

PARENT GUIDE TO THE BUC BAND

2016-2017

Welcome to the fun and fast paced world of the Buc Band. The Buc Band Booster Club provides the following explanations so that you can be “in the know” and keep up with life in the Buc Band.

THE BOOSTER CLUB is a non-profit organization that exists to support the band students, directors, and their activities. The duties of the booster club include the following:

- Financial support
- Chaperoning all games, contests, trips
- Loading/unloading trucks/equipment
- Organizing and hosting parties for the band
- Uniform checkout
- Water/Sprites and meals during games/contests
- Maintaining equipment
- Assisting band directors
- Capital Improvements
- Upgrading practice field
- Spirit
- Web Posting / sending information
- Band Practices

BOOSTER MEETINGS - Typically held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from August to April – except December, at 7:30 p.m. during marching season to coordinate with Tuesday evening marching practice and then, normally held at 7:00 pm after marching season. Meetings are approximately one hour, *except the August meeting, which runs closer to 1-1/2 hours*. Attending booster club meetings is the best way to stay informed and contribute to the band’s activities. **At the August meeting you will:**

- Be introduced to and hear reports from band directors and booster club officers
- Be able to purchase booster club shirts, hats and window decals
- Sign up to chaperone games
- Sign up for other volunteer opportunities
- Receive answers to your questions

BAND EVENTS - many throughout the year. They include football games, marching contests, Jazzextravaganza, a Christmas concert, region band tryouts, solo & ensemble contest, chili supper concert, pre-UIL spring concert, UIL concert and sight-reading contest, Jazz-o-rama and Band-o-rama. Each spring there is a weekend concert contest/pleasure trip. Once every four years this trip may be out of state – usually to Disney World.

WEBSITE for the band is www.bucband.org and is maintained by the band’s webmaster, Mark Lander. Information included at the site:

- Student and parent information
- Calendar
- Marching information
- Concert information
- Officers - contact list
- Band Director Announcements
- Activities
- Booster information
- Guest book
- Pictures
- Maps / Directions

CHARMS is an organizational system used to keep track of student contact information, inventory, finances, and much more! This information, as it pertains to your student, is stored in a single online database.

The band website (www.bucband.org) will remain the primary source of information relevant to the Buc Band. CHARMS will be utilized by the directors as a means of keeping track of all aspects of our program. However, you can also benefit from CHARMS:

- Log on to www.charmsoffice.com
- Locate the “PARENT/STUDENT LOGIN” section of the web page.
- Login to your child’s program account using the following login: *BrazoswoodBand*

- Enter your child's School ID Number, and a detailed screen appears with options to view your student's uniform assignments, instrument inventory, financial records, forms and inventory.
- After initially logging in with your student's ID Number, you can change the password to your own, unique identifier. If you're having trouble logging in, please contact Mr. Montoya (mmontoya@brazosportisd.net)
- Please check the information listed under "Personal Info". If something is inaccurate or has changed, please update these records yourself. This is the band's primary list of contact information for you.
- Clicking on the "Finances" link will show you a personalized ledger of your student's band account. Here you will see any expenses / fees that are due, as well as any payments or fundraising credits that have been deposited to your account. Please note that this ledger will be updated as often as possible, but may not be entirely up to date. Any questions regarding finances should be directed to Mr. Casey (bcasey@brazosportisd.net)

ELIGIBILITY: Students must be passing all classes to participate in band activities outside of class time. Student ineligibility adversely affects the whole band's performance, whether on the marching field or in the concert hall.

PARENT PORTAL - This Parent Self Serve program will provide access for parents to specific authorized student data including attendance, assignments, and grades. We highly recommend utilizing this site and setting alerts to maintain awareness of your child's progress.

SAFETY NOTICE - STUDENT LOADING/UNLOADING:

Student drop off/pick-up zone is the student parking lot nearest the baseball fields or the circle drive in front of the school. **DO NOT AT ANY TIME DRIVE ON THE PRACTICE FIELD/PARKING LOT AFTER PRACTICE OR IN THE BUS DRIVEWAY ALONGSIDE THE BAND HALL.** This is for the safety of our children, equipment and instruments and is reserved for the Directors only. Please communicate this to friends and family (including ex-spouses) who may be picking up or dropping off your student.

MARCHING SEASON

SPRING BOOT CAMP PRIOR TO SCHOOL END: This is where new, incoming freshmen join the existing high schoolers after school and begin to learn marching fundamentals. Be sure your student has eaten and has consumed water prior to practice time. Bring instruments and a large, filled camel back/large-mouth water bottle. Extra water will be provided. **Camelback's are REQUIRED by the directors as they allow your child to continually hydrate. These may be purchased at various local retailers like Walmart, Academy, etc.**

SUMMER BAND BOOTCAMP: Summer band begins normally the first week of August, prior to the start of school. Summer band is to review marching fundamentals and begin to learn the marching show. Mornings will be marching outdoors; afternoons will be playing indoors. Wear comfortable, decent clothing, socks, running shoes (not sandals or flip-flops,) sunscreen, and a hat. **Students need to bring their own water. Camelback's are REQUIRED for practices by the directors as they allow your child to continually hydrate. Thermoses will be ordered during summer for all band members to be used at games and contests.** Times will vary, especially the second week, depending upon teacher in-service schedules. *Percussion and colorguard have different schedules.* During the lunch break the students are on their own. During summer band and/or after-school rehearsals, your student will be required to attend section rehearsals to learn, perfect, and pass off the "Tiny-Whiny" fundamental marching drill as a section in front of the drum majors. This must be completed before the section can receive their uniforms. There is fierce competition to be the first section to receive uniforms. Ask your student when they need to stay for these rehearsals. These will sometimes be last minute – please be flexible.

FISH CAMP: This is a fun event where all freshmen are paired with a senior student. ALL ACTIVITIES involving the pairing of your freshman and their senior will be done under the direct supervision of one of the four (4) band directors employed by the School District who are assigned to Brazoswood High School. Their senior is the person to call with questions and act as a big brother or sister! It is totally optional, but freshmen and their seniors traditionally present each other with small/inexpensive token gifts at times such as first game, homecoming, birthdays, Christmas, or just for fun.

AFTER-SCHOOL MARCHING REHEARSALS: Held daily during marching season. On Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, practice is held from 3:55 to 5:35 PM. On Tuesday, practice is from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. There may be some Tuesdays that practice is at Hopper Field. Sectionals are frequently called last minute by section leaders after band practice.

AUGUST BOOSTER MEETING / POOL PARTY: Normally the Booster Club meeting in August consists of our directors giving a thorough summary of the year's activities. This will be an opportunity to learn about what to expect this year. This meeting will be August 9, 7:00 – 8:30 pm. You'll also have an opportunity to purchase all your Buc Band merchandise to show your Buc Band pride throughout the year!

PARENT MARCH-O-RAMA: On one of the Tuesday night marching practices early in the season, parents join their student on the practice field for a fun opportunity to experience marching. Immediately following is an ice cream social. **Ice cream is provided by the freshmen**, drinks and toppings provided by the sophomores and juniors.

COMMUNITY PEP RALLY: To kick off the football season, the school holds a community pep rally in the performance gym (9th Grade Center). School and community dignitaries attend and the band plays spirit songs.

UNIFORMS are signed out to students, who are responsible for them, just as they are for textbooks or any other school property. The school provides pants, blue coat, black coat, hat & hatbox, and a garment bag. The student will be provided one Band T-shirt that is worn for pep rallies and under the uniform. The student is responsible for providing: black socks, black band shoes, a towel to sit on in case of rain, and an all-black backpack. It is a good idea to get 1 or more extra Band t-shirts because they get a lot of use and often need to be "turned-around" from a football game to a marching contest. The cost for the extra t-shirt is approximately ten dollars (\$10). The black shoes are special marching shoes and are to be purchased from a vendor who will take orders one day during summer band. They will also be worn with the uniform for concert season. Students are never allowed to eat while in full dress uniform. They may drink only water or Sprite. There are specific guidelines for hemming the pants. Instructions will be given to the students with their uniforms. Rain plan B for games is black band shoes, black socks, black shorts and band t-shirts. Every Friday your student should bring everything necessary for marching to school. They should already have their band t-shirt on for the pep rally. Detailed instructions are given in the policy handbook.

You are responsible for the uniform checked out to your child. You can access this information via your charms account. We do our best to keep this updated. If your student loses, ruins, or fails to return a uniform you must pay the replacement fee. The fees are as follows:

- Marching Coat 250.00
- Bibbers 135.00
- Hat 70.00
- Hat box 15.00
- Gauntlets \$\$
- Tuxedo Coats 85.00
- Tuxedo pants 30.00
- Cummerbund 12.00
- Bow tie 5.00
- Concert Dress 95.00

FOOTBALL GAMES: During football season, the band attends all games to play stand tunes and perform their show at halftime. Band students will leave directly from school. The kids will need food! They can bring a sack lunch, you can deliver a meal to them, or a participating restaurant will deliver meals for students who have ordered/prepaid for them by Thursday (more details in August.) Students bring their uniforms in the morning and change after classes are over. There is a real time crunch to get out on the practice field for a run-through before loading the trucks and buses. Students will be in full uniform for the graded run-through.

Home football games are held at Hopper Field. **All** students are transported by school bus to the stadium.

Students wishing to ride home with a parent: He/she may be signed out during the fourth quarter only, and may leave with the parent only **after** the Alma Mater, when the band is dismissed to board the buses.

Alternate travel forms are required if anyone other than the student's parent will be taking them home. These are available in the school office and must be completed, notarized, and turned in to a band director by Thursday morning of the game/contest week.

MARCHING BAND COMPETITIONS: 3-4 in October and sometimes the first weekend in November. All day Saturday. State and Bands of America Super Regional in San Antonio. **Students are required to attend all games and contests.**

HOMECOMING BONFIRE: On the Thursday before the homecoming football game, the band participates in the homecoming pep rally, held after marching practice. The pep rally is held in the 9th grade performance gym, and the bon fire is lit after.

PARTIES: During the August booster club meeting, there will be a party for the band students at the Clute pool sponsored and chaperoned by booster club members. Lifeguards are provided. A masquerade party is held after the Festival of Lights parade in November. Everyone (including chaperones) comes in costume and competition for prizes is fierce! The booster club provides food, drinks and music. The Band Spring banquet is usually a dress-up affair and is held in May. Parents are not invited to this as there is simply no room. Some parents who work and assist with decorations and clean-up may be invited. Students pay to attend. The price has not been set for this as of yet, typically it has been around \$18.00.

BEYOND MARCHING SEASON

REGION BAND: Freshman region band tryouts are very soon after marching season. It is an honor to make the band, but there is no clinic or performance. The music is distributed in August. Freshmen can also try out for high school region band in November. Because the band is busy with marching music, preparing for region tryouts requires individual effort. Region band is a terrific experience and well worth the effort.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE: The solo and ensemble contest is held in late January or early February. All students prepare a solo chosen with the help of their director and/or private lesson teacher. The students must either provide or pay for a school appointed piano accompanist (approximately \$40.00).

CHILI SUPPER AND SILENT AUCTION: This is a fundraiser held the same Saturday as Solo and Ensemble around the first of February. Students sell tickets, with net profit going into individual accounts. Many area businesses help sponsor the chili supper. Student and parent volunteer efforts are required to make this a success. The jazz bands perform during supper with all bands performing in concert after supper in the auditorium. Proceeds from the Silent Auction are used to purchase special equipment for the band.

JAZZ BAND: Brazoswood High School has two jazz bands - The AM Jazz Band and The PM Jazz Band. Jazz concerts are held once in the Fall (Jazztravaganza usually held in mid November) and one in the Spring (Jazz-O-Rama usually held in early May). The concerts are free and we usually have world-class special guests that perform with the bands and conduct clinics prior to the concerts. The bands also usually travel in Spring to participate in a jazz festival (or two).

COLOR GUARD: Color Guard competes with others throughout the state during the off-season in Winter Color Guard. Our Color Guard has won numerous State awards in the past years for their outstanding performances.

PERCUSSION: Our percussion students have a Percussion Concert every year in the spring. It is a great and very fun concert that consists of all our percussion students from 6th – 12th grades.

FINANCES:

Following is a list of financial obligations for the band student. The dollar amounts listed are **approximate** and subject to change.

- Band Student Fee (set by directors) \$450.00
 - Color Guard Fee – New Member \$650.00
 - Color Guard Fee – Returning Member \$400.00
- (Above fees are required by all participants)*
- Marching Shoes (Required) \$44.00

- **Spring trip fee – in state (3 years)** **\$490.00 (Spring 2017)**
- **Spring trip fee – Disney (every 4th year)** **\$1150.00 approximately (Spring 2020)**

NOTE: There will be ample fundraising opportunities provided to allow parents to cover the costs of these events.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS: Each student has an account within the BISD band account to accumulate funds for the spring trip, fees, etc. In order to assure that every band student has the opportunity to attend the trip, one or two fundraisers will be held. Follow the trip commitment fee schedule on the band calendar. Checks for this account are to be made payable to Brazoswood Band, placed in a Fee Envelope (provided) with the student’s full name and 339 on the memo line. **Locker #339** is the locker used to collect all payments for your student’s band account. Please do not make payments in cash or to the booster club.

BAND STUDENT FEE: The Band student fee is separate from student fundraising. Money from this fee is used to support the needs of **ALL** students in the band program. Checks are to be made payable to Brazoswood Band. The booster club provides necessities that the school district cannot:

- Marching drill
- Music arrangements
- Maintaining/repairing equipment
- Uniform maintenance
- New Equipment and capital improvements
- Refreshments
- Props

FUNDRAISING

- Joe's Barbeque
- Chili Supper
- Kroger / Food King purchases
- Nights out at local restaurants
- SCRIPS - sale of gift cards to the band at a discounted price. We then sell these cards to our members at face value and keep the profit.

VOLUNTEERING: Every event on the band calendar is a volunteer opportunity and our organization is only as good as the parents who volunteer within it! There are jobs for everyone and help is always needed. Step up and sign up! Sign-up sheets will be at all booster club meetings for bus chaperones, chili supper help (many hands needed,) maintenance/repair crew, capital improvements, assigning uniforms, student parties, etc. Volunteering is an excellent way to get to know the students and other parents.

PARENT GUIDE: You may find this guide on the Buc Band website (www.bucband.org).

We hope this information is helpful. As you can see, the Brazoswood Band and Booster Club are very active. Please share your time and talent for the good of the Buc Band. If you have any questions regarding the Booster Club and any of its activities, please do not hesitate to contact any board member. You can also contact us via the website.

Finally, encourage your children and continue to support their playing. It is this whole organization's desire to see your child get all they can out of what this band has to offer - friendship, comradery, leadership, personal growth and a lot of fun. The rewards can last a lifetime!

WELCOME ABOARD!

Andy Sargent, President

BRAZOSWOOD BAND BOOSTER CLUB