



The Unofficial Guide for New Marching Band Parents

Hickory Ridge High School Band Boosters 7321
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Marching Band 101

A guide for new band parents (and veterans, too).

This guide is the product of former “new band parents” who spent a good bit of time in our first year in various stages of confusion. We hope this document will help ease you through the transition from “new band parent” to “veteran” band parent.

Before we get started, let’s talk about communication. There are several ways to stay up to date on all things band related:

1. Mr. Whites website- from the Hickory Ridge High School site, access Academics>Arts>White, Chris>Calendar (left rail). Mr. White does an excellent job of keeping this calendar up to date, check it often!
2. Bands Facebook Page-(Hickory Ridge Bands). This is another key resource, if you are not on Facebook, you may want to consider joining just to follow this page.
3. Email communications- we also communicate frequently via email.
4. Twitter- follow HRHS Band Boosters.
5. Instagram- follow hrhs_blueregiment.

Here is a high-level breakdown of what to expect in the upcoming months:

May/June- Marching Band mini-camp and rehearsals

Minicamp is a very important and smaller scale version of band camp for new members. Students learn the fundamentals of marching and music, and use the time to prepare for both the fall marching season and the Harrisburg July 4th Parade. Evening rehearsals also occur- Schedules and times can be found on Mr. White’s calendar.

July- 4th of July Parade and rehearsals

The Hickory Ridge Blue Regiment is a regular in the Harrisburg 4th of July parade. Students will be provided with a parade shirt to wear for the parade or provided their show shirt. (Parade shirts must be returned after the parade.)

Evening rehearsals may begin later in July, along with Band camp. Schedules and times can be found on Mr. White’s calendar.

July/August-Marching Band Camp

Band camp begins in late July/early August. The staff and students work very hard for about 8 hours a day, five days a week. The scheduled start and stop times may vary from day to day. (Mr. White will update the schedules on his school calendar, please check it often as times and dates may change.) During camp, students learn the music and the marching routine for the fall show. They spend quite a bit of time outside each day. It is important that they dress appropriately. The kids get quite a workout. Be prepared for running laps and plenty of sweating. It is an experience most of the kids “love to hate.”

Band Camp Necessities:

- White t-shirts (recommend you have at least 5) - they may be written on while setting drill.
- Shorts
- Comfortable sneakers (no flip-flops!)
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Sun Screen
- Water Container – we require a 1-gallon water container labeled with your child’s name. (unlimited water refills are available throughout the day)

Make sure your students eats a good breakfast before band camp, but please make sure they do NOT have dairy products for breakfast. We also recommend that they drink plenty of WATER before and during band camp. The band boosters do provide snacks during band camp. (Information will be sent out prior to band camp letting you know how you can contribute snacks.)

There is another major benefit of camp – when your freshman marching band student arrives for the first day of high school, he or she will already be a part of a well-respected group and will have a whole new group of friends (across all grades) to help with the transition into high school.

Pick up and Parking

When picking up your student after rehearsals, camp, games please park in either in the front loop of the school or the faculty lot (behind the bus lot). Please do NOT pull onto the bus lot or into the back alley near the loading dock to to drop off or pick up. There is quite a bit of foot traffic and students moving instruments. It is a safety hazard to have parents driving through the lot.

Parent Preview

Band camp culminates with a “Parent Preview” at the end of band camp. The kids will show off everything they have learned. It is great fun to come out and see how far the kids have come in just two weeks.

Post Band Camp

The fun continues! After the conclusion of band camp, the students rehearse nightly- usually 4 times a week until school/football games starts. Current schedules can be found on Mr. White’s calendar. Students will still need to wear white t-shirt and shorts to rehearsals.

Once school starts, the students will rehearse after school on Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays with games on Friday. Check Mr. White’s calendar regularly for updates!

Football Games

Home Games:

The band performs the national anthem at the home football games, as well as their show at half time and pep music in the stands. The band is usually one of the last groups to leave the stadium, and after each home game they stop in front of the school to play the school fight song. Then they return to the band room and have to pack up before being dismissed. Pick up in band parking lot after the game. The good news is that the game traffic is usually done by the time you leave the school! 😊

Call time for all games (home and away) will be posted on Mr. White’s website.

Away Games:

A smaller pep band performs in the stands at certain away games. Additional information regarding pep band assignments and rotations will be provided once football season begins. The students travel to the game on an activity bus, drop off and pick up at HRHS. You will need to send money with your student for food (concession stands) for the game. Students usually do not wear uniforms to away games. Band shirt and shorts/jeans.

Parades

In addition to the 4th of July parade, the marching band participates in one or two Christmas Parades (usually in late November) each year. Times and locations will be posted on Mr. Whites calendar.

Uniforms

Your student will be issued a marching uniform consisting of jacket, pants (called bibbers), shako (head covering) and gloves. These uniforms are the property of Hickory Ridge Bands and are stored at the school. The uniform will not be sent home. Students should wear their band shirt and shorts/pants under the bibbers. Students must wear LONG black socks (no ankle socks) under their uniform. (Guard uniforms are issued as well).

Marching shoes and (additional gloves) must be purchased for a (minimal) fee. The shoes and gloves will belong to the student.

Band T-Shirts

A “show shirt” is provided to your student by the band boosters. This shirt should be worn under the uniform and other events as directed by Mr. White. You will also have the option to purchase a Blue Regiment sweat shirt (they come in handy for the cold games!) and other band swag in the fall.

Band Boosters

The Marching Band program is supported by a parent-run organization – the Hickory Ridge High School Band Boosters (HRHSBB). By having a student in the band program at Hickory Ridge, you are automatically a part of the band booster organization. Parents volunteer their time in order to help provide your students with an enjoyable and rewarding band experience. Please join us during our quarterly band booster meetings as it is your opportunity to voice your opinions, hear about how you can get more involved and most importantly get to know other parents too. We welcome all new parents and look forward to getting to know you and your students!

Festival of Bands (FOB)

Hickory Ridge sponsors our own Marching Band competition- Festival of Bands (FOB). This is a highly successful fundraiser for the band, and parent involvement is required for FOB. Please mark your calendars now, volunteer information will be sent out prior to the competition. FOB is scheduled for the afternoon/evening of Saturday 09/25/2021. Participation by at least one parent/guardian is required.

Want to be a part of the fun?! We need your help!!

During marching season, the students need many hands behind the scenes to make their show successful. It truly “takes a village” to keep the band programming running!

Below are some common areas for you to volunteer:

- Chaperone -There are many opportunities to chaperone- Home games, away games, parades. It is a great opportunity to meet new band parents and help out the program.
- Roadies- They help transfer equipment and get it on and off the field during half-time shows.
- Help with uniform fittings and alterations. (happens over the summer during band camp)
- Any other special talents or skills you have to offer the program! (sewing, business connections for snacks/donations, etc.)
- Sell donuts at home football games
- Please see a Board Member with questions or to volunteer

Fundraising

Believe it or not, your commitment fees do not cover all of the band expenses. The commitment fees actually only cover about 1/3 of our operating costs (music arrangements, staff, transportation, equipment upkeep, etc.). We rely heavily on fundraising to cover our operating costs. You can earn money fundraising to cover trip fees, commitment fees, etc. If every band parent would commit to participating in one or two fundraising events we would be in great shape.

Our main fundraiser (covering another 1/3 of our operating budget) is working concerts at PNC. We sell beer and food at the concerts. You must be at least 21 years old to work the concerts and you will be TEAM trained to serve alcohol. This is a great opportunity to earn money for commitment fees and even offset trip fees. (There are many families that have fully funded trips by working concerts at PNC). Earnings vary depending on concert. You will get to hear some great concerts (for free!) and meet some interesting people. Speak to Allison or Bryan Reece or any board member with questions.

Other fundraising opportunities will also be provided for students- selling Auto bell coupons, ad sales for FOB, poinsettia sales, fruit, etc.

When fundraising, commitment fees must be covered first, then you can allocate funds to a “trip account”. Fundraising monies cannot be paid out to the family, money cannot be transferred between the general account and trip account.

Helpful Hints

Mr. White, the staff and the booster organization want this to be a positive experience for all the students and their families. Here are some helpful hints (learned from our own experiences):

- The BEST Way to communicate with Mr. White for questions is AFTER rehearsal, or anytime via email.
- Hold your child responsible for being prepared. The first time they forget something will likely be the last. They really do learn to be resourceful when they have to be.
- “If you are early, you are on time. If you are on time, you are late. If you are late, get ready for push-ups.” This means that students are expected to arrive for all band events scheduled practice 15 minutes early so they are in position and ready to rehearse at the scheduled start time. If start time is 6:00 p.m., plan to arrive by 5:45 p.m.
- Mr. White and the instruction staff try very hard to end practice at the scheduled time. Occasionally practice may run over. Please be patient....it’s usually for a very good reason.
- Network – Take the opportunity to meet other parents (after practice, at games & competitions, fundraising activities, etc.). This is how we all met each other. It is also the best way to get helpful hints on band parenting from others.
- Be prepared to cheer! The band loves it when they have their own cheering section at games and competitions.
- Stay up to date on all schedules via the calendar on Mr. White’s page.
- Don’t hesitate to ask any of the “veteran” band parents or HRHSBB Board Members. We’ve all been there and no question is a “dumb” question.
- Black Socks, Black Socks, Black Socks...



How to access parent/student information in

CHARMS

- Log on to **www.charmsoffice.com**, and click the “ENTER/LOG IN” link at upper right.
- Locate the “PARENT/STUDENT/MEMBERS LOGIN” section of the web page.
- Login to your child’s program account using the following School Code:

HickoryRidgeHSB

- This will bring up the main parent page. This will allow you to look at the “public” calendar for our organization, event list, handouts and other files.
- When you enter your child’s ID NUMBER (Cabarrus County Schools student ID) as a **Student Area Password**, another more detailed screen appears with even more options to view your student’s uniform assignments, music assignments, financial records, forms and inventory. Once you have first entered this ID number, you may create your own, unique password by clicking on the “lock” (*Change Password*) icon.
- You can keep track of your child’s finances:
 - **Check your finances** – you can see up to date financial information on fundraising activity, payments received, as well as the balance due on your student’s account. This will replace your student’s monthly statement so please check this regularly. Click the *Finances* button.
- You can help the director maintain his/her records:
 - **Update Personal Information** – you may help make changes to your child’s student information page (such as updating phone numbers and email addresses if they change) to help the teacher communicate with you more effectively. Click the *Personal Info* button.
- Most importantly, the parent page assists both you and the teacher to communicate with each other. Stay up to date on what’s going on with your student!

• Questions?

Contact **Chris White** at: christopher.white@cabarrus.k12.nc.us