
**Dripping Springs
TIGER BAND and
COLOR GUARD**

**PARENT'S
HANDBOOK**



The DS Band Boosters would like to express their sincere thanks to the Hendrickson "Hawk Band" Directors and Boosters who graciously let us use their Hawk Band/Color Guard Parent's Guide as the inspiration and template for this handbook.

There are several generic sections, which have been reproduced with the kind permission of the Hendrickson Band Boosters and are appropriately credited to the Hawk Band / Color Guard Parent's Guide.

In particular we would like to thank Sandy Robards, who compiled and wrote the Hawk Band / Color Guard Parent's Guide and Hawk Band Director Garth Gundersen for all their help with this project.

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome! Your student is now a part of the award winning Tiger Band and the highly successful Dripping Springs Band program. This is the largest program in the High School and is continuing to grow on a yearly basis. It is a very exciting time to be a part of a program that continues to reach new heights every year and meet and exceed the challenges it sets for itself. We look forward to continue to excel in the year ahead with your student's participation and your support.

As new parents you will probably have a multitude of questions that I hope this handbook will answer for you. As we progress through marching and concert season I am sure that you will be introduced to allsorts of new terminology, requirements and events. We hope to take the mystery out of some of the journey through your Freshman year in band and enable you to enjoy it to the full! However, if you do find that you have a question that has not been answered in this Handbook please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Band Booster Board or another band parent and we would be happy to help where we can.

We are all excited to have you join us as the parents and boosters of the Dripping Springs High School band family!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE DIRECTORS

1 PRE-SEASON: THE SUMMER	1
1.1 Band Jam Nights and Playoff Opportunities	1
1.2 Band Registration Night	1
1.2.1 Fees	1
1.2.2 Instrument Supplies and Equipment	2
1.2.3 Uniform Accessories	2
1.2.4 Physicals	3
1.2.5 Away Game Meals	3
1.2.6 Parent Opportunities	3
1.2.7 Instrument Insurance	3
1.3 Band Camp	3
1.4 Summer Practice	4
2 MARCHING SEASON: THE FALL	5
2.1 Communication	5
2.1.1 Announcements	5
2.1.2 Websites	5
2.1.3 Signing Out Students from Off Campus Locations	5
2.2 Practice, Practice, Practice	5
2.3 Benchmarks	6
2.4 Private Lessons	6
2.5 No Pass, No Play	6
2.6 Reserves	7
2.7 Band Leaders	7
2.7.1 Drum Majors	7
2.7.2 Section Leaders	7
2.7.3 Band Council Officers	8
2.8 Color Guard	8
2.9 The Marching Show	8
2.9.1 The Uniform	8
2.9.2 The Music and Drill	9
2.10 Marching Contests	9
2.10.1 Types of Contests	9
2.10.2 Judging Criteria	10
2.10.3 Your Role	11
2.10.4 What You Need to Know	12
2.11 Individual Competitions	12
2.12 Drumline Contests	13
2.13 Band Jargon	13
2.14 Football Games	13
3 CONCERT SEASON: THE SPRING	15
3.1 Communication	15
3.2 Concert Bands	15
3.3 Percussion Ensemble	15
3.4 Sectionals	15
3.5 Challenges	15
3.6 Concerts	15
3.7 Concert Uniform	15
3.8 Competitions	16

3.9 Winter Guard	16
3.10 The Band Banquet	16
3.11 Jazz Band	16
3.12 Band Trips	17
3.12.1 Big Band Trip	17
3.12.2 Interim Band Trip	17
3.12.3 Student Activity Accounts	17
4 DRIPPING SPRINGS BAND BOOSTERS	18
4.1 Purpose	18
4.2 Band Booster Board	18
4.3 Membership	19
4.4 Communication	19
4.5 Meetings	19
4.6 Websites	20
4.7 Fundraisers	20
4.7.1 HEB Cards	20
4.7.2 Concessions	21
4.7.3 An Evening of Jazz at the Salt Lick	21
4.7.4 Tiger 5K Run	21
4.7.5 Online Garage Sale	21
4.7.6 Specific Group Fundraisers	21
4.8 Volunteer Opportunities	22
4.8.1 Chaperones	22
4.8.2 Pit and Props Crew	22
4.8.3 Trailer Pull	22
4.8.4 Uniforms	23
4.8.5 Fundraisers	23

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1. PRE-SEASON: THE SUMMER

1.1 BAND JAM NIGHTS AND PLAYOFF OPPORTUNITIES

At the end of the spring semester band students are given two sets of dates for optional Band Jam Nights and marching show music playoff opportunities for the summer. One is usually in late June, the other in mid July. In addition, students are informed of which parts of the marching show music need to be memorized and played off before Band Camp.

Band Jam Nights are in the evening from 6 – 9 pm and afford an opportunity for band students to get together, play through some of the marching season music (or practice spinning if Color Guard), socialize and watch a movie.

Play off opportunities are scheduled during the morning when Band Directors are available to help individual students with the marching show music and listen to students play off sections of their music from memory.

Both the Band Jam Nights and the play off opportunities are optional.

1.2 BAND REGISTRATION NIGHT

Band Registration Night is the first major band event of the year and is vital for ensuring you have all the correct supplies, uniform pieces, permission slips, medical forms and contact information and pay any fees necessary for the whole year. In addition, volunteers can sign up for all sorts of opportunities to help support the band program and the students sign up for their rooms at Band Camp.

It is mandatory for each student to attend Band Registration Night with a parent (even Seniors!) so that we can ensure we have all the necessary items completed at one time. This is a very efficient way to make sure that we do not have to keep coming back to band students or families and asking them for things throughout the school year.

Band Registration Night is held in the DSHS cafeteria at the end of July and it marks the beginning of the pre-season practices for the band. An outline of these important summer dates are given to each band family in the previous February so that they can plan summer vacations and avoid potential conflicts. A full calendar of dates for the upcoming year and other pertinent information and forms are mailed out in a packet of information from the Band Directors to each family at the beginning of July.

Each grade is staggered to attend Band Registration Night, starting with the Seniors, to streamline the process as much as possible. You will be given a sheet of items to be completed and signed off during the evening before your student can sign up for their room at Band Camp. Please be sure to remember to bring your checkbook to pay for any fees due or items purchased. You will need to write two different checks, one to “DS Band” and one to “DS Band Boosters” for different items specified at Band Registration Night.

1.2.1 FEES

The Dripping Springs Band program is trying hard to avoid becoming a “pay as you play” program that so many schools have needed to adopt, as it can become quite expensive to participate.

“The Band Directors do their best to keep costs down, but there are a lot of expenses involved in maintaining a competitive high school band program.”^{note 1} The costs include items such as instrument purchase, maintenance and repair, marching music and drill design, additional band staff for percussion,

marching and color guard assistance, props, equipment, uniform repairs and replacement and equipment trailers and transportation to list but a few!

The Tiger Band does receive money from the school district but it also relies on funds raised by the DS Band Booster organization.

A sample list of the items you may need to purchase for your first year in the band program follows. Many of these expenses will be a one-time purchase and will not need to be repeated in future years. Equipment needs vary depending on the instrument your student plays.

ITEM	ESTIMATED COST FOR DSHS BAND PROGRAM	ESTIMATED COST (2009)
BAND CAMP		\$175
SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT		\$80
Flip Folder, 3 Ring Binder, Music Lyre Berp for Brass Players only Instrument Rental		
UNIFORM		\$175
Gloves Shoes (2 pairs - Black and White) Show Shirt Polo Shirt Uniform Cleaning Khaki Pants, Black Belt, Socks (black and white) Spandex Shorts, White Undershirts		
MEALS / WATER ETC.		\$65
Stamp and Sustenance Away Game Meals (optional)		
TRANSPORTATION		\$40
Charter Bus Fee		
BAND BOOSTERS		\$25
Membership		
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST (2009)		\$560

1.2.2 INSTRUMENT SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

All Band Students will need a flip folder, music binder and instrument lyre for marching season. These can be purchased at most music stores in Austin. Each instrument has specific requirements as follows:

- Flute: cleaning swab, tuning rod
- Oboe: cleaning swab, reed case (holds 4 reeds), at least 4 good working reeds
- All Clarinets: cleaning swab, reed case (holds 4 reeds), at least 4 good working reeds, cork grease
- Bassoon: large silk cleaning swab, reed case, 3 good working reeds, water container
- Saxophone: silk cleaning swab, reed case (holds 4 reeds), at least 4 good working reeds, cork grease
- Trumpet: valve oil, slide grease
- French Horn: rotary oil, tuning slide grease
- Trombone: rotary oil, super slick slide grease, spray bottle, tuning slide grease
- Euphonium: valve oil, tuning slide grease
- Tuba: rotary oil, tuning slide grease
- Percussion: mallet bag with all appropriate sticks, mallets labeled with student's name.

1.2.3 UNIFORM ACCESSORIES

The majority of the formal uniform for both marching and concert season are provided by the school, however, students need to purchase their own informal uniforms and some accessories to the formal uniform.

Specifically this includes:

Informal Uniform - khaki pants, black belt, black socks (to be purchased by student) and band or color guard polo shirt (to be ordered at Band Registration Night).

Formal Uniform Accessories - white under t-shirts with sleeves, black spandex shorts, long black and white socks (to be purchased by student), white gloves, 2 pairs of marching shoes – 1 pair each of white and black (to be ordered at Band Registration Night). Percussion do not need gloves. Color Guard do not need gloves, socks or shoes.

Your student will also need to order a specific marching show shirt for that season at Band Registration Night.

1.24 PHYSICALS

All band students must have a completed UIL physical valid for the whole academic year (from June through the end of the following May), on file with the Band Directors by Band Registration Night. DSHS Athletics provide the opportunity to complete these physicals at the High School every year in May. Students may also have another physician complete the UIL Physical. The correct physical form can be downloaded from the DS Bands website (www.dsbands.org).

1.25 AWAY GAME MEALS

Band Boosters offer the opportunity for your student to order a series of sandwich meals to be provided before we leave for away football games on a Friday night during marching season. For the majority of the away games we need to leave the school quite quickly after school has finished and so we offer the option of providing a to-go sandwich meal to save parents bringing food to the Band Hall for your student. The students do not have time to leave campus to purchase food on away game Fridays.

You can order these Away Game Meals at Band Registration Night but you must order for the whole of marching season or not at all.

1.26 PARENT OPPORTUNITIES

Band Registration Night also offers parents the opportunity to order Band Parent polo shirts and accessories, Marching Show shirts, join Band Boosters and sign up to volunteer in any of the multitude of areas that the Band Boosters help support the DS Band program. For details of Band Booster volunteer opportunities see section 4.8.

1.27 INSTRUMENT INSURANCE

If you own your student's instrument it is highly recommended that you purchase some kind of instrument insurance. The school district does not cover the insurance for any privately owned instruments, even if they are transported to and from school events on school transportation. One instrument insurance agency that is used by some students is Music Agency Inc. PO Box 868, Arlington, Texas 76004-0868, Tel: 817 557 0031 or 800 421 1283. Strait Music in Austin also offers instrument insurance programs. Other insurance agencies can be found by searching the web.

1.3 BAND CAMP

Band Camp is usually held for 5 days in the first week of August. It is a very important time of intensive instruction for the new students to learn their marching techniques, all students to become familiar with and learn the music for the marching program and start to put together the music and the drill. In addition, it

is a great time and place for the new students to integrate into the band and become a part of the Tiger Band family.

Dripping Springs has been very fortunate to be able to hold a residential Band Camp off campus, which really helps to focus the students over the 5 days and form a cohesive unit. Your Freshman will have the advantage of starting High School with a ready made group of friends and peers from all grades.

We have held Band Camp at Schreiner University, a small private college in Kerrville, TX for the last 20 Years. It is an ideal campus for us, being small but able to offer all the accommodation, practice and recreational facilities that we need.

We take plenty of chaperones from the band parents (maximum 1:10 ratio of chaperones and directors to students). Students are very busy with practice during the day and there are several traditional recreational activities in the evenings such as an egg toss, pool activities etc.

Students do sometimes find it hard doing so much physical activity during the day, particularly if they have been inactive all summer! We suggest that your student becomes acclimatized to being active outdoors in the heat, with plenty of sunscreen and hydration, over the summer vacation before band camp. The chaperones do ensure that the students are well hydrated during practice, with multiple water breaks.

All parents are invited to attend a Parents Night at Schreiner University the final evening of Band Camp before we come home. The students demonstrate some of the things they have learned and we have an informal reception with refreshments provided by the band families.

On the final night of Band Camp the Seniors are allowed to stay up all night with some parent chaperones, but they do have to be awake to attend marching to breakfast and the practice in the morning before we leave for home!

1.4 SUMMER PRACTICE

Practices are scheduled for the band between Band Camp and the start of school to ensure that the students do not lose the momentum of what they have learned during Band Camp. An overview of the practice schedule is given to parents in February to help with summer planning and the detailed list is sent out with the information packet from the Directors at the beginning of July.

2. MARCHING SEASON: THE FALL

2.1 COMMUNICATION

2.1.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The majority of the communication between the Band Directors and the parents is done via a weekly announcement email sent from the Band Booster President. It is vital that you make sure your email contact information is updated at Band Registration Night and you notify the Band Booster President or Directors of any changes throughout the year.

Your students will also receive a hard copy of the weekly announcements during band rehearsal and all weekly announcement sheets are posted on the DS Band website (www.dsbands.org).

2.1.2 WEBSITES

Both the band and the Band Boosters have up to date websites where all the announcements, news, calendars, forms, fundraisers, events etc are posted. Please do bookmark these websites and visit them regularly.

DS Bands - www.dsbands.org

DS Band Boosters – www.dsbandboosters.org

2.1.3 SIGNING OUT STUDENTS FROM OFF CAMPUS LOCATIONS

It is very important for parents to note the DSISD regulations regarding signing out your students from an away game or a contest. We provide transportation to and from all away games and contests. If you want to sign out your student from the off campus location you must find the chaperone who is in charge of the bus on which your student traveled. The chaperones have a release form, which you must sign as the parent, before you take your student.

Only the parent or legal guardian may sign out their own child. If you need your child to be taken from the off-campus location by another parent or legal adult, you must obtain a different form from the DSHS Principal's Office (signed by DSHS Principal and parents) in advance. You must give this form to the Band Directors before we leave DSHS for the away game or contest. Once we have this form the parent given permission to take your child must still sign your child out with the chaperone before leaving.

If parents do not follow these rules it causes problems and delays for the whole band trying to leave the off campus location to come back to the high school. We have to call the parents of every student who has left without being signed out and confirm they are safe before we can leave.

2.2 PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

“Why so many practices? Why start weeks before the opening day of school, running kids through drill practice on the hot parking lot over and over again? Are all those hours spent after school really necessary? Will you see your child again?”

Texas high school marching bands are considered among the most accomplished, the most competitive bands in the country. Football is big in Texas and so are the marching bands that perform during halftime. To be able to compete with the best takes a complex musical program and to master it takes practice. A lot of practice and a lot of hard work.

Those hours of practice are essential to the success of the band and having everyone there for every practice is ideal” ^{Note 1}

As per UIL regulations, “the directors are limited to 8 hours a week for practice outside the regular school day (bands from other states don’t have that limitation), so the band really needs every member in attendance for every practice.

It’s understood that missing a practice sometimes can’t be avoided. But if you want your child to have a successful band experience, schedule that doctor’s appointment or orthodontist visit for a time that does not interfere with the practice schedule.

If your child is involved with other activities, such as athletics or choir, make sure to notify the directors so they can work with you to avoid scheduling conflicts. One of the directors will be glad to talk with a coach or sponsor to work out a schedule that take’s your child’s needs into consideration.

..If there is bad weather, students are expected to report to the band hall for practice. If there is lightning in the area or heavy rain, the practice will be held indoors. If there is no electrical activity and only light rain the band may practice outside without instruments”^{·Note 1} The Band Directors use a lightening detector to carefully monitor potentially hazardous weather conditions.

“Any changes in performance or rehearsal schedule”^{Note1} will be communicated in an email from the Band Booster President.

2.3 BENCHMARKS

Many of you will be familiar with the benchmark system from DS Middle School. Every nine weeks, students are given a series of “benchmarks”, divided into three-week segments, which they need to play off in front of a Director. They must pass off all of their benchmarks in order to remain eligible to play in the band. If not they will remain in an instrument techniques class until they are eligible once again.

In High School, students do not always have the opportunity to play off benchmarks during the school day and so it may mean that they have to make time either before or after school.

2.4 PRIVATE LESSONS

“It seems like your child is constantly playing an instrument, so why pay for private lessons? Because if he/she wants any one-on-one instruction, if you want your child’s technique to improve and knowledge of the instrument to grow, private lessons are essential..

..It takes drive, initiative and focus to make it in the high school band hall as well as in the classroom. The bands are large in high school, and as a result, the directors are unable to provide significant individual help. Their goal is to make the parts come together to sound good as a whole. Private lessons are a necessity if your child is to grow as a musician.”^{Note 1}

The initial sign up for private lessons is at the beginning of the fall semester, but depending on private teacher availability, sign up may be anytime throughout the year on a first come first served basis. The Band Directors will hand out private lesson contract forms to all those who are interested and the relevant teacher will then contact you to schedule a time.

2.5 NO PASS, NO PLAY

For some, the Freshman year may be difficult adjusting to the demands of high school and it is easy to feel overwhelmed. DSHS has nine week reporting periods with interim report cards every three weeks.

Students can lose eligibility at the end of the first 6 weeks and at the end of every 9 week grading period if they have less than a 70 in any class. If ineligible, the student may continue to practice but can not participate in contests or play at football games. Students may regain eligibility at interim reporting periods every three weeks. Once the student has regained eligibility they will be allowed to participate once again but will not get their permanent marching position back.

2.6 RESERVES

“Marching band drills are designed for a fixed instrumentation.”^{Note 1} The Tiger Band is one of the smaller 4A bands and so we need to utilize as many of our band members as possible in the drill on the field. This is why it is so important for students to remain UIL eligible and attend all practices. The Directors do select a minimal amount of students to be “reserves”. They rehearse and perform at all football games with the marching band. These reserves need to be ready to “plug a hole” in the drill if another student becomes ineligible or sick.

Several criteria are taken into account in the selection of reserves:

- Marching Skills – students will be required to pass off all the basic marching skills to a band director at Band Camp.
- Music Skills – “there are specific dates by which sections of music are due to be passed-off. That is, the student plays memorized music...for a section leader, drum major, or band director to determine if the piece has been mastered. There is no limit to the number of times students can attempt to pass-off the music. The goal is to have every student pass-off every section of the music.”^{Note1}
- Attendance, behavior, and no pass no play eligibility history are also taken into consideration when selecting reserves.

The Directors continually re-evaluate the students’ performance throughout the season. If your student is a reserve initially, it does not mean that they will not attain a marching spot on the field during the season.

2.7 BAND LEADERS

2.7.1 DRUM MAJORS

“The Drum Majors direct the band during performances in the stands and on the field, and represent the band on the field during awards presentations at competitions.

A Drum Major needs to be not only a great musician and conductor, but someone respected by his/her peers.”^{Note 1} They need to be able to demonstrate high standards both personally, academically and musically, be a leader and handle themselves well “in the spotlight”. The Drum Majors are chosen as part of the Section Leader Tryouts towards the end of the spring semester. Interested students must submit an application along with an essay, DSHS faculty evaluations and complete a teaching and conducting audition judged by local outside band directors.

The Drum Majors selected for the current year are listed with the other Tiger Band student leaders on the Band Booster website (www.dsbandboosters.org).

2.7.2 SECTION LEADERS

“Section Leaders’ duties during marching season are to make sure their section members know their music”^{Note 1} to help their section with their marching techniques and drill; “to perform a uniform inspection before leaving for a game or competition; ...and to keep the section focused on the task at hand.”^{Note 1} If your student has any questions regarding the band program they should go to their Section Leader first and see if they can help.

The Section Leaders are chosen as part of the Section Leader Tryouts towards the end of the spring semester. Interested students must submit an application along with an essay, DSHS faculty evaluations and complete a teaching audition judged by local band directors.

The Section Leaders selected for the current year are listed on the Band Booster website (www.dsbandboosters.org).

2.7.3 BAND COUNCIL OFFICERS

The Band Council is responsible for the organized social activities for the band members. These have included activities at band camp, pool party after summer practices, the Octubafest Halloween costume party, movie nights etc. They also are responsible for organizing the end of year Band Banquet in May, where the individual and group achievements of the band are celebrated (see section 3.10).

The Band Council officers are elected by the band students at the end of the spring semester, with the exception of the grade level representatives who are elected during or after Band Camp. The positions are president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, historian, color guard representative, and 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade representatives.

The Band Council officers selected for the current year are listed on the Band Boosters website (www.dsbandboosters.org).

2.8 COLOR GUARD

“The color guard uses dance moves, flags, sabers, rifles and other props to interpret the music that the marching band is playing. Their costumes and flags are designed to compliment the show theme and visually enhance the presentation on the field. A marching band alone might sound wonderful and present an interesting show, but it would lack the color and excitement that a good guard adds.

“The tradition of the color guard” ^{Note 1} is military based,” hence the use of the flags and “weapons” in the show. However, the guard is not limited to those props.” ^{Note 1} . In the past we have used fences, ribbons, gold tires and giant picture frames to name but a few.

2.9 THE MARCHING SHOW

2.9.1 THE UNIFORM

Marching band uniform design has become quite specialized and detailed to ensure each band gives a uniform appearance on the field, highlighting their marching capability and music and not distracting from the drill.

The Tiger Band uniform was updated in 2005 and has been specifically designed to make all the band members look taller, with the high-waisted bib-pants and short jackets. The colors utilize our school colors of maroon and gold, forming a color contrast with a gradation of colors within the maroon family and gold reflective triangular mirrors on the jacket. These mirrors can flash from the field, which is visually exciting as the band members turn and catch the light.

A “shako” is the black hat that all the band members wear with the uniform, except the tuba players (who wear a beret so as not to catch in their instrument). The “plume” is the feather that is placed in the shako just before the band goes on to the field to march.

For the majority of football games the Tiger Band wear their black pants to march, however we change to the white pants for contests. The contrast of the white with the marching field means that our drill and marching technique can be seen much more clearly and it is a sign of confidence to the judges.

Note 1 Reproduced with kind permission of Hendrickson Band Boosters from Hawk Band Parent’s Guide

The school provides the pants, jackets, shakos and plumes. Students must provide the items to wear under their uniforms, which are a plain white t-shirt with sleeves, black spandex shorts, long black or white socks and black or white marching shoes corresponding with pant color.

2.9.2 THE MUSIC AND DRILL

“In December, the Directors sit down and have a design meeting, discussing what worked in the previous show and what inspires them. During that meeting they reach an agreement on a general direction they want to go. Then they turn to professional music and drill designers with ideas.”^{Note 1}

An overview of the current year’s show can be found on the band website (www.dsbands.org).

The cost of the music ranges from \$2500 - \$4000 and the marching drill ranges from \$5000 - \$7000.

2.10 MARCHING CONTESTS

The Tiger Band usually competes in 4-5 marching contests each season in addition to any UIL contests. We compete in contests to get feedback from qualified judges as to our performance. From this we can assess our progress in marching, musicality, performance, and overall development of our program. In addition, it is exciting to see how we line up against other bands.

2.10.1 TYPES OF CONTESTS

The Tiger Band competes in several different types of marching contests each year. The following outlines the main types of contests we might attend.

- **“UIL (University Interscholastic League)**
The UIL has divided Texas into 28 regions (1 through 28), which are grouped into 7 Areas (A through G).”^{Note 1} Dripping Springs is in Region 18, Area D. “The UIL also categorizes high schools by student enrollment size”^{Note 1} Dripping Springs is currently categorized as a 4A High School.

“Each October, a marching contest is held in each region. In alternate years (1A, 2A and 4A schools in odd-numbered years, 3A and 5A in even-numbered years), bands get the opportunity to compete in the State Marching Band Championship (held in November). The bands first compete in a Region competition, and if they receive a superior rating (an overall 1), they advance to Area competition. The top scoring two – four (depending on the number of competitors) bands in Area then go on to compete for State honors. In non-State years, the bands compete”^{Note 1} at the Region level, “but only for ratings, not placement”^{Note 1}

Our area is very competitive as the caliber of the bands is very high. The Tiger Band advanced to the State Championship for the first time as a 4A school in 2007 and placed 8th in the State.

- **“USSBA (United States Scholastic Band Association) Central Texas Preview and State Contests.**
The USSBA is the sister organization to the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps. The organization was created in 1988 with the purpose of providing high school band programs with a competitive circuit featuring the best judges from across the nation.”^{Note 1}

Hendrickson High School currently hosts the USSBA Central Texas Preview in our area.

“Bands come away from most contests with a taped critique provided by the judges... The USSBA format includes an extra set of judges whose purpose is to look at the bands’ overall

“product”. After each participating band’s performance, the director, staff, and band members benefit from a one-on-one clinic with one of those judges.”^{Note 1}

- **Invitational Contests**

The majority of the contests in which the Tiger Band competes are “invitational contests” such as Westlake, Capital City, Sam Houston State in Huntsville or Centennial Contest in Dallas. Judging at these competitions use a variety of criteria often using a mixture of systems from the above.

- **“BOA (Bands of America)**

BOA division on Music for All, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that promotes high school music education through competitions and festivals held around the country.”^{Note 1}

2.10.2 JUDGING CRITERIA

“What are the judges looking for?”^{Note 1}

Judges evaluate different aspects of a marching show. At most contests judges are looking at how well the students are achieving their responsibilities in the areas of marching, music, and color guard. Show design and effect are also evaluated and can be part of the overall score.

“For another perspective on competition judging, please read the following article, written by a former long-time band booster from another school.

Judging....Another Band Parent’s Point of View

The following is an excerpt from an article written by George Yenetchi, former Band Booster, R.S.Sterling HS Band

Why You May Not Agree with Marching Contest Judges (and why it is not the judge’s fault)

...Some marching show spectators (especially band members and their parents) find that they sometimes disagree with marching contest judges’ decisions. That is OK. They sometimes attribute this to incompetence or venality on the part of the judges. That is not OK. It is not true for one thing. You may run across a less than ideally astute judge, but only very rarely. Contest organizers seek out the best judges available. Use of multiple judges (3 to 8) helps ensure that one bad judge does not skew contest results. Venality in the judges is even rarer. Judges are honorable. If they weren’t honorable they could certainly find a better way to exploit being dishonorable than judging marching contests. Politics comes to mind. There is a good reason why the great criminal masterminds have never paid any attention to band. There is not much money in it. By the time bands get to contest, band parents’ bank accounts are too depleted to fund attractively large bribes.

Think about what is involved in judging a marching contest. Making judgments in artistic matters involves every know shade of gray plus a few shades whose existence science has only inferred. Many great musicians scoff at the very idea of musical contests. In athletics, things are obvious. Either the high jumpers clear the bar or they don’t. A four-year-old could competently judge a high jumping contest. In the arts, what is good is always a matter of opinion. That’s why there are 50 different recordings of Beethoven’s 9th Symphony on the market. As a great philosopher once wrote, “1+1=2 is fact, almost everything else is opinion.

There are many reasons you might be in honest disagreement with good judges.

Judges look for performance excellence not entertainment value.

Judges look at how well a show is performed. They pay little attention to how entertaining it is. A skilled performance of a dull show will score better than a mediocre performance of an interesting show. (Of course, the ideal is a great performance of a great show.) Audience members are impressed by entertainment value, as well they should be. They should not compare their opinion of a show, which was based on how well they were entertained, with the opinion of the judges who were evaluating how well specific skills were demonstrated.

Contest guidelines require that bands demonstrate certain specific skills in performance.

For example, guidelines often require that bands demonstrate both loud and soft playing (BOA guidelines specify “all dynamic levels”.) A band that only plays loudly, no matter how well they do it, will loose points. A loud thrilling show that brings the audience to it’s feet cheering and clapping may therefore score poorly. Another area that often lowers the scores of bands that look and sound very good is woodwinds. Increasingly, judging guidelines want the woodwinds to get equal time with the brass and percussion. The days when clarinets could be seen and not heard are past.

Judges pay very little attention to size, uniforms etc.

Just like an elephant, a 400-piece band is impressive just by being there. However, judges give no points for being there. At most contests, judges ignore who has the nicest uniforms, the prettiest flags or the best props. It is hard when you have just spent \$80,000 on uniforms and band parents have worked for four weeks making props to realize that the judges are more worried about how your band's feet look.

Judges can only judge the one performance they see.

Judges do not know how hard the kids have worked. They don't know that the soloist got sick. They don't know that the band performed the show better last week. They don't know what special adversity your band overcame. If they knew, they might be even more impressed than you are. But they don't know.

Judges detect small mistakes.

Judges have the training and experience to detect problems with intonation, tone quality, balance, ensemble, etc. These subtleties aren't even noticed by normal people. These small differences separate the very, very good from the merely very good. Just because these differences are tiny does not mean that they are not real.

Contest that give rankings usually use forced rankings.

There are no ties. If 10 bands compete and earn almost identical scores, the judges will still rank them from 1 to 10. Usually the judges aren't directly involved in the ranking. They just give each band a set of scores. A computer figures out the ranking, breaking any ties by using criteria that the judges may not even know. One band must be 1st and one band must be 10th. It has to be this way. First place trophies are expensive and they only had money to buy one of them. This does not always mean that the 10th place band was a lot worse than the 1st place band. Rankings in Consumer Reports are always qualified with a statement like, "Differences in rankings of 5 places are not significant". Marching contest results could truthfully carry similar advisories.

All artistic judgments are subject to subjectivity.

Even the best judges do not always agree. One judge may be more concerned with intonation while another will care more about ensemble. These are not evil biases. These are legitimate artistic differences. At some contests, you get judges who tend to pay less attention to the particular weak points of your band and at other contests you don't.

As we enter the 3rd Millennium the average level of school band performance is as high as it has ever been. It is still improving. As the real quality differences among the bands decrease, the judges' job becomes harder and the rankings mean less..."

2.10.3 YOUR ROLE

"One of the most uplifting aspects to attending competitions is how supportive most of the other parents and fans are of every band that competes. But there are exceptions.

Some parents from other schools have been overheard loudly grumbling about the ineptness of a particular band, how the judges messed up, and/or how they show their favoritism to a particular band.

Your role is more than just to cheer on the Tiger Band (although you are encouraged to do so both loudly and enthusiastically!). When you are in the stands in your Tiger Band show shirt or DS Band Booster shirt you represent our band and our community. Try to keep in mind that everyone is there to cheer a particular band on and be kind.

- Keep any comments about other bands or color guards positive.
- Be courteous and don't talk or get up to walk around during a performance.
- Don't boo, jeer, use irritating noise makers (such as air horns), or otherwise make yourself obnoxious.
- Don't grumble or complain about the stupidity of the judges after the contest....your child is listening. Be a good role model." Note 1

The following suggestions are from Kentucky Band Directors Rick Gardner, Scott Leatherland and Rachel Rentschler:

MARCHING BAND CONTEST ETIQUETTE

One of the most important parts of a band show is the audience. It is very disappointing for band members who spend weeks and months preparing a show to walk into a large stadium and find that the seats are empty. There are many types of spectators at a band show and they have many different reasons for coming to the show. However, they all have one thing in common and that is that they should be allowed to enjoy the experience.

Things you should do at a band show.

- Support all bands. Regardless of which band is on the field you should applaud or even cheer when they do a good job. Reaction from the crowd will encourage the band to perform better and will result in a more enjoyable show for the audience.
- Watch the whole show. Observe different elements of the bands performance. Your interest may be percussion but, you might be surprised with the work the colorguard is doing. Often, several things are going on at once in a show. If you watch a show several times you may see something new on each occasion.
- Show up early. This is especially true for supporters of larger class bands. Many smaller class bands have great shows. Arrive early at the next show and see what you have been missing.
- Buy something from the concession stand. In many cases a band competition may be the major source of a band programs yearly budget. They have made a large investment and would appreciate your support. In most cases you will find that the prices are much less than what you will pay at your local movie theater.

Things that you should avoid.

It is important to realize that although it is fun to visit with family and friends during a contest, it is unfair to distract other spectators from enjoying the show. This is true at any performance, including a marching band performance. Be respectful of all other spectators and hopefully they will extend you the same courtesy.

- Do not leave or enter the stadium while a band is performing. Try to avoid any unnecessary movement, especially while a band is performing. At most contest the time for each band is fifteen minutes. Each show last around 7 to 9 minutes so that gives you plenty of time between bands to leave the seating area for concessions or to enter the stadium.
- Do not talk on your cell phone. Turn off your cell phone or set it to vibrate. If someone calls you on your cell phone you can return the call between bands. Please do not talk on your phone during a performance.
- Do not allow children to play in the stands and distract other spectators. Obviously, children are the future of this activity. It is good for them to see why big brother and big sister are always at practice and are not at home. However for their safety and as a courtesy to others they should not be allowed to run up and down steps and play in the aisles so others may enjoy the show.

Do not make negative comments about other bands. That color guard uniform that you don't like may have been made by that guard members mother that is sitting behind you. That man sitting in front of you could be the arranger or drill designer or even the band director. If you don't have something nice to say then you probably should not say it. Remember how hard your bands members have worked to get their show ready for the field. Chances are that the other bands have worked just as hard to get their show ready.

- Do not obstruct the view of others. Please avoid standing in front of people trying to watch the show. If you have a banner to display, try to do so from the top of the stands or in some way that others can still see the bands.
- Do not boo other bands or the contest results during the awards. Unfortunately every one is not going to agree on contest results. Boing the award winners or the judges will not accomplish positive results.

Hopefully these tips will make your experience more enjoyable as you cheer your favorite band on and support all the performers of this amazing art form.

2.10.4 What You Need to Know

“Some things you learn after a season of marching contests:

- **Take a hat and sunscreen** (a fan is also very welcome!).
- **Buy patches.** They are inexpensive and can either be put on your child's letter jacket when he/she earns it or put in a shadow box for display. It can be impressive to have patches representing all the competitions in which your child participated.
- **Don't buy the first DVD offered at the first contest.** Yes, it can be exciting to see that performance over and over again. However, production values are not very good at some venues, and the band improves as the season progresses.
- **Check out the Jolesch Photography Web site.** When you see several professional photographers on the field during a UIL competition, it's likely they are with Jolesch Photography. If you want a close-up “action” shot of your child marching, Jolesch will probably have a good one available to order a few weeks after the competition. Their packages are not cheap, but their photographs are unique.”^{Note 1}

2.11 INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

The TMEA (Texas Music Educators Association) coordinates an individual competition to select students

Note 1 Reproduced with kind permission of Hendrickson Band Boosters from Hawk Band Parent's Guide

for District, Regional, Area and All-State Bands. These are concert bands rather than marching bands, however only the Regional and All-State bands actually perform.

The TMEA utilizes similar Region, Area and enrollment size designations as set by UIL.

Your student will receive their Region audition music at the beginning of the school year in August. The same music is provided for all grade levels and playing ability, so it can be quite challenging for the Freshmen, however everyone is encouraged to audition as it provides excellent experience for future years.

Region auditions are held in November or December. Participation in Region auditions is optional at DSHS, but it does count towards leadership tryouts at the end of the year. From the Region auditions students may be placed in the District band and the top-scoring students are placed in the Region Concert or Symphonic band (sometimes called the Wind Ensemble). The very best students are also designated to advance to the Area competition.

The Region Concert and Symphonic bands have a clinic and performance during early January.

The Area contest takes place in January and from that the top scoring students are placed in the Texas All-State band. This is a huge accomplishment to be ranked among the top players in the State!

The All-State Bands participate in a clinic and performance at the TMEA conference in February.

2.12 DRUMLINE CONTESTS

The Drumline will be competing in their own specific contests during marching season. DSHS hope to host their own Drumline Contest in September at which the Tiger Band Drumline would perform an exhibition.

2.13 BAND JARGON

“Some terms you may not have heard before that you may find confusing:

Auxiliaries. Another term for Color Guards.

Drumline. Also known as the **Battery**. It is the group of percussionists who play a variety of marching percussion instruments (drums, cymbals). They are known for their ability to do the “crab-step”, a stepover sideways marching step.

The Pit. Also known as the **Frontline** or **Front Ensemble**. It consists of stationary percussion instruments such as the marimba, vibraphone, bells, xylophone, and chimes.” ...

Quads. Not your thigh muscles, although you have to have great quads to play quads. In marching band, quads refer to the set of multiple tenor drums worn by percussionists in the drumline.” Note 1

Tiger Band Chant. As you sit in the stands at a contest and wait for the Tiger Band to march in you will hear all the band perform this Tiger Band chant before entering the stadium. “Band Ten Hut, Hey, Band Drill the Position of Attention, Feet Together, Stomach In, Shoulders Back, Chin In, Head Up, Eyes with Pride, Eyes with Pride, Eyes with Pride.”

2.14 FOOTBALL GAMES

“At home games,” Note 1 the Tiger Band “marches to the stadium from the band hall about half an hour

before the kickoff. When the second quarter of the game is almost over, the band leaves the stands and goes onto the track to begin warming up.”^{Note 1}

The Tiger Band performs their marching show on the field during the half-time break. They remain in the track in front of the home crowd and play spirit songs to pump up the crowd for the beginning of the third quarter before returning to the stands for the rest of the game.

At each game the Band Directors nominate a band member as “Marcher of the Week” and the Band Council nominate a band member as “Most Spirited of the Week”. Both are announced just before the commencement of the half time show. The Marcher of the Week gets to wear the “Nacho Poncho” over their uniform and eat a plate of nachos during the third quarter.

After the game, the band remains at the stadium until most of the crowd has left.”^{Note 1} Often the band will run through the show one more time in the stands. “Members then march out as a group.”^{Note 1}

If the Tiger Band has been in formal uniform there is a strict procedure that the students must follow to return their uniforms to the storage closet, which may take up to half an hour or more to process all the students. If you are waiting for your child we would welcome you to come into the band hall and see if you can help to speed up the process. Sometimes a video of the performance is shown for those interested in watching, after the uniforms are turned in. Parents are welcome to come and watch the video.

If you want to take your student directly from an away football game please follow the procedures for signing out your students with the chaperones as detailed in Section 2.1.3. **Students must ensure they have delegated someone responsible to return their uniform to the closet in the band hall.**

3. CONCERT SEASON: THE SPRING

3.1 COMMUNICATION

Announcements from the Band Directors sent by email via the Band Booster President continues to be the main method of communication during concert season, although they are not necessarily needed weekly.

Up to date information is posted on both the band and booster websites (www.dsbands.org and www.dsbandboosters.org) and so we encourage you to continue to check them regularly.

The same rules for checking out students from off campus contests apply as set out in Section 2.1.3.

3.2 CONCERT BANDS

Dripping Springs High School has two concert bands, Concert and Symphonic Band. Auditions for placement in these bands take place at the end of the previous school year in April or May, utilizing specific band audition music.

3.3 PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

The Percussion Ensemble meets as a class during the school day as well as after school and covers a wide range of percussion topics. These topics will include marching, concert, and solo percussion literature. Students will also participate in Solo and Ensemble Events, Region Band Auditions and Festivals. The Percussion Ensemble will also perform concerts at the end of each semester. All high school percussionists participate in the ensemble.

3.4 SECTIONALS

Both Concert and Symphonic Bands have a sectional practice schedule that will be distributed at the beginning of the spring semester. Sectionals can either be scheduled before or after school. The Band Directors will ask the students to let them know of any potential conflicts before they schedule the sectional practice times.

3.5 CHALLENGES

Students may challenge each other to advance their chair position within a band throughout the concert season until the end of January. A student may only challenge one position higher than they are placed. All challenges must be submitted to the Band Directors on the Monday of any particular week. Challenges take place and results are available by the end of the same week.

3.6 CONCERTS

The Concert and Symphonic bands both give three concerts during the year. The first is the Holiday Concert in December, followed by the Winter Concert in February and finally the Spring Concert in May. There may also be opportunities to watch the bands rehearse with outside clinicians during the season.

3.7 CONCERT UNIFORM

The band program provides the concert uniform. It utilizes the black pants with a plain black jacket. Students must provide their long black socks and black marching shoes, with a plain t-shirt with sleeves for under the jacket.

3.8 COMPETITIONS

“Although concert band season is not nearly as hectic as marching season, there are several important competitions:”^{Note 1}

- **UIL (University Interscholastic League) Solo and Ensemble competition** for high school students. All DSHS band students are required to compete. Pieces are selected at different “class” levels for each student depending on playing ability. All Seniors must perform a Class 1 piece. Students are graded on a level 1-3. If a student receives a Level 1 on a Class 1 piece that has been memorized they qualify to attend the State UIL Solo and Ensemble competition at the University of Texas. Ensembles do not have to memorize the music, but must receive a Class 1 to qualify to attend the State contest in May. Please make sure that your student is available on the weekend the State competition is scheduled, particularly if they are part of an ensemble.
- **UIL Concert and Sightreading competition** for both the Concert and Symphonic bands. This is typically held in April and the bands can receive a rating between 1-3.
- **State Honor Band.** “A recording of the Symphonic Band’s UIL music is submitted for judging on the Region level. If the band receives a high enough score, it goes to compete in Area. If the recording is determined to be one of the top two in Area, it goes on for judging at the State level.”
Note 1 The top scoring band at the State level is designated State Honor Band for the following year and they are invited to perform at the Texas Music Educators Clinic and Convention in February.
- **Additional Concert contests** may be scheduled for the Symphonic Band during May at the discretion of the Band Directors.

3.9 WINTER GUARD

“Winter Guard competitions are held indoors, usually in gymnasiums, in the spring.

Winter Guards perform shows set to edited, recorded music and utilize the usual guard accoutrements of flags, sabers, and rifles, as well as other props.”^{Note 1}

“A large colored painted vinyl tarp is often used to cover the floor, helping to set the stage for the performance...

Units are judged on the effect of the design of the show and the aptitude of the members in movement and equipment work.

Competitions are generally held from January through early April. Winter Guard International (WGI) sponsors widely attended regional championships leading to the national championship.... The Texas Color Guard Circuit (TCGC) offers another competitive outlet, with circuit championships in early April.”

Note 1

3.10 THE BAND BANQUET

In May, the Band Council coordinates a Band Banquet to which all band family members are invited to attend. It is a celebration of all the Band’s group and individual achievements throughout the year. Awards are given out, the Seniors are recognized, the volunteers thanked, there is a slide show and we reflect on yet another successful year.

3.11 JAZZ BAND

The Jazz Band meets for a daily class schedule throughout the year. All band instruments are eligible except flute, clarinet, oboe and bassoon. In addition, other instruments such as bass guitar and keyboards are included. Students playing these non-traditional band instruments do not need to be a part of the DS Band program but will need to audition with the Band Directors prior to signing up for the class.

The Jazz band performs at several events during the year. Past events include:

- An Evening of Jazz at the Salt Lick in February
- Founders Day Festival Celebrations in April
- Various events at the Middle school and Elementary schools.
- Texas State University Jazz Band Concert in the Spring.

3.12 BAND TRIPS

3.12.1 BIG BAND TRIP

Once every four years the Tiger Band and Color Guard take a “Big Trip” for 5-6 days out of state. It is usually scheduled for 2 days before Spring Break until the Monday or Tuesday of Spring Break. The last trip was to Los Angeles, California including an LA Tour, Universal and Sony Studios, Disney World and the opportunity to visit the Disney Studios and record a cartoon soundtrack as a session musician. The next big trip is scheduled in March 2013.

3.12.2 INTERIM BAND TRIP

In the second year between the big trips the Tiger Band go on an in-state interim band trip. This is usually over a weekend in April. It is associated with a concert band contest and then usually a trip to a theme park or similar. The last trip went to Dallas TX with a visit to Six Flags in Arlington. The next interim trip is due April 2011.

3.12.3 STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNTS

Each student has an activity account, which continues from Middle School through High School. They can add funds to their activity account by participating in school band fundraisers that are coordinated by the Band Directors at the Middle and High Schools respectively. These are different from the Band Booster fundraisers. The funds raised by each student go directly into each student’s individual account. Fundraisers have included pen sales, cookie dough, pizza kits etc.

Funds can be used from these accounts to pay for band trips in part or in full.

If your student leaves the band program before using all their funds in their student activity account they can be transferred to a sibling in the program, otherwise the money is absorbed into the band activity account.

Families or friends can make direct donations to a student activity account in lieu of buying items for a fundraiser.

4. DRIPPING SPRINGS BAND BOOSTERS

4.1 PURPOSE

The Dripping Springs Band Boosters is incorporated as a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization to provide both fiscal and organizational support for the Dripping Springs Band Programs.

The school district is not able to cover all the items necessary to make the DS Band Program competitive with the best bands in Texas and so successful.

By offering volunteer support to take care of many of the organizational items associated with such a large program we can enable the band directors to do what they do best, teach our students.

4.2 BAND BOOSTER BOARD

The DS Band Booster Board is elected on an annual basis at the Annual Meeting in April for the following fiscal year, which runs from June 1st – May 31st. Any Booster member may seek election for office.

The Board is compiled of the following officers eligible to vote at the Board meetings:

President who is responsible for the overall coordination of the Band Boosters, the general communication between the Directors and the band parents, and presiding over all booster board and general membership meetings.

Secretary who is responsible for taking the minutes at all board and general membership meetings, posting the approved minutes in the Band Hall and on the website, maintaining files of previous minutes and agendas. The Secretary keeps copies of all the by laws and other legal documents and gives all notices as provided in the by laws or as required by the law.

Treasurer who is responsible for the financial record keeping of the organization including preparation and tracking of the budget, all deposits and withdrawals and writing of checks. A monthly financial report is given at every general membership meeting.

VP Fundraising who is responsible for overall coordination of the fundraising events. Most of these events have separate organizing committees.

VP Concessions who is responsible for coordinating the work and volunteers for the concession stand for home football games during the setup and first half of the games.

VP Chaperones who is responsible for coordinating the chaperones, pit crew and parents to pull the small trailer, if necessary, for home football games and all away events.

VP Uniforms who is responsible for coordinating the fitting, distribution and check in, maintenance and cleaning of all uniforms.

VP Membership who is responsible for collating all the booster membership forms and providing a membership directory.

VP Communications who is responsible for maintaining the booster website.

Color Guard Liaison who represents the Color Guard in the booster organization.

Percussion Liaison who represents the Percussion group in the booster organization.

Middle School Liaisons who represent the middle school band students in the booster organization. This comprises two Beginning Band liaisons (Maroon and Gold) and a Concert and Symphonic Band liaison. The Middle School liaisons also help support the MS Band Directors when requested.

In addition, the Booster club has several other appointed positions who are not eligible to vote at the Board meetings:

President Elect who is responsible for working with the President, presiding over booster board and general membership meetings, in the absence of the President.

Historian who is responsible for keeping a photographic record of the band activities throughout the year.

Parliamentarian who is responsible for ensuring that the business of the organization is conducted within the existing by-laws and procedural regulations.

Publicity Coordinator who is responsible for coordinating any publicity articles in the local and DSISD publications related to the DS band programs and Band Boosters.

HEB Card Program Coordinator who is responsible for coordinating the logistics for HEB card program, through the mail order and neighborhood coordinator sales.

Current board members and their contact information are listed on the DS Band Booster website (www.dsbandboosters.org).

4.3 MEMBERSHIP

Any family who has a child in either the middle or high school band program is a member of the DS Band Booster organization and entitled to vote at the general membership meetings.

There is a Band Booster membership donation requested per family of \$25 per year. This covers families with siblings even if they are in both the middle and high schools.

The Band Booster membership form is distributed with all the documents to be filled out for Band Registration Night in July, however families may join at anytime throughout the year. Membership forms can be downloaded from the Band Booster website (www.dsbandboosters.org).

Every year Band Boosters compile a membership directory for all those members who provide and agree to their information being shared. This directory is for Band Booster use only.

4.4 COMMUNICATION

Most of the communication regarding Band Booster volunteer needs and events takes place via email from the Band Booster President. It is very important that we have your correct email information on your student's information form and the Band Booster membership form collected at Band Registration Night. If your information changes during the year please be sure to let the Band Directors and the Band Booster President know.

4.5 MEETINGS

Band Booster general membership meetings are held the third Monday in the month at 7:00 pm in the HS Band Hall.

The Board meetings are held immediately preceding at 6:15 pm in the same location.

There are some occasions throughout the year when the third Monday is a school holiday, in which case those meetings are rescheduled. A full list of all meetings throughout the year is available on the Booster website (www.dsbandboosters.org).

The April meeting is designated the Annual meeting when elections take place for the next year's Board officers.

4.6 WEBSITES

The Band Boosters has its own website (www.dsbandboosters.org), in addition to the band program website (www.dsbands.org).

The booster website covers the following:

- News Items about the Bands
- Upcoming Events and a Booster Calendar
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Board Contact Information
- Meeting Agendas and Minutes
- Information on all the Fundraisers
- Booster Forms
- Tiger Band Student Leader Information

The band program website contains information for your student including:

- Band Program Calendar
- Copies of the Weekly Announcements
- Band Forms
- Student Blogs
- Photos
- Video Clips
- Band Music
- Tiger Band Achievements

We have tried to avoid duplication of information between websites wherever possible.

These are both very useful sources of information throughout the year and we encourage you to bookmark them and visit them regularly.

4.7 FUNDRAISERS

The volunteer organization holds several fundraisers throughout the year to be able to pay for items in the band program budget that are not covered by the school district. Currently these include items such as music and drill for the marching program, additional instructors for percussion and color guard, props for the marching program, additional specific equipment such as band trailers, tuners, percussion shelving, risers, big screen TV, smart music program and a keyboard for the Jazz Band at the middle school etc.

Any items purchased by the booster organization are intended to benefit the band program as a whole.

4.7.1 HEB CARDS

Purchasing HEB/Central Market Gift cards each month is an easy way for you, your family, and friends to support the band/guard without spending any additional out-of-pocket money. You simply purchase gift

cards at their face value (\$20, \$50 and \$100 increments) and HEB donates a percentage of the card value to the Dripping Springs Band Boosters. Gift cards can be used on all food, gas, pharmacy, cafeteria, or photo purchases -- anything you usually write a check for at HEB or Central Market. The Boosters sell HEB Cards through Neighborhood Contacts and by mail-order. Additionally, cards are available at many band events. To learn more about this program, including how to purchase cards, please go to the DS Band Booster website (www.dsbandboosters.org).

4.7.2 CONCESSIONS

The Band Boosters have a contract with the Athletic Boosters to coordinate and provide volunteers for the preparation and set up of the concession stands and the first half of the games at the football stadium for the home games (Thursday JV/Freshman and Friday Varsity) throughout the football season.

The season's profit from the concession stands is split equally between the Athletic and Band Boosters.

4.7.3 AN EVENING OF JAZZ AT THE SALT LICK

In early February the Band Boosters hold their biggest and most successful fundraiser of the year, An Evening of Jazz at the Salt Lick. The event is held at the Salt Lick Pavilion and the food catered by the Salt Lick BBQ. The Middle and High School Jazz Bands provide the entertainment and there is a large Silent Auction. This is a very popular event (around 1000 people) and thanks to the generosity of the Salt Lick it is a very successful fundraiser.

4.7.4 TIGER 5K RUN

The Band Boosters hold the Tiger 5K run (and Kids K) in April, recently associated with Founders Day Festival weekend. This is a popular run throughout Hidden Springs Ranch subdivision and is unique, in that groups of band students provide musical entertainment along the route. We rely on sponsorship and runner's registrations to help raise funds for the band program.

4.7.5 ONLINE GARAGE SALE

The Band Booster on-line Garage Sale runs throughout the school year. We operate our on-line sale using the services of both Craigslist-Austin and MissionFish.

Craigslist is a centralized network of over 450 online urban communities, featuring free classified advertisements.

MissionFish is the charity solution provider for eBay Giving Works, and a service of the Points of Light Foundation. MissionFish was started in 2000 and provides the technology, tools, & support to 9,000+ non-profits to raise funds through online auctions that are accessible to all eBay users.

Friends and family of the band can donate items (suggested value more than \$30) to be listed in the online garage sale. We take care of shipping or pick up once the item is sold. Donors can also elect to donate just a portion of the sales price to the Band Boosters if the item is very valuable.

For more information about any of the fundraisers listed above, please visit the band booster website (www.dsbandboosters.org).

4.7.6 SPECIFIC GROUP FUNDRAISERS

Specific groups, such as the Percussion or Colorguard, may do their own fundraisers throughout the year to supplement their specific group's needs. For instance the Percussion group host a Drumline contest at

the High school in September. The parents of students in these specific groups lead the volunteer effort to coordinate these fundraisers.

4.8 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are so many areas that the Band Boosters need help to support the DS Band Program. We are very grateful for all the wonderful support we receive every year from our "Band Family and Friends", we could not do this without you all.

None of the volunteer positions described below require any kind of previous experience and we promise to provide all the "on the job" training necessary, you just need to show up and have fun!

The first opportunity to sign up to help in any of the areas described is at Band Registration Night in July.

There will also be plenty of other requests for help throughout the year!

4.8.1 CHAPERONES

We need parent chaperones for all the football games (home and away) and any marching contests or UIL events that the band attends. Duties are very simple, chaperones check students on and off the busses and sign out any students who leave from the off campus location. At football games and marching contests chaperones help supervise the MS Band Helpers to hand out water and sodas to the band, help carry some equipment etc. from the busses to the field and generally be available to help where needed.

We prefer that chaperones ride the busses, if it is an away game or marching contest, as we need a couple of chaperones on each bus (there is also a Band Director on each bus) but if you want to help and absolutely can not ride the bus you could either drive yourself or ride with the trailer pulling crew.

You will stay with the band in the bleachers during the whole event or if it is a full day marching contest you also stay with the band when they go to eat etc.

It is a great way to get to know some of our wonderful band students and you really feel a part of the event and our band family!

4.8.2 PIT AND PROPS CREW

For every game (home and away) or marching contest we need a group of parents to help move the percussion pit equipment and props onto and off the field before and after our show respectively. This is a very important job to help our performance run smoothly. The band students will direct you very efficiently as to what to take and where to place it!

For away games and events you can also be part of the chaperone crew but for home games you can just come to the band stands half way through the second quarter of the game and then leave after the show.

4.8.3 TRAILER PULL

The band takes two large trailers to all away games and events to transport all our instruments and equipment. Occasionally we also need to take a smaller trailer particularly if the marching show includes large or multiple props. DSISD Transportation pull the large trailers but we do need one willing parent with a 1/2 ton truck and bumper pull (2 5/16 inch ball hitch) to pull our smaller trailer, if we take it. This is about the size of a medium horse or stock trailer but is quite heavy when fully loaded. In addition the Color Guard require a parent to pull the small trailer to contests during the Winter Guard season in the Spring semester.

Your auto insurance policy should cover the trailer once it is hooked up to your vehicle but you might want to double check this with your insurance company.

4.8.4 UNIFORMS

The Uniform VP and volunteers do an amazing job fitting all the uniforms within the first few weeks of school. This involves fitting, making alterations and pressing. If you have any sewing or ironing skills and would be willing to help they would be most grateful. This can be a fairly flexible job time wise. In addition they have a very organized system for distributing and collecting uniforms on game and contest days. This does involve volunteer help, immediately after the games or on return to the Band Hall. This is a great volunteer opportunity if you pick up your students as you would just be helping out while you would be waiting for your student anyway.

4.8.5 FUNDRAISERS

- **Concessions:**

This is one of our major fundraisers as Band Boosters, along with Athletic Boosters, are responsible for operating the Concession Stand during football season. In return we receive half of the profits. Band is responsible for managing set up and the first half of the home games. This includes both Thursday and Friday games for Freshman, JV and Varsity Football. Thursday is a great time to work as it does not interfere with enjoying the Band Half Time Show, however Friday is always busy and fun! In order to help with set up you do need to be available from around 4:00 pm for the Friday night games, however if you cannot help until 6:00 pm when the concession stands open that is fine as well. If you could work for even one of the home games it would be greatly appreciated.

- **Salt Lick Evening of Jazz:**

This is one of our most popular and successful fundraisers of the year and an opportunity to showcase our HS and MS Jazz bands. It is usually scheduled in early February. We need a group of volunteers to help with the Silent Auction, decorations and set up for the evening. We start work on soliciting items for the Silent Auction in November and those helping with set up would need to be available during the day of the event.

- **Tiger 5K Run:**

The Tiger 5k run is usually scheduled in conjunction with Founders Day Festival weekend, in mid April. We need a committee of volunteers to help with planning, logistics, publicity, sponsorship and race day help. We usually start to meet and work on the run in January.

- **HEB Cards:**

We are continuing to expand out HEB card fundraising program. We are looking for neighborhood contacts who would be willing to order and distribute cards for families in their area. The system is very organized and so it is not a hard task and only requires a couple of hours a month from home. This is a very exciting new fundraiser and we would love to be able to continue to expand.

- **Drumline Contest:**

We host a Drumline contest in September. We are looking for both volunteers to help with concessions, parking, publicity and logistics. Percussion parents are particularly involved in this fundraiser.

I hope you will be able to find something that you may enjoy helping the Band Boosters helping the Tiger Band program!