- Black or White gloves (two pair are provided as part of the fee structure) We suggest having several extra pairs. They cost about \$4 per pair and can be purchased from the Drum Majors before and after rehearsals.
- Black socks, TALL. We suggest having several pairs exactly alike. (Dryers love to eat socks.)

## ***When the bus arrives back at school can my child leave?***

### ***NOT until the following has happened:***

- They have turned in their uniform, hung up correctly. Students will be shown the correct method to hang the uniform to help ensure proper look, fit and life expectancy of the uniform.
- Listened to any messages from the Directors. There are times where information about the following day, week or event is given just before dismissal. This helps students with remembering when and where they are supposed to be.
- They have gathered all their stuff and their equipment, uniform and instruments are unloaded and put in their proper places.
- *This entire process should take about 30 minutes AFTER arrival back at Johnson.*

### **Tips to remember while in uniform: VERY IMPORTANT, READ CAREFULLY!**

- No jewelry – This includes all piercings and gauges, rings, watches, etc....
- Hair pulled up, back and in a bun. If you are a guy with long hair it must be pulled up and back however it does not have to be in a bun. All hair will be held in place with bands and pins that are the same color as your hair, the only additional hairpiece that is accepted are small, black or vegas gold bows and ribbons in the braids. Color Guard may have extensions or other accessories as a requirement.
- Natural colored hair in uniform. If your hair is an unnatural color, you will need to use the temporary coloring to ensure that your appearance is uniform to all others.
- No make-up (Guard is the exception, it is part of their stage uniform)
- Colored drinks, condiments, and any other messy or greasy food is not to be eaten while in uniform. **Clear liquids only.** Parents please do not bring food to your child in the stands while at a football game. The meal plan will cover food and we will provide water. They may eat again after we are out of uniform.

### ***Are There Really Inspections?***

YES there are and they important. Inspections will be held in the bandhall (or other designated location) before games or events. Students should be in place no later than the time they were told to report. **PUNCTUALITY!!!** Your student, their uniform and all auxiliary equipment will be inspected prior to departure from JHS. Failure to pass inspection could lead to your child not performing with the Band at that performance! Miss marching halftime at a football game as a result of not passing inspection would be a very unfortunate situation as often the main reason you as parents go to games is to see your children perform.

### ***Helpful Hints to Save Time and Grief:***

- Make your child responsible for being prepared. They will learn to be resourceful, creative and communicate when they have to.
- At the end of each practice session there are usually announcements – listen up. This is a great time to find out who, what, where and when things are going on. Practices are open to the public, we would love to have an audience!
- 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 band duffle bag. These tips will save time spent hunting for them each time they are needed. Students can purchase a Jaguar Band Duffle Bag during summer band.
- Keep extra gloves, socks, needle & thread, etc. in your car or purse just in case.
- Visit the band web site **OFTEN** and attend Booster Meetings to stay informed.
- **VOLUNTEER - VOLUNTEER - VOLUNTEER!!!**

We hope this information has answered some of your questions - please feel free to ask any and all questions you have at the Booster Meetings, or directly to any experienced band parent - together we will find the answer(s).





## **Now Just for FUN!**

### **You Know You Are A Band Parent When. . . .**

- You make three more trips than expected to drop off your child with everything they need.
- You carry spare black gloves, needle and thread, safety pins, black socks and duct tape in your pocketbook.
- You follow buses around all day on Saturdays.
- You can't pick your child out of the crowd because in the uniform they all look alike.
- You no longer speak of your child as a fourteen-year-old daughter/son, but as a "freshman trumpet, freshman flute," etc.
- You prominently display a band calendar in the kitchen, have band dates marked on the calendar in your purse and/or have the Band Hotline Number on your speed dial.
- You know that you will be wearing something Black and/or Gold every Friday night and on Saturdays.
- "To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is to be left behind" becomes your mantra for everything you do.
- You don't leave home without cushions to sit on, camera and sunscreen!
- You know the month following September is called "Band-Tober"