



NEW PARENT GUIDE TO JAGUAR BAND

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

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 misjudgments 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 and paren 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 *the Band app*. Refer to the band website and *PRESTO* 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!



BOOSTER MEETINGS

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.

COMMUNICATION

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! Directors communicate with students regularly. However, 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:

- **Band app:** The primary way the band program shares information is through the BAND App. Download the Band app and get up to date texts from our band directors regarding announcements or return times from games!
 - Director-communication Band: <https://www.band.us/n/aca7AbCbQ5v0d>
 - There are parent-to-parent communication Band groups as well.
- **Email:** Another way the band program shares information is through *Presto* emails. So please use a real email for *Presto*! Go to <https://app.presto-assistant.com/>. Click the white "sign up" button. Choose "set up profile" under PARENT. Type in your email address, your chosen password, and confirm your password. Click the check box next to "I have read and agree to the Presto Assistant..." Check your email and follow the prompts to verify your email address. Once you receive confirmation your email is verified, click "+ ORGANIZATION CODE". Type in exactly "MGJBand". Press "NEXT". Enter your personal information and click "JOIN".
- **Newsletter:** The Johnson Band Directors prepare and send out a monthly newsletter in which you will receive a lot of information in preparation for the month ahead. The monthly newsletter is shared via Presto email and Facebook.
- Follow us on **social media!**



Johnson Jaguar Band;



@JHS_JaguarBand;



johnsonhsband

- **Website:** www.johnsonbands.org or www.johnsonbands.com



FALL MARCHING SEASON

The Jaguar Marching Band consists of three primary sections – the “winds”, the “percussion”, and the “color guard”.

WINDS

The wind section is made up of all woodwind and brass players; piccolo, flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, horn/mellophone, trombone, euphonium/baritone, and tuba/sousaphone.

Woodwinds consist of piccolo, flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet and saxophone.

Brass consists of trumpet, horn/mellophone, trombone, euphonium/baritone, and tuba/sousaphone.

PERCUSSION

The percussion section is made up of both the Drumline (oftentimes called the Battery) and the Front Ensemble (oftentimes called the Pit). They can rehearse together or separate, depending on the needs of the day or week.

COLOR GUARD

The color guard is considered a part of the BAND during Marching Season; for example - Full Band rehearsal includes Guard, or Band Fees include Guard. The Guard interprets the music that the marching band is playing via dance and the synchronized spinning of flags, sabers, rifles. Students who participate in the “guard” do not have to play an instrument. Therefore, the guard is typically comprised of both students who are band and non-band students. The guard helps to “tell the story” of each year’s marching show. The guard utilizes costuming, flags, rifles, sabers and other props and performs a choreographed routine. Color guard continues into the Spring - see “Winter Guard” below.

SUMMER BAND

Summer Band typically starts at the end of July and is required for all participants in marching band, guard, and percussion. During Summer Band, 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. It's a critical part of the band's development as a team and a major opportunity to create shared bonds and community.

Please plan carefully around Summer Band and avoid any family travel, dentist, and doctor appointments during this time. Missing portions of Summer Band could result in the loss of one's position on the field during the competitive show. 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).

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!

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 go onto the field expecting to talk to your child (unless it is an emergency).

Directors will try hard to provide practice dates and times on the calendar. However, practice times may vary. Your student will be informed of changes by the directors. Again, please remember that to be a successful band parent, it is most important to be POSITIVE, PATIENT and FLEXIBLE!

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 minutes. It is recommended to schedule your pick up time accordingly. For example, if rehearsal ends at 7:45pm, plan on picking up at 8pm. Please note that once students have returned to the band hall, they often linger to chat with each other before heading out to the pick-up line.

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 the equipment truck.
- Turned in their uniform, hung up *correctly*.

This entire process should take about 30 minutes AFTER arrival back to Johnson HS.

MEAL PLANS

Summer Band Meal Plans are OPTIONAL.

- During Summer Band, those students who purchased meal plans will receive lunch and dinner during full days, and lunch OR dinner on half days. Those who do not purchase a meal plan will need to bring their own meals each day.

Game Day Meal Plans are OPTIONAL.

- 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.

Competition Meal Plans are **REQUIRED**.

- On competition days, boosters 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!

NOTE: Volunteers are always needed to assist with meal plan service.



FOOTBALL GAMES

Football games are MANDATORY. If parents want to attend a football game, they 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 back at the school. 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 the BAND APP! NOTE: Those signed up to Chaperone get in FREE!

MARCHING COMPETITIONS

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 - (US Bands, Texas Marching Classic, 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.

SPIRIT SEND-OFF

On marching competition days, the Jaguar band community gets together at a specified location 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!

UNIFORMS - MARCHING SEASON

COMPETITION UNIFORM - It has become increasingly common for high school marching bands to wear a show shirt or full suit specifically designed to represent the show theme and add to the general effect of the show. These show uniforms are used primarily for



competitions and are included with the payment of band fees.

FORMAL BLACK AND GOLD UNIFORM - The uniform issued by the band and kept at the school consists of black overall-like pants, called “bibbers”, jacket, mock turtle neck, and could include a shako hat with plume and/or decorative head piece. Band fees include the cost of this uniform. New member receive their first pair of band shoes, and the “summer uniform”. ***Students must purchase LONG black socks, black compression shirt and black compression shorts.***

Students who do not return uniforms will have a bar against their name that can prevent them from exam exemptions or attending school events such as prom.

SUMMER UNIFORM - The uniform includes black athletic shorts, a gold performance shirt, and band shoes. New members receive their first set of shorts, gold performance shirt and shoes with their fees. **Students must purchase LONG black socks.**

PIT CREW (Props Crew, Build Crew, Front Ensemble Crew)

The pit crew is composed of hard working parent volunteers who help at football games and competitions to get props and equipment on and off the field. At the very beginning of the marching season, it may seem like you are not needed and that there are more than enough volunteers. However, this is the perfect time for all volunteers to get acquainted with the process. This is because the complexity of the show increases as the marching season progresses. Over time, more and more volunteers are needed to move equipment and props onto the field. Early experience in the process will help everyone be ready for the competitions!

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)

To become a member of the SLT, students must apply, interview, and lead a student lesson. Interviews are conducted by the directors and the teaching component is judged by local directors invited by the Jaguar band directors. SLT members must re-apply for positions each year. Decisions are at the discretion of our band directors. Application packets will be available in the Spring.

LETTER JACKET AWARD SYSTEM



Receiving a letter jacket is a visible indication of dedication, personal achievement, and loyalty to the goals of the band program. Jackets will be ordered for and presented to Seniors who participate 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.

In order to receive their letter jacket *before* their Senior year, students must earn points according to the Student Handbook provided by the directors. Points can be earned by doing some of the following, but not limited to: auditioning and/or participating in Region Band or Orchestra, Area, earning a Superior (First Division) rating on a Class I Division solo at UIL or at the MGJ Solo & Ensemble Festival, etc.

SPRING CONCERT SEASON

CONCERT BANDS

During concert band season, students play in different groups: Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Symphony Winds, Concert Winds, Jazz Band, and Percussion Ensemble. Students audition for concert band placement in the spring prior to the following school year for the fall semester, and again in the fall for the following spring semester. 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 and/or full band 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

The band program provides tuxedos and concert dresses. Students are assigned a number and are responsible for returning items promptly. Students who do not return uniforms will have a bar against their name that can prevent them from exam exemptions or attending school events such as prom.

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.**

The Winter Guard functions as a separate entity once Marching Season ends, and Winter Guard members operate under different schedules, etc. than the Band proper.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Percussion will meet during a separate period in the Spring(aligned with their concert band placement) 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 fall trip and band banquet.*

YOU KNOW YOU ARE A BAND PARENT WHEN...

You no longer speak of your child as a fourteen-year-old son/daughter, but as a "freshman trumpet".

You own a great deal of Black and Gold attire...and match other band parents!

You can pick your child out of the crowd even when they all look alike.

You have band dates synced to your phone and marked on your work calendar.

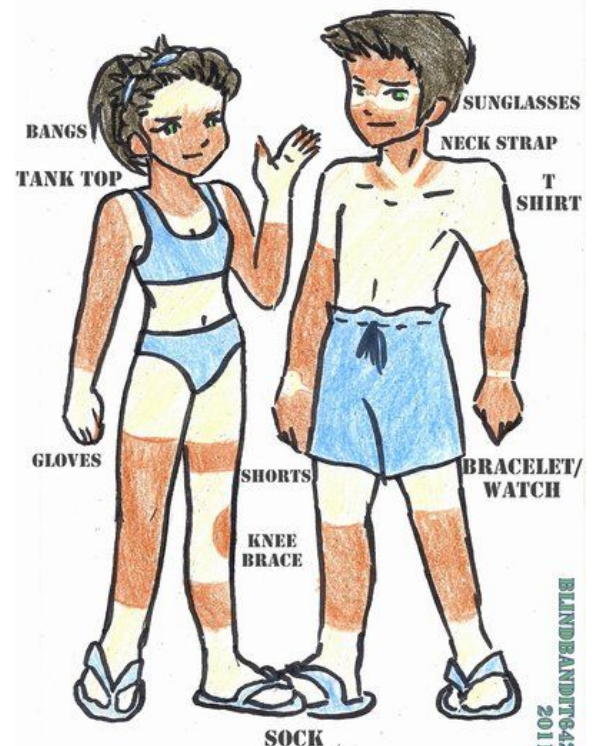
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