

**2012-2013**

**DAVIESS COUNTY**  
*Band of Pride*

**PARENT SUPPLEMENT**

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## **Introduction**

This Band Parent Supplement is intended to provide answers to the most common band parent questions, to familiarize you with the operation of the Band Boosters, and to acquaint you with ways you can support the Daviess County Band program.

We also know that no written handbook can take the place of a conversation with a director or experienced band parent. All of our executive board members are ready to help you find answers to any question you may have, or just to help you know what to anticipate as the band year unfolds. Mr. Dale is also just an email away!

At Daviess County High School, “the band” refers to everyone who participates with the band program throughout the year. This includes the DCHS Marching Band, the DCHS Color Guard and Winter Guard, the DCHS Drum Line, and all DCHS Concert and Jazz ensembles. During the fall marching season, the marching band, drum line and color guard work to create an outstanding and highly competitive marching band show. After Marching Band and throughout the spring concert season, the instrumental groups develop concert and festival pieces, individual students and small ensembles develop festival works, and many students participate in state and college honor ensembles. Daviess County offers a truly comprehensive instrumental music program. The breadth and quality of the program requires a lot of parental support and involvement. Please let someone know how you want to help!

The main purposes of the Band Boosters are:

- To lend all possible support, including, but not limited to, moral and financial support, to the Daviess County Band Program.
- To continually maintain an enthusiastic interest in the various phases of the Daviess County Band Program with the students, parents, and the community.
- To lead fundraisers and solicit other forms of funds for the purpose of enabling the band to operate effectively and efficiently.
- To cooperate with the Directors of the Daviess County Band Program, the school administrators, and any program sponsored by the Band to promote the highest possible ideals in music education.

## High School Band 101 – The most essential information and tips

As a parent, you likely feel obligated to help your child be as successful as they can be in any endeavor they undertake. The following general information is designed to help you do just that with regard to your child's participation in the DCHS Band Program.

### I. Stay Informed

- a. Mr. Dale provides students with hard copies of essential information consistently and with ample advanced warning. When this information makes it home, please read it and, if necessary, keep it in a location where you can easily refer back to it as needed.
- b. The DCHS Band Handbook and this parent supplement contain invaluable information and should serve to answer most questions that arise. Please keep them as a resource.
- c. The DCHS Band boasts one of the finest band websites you'll ever see. All essential information can be found there in downloadable format and the calendar on the site provides the most up-to-date list of events and rehearsals. [www.bandofpride.com](http://www.bandofpride.com)
- d. You can also see event lists and calendars and communicate with directors via your child's Charms account. Every student receives a log in and instructions in the summer. Communicate with Mr. Dale if you need assistance. Band fees can also be viewed and managed on Charms and by updating your personal information on your Charms account; you will be added to an email distribution list and one-call system to get important announcements.

### II. Support your child's achievement

- a. Attendance is the most critical component to band success. More than any other class or activity, every person's presence or absence impacts the entire band. Our attendance policy is very specific as are our procedures for reporting absences. Use the information found in the band handbook to ensure your child adheres to these policies and help make sure they have excellent attendance. Please understand that, for the good of the entire band program, exceptions to procedures and policies as they relate to attendance will not be considered.
- b. Become aware of band grading policy. By reviewing the grading policies found in the band handbook, you can help your student make sure they are fulfilling their responsibilities.
- c. If at all possible, provide your student with private lessons. Our current list of private lesson teachers is on the band website. Lesson teachers are not "tutors" in the traditional sense. They will help students overcome obstacles to their musicianship, but they will also enrich more advanced students to reach their full potential.

- d. If at all possible, support your child's musicianship by enduring they are performing on the best equipment you can afford. There are usually "beginner," "intermediate," and "professional" models of every instrument. Beginner horns are built for durability so that they will survive middle school students' tendency to be hard on instruments. Intermediate horns are more advanced in design and will produce a better quality sound than a beginning instrument. Professional instruments can allow many high school students to reach their full potential and will certainly serve them for the rest of their lives if well maintained. **Please consult a director or private lesson teacher before making a purchase** – there is more junk out there than quality.
- e. Help your child develop a practice routine. The band handbook provides a good guide on how home practice should look and sound. Having parents who understand the importance of daily practice and are willing to "enforce" the implementation of a practice routine for their musician at home is **INVALUABLE** to the band program. They may not always **WANT** to practice, but they don't always **WANT** to eat their vegetables, either. You **MAKE** them eat their veggies because they are **GOOD** for them. So is daily practice!
- f. If your profession allows you time to become involved as a volunteer with our program, please consider it. This comment may at first appear self-serving, but becoming involved with your child's activities can really bring families together and be great support for a child's success. The message you send to your child when you become involved is **"I CARE."**

## **How to Get Involved with the DCHS Band**

### How to get involved with the blessing of your child

The ways in which a teenager can react to their parents' interest in participating in band activities can vary greatly! Explain that you want to be an observer and supporter of their activities in the band because you love them and enjoy seeing them participate and perform. Promise, and then be certain that you carry through, that you will not "hover" around them. In this regard, it may make your child feel more comfortable if you ride a different bus on trips. (The directors or chaperone coordinator will be happy to honor this request if you ask.) Resist the urge to discipline on band trips; the school district expects the directors to handle discipline on school trips. It is critical that you honor your promises to your child for several outings as a way to gain their trust for the rest of their years as a band member. Eventually, your child may run short of money while on a trip, and they will realize that the "bank" is traveling with them and can help out with a few extra bucks. Perhaps at some point they will realize that it is to their advantage to have you along and you will get acknowledged as both parent and chaperone (a high honor indeed). After you have been with the band a few times, you'll find that your child and others will gradually acknowledge you and you will have made some new friends.

### How to get involved as a Band Booster member and parent volunteer

Each member of the boosters is invited to be involved in the various activities of the organization. The boosters have a number of undertakings that are continual throughout the year and some just for particular annual events. The number of parents who can help with a certain activity is not limited, except by the fact that too many parents helping with one activity may limit each booster member's individual contribution, and may not lead to good staffing in other areas. Please let the board members know if you are interested in helping with any booster activity. Everyone who wants to help will be put to work!

### How to get involved as a member of the Booster Club Executive Board

Booster members who have been in the organization at least one year are eligible to be nominated to serve on the Board. Serving on the Board is very rewarding, and gives you an opportunity to directly support the Boosters' work on behalf of the band program. Please visit with any member of the Board about the obligations associated with Board membership. The Executive Board tends to be made up of people who have served as volunteers from the general membership first.

**All parent volunteers must submit a DCPS Background check.** The form you will need is located on the Resources Page under Forms and Documents on the band website ([www.bandofpride.com](http://www.bandofpride.com)). Simply fill it out and turn it in to Mr. Dale. If you have a special skill (e.g., EMT, nurse, physician, etc.) or can offer a needed service (e.g., driving a truck, pulling a trailer, etc.) make sure the Boosters and band directors know.

## **Chaperoning**

One of the areas where parent volunteers are most needed is chaperoning. Adult chaperones are necessary for all band events, bus trips, etc. The number of chaperones needed depends on the number of students going, the number of vehicles, and the nature of the trip. This is a great way to get to know band members, other band parents and the directors. Like all parent volunteers, a DCPS background check is required. Be sure the boosters and band directors know of your interest. Above all other traits, a chaperone must be patient and maintain a positive demeanor when dealing with students.

Chaperoning a bus trip requires you to show up early, check roll after each stop and before departure, convey instructions from the band directors to the students and maintain a reasonable travel environment on the bus. Band directors are responsible for discipline on the buses. Your role is to remind the students of the rules, correct small deviations from those rules, and advise a director of serious problems.

Sitting with the band during basketball/football games is always great, even when you aren't a designated chaperone. We have great fun together at games and we usually get a bit rowdy as we cheer for the Panthers. Don't sit directly behind the sousaphones. When they stand, you can't see anything! We do ask, however, that you sit in a section next to us or behind us and not directly within the band.

Chaperoning on a competition day generally involves a bus trip to get to the contest and then assisting with unloading and loading, monitoring changing areas, assisting band members and directors who need help, and the pleasure of listening to well-trained bands perform their very best. There is nothing quite like a bus ride home from a contest with a winning band! Competition days are long and tiring. It is on days like these that the patience and positive demeanor that you bring to the table will be the most helpful in making sure everyone has a great experience.

Chaperoning spring trips (not every year) requires the commitment of time and money, but brings a great deal of reward. A spring trip is a combination trip – a thank you to the band for a marching and concert season well done and an opportunity to perform in new and exciting venues. Chaperones have to pay for their trip and have to observe payment deadlines. You'll have to adapt to change well, particularly during the trip. Having the constitution to go to bed at 1 am and be up by 5 am for about 4 days is a plus. Regardless of lost sleep, chaperoning the spring trip is a lot of fun. You will get to spend time with some really awesome students, parents and band friends. This is not a job for whiners. Make sure that the directors and the boosters know of your interest.

We have an extensive list of rules and procedures to help chaperones know what should be going on and what is and is not acceptable student behavior in any given situation. Most of these simply employ common sense and courtesy.

## **Fundraising & Fees**

### Understanding Band Fees:

Our base band fee is \$300 per student. In addition, all students pay a \$40 meal fee to cover the meals they are fed throughout the regular marching band season at competitions. Students who play percussion or use a school-owned instrument at anytime throughout the year also pay a \$75 School Instrument User (SIU) fee to cover repair, maintenance, and related equipment. Our base fee is only about 1/3 of what actually gets spent per student per year. Similar programs in our own state have a base band fee of \$1200-\$1600. Keeping this in mind, it becomes clear why we ask the EVERYONE help out by participating in all of our fundraisers.

### Fundraising:

After marching and concert band fees are applied to our annual budget, we still have to raise thousands to fund the activity. Without EVERYONE participating, we would cease to be able to provide the services to students and would be unable to present the quality product that we do every year. To better understand the costs involved in the operation of a successful marching band each year, speak with an executive board member or see the information on our band website. You will see why it takes everyone making a team effort to raise money.

### Practical pointers about financial matters:

Any time money is being turned in to the band office, submit payments in an envelope clearly labeled with your child's name and why the money is being submitted (fees, shirts, dot books, etc.). The envelope should then be placed in the deposit box on the wall inside the band office. This helps us avoid crediting the funds incorrectly. Pay special attention to whom your check should be written. Most checks can be made out to the Daviess County High School Band or DCHS Band but there will be times when checks will need to be made out to a specific vendor. Band Fee payments can be made online through your student's Charms Account.

**IMPORTANT:** Due to IRS regulations, the Daviess County Band Boosters do not keep student accounts. All fundraiser proceeds earned go to the general fund of the organization for the betterment of the entire program. The IRS views fundraiser credit given to individuals for sales or participation as personal income. The IRS can levy significant fines and penalties on organizations that fail to comply.

The Band Boosters operate through DCHS as a tax-exempt organization and must comply with state and federal regulations in order to maintain our status. **DONATIONS OF MONEY OR EQUIPMENT TO THE BAND ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE** and we would be more than happy to receive your donation and to supply you with the necessary receipts for your tax preparation purposes. We welcome the donation of any useful equipment or musical instrument.

## **Practical tips for Marching Band**

Marching Band Summer Rehearsal begins in the summer each year. Calendars for the fall season are usually published two or three months ahead of summer break to allow parents ample time to plan around rehearsals. Marching Band rehearsals are marked on the band calendar hardcopy and online version. Detailed information about rehearsals can be found by clicking on the event on our website or Charms calendar. No Marching Band rehearsals should ever be considered optional unless marked as such on the calendar. Summer “mini-camps” are often labeled “if you are in town” to show a lenient attendance policy for those events for people taking vacations in June. All performances are mandatory for everyone. Sectional rehearsals for various sections within the band are often scheduled. These rehearsals are mandatory if they appear on our calendar. Familiarize yourself with the various sectional labels that you might find on our calendar:

**Winds:** Members who play woodwind or brass instruments

**Percussion:** Members who play drums or keyboard percussion instruments

**Front Ensemble/Pit:** Non-marching percussion members who play keyboard percussion, electronics, or accessory percussion parts

**Guard:** Members of our color guard (flags)

**Rookies:** Any student in any grade level who is in their first season of marching band at DCHS (regardless of previous high school band experience at DC or another school)

**Rookie Marchers:** Any student in any grade level who is in their first season of marching band at DCHS and is not a member of the Front Ensemble/Pit

**Veterans:** Any student in any grade level who has at least one year of DCHS Marching Band experience

**Section Leaders/Drum Majors:** DCHS Band student leadership. Each section of the band has one or more section leaders. Drum majors are student conductors and assistants to the directors. See the band handbook for specific responsibilities

**Everyone:** Self-explanatory

### Marching Band Competitions – What does my child need to have?

The guard and occasionally the front ensemble will be an exception to many of these necessities and will have other specific needs of which parents will be informed.

- Long, solid white socks (the longer the better).
- Solid white t-shirt. We wear these under our uniforms. As we are sometimes without our coats in warmer weather, we do require that these shirts be plain white, have sleeves, and have the rounded “crew neck.” This maintains our uniform, professional appearance
- Uniform parts. Students should have their white drillmasters, white gloves (if their section wears them), and their gauntlets. We will often wait until very near the first competition to hand these items out to students.

- Band bags. Each student is given a band bag their rookie year. They can pack their necessities in this bag (shoes should be kept in the box, if possible). Pack some deodorant.....PLEASE! Other toiletries should be considered at your discretion. Face wipes can help students freshen up while changing out of uniform. Contact supplies could also be useful for those who wear them.
- Extra money (optional). Students will be fed at competitions by the band boosters, but several still like to visit the concession stand. In addition, some competitions sell band-related shirts and novelties.

### General Travel Tips

- Students should take only what is absolutely necessary a given trip. Expensive electronics and excess cash are a bad idea. The band and DCHS/DCPS are not responsible for lost/stolen money and/or items.
- Flexibility is the key factor for making any trip fun. When the band travels, we move a lot of people, vehicles, and equipment. Traveling in this way means that all of us have to make adjustments so that the band can be where it needs to be and do what it needs to do. Planning timetables for such a large group is more an art than a science and “Murphy’s Law” can sometimes strike. If you are with us, stay calm, flexible, and positive.
- If you wish to pick your child up after an out of town event rather than having him/her ride back to Owensboro with the band, please know that students can only be released at the end of an event as we are loading buses. Students can be signed out by a parent from the lead chaperone on their bus. Pursuant to board policies, no student can be picked up from an away event unless it is by their parent/guardian (example: We go to Murray to perform – a student cannot be picked up from Murray unless it is by his/her parent or legal guardian). Band Students will not be released to other relatives and friends. To participate in away events students must be transported to the event by school transportation (for specific scenarios, contact Mr. Dale).

### Uniforms

Our marching uniforms are purchased by the school district and assigned to band students by the Booster Uniform Coordinator. Uniforms are kept at the school and are not to leave the building unless we are taking them to a contest or a request has been made by a parent (usually for pictures). Students will adhere to basic rules while in uniform and will be responsible for damages to the uniform that do not occur as part of the normal “wear-and-tear” associated with performing in them. Careless or reckless behavior in uniform can be expensive. Students should never eat or drink (other than water) while in uniform.

## **The Band Parent's Guide to Marching Competitions**

In an effort to make sure parents understand how a marching program works and what to expect at a show, we've put together the following information based on some of the most frequently asked questions - How does a marching competition work? / How do they decide who wins?

The Daviess County Marching Band participate in KMEA (Kentucky Music Educators Association) sanctioned events each season. KMEA is just one group that sponsors competitions – some others that we occasionally compete in are MSBA and BOA (Mid-States Band Association and Bands of America). Most KMEA shows that we attend are in a prelims/finals format meaning that all the bands registered for the event perform earlier in the day in preliminary competition and, based on performance, may qualify for finals competition later in the evening.

Our band is class AAAAA. There are 5 classes (A, AA, AAA, AAAA, AAAAA). These are divided by school size. At the beginning of each year, KMEA takes the total number of bands who send in KMEA marching band registration forms, puts them in order based on school size, and divides by 5 to get the five classes. Each class contains roughly 29 bands. Each class is divided in half into a West Region and an East Region. We are class AAAAA West.

Each competition will have 8 judges. Two will judge Visual (how well we move and control our forms and the use of color guard, etc.), two will judge Music (how well we play our music), two will be General Effect judges (how well the whole show works when elements of music and visual performance are considered together) and the percussion and color guard each have a judge. Each judge gives each band a score and, when factored together (without the percussion and guard score), a composite score (out of 100 possible points) is given. Bands in preliminary competition at regular-season competitions compete against other bands in their class. In finals competition at regular-season competitions, the bands that qualified for finals (usually 8 to 10) will draw for finals performance order following the preliminary competition awards and will go head-to-head (regardless of class) for a final placement. The overall winner of the competition is called Grand Champion and second place is called Reserve Grand Champion. In addition to their score, each band receives a rating. 80-100 is the highest Distinguished, 60-79 is Proficient, 40-59 is Apprentice and 39 and below is Novice. Any band that receives a 60 or higher during preliminaries or finals of any regular-season competition qualifies for post-season competition.

Post-season competition is made up of three parts: Regionals (a.k.a. State Quarterfinals), Semi-Finals, and Finals. At regionals, all the bands in each of the five classes that qualified by getting a 60 or above go head-to-head with the other bands in their class and region. The top 8 from each class/region continue on to State Semifinals.

At State Semifinals, the top eight bands from each class and regions go head-to-head with each other (ex. AAAAA East vs. AAAAA West). These 16 bands are competing for one of four spots for State Finals. The top four bands from each class compete against each other in State Finals for the crown of State Champion in their class.

## **Marching Band Competition Etiquette**

Many people have asked about this topic. A few bits of info may be helpful to know/consider in terms of what is typical at a competition:

It is perfectly OK to cheer for every band you see – just cheer louder for us! We have witnessed some band parents from other bands only cheer for their band and ignore the hard work of all of those other kids or even talk through other performances. While that is typical at many athletic events, band is different! Celebrate the accomplishment of all of the hard-working band kids we see! Cheer them all on.

Please be careful about comments you may make about other bands; chances are good that they have a parent or fan sitting near you – do you really want them to overhear the comment?

When a band is performing, think about the folks around you – would you want somebody to get up and leave, talk over the performance, or talk on a cell phone while your child was on the field?

After we perform, please don't run up to Mr. Dale, Mr. Clark, or any staff member and start asking about scores or how we think they did. Our answer will always be the same – they did great! We never share scores with anyone until we share it with our kids first. They are why we're here.

Whether we win or lose, it will be important for your child and the rest of the band to hear your words of support. Parents are our cheerleaders!

You will see band parents from other bands do the exact opposite of the suggestions made above. Our stance is simple – Our DC parents are a class act all the way and set the standard to which others should aspire (just like their kids)!

From any site other than DCHS, students may only be signed out by a parent/legal guardian (no one else can pick them up – school board policy) as the rest of the band boards the bus. The best way to do this is to be PATIENT. Chaperones will be at buses when we start to load. Simply follow your child to the bus, identify yourself as a parent to the bus chaperone, and sign your child out on the bus ridership list. Chaperones have been instructed that this is the only time to allow students to be signed out.

## **The Band Parent's Guide to Additional Marching Band Costs**

Understanding what your child's fees go for and what is not covered is very important for all participants. The uncovered costs can often take parents by surprise and we feel that it is very important for you to be able to plan for them accordingly. Below is a list of some typical costs that come up and when you can expect them to be due:

A. Marching Band Shoes – There are special shoes for everyone to order. Shoes for percussion, brass, and woodwind members of the ensemble are specifically designed for marching. They are also solid white and match our uniforms. Guard members will also be ordering their own special shoes designed for dance. Each student will be fit for marching band shoes in July. Order forms will go home shortly after students are fit. The costs for the white marching shoes will be around \$35 and the guard shoes are typically around \$30.

B. Gloves – There are gloves that are part of the uniform ordered at the same time shoes are ordered. Percussionists and guard members do not wear gloves. Students are provided with 2 pairs of gloves. Additional pairs are usually about \$2 per pair. Some students buy enough to have a clean pair for every competition. We will cut the fingers out of woodwind players' gloves so that the glove does not affect their playing.

C. Gauntlets – these are uniform parts worn by most sections of the band (not guard). They usually cost around \$5 per pair and, if well-kept, should be a one-time purchase.

D. Show Shirts/Hoodies – We have show shirts and hoodies that are designed to go with our show theme. All members will be provided a t-shirt and it is used as part of our competition day uniform when we are not in the full marching uniform. Hoodies, although optional, are always very popular as well. T-Shirts usually cost \$15 and hoodies are usually \$25-\$30. Parents, friends, and family members are always encouraged to wear show shirts/hoodies to contests, too! Many students purchase an extra show shirt to have a fresh one on hand after performances

E. Competition admission – We typically travel to 4-5 regular season contests before the State Marching Band Competition. If you plan on attending, be aware that admission usually averages \$7 per person. Admission to State Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals is more expensive. Programs are usually available and will cost \$3-\$5 for most competitions. We hope to see you there!

## **So marching band season is over, the band takes off until summer, right?**

It is often scary how many people outside of the band program believe this! The answer, as we all know, is a resounding NO! In fact, we're just getting started. You can take a look at the band handbook to get a great idea of the going on of the band program from mid-November to May. Here are some general activities to keep in mind:

Pep Band games – all students are required to do 6 games during the regular season (Dec-February). Every student will be assigned to pep band (Red or White) and given a list of dates of the games they need to attend. Most students do almost all of the games because they're fun! Several students will be selected to be part of the tournament band that will play for the 4-6 district, regional, and state tournament games in which we perform. Some of our required games are for both pep bands combined and usually occur for close rivalries or KWC games to which we are invited. All games will appear on the band calendar. There is a required pep band t-shirt that students can purchase in November.

Special rehearsals – we will occasionally have special rehearsals of the symphonic band or sectionals. Always keep the band calendar on our website a click away to make sure you're informed.

Special ensembles - ensembles like Jazz Band, Pit Orchestra, Winter Percussion and Winter Guard get started in November or soon thereafter. They each will have their own rehearsal schedules which will be made available in hard copy form and on our website.

All-District/All-State – Auditions take place in November/December and are mandatory for high school musicians. The events take place in January/February. Keep an eye on the calendar!

Honor Band Clinics - we frequent quite a few college and university band clinics. Information about these is always presented to students in class. Selection processes and event schedules vary – check the calendar.

District and State Solo and Ensemble Festival - High school students are required to participate in the district solo and ensemble festival. See the band handbook for specifics. These events happen in the spring (usually April/May)

Concert Festival – Usually occurring in March, this festival allows our symphonic band a chance to get assessed by a panel of judges on the performance of select literature and on our ability to sight read. Special rehearsals will precede this event. The band calendar will provide details when they are available to us.

Special Trips – Spring Band trips are a tradition in the Band of Pride, though not taken every year. The band, for example, has traveled to Orlando, Florida to Walt Disney World in the past. When a trip is scheduled for a school year, there will be organization meetings with interested participants and a payment plan established.

Graduation – graduation is the final required performance of the school year. We perform the traditional ceremonial pieces as well as a feature piece to spotlight our senior class.

This Parent Supplement has been prepared by Mr. Dale to help address the most frequently asked questions, common misconceptions, and points of confusion for band parents.

It is our hope that you will assist us in contributing to the “evolution” of this document. As you read this and as the year progresses, you may find that the content of this supplement could be clearer and/or more detailed, or you may find that other aspects of being a band parent were left out. Please contact Mr. Dale and let him know so that changes can be made and this Parent Supplement can become a stronger resource for the parents of the Daviess County Band Program.

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