

## Marching Band Important Information

**Who do I contact for band information?** You may contact our Band Booster President on the website [www.thepantherband.com](http://www.thepantherband.com) or call the band directors @ 286-5352 (EMAIL ALWAYS BEST WAY TO REACH DIRECTORS). Our website has loads of information and you may check it at [www.thepantherband.com](http://www.thepantherband.com). The information changes when there are special events and news for our parents. Now we also have CHARMS to manage individual student needs.

**When is Summer Band?** Begins Wednesday, July 27th at 8:00 a.m. Pick-up time is 12:00 noon. Summer Band Camp continues (with breaks specified by the Band Directors) until school starts. Don't forget the one afternoon sectional/master class on schedule.

**What time is morning practice?** During Summer Band Camp, morning practice starts at 8:00 a.m. Once school starts, your child will need to be at school by 7:00 a.m. and on the practice field by 7:15 a.m.. Practice ends at 8:25 a.m.

**What about Guard?** The guard is an integral part of the band and practices with the band during morning practices and has a sectional during the week for two hours. Ms. Brittany Shepherd, our guard instructor will announce the day and time. Her contact is [brittanyshepherd@gmail.com](mailto:brittanyshepherd@gmail.com)

**When are sectionals?** Sectionals are once a week after school during marching season. Days and times are different for each section. The leadership team and the directors will set the days and times and let students in each section know. M-WW; T-BR & Guard; W-Perc. (4:30-5:45pm). Guard (4:30-6:30).

**What about Band uniforms?** The part of the uniform that Band parents purchase consists of and OHS Band casual shirt & shorts, marching shoes, and black socks (at least 4 pairs, please). The shirt and shoes will be ordered during Summer Band. \*\*Please put your child's name on their shirt and shorts and in their shoes. Everyone's stuff looks the same.\*\* The band shirt, shorts, socks, and shoes are your child's responsibility. Please make sure the shirts, shorts, and socks are washed each week. The rest of the uniform is provided by the school and consists of a hat, jumper, and jacket. This part of the uniform stays at school. Your child's OHS band shirt, OHS shorts, and their black socks and shoes are worn with their uniform. There is a NISD uniform cleaning fee of \$25. Band Fee is \$360.

**What about Guard uniforms?** The Guard uniform consists of a wind-suit, O'Connor Guard T-shirt, tan jazz shoes, and gloves with the approximate cost is covered in Guard Handbook. The cost of the marching show costume changes every year. Each member of guard will receive a list of their expenses in July.

**Hair or accessory requirements?** Ms. Shepherd will address year by year.

- Band students Long hair should be worn up in a pony tail, French braid, or bun for marching occasions. Boys with long hair will need to put it up in the same way. Jewelry (except class rings) in not to be worn with the marching uniform.
- Guard students Hair will be worn according to our guard director.

**What other supplies are needed?** Please check website under marching band for

updates.

- Band students need a flip folder (labeled clearly with the student's name) with extra pages and a lyre to hold it, unless their instrument doesn't require one. All may be purchased in stores such as Hillje Music or High School Music. Also necessary is a Drill Book, which consists of a one-inch binder (labeled clearly with the student's name) and 1 large package of clear page protectors. You will need to fasten a long strap of some kind (old purse strap, old belt, yarn, or ribbon) to the binder, so it can be carried while marching and holding an instrument. For their band locker, a combination lock is an absolute necessity.
- Guard students will also want to have a combination lock. They will need a flag bag, which can be purchased or made by the student or parent. Practice and competition flags are made by parent volunteers and are school property. The competition costume is paid for by the guard students and is their property and their responsibility.

**What are theme shirts?** Our marching show this year is "THE LIVING SEA". A shirt depicting this theme will be available during marching season for approximately \$12-\$15. Sections may also design their own shirts. These shirts are optional.

**What about football games?** Date and times for games will be announced at our first meeting in the fall and will be posted on the web site. Check the web site often for any changes in the band's schedule. Your child is responsible for bringing their pieces of the uniform to school on game day. For Friday games, students stay at school and get dressed in their uniforms. For Saturday games, the band directors will give students a school arrival time. Students are transported in buses to and from the games. Come and have fun with the Band Boosters in the stands!! After the game is over, parents will pick up their student in from on the band hall. Traffic is heavy in the parking lot, since pep squad, cheerleaders, dance team, football players, and the band and guard are all being picked up at the same time. Be prepared to wait patiently.

**What about dinner on Thursday & Friday football game nights?** Game Day Dinners are available for Thursday & Friday night games. Meals may be purchased each week or for the whole season. Your student will be given a flyer with menus and prices when the football schedule is set. The dinner includes: a sandwich or pizza, chip, drink, fruit, and dessert. The Game Day Dinner Chair will be in the band hall before and after school (days TBA) during the football season to take orders. A Contact will be provided. (Also check web site for PDF Download).

**How do I Chaperone?** Chaperones are needed for all football games, contest, and trips the band and guard participate in. Parents are required to wear an official OHS Band Booster shirt and a name-tag while chaperoning. Sign up sheets for chaperoning are set out at the first Booster meeting of the year. If you have any questions contact the chaperone chair via the website. You must submit a background check on NISD website.

**How do I get an OHS Band Booster shirt?** The shirt cost \$25.00-\$30 and comes in ladies' and men's sizes. Shirts will be available to Try on and order at the Freshman Parent Meeting and the Family Band Night Picnic. After that, our Spirit Chair will take orders at the Booster meetings.

**When are Band Booster meetings?** Band Boosters meet the second Tuesday of each

month in Dierolf Hall @ 7:00, unless the president makes a change because of conflict with school business or holidays. Check the web site for dates.

**What are marching competitions?** October is the month of marching competitions. The varsity band will compete with other HS bands on Saturdays. Parents are highly encouraged to attend and to cheer loudly. O'Connor band parents have a great reputation for being very vocal in support of our kids. If the competition is several hours away, the Band Boosters organization usually hires a parent bus to travel along with the Band. The information for these trips is announced at Booster meetings and is posted on the web site.

**What are spirit gifts?** Spirit gifts are exchanged on football game days between Spirit Buddies (between seniors and freshman or sections members or whatever combination the students desire). Exchanging gifts is totally voluntary. Gifts are usually simple and inexpensive. Example: T-shirts or pillowcases decorated with OHS logo; blue plastic basket or mug filled with candy, peanuts, or small toys. This is a "get creative" exercise and you want to keep it as cheap as possible. Ask parents of upper classmen for ideas or call Mickey Ramos if you need help or want to bounce an idea off someone.

**When & where are letter jackets ordered?** Letter jackets are not required and are not ordered through Band Boosters. Athletic Sewing Center on Eckhert Rd. is just one of the places where letter jackets can be ordered. Order you student's letter jacket by the end of Sept. if you want it by Oct/Nov. It takes approx. 6 weeks from order to pick up.

**What are patches?** For each competition/event students participate in, there is usually a commemorative patch that can be purchased. The patches can be sewn on letter jacket sleeves or saved in a scrapbook. Purchase is strictly voluntary. Our Spirit Chair will make these available at Booster meetings after each event.

**What about Mums?** For Homecoming, the tradition of giving mums is alive and well, but definitely not mandatory. Be prepared to spend up to \$35 to do it yourself with ribbons and fabric mums available at Hobby Lobby on Bandera or Michael's on 410. Ask parents of upperclassmen or a Booster Officer to help you with how much ribbon and what size mum to buy and how to put it all together. Don't try to be tasteful with these-the gaudier, the better. Helpful Hint: Boys are given mini mums on elastic arm bands or spirit sticks decorated with streamers and whatever strikes the maker's fancy.

**What about private lessons?** If your child needs a private lesson teacher, talk to their student section leader or contact their director: Mr. Sandoval for woodwinds, Mr. Garza for percussion, or Mr. Perkins/Kober for brass at 397-4758. Email always best way to contact directors. Check website for list of OHS private teachers.

#### **Details, Hints, & more Details:**

There is a **lost and found** in the band hall by the band office. Check the pile if your student loses something. **Do not leave anything on the floor** or it will be thrown away by the custodians- plant manager's orders.

Remind your child (repeatedly) to secure their belongings in a locked locker. Unfortunately, things can be stolen from the band hall if left out in the open.

Write your child's **name on their shirt and shoes**, especially their shoes. Everyone's band

shirt and shoes look the same.

**Purchase several pair of black socks.** This will help when there is a football game on Friday night and a marching competition on Saturday or if one black sock disappears into thin air. (The Dollar Store has cheap ones.)

The shorts/shirt worn under the dress uniform need to be **the official Casual Uniform.**

For marching practice, please have your child wear athletic shoes of some type. Flip-flops, slippers, and boots are not appropriate.

**Don't be afraid to become involved. The band program could not function without parents to help with all of the activities. Please volunteer in one of the many areas the band can always use help, such as: Chaperoning, Uniforms, Concessions, Props, Moving Crew, Fundraising, Game Day Dinners, and Spirit.**