

## 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

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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?

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**. 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!*



## COMMUNICATE!

### BOOSTER MEETINGS

Booster 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. Please be patient and understanding.

### SYSTEMS

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

- **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! 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!
- **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.

# NEW PARENT GUIDE TO JAGUAR BAND



## *VOLUNTEER!*

Running a competitive program takes an incredible amount of work and dedication from the students, staff and parent volunteers. The Band and Guard could not do what it does without a large parent volunteer base. **WE WELCOME PARENT INVOLVEMENT AND THERE IS A ROLE FOR EVERYONE!** And it makes the experience a whole lot more fun! So please sign up!

## **SPIRIT SEND-OFF**

On marching competition days, the Jaguar band community gets together at a designated site 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!

## **HELPFUL INFO AND TIPS FOR PARENTS**

### **FALL MARCHING SEASON**

The Jaguar Marching Band consists of three primary sections – the “winds” (brass and woodwinds), the “percussion”, and the “colorguard”. When you see communications to the “Band” - that includes each of these groups!

***IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUR STUDENT TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING! MARCHING BAND IS A TEAM SPORT - TO BE SUCCESSFUL WE MUST HAVE EVERYONE PRESENT!***

## **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). Feel free to stop by early when you are picking up your student and watch the end of practice. (parking lot by gym)**

## **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). **Feel free to stop by early when you are picking up your student and watch the end of practice. (parking lot by gym)**

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. No matter what



we tell you and what is said on announcements, things may change or get adjusted. **Sometimes you will not know about the changes until the day they happen!** Again, please remember that to be a successful band parent, it is most important to be POSITIVE, PATIENT and FLEXIBLE!

## CARPOOLING

The Band Boosters will help facilitate carpooling this year. They will create a carpool sign-up page on the band website to make it easy for you to coordinate carpools. From this list, you will be able to identify band families near you and use their contact information to set up carpools for summer camp or the school year. Be sure to check the list several times as more families have an opportunity to sign-up over the summer. We will also provide a carpool sign-up for parents traveling to competitions - it's always more fun to travel with others!

## 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 15-30 minutes. (Depending on how efficient your child is in checking in uniform items) We recommend you schedule your pick up time accordingly. Please note that once students have returned to the band hall, they often linger to chat with their friends before heading out to the pick-up line. If your student is in the Percussion Front Ensemble, add a few more minutes to pick-up time since they have more equipment to move back to the band hall.

## 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.

When picking up your student after competitions and away football games, PLEASE do not pull up along the curb along the courtyard area or behind band hall loading area. These are lanes and parking areas that will need to be used by the band trailer and buses. Blocking these points will delay the unloading of the band trailer and the time we all get to go home!



## 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!

## MARCHING COMPETITIONS aka “Bandtober”

Please come out and support the students at their games, contests, and performances! It is always more fun for the students to perform to a cheering and supportive crowd! At competitions, look for other Jaguar Marching Band parents and sit with them, even if you don’t know them! It makes it much more exciting for the students when they see a group of cheering black and gold! To get live updates on band contests, you can check out [www.live.txbands.com](http://www.live.txbands.com).

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 - (Champion Classic, Westlake, 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 the host as the competition date gets closer.

## UNIFORMS - MARCHING SEASON

### COMPETITION UNIFORM:

*Winds and Percussion:* 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 covered by fees, used primarily for competitions, and are provided by the band program.



# NEW PARENT GUIDE TO JAGUAR BAND



*Color Guard:* It has become increasingly common for high school color guards to wear a full costume, hair and makeup designed to represent the show theme and add to the general effect of the show. Because these are full costumes and not just tops, these costumes are covered by a combination of fees and band funds, used primarily for competitions, and are provided by the band program.

## FORMAL UNIFORM:

*Winds and Percussion:* 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.***

\_\_\_\_\_ *Color Guard:* The uniform issued by the band and kept at the school consists of the Johnson tunic. Color Guard fees include the cost of shoes, gloves, black capris, and the “summer uniform”. The band program owns this uniform.

## SUMMER UNIFORM:

*Winds and Percussion:* 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.

*Color Guard:* This uniform is covered by color guard fees and is provided by the color guard program. Students own this uniform.

## STUDENT PROGRAMS

### LETTER JACKET AWARD SYSTEM

Receiving a letter jacket is a visible indication of dedication, personal achievement, and loyalty to the goals of the marching band program. Students can earn a jacket before their senior year (*see Band Handbook for point system*) or will be presented a jacket for participating 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.

### 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.



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

This is a program, run by the band student leadership team (SLT), that partners up incoming freshmen 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!

## **SPRING CONCERT / WINTER GUARD 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.***





*Johnson Band Boosters*  
*P.O. Box 333*  
*Buda, TX 78610*

## **WHO ARE THE BAND BOOSTERS?**

The band boosters are YOU! And US!

In order to help facilitate efforts, we have an elected board of volunteers and appointed Committee Chairs: see *contact info document*

## **WHAT DO THE BAND BOOSTERS DO?**

### **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. This support includes the assistance of volunteers and fundraising.

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.

## **WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?**

Where does the money go? The funds that are raised pay for many things throughout the school year. A partial list of the events, activities and items which Johnson Band Boosters supports include:

- Marching Shows (Purchase of music, choreography, props)
- Supplemental Instruction (private lessons)
- Technician & Clinician Fees
- Contest Entry Fees (Marching Shows, Region Auditions, UIL, etc.)
- Equipment Needs (Sound systems, projectors, cameras, electronics, musical instruments etc.)
- Transportation
- Leadership Programs
- Uniforms

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



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

### WHERE DO I PAY MY FEES?

Hays CISD RevTrak\Johnson HS:

<https://hayscisid.revtrak.net/campuses-and-instruction/Middle-Schools-and-High-Schools/johnson-high-school/jhs-music/jhs-band/#/list>

### I WANT TO HELP BUT I WORK FULL TIME. HOW CAN I BE OF HELP?

Sign up for at least one volunteer shift! There will be many opportunities to do your part in supporting the success of your student's band program.

For example, you can choose to volunteer to pass out food on game days, or to push equipment or props onto the field for one halftime or a competition!

### WHERE CAN I PURCHASE A MARCHING MUSIC LYRE? OR FLIP FOLDER?

There are some local stores such as Strait Music. Some families purchase these items through Amazon.

### WHERE WILL I BE ABLE TO PURCHASE MEAL PLANS?

Yes! Please see our website! <https://www.johnsonbands.com/shop>

### WHERE CAN I PURCHASE SPIRIT WEAR?

<https://www.johnsonbands.com/shop>