

# Band Parent FAQs

---

1. Ugh – Do I really have to volunteer?
  - a. All band families sign an agreement to volunteer for a minimum of three activities or they have an option to pay the band the cash equivalent of what would be their volunteer time.
  - b. There are many options to complete your three volunteer activities – Bingo, Dell Diamond Concessions, Freshman/Varsity Football Game Concessions, Bus Chaperone, Pit Crew, Easter Bunny Breakfast, Pet Clinic, to name a few. All volunteer opportunities will be in Charms – with the exception of the Dell Diamond Concessions which are on the band website.
  - c. If you want to be able to go to all the games and contests for free, sign up to volunteer with concessions, pit crew or bus chaperone. This will insure you are always able to get in with the band.
2. Does the band march at Homecoming?
  - a. During Homecoming half-time the band will be on the field playing “Every Breath You Take” so many times they will hate the song for the rest of their life. In fact, if you really want to drive your student crazy just start humming the song around homecoming. They sooo appreciate it!
  - b. After the Homecoming football game, the band will march their show. Everyone is able to stay at the stadium to watch the show and cheer!
3. Do students have to purchase all the meals?
  - a. Meals are split up to two options – required and optional.
    - i. The required meals are for away competitions or events where the directors know the students will need to eat at specific times. These meals are thereby required.
    - ii. The optional meals are typically for football game days. If your student purchases optional meals their food will be provided to them at the band hall after school (before dressing in uniform). If your student does not purchase the optional meals, a meal will need to be provided to your student after school (before they dress out). Personal note, it can be hectic trying to bring a meal to your student during this time as everyone else in the school is trying to leave while you are trying to get your meal to your student, but it is doable if you have patience.
4. Do Season Tickets cover away games?
  - a. No, if you purchase Pflugerville High School Football Season tickets they only cover home games. All away game tickets will be purchased at the visitor’s gate.

## Band Parent FAQs

---

5. Do parents have to go to the football games?
  - a. No, you are not required to attend the football games. However it is a lot of fun going to the games and watching the band! Band parents typically try to sit together so we can make a great impact when we cheer our students on! Many parents will come just for the half-time show – and that's perfectly fine! If you don't want to pay to get in or drive to the game a great option is to volunteer as bus chaperone or pit crew! You get to see the game for free and get a volunteer activity taken care of in one fell swoop.
6. What time can we pick up students after the football games?
  - a. Parents, it will be a late night. All games are bussed - away and home – due to The Pfield being across a major roadway. Students will have to gather all their equipment – instruments and show equipment – board the buses, get to the school and undress/ check uniforms back in to Uniform Staff, get all their schoolwork and then they will walk out the doors. All return times provided early by Band Directors are guesstimates. It is best to have the students contact you when they are back at the school so you know when to head to the school. Otherwise you might be sitting waiting a LONG TIME.
7. Do parents have to go to the marching contests?
  - a. No, you are not required to attend the marching contests. However it is a lot of fun and again, parents try to sit together to make the best impact to cheer on our students. If you don't want to drive or pay to get in, a great option is to volunteer as bus chaperone or pit crew!
    - i. Side note – for marching competitions the day is split into two sections – Prelims and Finals. You can purchase a Prelims only ticket, a Finals only ticket or for a single price (slightly less than separate tickets) you can purchase an All Day ticket. If you do attend the competition, the stadium will be cleared out between Prelims and Finals so even if you have an All Day ticket you will have to leave the stadium and return for Finals.
8. When are parents able to pick up students after Marching Competitions?
  - a. The band's performance will determine when the students will arrive back at the school. If we do not place in Finals the students may watch some of the Finals before returning back to the school or they may leave right after Prelim awards. It is up to the Band Director's discretion. If we place in Finals it will be a LONG NIGHT. When heading back students will have to gather all their equipment – instruments and show equipment – board the buses, get to the school and undress/check uniforms back in to Uniform Staff, get all their schoolwork and then they will walk out the doors. All return times provided early by Band Directors are guesstimates. It is best to have the students contact you when they are back at the school so you know when to head to the school. Otherwise you might be sitting waiting a LONG TIME.
9. Will water be provided to students at Football Games/Marching Competitions?
  - a. Yes, water will be provided at Football Games.

## Band Parent FAQs

---

- b. Most Marching Competitions do not allow outside food. So students will need a little extra money if they want to purchase Gatorade/snacks outside of their provided required meal. HOWEVER, empty personal use water bottles are allowed and can be brought in/filled up at water fountains inside.
10. What happens if it rains at football games/marching competition?
- a. Students will be provided ponchos if it starts to rain. Also, woodwinds will put up their instruments.
  - b. If there is lightning, students will proceed to cover which can be under the stadium or to their buses.
  - c. Unless the game or marching competition is called, the band will stay until the event is completed.
11. My student plays a double-reed instrument – what options do they have for marching?
- a. Students playing double-reed instruments have many options to participate in marching band. Many will play saxophone (embouchure is similar), but they do NOT have to play saxophone. If the student knows another instrument, they have that option as well. Double-reed students have also participated in Pit or Colorguard. Double-reed students do not sit out for marching band.
12. What do you mean you don't march French Horns/Trombones/Euphoniums/Sousaphones?
- a. PHS Band brass students will often learn to play a different instrument. Trombones and Baritones/Euphoniums will march Marching Baritones. French Horns will march Mellophones. Tubas will march Contras. Band Directors will discuss the options with the brass students and the students will have school provided marching instruments to use in marching band.
13. What if my student is in band but is also in another activity that potentially conflicts with band (sports, choir, etc.)?
- a. Have the student inform the band directors as quickly as possible of the potential conflict. The Band Directors have repeatedly stated to all students – “We will work it out.” If your student wants to be in band, they will find a way so that all can participate.
14. What is an alternate?
- a. The planning for the next marching show starts the minute the current marching season ends. Each show is based on a certain number of students on the field and written specifically for that number of students. So the band directors may think they have a certain number of kids in marching band the next season – for example by all calculations they may think they will have 250 students. But if they get a show for 250 students and come band camp only 230 students show up, we already have a show with holes. So the band directors get a show written for some number of students less than expected. For those same 250 expected students, they may get a show written for 225 students for example. Come band camp if 240 students show up, we have an excess of

## Band Parent FAQs

---

15 students for this particular show. So there will be a minimum of 15 positions that will have alternates assigned.

15. Ok, now I know what an alternate is – how does it all work?

- a. The positions are determined by the band directors as which will have alternates – typically (but not always) these are positions that are the same instrument. For example the show has 10 saxophone positions and we have 12 saxophones. A minimum of two positions will have alternates. The band directors will assign an “A Alternate” and a “B Alternate” for each of these two positions. Both alternates will learn the same show. During practice you will hear the Band Directors call for A Alternates and then they will run the show again with B Alternates.
- b. When it comes time to march a show (football game or marching competition), the band directors will inform the alternates if the A or B alternates will march. And if, for example, it is an A Alternate marching event, but the A alternate is not available for a particular position for that game/competition then the B Alternate for that particular position will step in and march. We do not march holes if at all possible.
- c. While one set of alternates are marching on the field, the other alternates will be on the sidelines. They are responsible for assisting with the marching show equipment – getting the equipment on and off the field.
- d. Always remember – ALL STUDENTS ARE IMPORTANT TO THE MARCHING SHOW! Come to the games and competitions and support all our band students!

16. Does my student have to have a Private Lesson Tutor?

- a. Short answer – if your student is not in Wind Ensemble it is not required, but highly recommended. If your student IS in Wind Ensemble it is required.
- b. Longer answer – Private Lesson Tutors assist their students with their school music, region band/orchestra music, solo and ensemble music and overall music/instrument learning. There are often multiple fingering options for one note, for example. The Private Lesson Tutor can assist the student with the best option for the music they are playing and explain when the other options can be used. The Private Lesson Tutor also helps each student grow and become better musicians. So the longer answer is, if you want to help your student be the best musician they can be – a Private Lesson Tutor is a way to do just that.
- c. If you would like your student to have a Private Lesson Tutor but are not sure if you can afford it, please speak with the band directors. They can help you find the best option to help your student and your pocketbook.

17. What is the difference between the Band Boosters and the Band Scholarship Foundation?

## Band Parent FAQs

---

- a. Both groups are made up of Band Parents and both groups support the band. Parents can be involved in both or just one group – whatever they feel they can do. It is not a one or other situation.
- b. The Band Scholarship Foundation is a designated 501©3 nonprofit organization that supports and funds programs and scholarships designed to facilitate the students transition from high school classroom to higher education and career path choices. Through sponsorships and fundraising efforts, we are able to provide select students with scholarships that are applied to current education needs as well as outgoing high school seniors that are awarded funding for college tuition and expenses.
- c. The purpose of the PHS Band Boosters is to develop and carry out programs to promote a greater understanding, visibility and appreciation of music through education. We promote, facilitate, assist and encourage a spirit of fellowship and cooperation among the members of the boosters and the community. We cooperate with school officials for building and maintaining an efficient band department and promote general activities pertaining to the band as outlined in the UIL guidelines for music booster clubs. The PHS Band Boosters provide moral and financial support, accept and disburse funds and otherwise assist the band through cooperation with and guidance of the band directors.
  - i. As of this publication the Band Boosters just voted to gain 501©3 nonprofit organization status. More information will be forthcoming.
- d. Each group has a board – typically President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Open positions/challenged positions are voted on each Spring.
- e. Band Boosters typically meets each month. Scholarship Foundation does not meet quite as often as Band Boosters. Dates for meetings are noted in the Charms Calendar.
- f. If your student rarely shares band info, Band Boosters and Scholarship Foundation meetings are great for information! And you have the opportunity to be part of the decision making process for how we help the band. You are NOT required to join any committee if you attend a meeting.