

## GENERAL MARCHING BAND AND COLOR GUARD INFO

Below is some information designed to give more detail about the marching band season. If you have further questions, please feel free to email the following board members and/or staff:

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### *What happens on football game days?*

The band and color guard are expected to be present and ready to perform for all home football games. Our games are held in Fran Rish stadium, near Richland High School. On game days, the students remain at HHS after school is released. A practice session is held at the school. Around 4pm, students will start loading the trailers with the pit and drum line instruments, sousaphones, drum major stands, and other equipment. Two volunteer parents are needed for each home game to tow the trailers from HHS to the game, and back to HHS after the game.

After loading the trailers, the students board a school bus (or drive their personal cars), taking with them their instruments (if not in the trailers) and backpacks/coats, etc. They are taken to the stadium. There they are fed pizza and drinks, and have further practice and warmups. At the direction of their teachers, they change in to their uniforms, and get ready for the game.

The uniforms are in the uniform trailer. Each student is assigned a bag, containing only their uniform, for the duration of the season. Marching shoes will be kept in bins. Uniforms/bags and shoes are never to be taken home.

The students change in the parking lot behind the stadium. School clothes can be put back in their bag, which is returned to the uniform trailer. Instrument cases, backpacks, etc are put in a fenced area near the trailers.

After the game, students change back into their home clothes, return uniform bags and shoes to the trailer. They are then invited to enjoy cookies provided by a different section of the band for each game.

All the equipment and instruments that belong on the trailers are loaded back up, and the trailers returned to the parking lot at HHS. Students are not bussed back to HHS.

### *How can parents help on game days and competitions?*

Two tow vehicles are needed to tow the trailers to and from the game. Vehicles need to have a standard receiver hitch. The hitch itself is provided with the trailer. These are both double-axle trailers with electric brakes, and it is strongly urged that tow vehicles have the necessary connection to use them.

Towing parents need to be at HHS between 4 and 4:30pm on game days. They will need to be available until after the game (30-60 minutes), to tow the trailers back to HHS. Parents are not expected to help load the trailers – that is the responsibility of the students.

For each home game, a section of the band, or the color guard, is requested to provide the after-performance snacks. This is typically cookies, either homemade or store bought. Two or three parents help at each game with pizza/water & again during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter with cookies.

Approximately 15 parents are needed when the band performs to help move the pit percussion equipment on and off the field.

Five to seven days prior to a competition, the directors will distribute a detailed itinerary to the students. Again, much parent help is needed and welcome as chaperones, chuck wagon (food) help,

towing trailers, uniform help, moving the pit before and after performances, and supporting the students.

*Why are we asked to provide food and/or snacks, on top of the marching fees already paid?*

Marching band is an expensive activity. The Richland School District recognizes the many positive benefits of the program, and funds a considerable portion of it. The fees you have paid cover other costs, including uniform dry-cleaning, purchase of shoes and gloves, fees paid to buy the marching music and the drill (patterns that the band and color guard form), fees to enter marching competitions, etc.

Marching band is also a high-energy activity. Providing sufficient food is necessary not only from a basic health standpoint, but to ensure that students are fueled for the demands placed on them.

Feeding 90-plus teenagers is expensive. During games and competitions, the students are fed meals and snacks. Your donations of food, drinks, and supplies help reduce the marching band costs. This helps ensure that other music groups within the department have the opportunity to attend festivals/competitions, bring in guest artists/conductors, and order special music for their programs.

The cost of all this is the main driver behind our various fund-raising activities. Some activities, such as summer car washes, pizza hut cards, poinsettia sales & a portion of beef raffle and DCI ticket sales, earn money that goes directly into student accounts. Other fund raisers (Music Booster Day, Pasta Dinner, Swing Dance and a portion of beef raffle and DCI ticket sales) are designated to the Boosters, to be distributed among the various performing groups. Active fund raising participation by all students and parents is the easiest and most equitable way to reduce the out-of-pocket expenses for everybody.