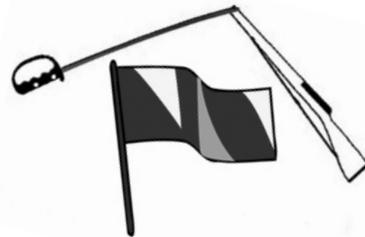


William T. Dwyer High School



Panther Band

NEW STUDENT & PARENT
MARCHING BAND
SURVIVAL GUIDE!



BAND CAMP INFORMATION AND SCHEDULE

Below is the 2016 fall band camps information, these camps are mandatory for all incoming and current band students. We need to be ready for our first game!

Mini Band Camp – Thursday, May 26th & Friday, 27th – 5:00 - 7:00

Mini Band Camp is a fun way for 8th grade middle school students to Meet-N-Greet their future high school band and color guard classmates and practice some of the music they will be playing.

- * Report to the Dwyer Band Room at 5 p.m.
- * Bring Medical Form - must be notarized. A notary will be present at the parent meeting.
(Print from www.dwyerband.org, under forms)

Mandatory Parent Meeting - May 27th, at 6:30 p.m., in the band room.

The many rewards and information about marching band, color guard and Fall Band Camp will be provided.

Percussion & Guard Camp - June 6&7, 20&21, – July 11&12, 25&26, Time 9:00-1:00

Brass & Wind Camp – June 6&7, 20&21, – July 11&12, 25&26, Time 10:00-12:00

Officer Camp – July TBA – June TBA

(Students, join the Dwyer Band Facebook Group for current information and times)

Uniform Fitting – Sunday, July 31st

- * Come to the band room anytime between 3 – 5 pm
- * Bring:
 - Cash or Check (made payable to WTDHS) for \$120 as the first installment of FairShare
 - Financial Contract
 - Go to www.dwyerband.org, click on FORMS tab and select Band Handbook, please read the handbook and print and complete the last few pages and bring with you.

Summer Band Camp – August 1st – 5th, 8am – 5pm & Aug 9th & Aug 11th, 5-8 p.m.(only those 2 days)

We will be outside most of the day. It is recommended that students eat a healthy breakfast.

Lunch, water and a snack will be provided each day.

Wear the following:

Sunscreen, lots and lots of sunscreen
Shorts, light colored t-shirt
Sneakers (**no sandals or flip-flops**)
Hat or visor and sunglasses

Bring the following:

Your instrument
Music & lyre/flipbook
Water, a cooler is recommended
Snacks - fruit, granola or protein bars

***** Students are not permitted to leave campus. *****

It is strongly recommended that students do their best to get in shape for band camp! Band Camp is strenuous and hot.

Students should be physically prepared. Attendance is required for all performances.

Once you commit, there is no quitting, quitters never succeed!

THE BASICS

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BAND AND COLOR GUARD

You must fill out an info packet. This is so your child can participate in band or color guard and have communication through emails. Please make sure all signatures and student number are on papers and the medical form is notarized. **THESE ARE VERY IMPORTANT!!!** Your child cannot participate until these forms are filled out!

All students need to order accessories; color guard uniforms, marching band shoes, hats, etc. Students also need black socks. Buy more than one pair. The dryer likes to eat them and they get lost “somewhere” in your child’s room. All students will be given a band tee-shirt. It is the STUDENTS responsibility to bring everything they need for each game!

FAIR SHARE: This is the payment so your child can participate in band or color guard. You can pay it out right or raise money through band fundraisers or sponsorships. This pays for uniforms, purchase & repair instruments, purchase music, supplies and pay instructors.

You **MUST** register with the school to volunteer, work the grill or concession stand, sell programs or go on trips. Every year a new registration must be done on VIP! Register on the computer in the band room or front office. Don’t forget to enter your hours every time you volunteer! The school keeps track of volunteer hours.

Please come to the monthly meetings! There is a lot of information we go over and you need to hear!

When you write a check, PLEASE put the students name on it!

CHARMS: Log in--DwyerHSBand Password-- Student ID number

You can access your financial account, the calendar, sign up to work the games, sell programs, volunteer in the stands or chaperone trips.

BAND WEBSITE: www.dwyerband.org. The website has band news updates, board meeting minutes, handbook, forms, football game schedule, photos and other info.

FACEBOOK GROUP: Students, join the William T. Dwyer Panther Regiment Facebook Group. The link is on the www.dwyerband.org website. Sorry parents, students only. Section leaders post times and days for extra section rehearsals or “sectionals”.

Marching & color guard practices are Tuesdays & Thursdays from 5-8

Jazz practice is Tuesdays from 3-4:30

All rehearsals and performances are mandatory!

STAND CONDUCT: NO eating in uniforms, if student needs to go to rest room they **MUST** go with a parent! (Mr. Lamp needs to be informed!) Conduct yourself professionally you are representing the school! Everyone will remain in bleachers together. NO friends sitting in with the band! If a student needs to leave early Mr. Lamp must know and a parent must pick them up.

HAVE YOUR DWYER PANTHER BAND PRIDE!

P-ROFESSIONALISM

R-ESPECT

I-NTEGRITY

D-ISCIPLINE

E-XCELLENCE



FAIR SHARE INFORMATION **AND FAIR SHARE FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES** **(DON'T PANIC!)**

The William T. Dwyer Marching Band, Color Guard and Winter Guard are extra-curricular activities. We get no funding from the school or state. There is a minimum amount of money needed for this program to run and succeed. The financial commitment required from each member is called "Fair Share." Many fundraisers are organized by the band booster organization to raise monies that can be applied to a student's individual "Fair Share" account.

Each student will be responsible for one of the following accounts:

Panther Marching Band - \$430 (Shoes, hats and other items are extra)

Color Guard - \$530 (Uniforms extra)

Winter Guard - \$400 (Uniforms extra)

Concert (unable to march) or Jazz Band (non marching) - \$50

When there are two or more family members fair share is reduced by \$50.00 for each additional family member in either band or color guard. Dues will be pro-rated for those members joining after the beginning of the year with a minimum of \$150.00 charged for band members and \$100.00 charged for color guard members.

Annual dues are payable as follows:

A – Pay fair share in full in one single payment – due the first week of September

B – Pay fair share in 4 installments (Example is for Panther Marching Band)

1st - August -\$120

2nd - September - \$110

3rd - October - \$100

4th - November - \$100

Accessories such as, but not limited to: warm-ups, hoodies, extra band shirts, marching shoes, hats and color guard uniforms are not included in Fair Share and must be paid for separately.

NOTICES

1. Fair Share payments must be up to date by the time of the performance or the student will not perform until the Fair Share is up to date!!!

Students are **STILL** required to attend and serve the band in other ways, but will not participate in any **PERFORMANCE** until the Fair Share is up to date!

If the student does not perform in the show, there will be an alternate **WRITTEN** assignment to make up the points. See **UNEXCUSED ABSENCE** in the handbook for procedure.

Students **WILL** be on **OBLIGATION** for unpaid Fair Share beginning the start of the second Semester. Failure to pay this **OBLIGATION** may result in the student's ability to attend school events, check out textbooks, pick up report cards, or participate in graduation.

Monies are nonrefundable and roll over into the general fund at the completion of the member's senior year at W.T. Dwyer High School or when the student is no longer a member of the band. Any student that leaves the band program and has a sibling in the program will have their credit balance transferred to the siblings account.

Parents and student can earn money for your students fair share through sponsorships or a variety of fund raisers. Two of the biggest are selling ads for the football program and parents volunteering for the grill and concession stand during football games. Some other fundraisers are candy sales, poinsettia sales, Italian Dinner/Silent Auction and car washes.

GUIDE FOR NEW BAND PARENT'S **(GOOD FOR OLDER ONES, TOO...)**



Preface

This guide is the product of a group of new band parents who spent a large portion of our "rookie" year in various stages of confusion. In the many hours we spent together watching practices and performances, waiting to pick up our kids, and following buses, we asked hundreds of questions.

As novice band parents, of course we wanted to know what we should do. After all, the only people who were even more confused, and looking to us for answers, were our children. This booklet is our attempt to share with the "upcoming rookies" some of the answers to many of these questions before we too forget how it felt not knowing what was going on . . . (of course, we still don't have all the answers - second, even third year band parents).

We hope this booklet helps you in your "endeavors" during your child's rookie year.

Marching Band or Concert Band

At William T. Dwyer Marching Band and Concert Band are not separate classes, rather separate seasons. There is one Marching/Concert band class with freshman to seniors, where some upperclassmen are chosen as Section Leaders to help the rest of the players in their section. The first part of the year from August to December focuses on football season and marching band. The Marching Panther Regiment plays at all home games and possibly some away games. The band plays at school during pep rallies and plays the National Anthem at the beginning of the football game and their half time show on the field. During the game they support school spirit by playing "stand music". During football season there will be two days a week of after school practices. Marching band is a lot of work but it's also a lot of fun! From January to June the focus switches to Concert Band. The band will participate in Concert MPA, Solo & Ensemble assessment tests and practice for their Spring Concert.

Band Camp

Show up! Pre-season rehearsals are mandatory, you will need to arrange family vacations, doctor's visits, drivers licence tests, jobs, family time at a time other than during marching band pre-season. Students must attend ALL rehearsals with no interruptions. The week of pre-season is like 12 weeks of regular rehearsals. We will learn our music and get our drill on the field. If one person is missing, the entire band needs to review what was missed when you come back; it slows everyone down. Remember, our fist game is the first week of school. The band needs to look and sound good as a unit.

Yes, your kids will get a workout. Be prepared for running laps, push ups and plenty of sweating.

Dress Comfortably - ball caps or hats, sunglasses, comfortable tennis shoes (not high-tops, well broken-in, not new), shorts (No long jeans, they will regret it) and T-shirts or tank tops (No spaghetti straps).

Bring water to drink! Mark the container.

Bring a towel. (They'll need it!)

They might want to bring a change of clothes in case it rains or they just get too sweaty or dirty.

Sunscreen, Sunscreen, Sunscreen!!! Put on before coming to practice and bring to reapply. This is the week of sunburns and bad tan lines. (Your kids will proudly show off their sock tan lines!)

Deodorant. Some middle schooler's haven't started using it yet. They will need it this week!

Helpful Hints that Save You Time, Gas and Grief

Make your child responsible for being prepared. The first time they forget something will be the last! They learn to be resourceful when they have to be.

Don't put uniform accessory away in the closet or drawers when cleaned. Keep all items (socks, shoes, hats, gloves, etc.) in a bag. That way you won't spend time hunting for them each time they're needed.

At the end of each practice session there are usually announcements - listen up. This is your best opportunity to find out who, what, where and when things are going on. Your kids don't always tell you everything.

Network - This is how we met each other. It is also one of the best ways to get helpful hints on band parenting from others.

Carpool to competitions when parent busses aren't available.

Be there! Be prepared to cheer at the games and competitions. The band loves it when they have their own cheering section.

Terms, Phrases

Inspection

Inspections are held before traveling under the breezeway outside the main building, and before home games outside the Band Room. Students should be in place no later than the time they were told to report. In this instance, start time means students should be in uniform and in the inspection line a few minutes prior to inspection! Allow time for changing into uniforms, and preparing instruments for inspection. Your student and their instrument (even the inside of the instrument) will be inspected as they stand at attention by sections. Students should be sure to not have any odd or large jewelry or face paint of any kind. Demerits will be given here. (We aren't quite sure what this means yet, except that it's bad and it involves cleaning something or push ups.)

"Inspection is at six thirty"

There will be a one hour run-through. If you're early, you're on time, if you're on time, you're late. When you drop your child off at 4:55, there will be students already there, ready to play. At this point, the anxiety level for being late dramatically increases. This is when your child will be sweating bullets. Beware of the traffic. Always allow extra time. There are no excuses.

"Where are your drill charts?"

These are very detailed charts that students wear around their necks during band camp and at rehearsals that tell them exactly where they stand for different setups, like Opener 6. A good place to keep these is in the instrument case, which may save you one of those trips back home, and your child laps around the practice field or push ups.

"Where's my tick?" and "Do we line up on the hash?"

This does not refer to insects or breakfast food. These terms indicate how the practice field is marked off. Students use their drill charts to answer these questions.

"The band received an Excellent rating"

Excellent is not the best, it's like a B. Each band is striving for a Superior rating, an A.

"Play to the box!"

This means that instruments should be pointed up and directed toward the tower on the practice field where the powers-that-be live and flourish.

Practice field

The practice field is where ever we practice. Usually there will be a "run-through" near the end of practice. This is also a good location to gather information, and network.

"What do I wear?" Uniforms, Uniforms, Uniforms

All Dress Uniforms will be handed out prior to each game or performance in the band room. Students will never bring home the Dress Uniform for any reason.

The Dress Uniforms consist of:

Formal jacket

Formal pants or "bibbers" (just touching the top of shoes)

Black Drill Master shoes

Black socks - We suggest having several pairs that are exactly alike. (Dryers love to eat socks)

Dwyer Band ball cap

Shako = hat with plume (Issued in a box that it travels in)

P.E. type shorts to be worn under bibber pants for group changes.

Halftime show commemorative T-shirt. Students must change out of their uniform before leaving the performance. (with or without anything to change into.)

No excessive or large jewelry or piercing, face paint, or odd hair accessories or colors.

You Know You're a Band Parent When . . .

You make three more trips than expected to drop off your child with everything they need.

You can't pick your child out of the crowd because they all look alike.

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

You prominently display a band calendar in the kitchen, have band dates marked on the calendar in your purse or at work, and/or have the Band Phone Number on your speed dial.

There's no such thing as a prior commitment.

You know that you will be wearing something maroon and navy every Friday night.

You learn and do the dance moves to Jungle Rock!

CHAPERONE & VOLUNTEER DUTIES **IN STANDS, COMPETITIONS AND TRIPS**

In the stands: Students are NOT to leave stands unattended! Watch students if they need anything, go to rest room, help with water, make sure students don't wander. If they need medicine Mr. Lamp must be notified. Discipline must be given out by Mr. Lamp, notify him of any issues. Students are NOT to go anywhere alone they MUST have a chaperone with them!

Competitions: Parents help students if they need anything, Carry equipment to warm up, on and off field.

Driving The Trailer: Help students load and unload trailer. When students are leaving to perform anything left out is up to the driver and assistant to put back in the trailer.

Grill/Concession: Grill hamburgers and hotdogs. Concession wrap hamburger and hot dogs. Everyone who signs up for that evening is responsible for helping with clean up!

Your kids may not tell you, but they really do like it when you're there!

STUDENT TIPS AND WARNINGS

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

- Expect to work and work really hard. Expect a suntan or sunburn, with tan lines from your shirt and socks. Expect to get bossed around by others. Expect to be sore and tired. Expect to learn more in the week of summer band camp than you have in the last three years of middle school. Expect the unexpected, just ask some of the returning band members to tell their “band camp” stories. There is nothing to fear about the marching band experience, after it is over, you will look forward to returning next year. The staff and leadership team work hard to provide a nurturing environment for the first time members of the marching band. We look forward to a good season, and a lot of fun.
- **Be on Time.** If you are early, you are on time, if you are on time you are LATE. If you are LATE, it is unacceptable. You are responsible for being on time, not because of traffic, your parents oversleeping, or car trouble. You take full responsibility.
- **Behave.** You are a young adult. Just get in line, stay in step or do whatever is asked of you. The staff and leadership are there for your benefit. If you work really hard they will take note – as well as the other members around you. Behaving also tends to get things done a lot more quickly. Nothing is worse than re-doing things over and over again because the band is not listening or following directions.
- **Keep cool.** Physically and mentally, first make sure you are not overheating (water, water, water) but also keep a calm mind. So you can’t hit the line the first time you try it? Keep trying and listen graciously to advice and you WILL eventually “get it”. We are here to help.
- **Respect is key.** Don’t sass the upperclassmen, section leaders, drum major(s), your band director, or anyone else. That’s a quick way to get into trouble, and garner an undesirable reputation. If you give respect, you will receive it in return.
- **Remember that everyone is at band camp to learn.** If you’re a newcomer, don’t take it personally when an instructor or upperclassman gives advice. Remember, they’re trying to help you look better in performance. If you’re a returning member, help out newcomers and be patient with them. You learned once, too.
- **Keep long hair in a ponytail,** keep your hair up, you will get sweaty.
- **The ground is not going anywhere.** If you stare at the ground for the entirety of band camp, you will learn next to nothing and spend the rest of the season playing catch-up. Trust yourself and your neighbors.
- **Play up.** Keep your instrument up and pointed to the stands or the box. That’s who your playing for, not the ground.
- **Keep a pencil in your instrument case to mark sheet music during practice.** Guard people, sometimes a change will occur in your drill book- stick your pencil into your ponytail to hold it. You can also use duct tape to make a holder for your pencil to attach to your flipbook, so you can always have one on the field.
- **Smell good.** No one likes a smelly band geek. Deodorant is a must, and should travel with you somewhere that you can get to it when getting out of a sweaty uniform. Remember to take showers after rehearsals!
- When the Band Director is helping another section of instruments, try fingering through your instrument!
- **Know your music, before band camp starts!** Practice at home as often as possible. Full band rehearsals are to pull together everyone’s individual parts and to balance all the parts equally. You have to know your part to be able to balance it with others. Don’t rely on full band rehearsals to learn your parts. Band camp is mainly about combining newly-learned drill sheets with music. If you have your music memorized, you will not have to rely on your lyre and can focus on marching and formation. This is especially true for incoming freshmen; more effort will be required to learn techniques of marching - playing music you didn’t memorize and marching something you learned a few days ago

will not mix well. Not only will this strategy be less stressful, but it will save the band less time working individually.

- **WATER, WATER, WATER:** You must stay hydrated, you will sweat a lot during marching band, it's hot and humid, we are outside and it is summer time. NO CAFFEINE or carbonated beverages with caffeine. No Red Bull, Monster or other energy drinks. Avoid sugar-loaded drinks (Kool-aid or juice) - it dehydrates you. No dairy, milk or yogurt. The heat will cause it to curdle in your stomach and make you nauseous. Water is best; Gatorade or other sports drinks are a second choice to water! Did we mention you need... Water?
- **Food.** Please eat a healthy meal before you come to marching band, contrary to what you may think, food in your stomach will not sit like a lump while you are marching. Your body needs fuel to perform at the level necessary for marching band. Avoid greasy foods, excessive candy or sweets. Pack some quick snacks like a piece of fruit, or an energy bar (not chocolate). The Band Boosters provide lunch each day during the week of summer camp. You may not leave campus for lunch. Eat a banana every day as a good source of potassium. Make sure you eat breakfast EVERY MORNING. Your body needs this fuel for the day.
- **Clothing.** Be comfortable, it will be hot. Wear shorts (No long jeans, you will regret it) and t-shirts or tank tops (No spaghetti straps). Comfy tennis shoes are a must (not high-tops, well broken-in, not new), no flip-flops or sandals. You can't roll-step in flip-flops! You might want to bring a change of clothes in case it rains or they just get too sweaty or dirty.
- **Sunglasses & hat or visor:** It will keep the sun out of your eyes, and the hat helps you avoid "raccoon eyes" from the sunglasses.
- **Sunscreen.** Sunburn is a given during summer and pre-season rehearsals. Even if you never wear sunscreen, you will need it during Summer Marching Band.
- **Chapstick.** Only if you think you need it – may be helpful for brass and woodwind players.
- **Drill charts.** These are very detailed charts that students wear around their necks during band camp and at rehearsals that tell them exactly where they stand for different setups. Don't forget it ever!
- **Music & lyre/flipbook.** If you don't have a lyre get one. You'll need it. To keep your music from blowing out of the sheet protectors put a small piece of tape on the sides.
- **Have your 'emergency kit' handy.** Brass, that means valve oil, woodwinds, extra reeds, and so on. Be prepared for anything. Woodwinds, when your on the field keep an extra reed in your sock, just in case yours breaks during a performance. If you have time change it, if not, just finger through your music.
- **Get a good nights sleep.** Band camp can be strenuous, and it's easier if you're well rested.
- **Travel wallet for competitions or away games.** You'll need money for consesion food and your phone to call your ride and let them know when you'll be back and you won't be able to reach your shorts under your bibbers. A travel wallet on a cord you wear around your neck will hold your money, phone and ID.

WARNINGS

- Be disciplined (or else). Marching Band is very military-esque. When the director is speaking, you do not. When you need to snap to attention, you snap. Take it seriously, many skills that you learn in this activity can be applied to everyday life!
- Woodwinds and brass should not play their instrument after eating or drinking sugary stuff (like Gatorade or powerade). It's fine to have a snack during breaks, just make sure to wash it down with water.
- Don't be "that guy". There's always that one person who forgets to wear their band shirt, or loses one of their marching

shoes and shows up without it because they started looking the night before, or walks into the room and goes “Ohhh... we were supposed to bring our instruments today?”. Don’t let that be you.

- Many people can overheat during band camp if it’s hot outside. If you start to feel fatigued, dizzy, nausea, you may be suffering from heat exhaustion. Tell a section leader, drum major, or staff member immediately. Get to some shade and get some water if you think this is happening to you.
- Don’t talk when the band director, staff, drum majors, or section leaders are talking. Not only will this make them mad, but it will distract people around you from what they’re saying, which could be very important. If you need help finding your drill spot, quietly raise your hand and someone will gladly help you. Respect upperclassmen- chances are they’re right and you’re wrong.
- Remember that band directors hear everything. If you make an offhand comment it will get back to them, and they will likely call you out on it. At the very least, they’ll file it away in their minds for later, when you want a favor. The same goes for anything you text or write on a social networking site... if you think another member of the band won’t report you, you’re wrong. Keep your negativity to yourself. Don’t complain.
- After rain, woodwinds’ pads will likely be damaged. Rain does happen during marching band and it is a magical thing, but remember to use filter paper to get all the moisture out of the pads after being in the rain. Otherwise you will have to pay hundreds of dollars just to replace the pads.
- Make sure you are doing what you are suppose to be doing or it will come back to haunt you. Starting band camp as a new member and having a lazy reputation will leave you in a place with the director where you don’t want to be.
- If you are a freshman, don’t come off too cocky or you will be on the bottom of the totem pole until you graduate. No one forgets how people were freshman year of band.
- Never handle or play somebody else’s instrument without permission. It is very rude, and you will be held accountable if the instrument breaks.

Marching band training is really hard work, but you will find that working hard and then seeing the results of that hard work is something to be really proud of. Remember, excellence is not just for sometimes, excellence is for all the times. Everything you do affects everything else you do. Learn to do it right, then do it right every time! If it was easy, everyone would do it. It’s supposed to be hard, the hard is what makes it great!

*A special Thank You to all
the parents for your support.
We couldn’t do it without you!*

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