

## Tidbits for Rookie Band Parents (or Reminders for Veteran Parents)

The Blanchard Band family is amazing and a truly special group of people. We are glad to have you, your student, and the rest of your family be a part of our band family. If you are ever feeling overwhelmed, lost, or deep in the weeds, don't be afraid to let us know because we've all been there! Here's a link to the band website where some rookie parents from years past have put some extra info up that will likely be helpful. Thank you for choosing to participate in our wonderful, sometimes crazy, always united band family!

[http://blanchardbands.com/Blanchard\\_Bands/Rookie\\_Parents.html](http://blanchardbands.com/Blanchard_Bands/Rookie_Parents.html)

- Summer band means drinking lots of water, eating well, and being very physically active. Please encourage your student to remember to stretch as well!
- Make sure your student brings his/her OWN water bottle to Summer Band. We don't need to spread germs!
- Bookmark the Blanchard Bands Charms site and the website, [www.blanchardbands.com](http://www.blanchardbands.com). This will be the location of the most up to date information, calendar and contact information. Remember the school code for Charms is BlanchardBands (one word) and you should know your password. The calendar for the year is already up!
- Marching Band season runs late July thru October. Morning rehearsals (during school) start at 7:30am.
- We must have a completed MEDICAL FORM on file for each student by uniform checkout, **August 13<sup>th</sup>**, along with other required forms. *These forms are found on Charms or the band website. If you have no internet access it is imperative you contact a director immediately.*
- All scheduled rehearsals are mandatory for performing ensembles. Sections within the ensemble may schedule separate rehearsals (sectionals) from the Marching or Concert band schedule.
- ALL BAND TRIPS ARE EXPECTED FOR PERFORMING ENSEMBLES. Each family is given ample opportunity to earn funds or time to budget for these activities.
- Students are expected to play at all football games. Buses are provided to away games. Please check the away game schedule for all specific information. Tailgating takes place before all home games and is free for all band students and families. Report time to the home field will be announced weekly, but is usually around 6:00pm.
- Students are expected to travel to all scheduled events with the group.
- A student will **NEVER** be permitted to leave an event with a person whom is not the parent or legal guardian of the student. The only exception is with a written and signed note that gives legal permission to another parent. *Please don't ask...we will not make any exceptions.*

- If your student will be traveling home with you from an event they must accompany you and be checked out by you in person by a director.
- Drop off and pick up students in the parking area to the south of the Band room. Please DO NOT park directly in front of the building as the buses and trailers park and unload in this area.
- Most marching band contests are on Saturday and are an all-day event (early morning thru late @ night). Please review the calendar and plan accordingly.
- Every member of the Marching Band is responsible for the \$250 marching band materials fee (guard - \$350, school instruments - \$50). This is for a t-shirt, polo, jacket, gloves, lyres, folders, uniform maintenance, meals, etc. You can offset this with fundraising, but \$50 is due at uniform checkout and the balance must be paid in full by December. Students with a balance cannot attend the trip at the end of the year.
- Parents are encouraged to attend evening rehearsals, football games and contests. Your students like to see and hear their biggest fans!
- Concert band season is November through May and begins daily at 7:45.
- Students are expected to follow the principal of time management. Arriving on time is considered late. Arriving 10 minutes prior, is not early but on time. For example, morning marching rehearsals are said to be at 7:30am, therefore students are expected to be on the field ready to play by 7:20am.
- Students must be academically eligible (just as in athletics) to participate in competitive band activities.
- Students are expected and must communicate with other teachers regarding assignments when they will be absent for a band activity. You may refer to the student handbook for the policy regarding these assignments. Take our word for it, this is not a lesson you wish to learn the hard way...
- If your student is sick and will miss school, contact the attendance office. If your student is sick and will miss a performance you must contact Ms. Kauffman (405-210-1946) in addition to contacting the attendance office. (*A doctor's note will be required in order for the absence to be excused and for the student to be provided a make-up assignment for credit.*)
- Students are given opportunities to raise funds for student travel expenses.
- Parents are a big part of the Blanchard Band Program. You will have many opportunities to volunteer and all participation is appreciated! Booster meetings are generally the last Tuesday of the month and start at 7:00pm in the HS band room. Our next meeting is **July 26th**. Everyone is encouraged to attend!
- If you can think of anything else that should be added to this list, please email Ms. Kauffman so she can get the word out to everyone next year!