



**JAGUAR**  
BAND BOOSTERS



# BAND PARENT SURVIVAL GUIDE

*To be a successful band parent, it is most important to be  
POSITIVE, PATIENT and FLEXIBLE!*

# BAND PARENT SURVIVAL GUIDE



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## MISSION & GOALS

The Johnson Band Boosters (JBB) is a group of parent volunteers focused on supporting the Directors and members of the Band and Guard. JBB seeks to inform and remind parents and students of current Band or Guard events and of upcoming activities. We also enjoy celebrating and highlighting the accomplishments of our band and guard programs.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

President	Ida Musgrove	<a href="mailto:president@johnsonbands.com">president@johnsonbands.com</a>
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The duties of the JBB include:

- Financial support through fundraising
- Assisting band directors as requested
- Spirit items for sale
- Chaperoning trips
- Uniform assistance
- Helping with the loading/unloading of equipment
- Organizing and hosting band activities
- Communicating booster activities
- Spirit activities
- Marching prop construction or assembly
- Football game, competition & summer meal plan

## DID YOU KNOW THAT BAND IS A SERVICE ORGANIZATION?

*To be a successful band parent, it is most important to be POSITIVE, PATIENT and FLEXIBLE!*

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Not only is the band a place for students to grow as musicians but it is an organization in which students learn life-long skills such as team work, time management, and the importance of service - to each other, to the school, and to the community at large.

## HOW CAN I HELP MY STUDENT SUCCEED?

Probably 95% of the effort required for success in the band program must come from your high-schooler, and will require significant discipline and commitment on his/her part. Here is a list of proven suggestions gathered from the years of experience of several band parents that will help you and your child on your way to a great year.

### TOP TEN WAYS TO HAVE A GREAT YEAR!

1. Help guide your child's **time management**. Students must use every minute of their day wisely. Help your high-schooler to learn how to set priorities. Band rehearsals and homework will likely fill their free time. While this may seem daunting - your high-schoolers, as others have before them, will find time to make friends and excel in academics!
2. Encourage, remind, and offer assistance where appropriate, but **do not do everything for your child**. Taking responsibility is one of the most difficult, but most valuable life skills your child will learn through band membership. Inform your child ahead of time of the consequences of potential misjudgements or inappropriate behavior and then let them handle their schedule and their situations.
3. **Be prompt** and encourage your child to be prompt. It is important to your child's development of self-discipline and it is important to the entire band program. Quite often, the tardiness of even one student will hold up an entire rehearsal.
4. **Attend band booster meetings** every month. This is the easiest way to stay up-to-date on band activities, learn of schedule changes, and meet other members of your 'band family'.
5. **Be informed!** Read the *band handbook*, *emails* from the band directors and boosters carefully, and sync dates to your calendar. Sign up for *Remind 101*. Refer to the band website and *CHARMS* frequently for dates, events, volunteer information, and other useful information.
6. **Communicate** concerns or conflicts to the band directors immediately so that they can be resolved.
7. **Volunteer** your time for an activity that interests you. The band boosters need the involvement of every parent! This is also the best way to get to know other students and band parents. Your high-schooler will be aware of your support – just don't expect him/her to acknowledge it! ;-)
8. **Participate** in the band's activities by cheering at competitions and half-time performances. It is hard to perform your best to an absent or silent audience.
9. **Be flexible**. In the band world, things can change in a minute.
10. Keep a **positive attitude**. Find things to compliment or praise. Remember that everything we do and say has an impact on the success of our students and the program.

*To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late. To be late is to be left behind!*

## BOOSTER MEETINGS

*To be a successful band parent, it is most important to be POSITIVE, PATIENT and FLEXIBLE!*

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Booster meetings are *typically* held at 6:30pm on the third Tuesday of each month from July through May (except December). Meeting dates are notated on the *CHARMS* calendar and are generally held in the JHS band hall. Meetings take approximately one hour.

All families are Band Boosters! Everyone (including aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc.) are invited and encouraged to attend meetings! Input, suggestions, and ideas are always welcome! Attending Booster meetings is the best way to stay informed and contribute to the success of the Jaguar Band.

Please remember that band booster officers, committee chairs, and members are *volunteers*. These volunteers dedicate time outside of their regular work hours to organize efforts and provide services that support the success of the Jaguar Band.

## COMMUNICATION

The band directors and boosters work together to communicate information to all families as far in advance as possible. However, that is not always possible. In the band world, things can change in a minute. Maybe a bus is running late; maybe the school has changed a date; maybe the band competition is running early! Remember, to be a successful band parent, it is most important to be POSITIVE, PATIENT and FLEXIBLE!

It is also important to note that your child is now in high school! Directors share information with the students daily during class and/or practice but often are not able to send written information home. Your high school student is expected to communicate updated information with their families!

We know students don't always pass on information...SO, we highly recommend that families supplement the information your student tells you through the following:

- Follow us on social media!



Johnson Jaguar Band;



@JHS\_JaguarBand;



johnsonhsband

- Go to [www.Charmsoffice.com](http://www.Charmsoffice.com). *CHARMS* contains the band calendar which is maintained and updated by Mrs. Tracye Mendez, JHS Fine Arts Secretary. To log into the parent/student/member area, the school code is: JohnsonJaguarBand. The password is your students' Hays CISD ID#. Once you log-in it will ask you to change your password.
- **Website:** [www.johnsonbands.org](http://www.johnsonbands.org) or [www.johnsonbands.com](http://www.johnsonbands.com)
- **Remind 101:** Sign up by following the directions below and get up to date texts from our band directors regarding announcements or return times from games!
  - Full Band Code - Text @jagband19 to 81010; Pit Crew -Text @pitcrewja to 81010
- **Email:** The primary way the band program shares information is through *CHARMS* emails. So please make sure you check the email that you provided to the *CHARMS* system!
- **Newsletter:** Jaguar Band Boosters prepare and send out a weekly newsletter in which you will receive a lot of information in preparation for the week ahead. The weekly newsletter is shared via Charms email and Facebook.

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## FALL MARCHING SEASON

The Jaguar Marching Band consists of three primary sections – the “winds”, the “percussion”, and the “colorguard”.

### **BEFORE AND AFTER-SCHOOL REHEARSAL**

These rehearsals are required. Please note that the marching field is a classroom! You are welcome as a spectator at any time, but please do not come to the field expecting to talk to your child (unless it is an emergency).

Directors will try hard to provide practice dates and times on the *CHARMS* calendar. However, practice times may vary. Your student will be informed of changes by the directors. Again, please remember that to be a successful band parent, it is most important to be **POSITIVE, PATIENT** and **FLEXIBLE!**

### **BIG BROTHER/BIG SISTER PROGRAM**

This is a program, run by the band student leadership team (SLT), that partners up incoming freshman with an upperclassman in the band. The older student offers encouragement, support, and advice on how to best navigate band membership. Traditionally, on game days or other special occasions, the “siblings” exchange some type of small gift. These are not elaborate gifts! An ice-cold drink, candy, etc. are all nice gestures!

### **COLOR GUARD**

The color guard interprets the music that the marching band is playing via dance and the synchronized spinning of flags, sabers, rifles. Students who participate in the “guard” do not have to play an instrument. Therefore, the guard is typically comprised of both students who are band and non-band students. The guard helps to “tell the story” of each year’s marching show. The guard utilizes costuming, flags, rifles, sabers and other props and perform a choreographed routine. Color guard continues into the Spring - see “Winter Guard” below.

### **DISMISSAL FROM REHEARSAL**

Directors will maximize UIL practice rules by having students rehearse until the end of rehearsal time. However, please know that sometimes, after rehearsal but before dismissal, it is necessary that directors provide information about the following day, week, or upcoming event. In addition, please know that, before dismissal, it is a tradition that band student leaders (drum major and section captains) lead the students in a closing ceremony chant of spirit and pride! *Dismissal is the time when students are finished with rehearsal and the spirit closing.*

Students must then return to the band hall to properly put up their instruments. This entire process should take no longer than 15 minutes. It is recommended to schedule your pick up time accordingly. For example, if rehearsal ends at 7:45pm, plan on picking up at 8pm. Please note that once students have returned to the band hall, they often linger to chat with each other before heading out to the pick-up line.



## DISMISSAL AFTER GAMES

Students are dismissed once they have:

- Listened to announcements from the Directors,
- Put away their instruments and equipment *properly*,
  - Large instruments, guard and percussion must assist in unloading equipment truck.
- Turned in their uniform, hung up *correctly*.

This entire process should take about 30 minutes AFTER arrival back to Johnson HS.

## MEAL PLANS

On football game days, students who purchased meal plans will receive their meals and have time to eat before going to the band hall to change into uniforms. If necessary to depart school early for an away game, students will receive a boxed meal to eat en route. At no time will students be allowed to purchase food at the game concession stands nor will they be allowed to bring food into the game or receive food from family or friends during the game. On competition days, we will provide one to two “fast food” meals. Game and competition days can be hectic. They run on a tight and variable schedule, so it can be difficult to get food to your student. Purchasing meal plans for your child is always a great idea! *Volunteers are needed to assist with meal plan service.*

## FOOTBALL GAMES

Football games are mandatory. Parents must purchase tickets to attend both home or away games, although game attendance is by no means required. You can pick up your student afterward. For home games this pickup time is generally between 10:30 - 11pm. Away game pick-up times depend on where the game was played and how long it takes the bus to return to school. Stay updated on Remind 101!

**Please Don't Park in the Unloading Zone:** When the band returns from away games or competition shows, it is very important that no one park along the curb where buses pick up and drop off OR behind the band hall where the trailer parks to unload. Please park in the parking lot.

## MARCHING COMPETITIONS

UIL - This competition uses judging criteria that covers musicianship (tone and performance) and marching (drill and execution). There are 3 judges. They will assign 1 of 5 ratings: Division I (Superior), Division II (Excellent), Division III (Average), Division IV (Below Average), Division V (Poor) using a UIL rubric. Judges are located in the stands/press box. Times are announced as the competition date gets closer.

FESTIVALS - (Vista Ridge, Texas Marching Classic, Bands of America (BOA)) These festivals use judging criteria that provides separate scores for various categories that include Music performance, Visual effect, General Effect/Design, Percussion, and Auxiliary Unit (color guard). Judges are located both in the stands/press box and on the ground. Each performance time is announced by host as the competition date gets closer.



## LETTER JACKET AWARD SYSTEM

Receiving a letter jacket is a visible indication of dedication, personal achievement, and loyalty to the goals of the band program. Jackets will be ordered for and presented to Seniors who participate in band (or color guard) for their full four years (eight semesters). Students who do not participate in band or color guard for their entire Senior year must return their letter jackets before being cleared of obligations.

In order to receive their letter jacket *before* their Senior year, students must earn a total of 50 points in one school year to qualify. Points may be earned in the following manner:

### **15 Points (This section is cumulative – 15 points/year of participation.)**

One complete year of successful participation in both concert and marching band.

(Loss of eligibility may remove point credit for this portion at the head director's discretion.)

### **25 Points (Non-cumulative)**

Selection into and performance with the TMEA All Region Band.

Selection into and performance with the TMEA All Region Orchestra

Selection into the TMEA AREA Band or Orchestra.

Performance of a Class One solo at the UIL State Solo Contest and earning a Superior (First Division) rating

### **10 Points (Non-cumulative)**

Performance of a Class One or Two solo at the UIL Solo Contest earning a Superior (First Division) rating.

Performance of a Class One or Two ensemble at the UIL ensemble contest and earning a Superior (First Division) rating.

Performance of a Class One ensemble at the UIL State ensemble contest and earning a Superior (First Division) rating.

Maintaining a band officer position for an entire year. *Johnson Jaguar Band Student Handbook Page 32 2019-2020*

### **5 Points (Non-Cumulative)**

Performance of a Class ONE or TWO solo at the UIL Solo Contest earning an Excellent (Second Division) rating.

### **1 Point (Non-Cumulative)**

Participation in events approved by the band director such as special fundraising events or performances and various other opportunities.

*Recognition points for SLT's are at the discretion of the band director*

## SPIRIT SEND-OFF

*To be a successful band parent, it is most important to be POSITIVE, PATIENT and FLEXIBLE!*



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On marching competition days, the Jaguar band community gets together at Dahlstrom Middle School to wave signs, etc. as the students pass by on the buses! It is a lot of fun and the students really enjoy it! You can see them waving and smiling as they pass by! Keep a lookout for sign-making parties and times to meet for send off on competition days!

## SUMMER BAND

Summer Band Camp typically starts at the end of July and is required for all participants in marching band, guard, and percussion. During the camp, students meet daily according to a set schedule and learn to integrate the music into the new school year's marching program. Students also form new friendships and a sense of unity during this time, creating a foundation for a polished, finished performance.

Please plan carefully around summer band camp and avoid any family travel, dentist, and doctor appointments during this time. Also, remember that the marching field is a classroom! You are always welcome as a spectator, but please do not come to the field expecting to talk to your child (unless it is an emergency).

## UNIFORMS - MARCHING SEASON

**COMPETITION UNIFORM** - It has become increasingly common for high school marching bands to wear a show shirt specifically designed to represent the show theme and add to the general effect of the show. These shirts are used primarily for competitions and are provided by the band program.

**FORMAL UNIFORM** - The uniform issued by the band and kept at the school consists of black overall-like pants, called "bibbers", a band undershirt (2 options - director's choice), jacket, gauntlets, and could include a shako hat with plume and decorative piece. Band fees include the cost of gloves, black band shoes, and the "summer uniform". *Students must purchase LONG black socks, black belt, and black compression shirt and shorts.*

**SUMMER UNIFORM** - This uniform is covered by band fees and is provided by the band program. The uniform includes khaki shorts, black band polo, black cap, and black band shoes.. Summer uniform items that must be purchased by families are black belt and SHORT black socks.

## PIT CREW

The pit crew is comprised of hard working parent volunteers who help at EVERY football game and competition to get equipment on and off the field. At the very beginning of the marching season, it may seem like you are not needed and that there are more than enough volunteers. However, this is the perfect time for all volunteers to get acquainted with the process. This is because the complexity of the show increases as the marching season progresses. Over time, more and more volunteers are needed to move equipment and props onto the field. Early experience in the process will help everyone be ready for the competitions!

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## STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)

The Student Leadership Team currently includes the drum major, section captains, section leaders, and officers. To become a member of the SLT, students must apply and interview. Interviews are conducted by other directors invited by the Jaguar band directors. When selecting the SLT, band directors consider attitude, attendance, musicianship, participation, academic eligibility, and demonstration of leadership. SLT members must re-apply for positions each year. Please know that as the band grows in size, so too might the SLT and the positions available. Those decisions are at the discretion of our band directors. Application packets will be available in the Spring.

## SPRING CONCERT SEASON

### CONCERT BANDS

During concert band season, students play in different groups: Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, and Percussion Ensemble. Students audition for concert band placement in the spring. Although concert performances take place primarily in the spring, concert bands meet every day throughout the school year during their assigned class period.

Extra rehearsals may be called at any time for marching band or concert bands. For example, each ensemble may have a weekly sectional rehearsal during concert season. Flexibility regarding scheduling is important. Your support and understanding is greatly appreciated and is necessary for the success of the program.

### CONCERT UNIFORMS

Directors are looking into getting formal concert uniforms from the district so that students do not have to purchase them. Parents will be kept up to date once the district has made its decision.

### WINTER GUARD

Winter guard is an extracurricular indoor color guard activity (November-April) that is performed in a gymnasium or other indoor arena. Performances make use of recorded music rather than a live band. Please note that there are additional fees for students participating in winter guard.

### PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Percussion will meet during a separate period in the Spring in order to focus on improving their percussion skills and gaining exposure to challenging and interesting percussion repertoire.

*\*\*Please note that this document is just a helpful guide and that additional information will be communicated and provided as the time nears, including information about band spring trip and band banquet.*

