

A New Band Parent Guide for DHS Wolf Band Parents



This is a fun and easy way to explore the world of being a DHS Wolf Band Parent. It is your “first aid kit” to the world of High School Band. This reference guide will provide you with all the necessary information to being an effective band parent. We will give you information on important dates, procedures, policies, volunteering and fundraising! Additional information can be found in our DHS Wolf Band Handbook, which can be found on our band website. Remember, The DHS Wolf Band is not just for the kids!

I. **What Have We Gotten Into?**

The DHS Wolf Band is the largest music organization on the High School Campus. The DHS band program is made up of the DHS Wolf Marching Band, the Varsity and Non-Varsity Concert Band, the DHS Color Guard, the DHS Drumline, DHS Percussion Ensemble, and the DHS Jazz Band.

II. **Understanding the Language of DHS Wolf Band**

Here are some terms that will help you understand the campus culture.

DHS Wolf Marching Band - consists of the Varsity Concert Band, the Drumline, and the Color Guard. **All wind and percussion students that are not beginners are required to participate in the marching band.** The Wolf Marching Band rehearses after school, performs at football games, and competes in various marching contests. The DHS Wolf Marching Band is required to participate in summer band camp. Attendance at every rehearsal and performance is **mandatory** for all members of the Varsity Marching Band. All students who participate in the DHS Wolf Marching Band will receive a half PE credit. Band and color guard students will also earn a full Fine Arts credit for participating in band or color guard for the full year.

Summer Band - is all the rehearsals that occur during the summer to prepare for marching band performances. The DHS Wolf Marching Band is required to participate in summer band camp. Percussion and Color Guard student will start on July 27th and woodwind and brass students will start on August 3rd. We are actively monitoring UIL regulations during COVID-19 to make sure we are making plans to keep students safe.

Varsity Concert Band - (Band I) is our top competitive concert band. The Varsity Concert Band competes in the local Region/Area/All-State selection process, the UIL Concert and Sight-reading Evaluation and the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest. All students with playing experience will be placed in the Varsity Concert Band in the Fall of 2020.

Non-Varsity Concert Band - (Band II) is the JV-noncompetitive concert band. The Non-Varsity Concert Band members may compete in the local Region/Area/All-State selection process and the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest. Auditions will take place in December to determine band placement for the Spring semester.

DHS Color Guard - participates in all DHS Wolf Marching Band events. All color guard students are required to participate in the DHS Wolf Marching Band. These members work with flags, rifles, sabers, dance and assorted other props to help bring to life our marching production. They will also develop their skill sets with daily technical training and performance opportunities. During the spring semester, the color guard will compete in Winter Guard which involves extra rehearsals (usually 2-3 times a week) and competitions on weekends (4-6 competitions from January to March). Additional fees apply to participating in winter guard.

DHS Drumline - is the marching season percussion section. It is made up of Battery percussion and keyboard or Pit percussion.

UIL- stands for *University Interscholastic League*. UIL is the governing body of all extra and co-curricular in the state of Texas. (i.e. Football, Softball, Band) Three of our big contests are UIL Marching Contest, UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest, and the last is UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. These are the three most important contests of the year.

SLT- stands for *Student Leadership Team*. This is our team of student leaders who help guide our day to day logistics during marching season and has specific tasks in the Spring. The organization includes: drum majors, captains, and officers.

III. **Wolf Band Philosophy**

The philosophy of the Wolf Band staff is to create an atmosphere in which mentoring adults may interact with students. Being in a good organization in high school with a mentoring adult is critical to the success of a high school student. Also, being with other successful students and working as a team offers a learning environment that students cannot experience in a regular academic class. Hard work and attention to detail are byproducts of music education and are a vital part of success as an adult.

IV. **Band Seasons**

Summer

The summer season marks the beginning of our marching "or football" season. It begins in July and goes through August. The events to look forward to are:

- * SLT Training Camp
- * Summer Color Guard and Drumline Camps
- * Uniform fittings and Band Registration
- * Summer Band Camp
- * March-A-Thon Fundraiser
- * First Parent Band Booster Meeting of the new school year

Fall

This is the beginning of school and MARCHING SEASON! It runs from the end of August through the first week of November. Events to look forward to are:

- * After school marching rehearsals begin (3 times a week)
- * Regular season football games which include "Away Games"
- * 3 to 4 marching contests (mainly in the month of October)
- * Fair Day Parade
- * Band Booster Fundraising
- * Region Band Auditions
- * Region Jazz Auditions
- * Region Band Clinic and Concerts
- * Band Booster Meetings

Winter

This is the beginning of Concert Season and Percussion Ensemble. It runs from December to February and things to look forward to are:

- * Holiday concert in December
- * All-State Band auditions
- * Varsity Band after school rehearsals and sectionals
- * UIL Solo and Ensemble
- * Jazz Night
- * Band Booster Meetings

Spring

This is the final season of our year. It runs from March through the end of school. Events to look forward to are:

- * Pre-UIL Concert
- * UIL Concert and Sight-reading Evaluation
- * Band Booster Meetings
- * SLT Auditions for the following year
- * Spring Concert
- * Percussion Ensemble Concert

V. Everyone is important!

Everyone must understand and follow the Attendance Policy and the Eligibility Policy as stated in the Band Handbook. The following is a basic summary of the attendance guidelines...

Attendance at all band events is mandatory unless otherwise stated. In the event a student must be absent from a rehearsal or performance, the director should be notified in writing 48 hours in advance (This does not mean that the absence will be excused). Only the band directors may excuse an absence from a rehearsal or performance. Student

employment or personal conflicts cannot interfere with scheduled rehearsals or performances. Work, club sports or other conflicts are not an excused absence from an event. A more detailed "attendance policy" is available in the band handbook at <http://www.davenportband.com/registration--forms.html>

VI. You are a band parent, you are a band member!

You might be saying to yourself right now "Wow what a great and fun organization my child has picked to be a part of." And you are only partially correct. Your child is not the only person in your family to now be considered a DHS Wolf Band Member. Everyone in your family is now a part of our family. So, what is your role in our Band Program? Well, that is easy!!!!!!! Your role is to get involved as much as possible. Here's how:

- Be sure to attend as many of our events as possible. The students work so hard and we always perform better for a crowd! Especially crowds involving the Wolf Community.
- Join the Davenport Band Boosters and sign up to volunteer with one of our committees. There is something for everyone!

VII. Davenport Band Boosters

The first meeting for the Davenport Band Boosters will be **August 10, 2020** at 7 pm. We will hold elevations for officer positions. We will be electing a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and a Secretary at our first meeting, as well as adopting our booster bylaws.

The proposed Articles of the DHS Band Boosters state the objectives of the Organization are:

Section 3.1 To accept, raise and disburse funds and otherwise assist the band, in compliance with legal authority or CISD policy and in accord with band directors.

Section 3.2 To assist in band functions when requested by the band director.

Section 3.3 To promote community spirit, participate in community functions, and to encourage a spirit of fellowship and cooperation among the membership of the Organization.

So, basically, the DHS Band Boosters support the band, both physically and financially, in all its activities. The Band Boosters will offer several committees to help the band run smoothly and allow the directors to concentrate on teaching and students learning and making music. The Band Boosters also provide several fundraising events to help the band with goods and services that the DHS Wolf Band will use throughout the years.

The Band Booster Organization is here to help ALL band students and their parents. We also offer special services to students and their parents during the year. Just two examples are:

- The organization and execution of our Wolf Band Registration Day.
- Fitting of marching and concert uniforms.

Here are just a few of the places we need volunteers.

- **Chaperones** - These volunteers help ensure the safety and comfort of the band during football games, marching competitions, and other special events. In the fall, we chaperone games and contests, serve food and drinks to the students, have parent/booster meetings, help with moving equipment and much more. Mandatory chaperone meeting and background check is required.
- **Load Crew** - This is a weekly commitment for all football games and marching contest. Help load, unload, and move all instruments and equipment. In addition, help secure safe passage for the band during loading and unloading from the busses; at the band hall; marching to the stadium during home games; and most important, moving equipment to the field during competitions and football games. This crew may also be needed to construct various items for the band like props. Mandatory chaperone meeting and background check is required. Chaperones may also stand in as pit crew helpers during half time.
- **Uniform Committee** - These volunteers help fit the band students for their marching and concert uniforms. Once the uniforms are fitted, we will need volunteers to help in making alterations to the uniforms. These volunteers also assist in the distribution and stowing of uniforms before and after all performances.
- **Band Banquet Committee** - These volunteers assist in planning and execution of the annual band banquet in May.
- **Ways and Means Committee** - These volunteers assist in planning and execution of fundraising efforts for the Davenport Band Boosters.

VIII. Financial Obligation

You have already made a huge investment in your child's band life with the purchase/rental of instruments. There are additional one-time and annual costs with being associated with the DHS Wolf Band; District owned instrument rental fee; fair share and supplies fees; However, we work very hard to make it affordable and convenient for you. We have payment options to help if needed. Don't let money be a deciding factor! If there's a will and a need, we can help.

A fees list is available on the "Registrations and Forms" page on the band website at <http://www.davenportband.com/registration--forms.html>.

The cost of operating a competitive band program is divided into these areas.

1. **Fair Share Fee.** This is to offset expenses that benefit the entire band program, such as clinicians, technicians, marching show design, props, music, fees for contests and parades. Since these expenses benefit the entire group, all the students share in the expense. This fee also covers the cost of feeding the students before each game and some other events.
2. **Instrument Usage Fee.** All students using Comal ISD provided instruments are obligated to pay a \$80 annual rental fee. This includes winds and percussion.
3. **Uniform Parts.** Most uniform parts for wind and percussion students will be ordered through a vendor called TMF. These mandatory items must be order before June 28th so they can be delivered prior to Band Registration on August 3rd. Marching shoes will be ordered at band registration. The color guard is required to purchase the "Rehearsal Package" from TMF, and all other color guard items will be ordered at Band Registration. **It is high recommended that you purchase multiple rehearsal**

shirts and shorts. These will be required to be worn at all summer band and after school rehearsals.

IX. Help!!!! I'm still confused! What do I do first!!!!!!!!!!

Here is a list of what you might want to do first to help get you started:

- Order required items from TMF before June 28th.
<https://stores.inksoft.com/davenportband/shop/home>
- Complete physical from your doctor or a clinic and upload to Rank One.
- Update profile on Charms including uniform sizing information.
- Attend our parent meeting on July 21st, 2020.
- Attend Band Registration on August 1st.
- Order a band parent polo from the TMF online store if you think you might like to volunteer as a chaperone or load crew.
- Go to www.davenportband.com. A pdf of the Performance Calendar can be downloaded from the band website. You may also view the Google calendar on the calendar page, which contains all rehearsals for the Fall.
- Keep up on weekly Sunday emails.

Resources:

Band Website: www.davenportband.com/

Davenport HS Band Twitter: www.twitter.com/davenportband

Davenport HS Band Facebook: www.facebook.com/davenportband

Davenport HS Band Instagram: www.instagram.com/davenportband

Contact Info

- Jeffrey Keyes, Director of Bands, jeffrey.keyes@comalisd.org
- Dean Ponseti, Associate Band Director, dean.ponseti@comalisd.org
- Kim Booher, Color Guard Director, davenportguard@gmail.com

Congrats on being a part of the DHS Wolf Band!