

Hickory High School Bands



Hickory Band Parent Association Handbook

www.hhsbands.org

This handbook is to serve only as a guide and general information. Information included is subject to change at any time deemed necessary by the band directors.

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Hickory Band Parents Association

Introduction

On behalf of the Hickory High School Band and Hickory Band Parents Association (HBPA), we extend a warm welcome to you and your family for participating in this year's band program. The staff and the parents work together to provide the highest level of music education in an effort to provide positive experiences and opportunities for each member of the band. This will be a unique and very rewarding experience for both you and your student.

Both parent and student will receive a lot of information in the first two months of band season. Although things may seem overwhelming, with a little help from parents who have been there before, you can enjoy the experience, maybe even more than your child. This PARENT handbook is designed to provide you, the parents and family, with general information and to guide you to key people when you have questions or concerns. The directors provide and maintain the STUDENT handbook available on the website. ***The directors at any time may override information in this handbook as seen necessary. The directors have the official and final word!***

The Hickory Band Parents Association is a non-profit organization. The general membership meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. unless notification is otherwise given. General membership includes parents and guardians of students participating in the band, plus friends of the band and band alumni. Membership is free, and your volunteer participation as a supporting parent or guardian is expected to support the many activities that the HBPA sponsor to provide the best for our students. Committee chairpersons will be contacting you to schedule your support for various functions and fundraising activities that the HBPA sponsor. Please do what you can to volunteer your time and talents to support the HBPA. ***Every little bit helps and volunteers are always highly appreciated!***

The purpose of the HBPA is first, to stimulate and sustain interest among the HBPA and students at Hickory High School in band activities by cooperating with school authorities and the Hickory Band Director, and second, to raise and distribute monies, as required for the activities of the band, not funded by the Chesapeake School District. All fundraising activities are organized at the recommendation of the Executive Board.

The HBPA also maintains a direct line of communication in keeping parents informed through the website, Charms (parent e-mail), Facebook, and monthly meetings. [If you have any concerns regarding your student and the band, please see the Band Directors.]

Band Staff

The band staff is comprised of the following positions that are filled by members whom are skilled in assisting our students in being successful in the Hickory Band program.

- Directors
- Music Arranger
- Percussion Director
- Guard Director
- Choreographer
- Drill Designer
- Visual Staff
- Music Staff
- Percussion Staff
- Color Guard Staff
- Equipment Manager

Student Ensembles

The Hickory High School Band Program has several performing ensembles that receive all levels of support from the HBA throughout the year. *The HBPA's hard work and efforts don't stop after marching season!*

- **Marching Band with Color Guard:** See Chapter 2
- **Winter Guard:** Winter Guard is very similar to fall Color Guard except that it is indoors and without the marching band or any instruments. It also called Indoor Guard. The season runs from shortly after marching season through early part of April, give or take. Once again, students try out for placement. There is also travel to various local and long distance competitions for this group as well. Winter Guard is highly encouraged for all Guard members to consider as it provides continual practice and improvement of the student's skill level.
- **Percussion Ensemble:** The winter percussion ensemble is focused on developing well-rounded percussionists. The percussion ensemble performs and competes in various competitions (in and out-of-state) throughout the winter.
- **Jazz Band:** The Hickory Jazz Band is designed to both expose band students to jazz music and enhance their ensemble skills by playing jazz. The group is open to all band students by audition. Other instruments for try-outs include guitar, piano, or bass instruments.

- **Concert Band:** A performance group concentrating on the mastery of basic to intermediate level of the Virginia Music Educator's Association (VMEA) Standards of Learning. The goal of this group is to attain a superior level of performance and develop technical and music skill. Open to all students in ninth and tenth grade with instrumental experience
- **Symphonic Ensemble:** A performance group concentrating on the mastery of intermediate to advanced level of the VMEA Standards of Learning. This group will concentrate on developing the technical skills to prepare the individual to move to a higher performance level. Open to all students in grades 10-12 with a band director's recommendation.
- **Wind Ensemble:** A performance group concentrating on the mastery of Advanced level of the VMEA Standards of Learning. Our goal is to attain a superior level of performance in a variety of musical literature. Open to students in grades 10-12 with a band director's recommendation.

HBPA Executive Board

The Executive Board consists of a President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The board members are elected by the members of the Hickory Band Parents Association. Officer elections are held in May. The Executive Board and committee chairpersons meet the hour before the monthly HBPA meeting, which is normally held on the second Thursday of every month. Their functions are as follows:

President: The President presides at all meetings, appoints committee chairs, and acts as an interface with the Band Director and the staff.

1st Vice President: The 1st Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence and assists the President when called upon. This position will oversee all inter-functions of the Hickory Band Parent Association.

2nd Vice President: The 2nd Vice President shall oversee all functions outside the Hickory Band Parent Association.

Secretary: The Secretary keeps minutes of all general and board meetings and sends out emails on behalf of the Executive Board.

Treasurer: The Treasurer collects monies, deposits monies in a bank designated by the Executive Board, and disperses funds. He/she also keeps all records regarding income, expenses, assets and liabilities, and prepares and distributes copies of the financial reports. The Treasurer shall draft the annual budget and present it to the Executive Board and HBPA for approval.

Historian: The Historian keeps a complete written history of the association's accomplishments, activities and news items. A report of association accomplishments and band activities shall be given by the Historian at the June business meeting.

Dues

As with all great programs, there is a lot of preparation and support required to make everything work. Dues are an important part of the support to run a band program of this magnitude. Every effort is made to keep these nominal. Dues will be collected from every marching student and the other ensembles as deemed necessary by the Executive Board and the directors. Dues help pay for out of state transportation, food, hotels, music program copyrights, camp supplies, and many other things as delineated in the budget. The budget expenses are published and reviewed every month at the HBPA meetings. ***If there is any hardship in paying your student's dues please communicate this with the directors by completing a hardship letter.*** Every effort is made to help those in need but help cannot be given if the need is left unknown. Checks should be made payable to HBPA and dropped off in the black box in the band room. Dues payments are also accepted via PayPal of which there is a link on www.hhsbands.org. Payments can also be mailed to HBPA P.O. Box 15287 Chesapeake, Virginia 23328. ***Be sure to include your student's name in the memo section of your check.***

HBPA supported events, fundraisers, and volunteer opportunities

There are several events and fundraisers that are run and supported by HBPA. These events and fundraisers help keep the dues down to a reasonable level and provide funding for budgeted items not covered by dues such as instrument replacements, uniform maintenance, band banquet, staff fees, and many other things. Our students are privileged to be able to experience and enjoy the Hickory High School Band throughout their high school years. The success of the band, however, can only be accomplished with the support of all parents. ***All parents are expected to volunteer a portion of their time and talents to one or more of the activities that make the Hickory High School Band program one of the best in the country.***

There are over 25 positions, activities and committees that parents can volunteer their time. Some require a few members to help out and some require a large amount of volunteer participation. Information on volunteer opportunities is available throughout this handbook.

The success of the HHS band program is due to the combined efforts of dedicated, wonderful and extremely talented directors/instructors and the very supportive parents and families that make up the HBPA. The HBPA supports all seven ensembles throughout the entire school year. The HBPA's work is not done after marching season. The entire band program is extremely dependent on the HBPA all year long. While dues are critical and provide the financial support, dues are not enough. All parents are requested to in addition to paying your dues ***PLEASE*** seek out opportunities to volunteer your time as well. If you have a special talent or idea that is not listed, please ***SPEAK UP***, we want to hear from you. ***THE HBPA NEEDS YOU!***

- **Southeastern Virginia Music Games(SEVMG) [Fundraiser & Volunteer Opportunity]**

Every year, Hickory High School hosts the Southeastern Virginia Music Games competition. The event consists of hosting 18-25 bands primarily from Virginia and North Carolina. Well known and highly respected judges are brought in to evaluate the bands and these judges' assessments of the bands' performances are highly regarded. The HHS marching band does not compete in this event but they do perform as an expedition show at the end of the event and they also receive an assessment from the judges as well. This is extremely valuable feedback for the HHS marching band to gain as they will be attending various competitions throughout the season. SEVMG is the largest single day fundraising event of the year and requires the participation of all parents and students throughout the day and early evening. This event is headed by the SEVMG Committee Chairman who is responsible for coordinating the schedule of support functions.

- **Home football games & concessions [Fundraiser & Volunteer Opportunity]**

The Marching Band performs half-time shows at all home football games throughout the football season and any playoff games. Parents and family are encouraged to attend games to support the band/guard, football team and cheerleaders. HBPA staffs concessions for the football games. . Revenues from the concession stands are a very important contribution to the band yearly budget. We serve hot dogs, Hawk Burgers, Chick-fil-a sandwiches, Cristaldo's Pizza as well as popcorn, nachos, cold drinks, candy, hot chocolate and coffee. Each family is expected to volunteer time in manning the concession stands for the varsity home football games. You will be asked to work a few hours with some very nice people. No experience necessary and someone will happily show you what needs to be done. Working concessions is FUN! The jobs are very basic, the company is exceptional and the shift goes by quickly. There are several positions available, such as working the concession window, being a runner between the two stands as well as working the grill or assembling the famous Hawk Burgers! If you have an older child, bring them along to help out, they will probably enjoy themselves too! The proceeds from concessions can reduce YOUR band fees.

- **Homecoming [Event Information]**

The Marching Band marches around the track in the homecoming parade and performs the half-time show at the end of the homecoming football game since half-time is used for the homecoming king and queen ceremony.

- **Senior night [Event Information]**

Occurring once a year during the football season, Senior Night usually takes place at the last regularly scheduled home football game. The purpose of Senior Night is to honor the seniors and their parents from the football team, cheerleaders, marching band, color guard, field hockey team, and cross country team. The seniors and their parents are honored by having the parents escort their senior student across the football field at a ceremony before the game. As the student and their parents walk across the field, they are introduced to the audience and a list of the

student's accomplishments and future plans are announced. The walk way path is flanked on both sides by the underclass color guard and flags. Traditionally, at the end of the Marching Band half-time show, the seniors in the marching band, wearing white socks, will leave their shoes on the field.

- **Local competitions [Event Information]** The marching band performs many Saturday nights in September and October at local high school band competitions.
- **Bands of America (BOA) competitions [Event Information]**

BOA presents a prestigious nationwide series of regional competitions. These competitions are held at various venues out of state. Some require more extensive travel and present an opportunity for educational adjudication by leading experts from around the country. The marching band performs in both regional and super regional BOA competitions which are the highlights of the marching season.

- **Golf tournament [Fundraiser & Volunteer Opportunity]**

The HBPA hosts an annual golf outing in August and is one of the major fundraisers of the year. The event is run by the HBPA golf committee and is held at a local golf course. This event is sponsored by many local businesses and receives many donations and prizes and is well attended. Members of the golf committee solicit local businesses for sponsorship donations and prizes.

- **Band banquet [Event Information & Volunteer Opportunity]**

The band season ends at an annual banquet held the first week of June. Seniors and their parents are honored at this dinner which includes a student created slide-show of the season followed by an awards ceremony for all the student members of the marching band. The catered banquet is planned and put on by the HBPA parents and is conducted at the high school.

- **Field maintenance [Volunteer Opportunity]**

The parents of the HBPA provide all field maintenance to the HHS practice field located in front of the school and will also assist with maintenance to the football field. Maintenance of the practice field includes painting of the lines and cutting the grass if not already cut by Chesapeake Public Schools. On occasion, the HBPA is responsible to help with painting the lines on the football field as well.

- **Prop crew [Volunteer Opportunity]**

The parents of the HBPA will work together and create/build props necessary for the band's show that year. This group of parents may also help with bringing the props onto and off of the field at performance times.

- **Equipment transportation [Volunteer Opportunity]**

The HHS band owns trailers that are used to haul band equipment to events. Parents of the HBPA help by loading, unloading and towing these trailers to wherever is needed. Gas cards or reimbursement is provided for the parents' cost of fuel.

- **Pit crew [Volunteer Opportunity]**

The Pit Crew organizes heavy percussion instruments and equipment at football games, performances and competitions. They also load/unload the equipment on the trucks for away/travel events. The Band is allocated a limited amount of time for setup and takedown of the equipment at football games, performances and competitions; therefore, this group requires a lot of skill in completing their task quickly and accurately.

- **Spirit wear / accessories [Information & Volunteer Opportunity]**

Students say that there is nothing like being on the field and looking up into the stands and seeing a "Sea of Teal"! The HHS band is known for having a large entourage of parents, families and supporters decked out in teal. Anything teal goes, including teal eyelashes! The HBPA has a group of parents that help provide any and every one with all the spirit wear and accessories needed to help the students FEEL THE TEAL!

- **Chaperones [Volunteer Opportunity]**

The HBPA provides a group of parents to chaperone our precious cargo. These parents work extremely hard to keep the students safe while traveling. They are a great piece of mind for all the parents, students, directors, and instructors of the entire band program. They are called to duty for not only traveling on the buses and being in the hotels but also to be with the students at football games. When traveling, the chaperones are the first ones awake early in the morning and the last ones to go to bed, usually sometime in the morning hours. This volunteer opportunity is one with a great amount of work and responsibility.

- **Band uniforms [Volunteer Opportunity]**

Many parents are needed during the summer band camp season to fit, iron and mend/sew the uniforms. Basic sewing skills are needed.

- **Guard uniform / flag maintenance [Volunteer Opportunity]**

Parents are needed to measure the guard for costumes. Parents may need to make alterations after the costumes arrive. Parents are also needed to mend and launder old flags. There might also be a need to create and sew new flags.

- **Medical [Information]**

The HBPA follows all Chesapeake Public Schools policies regarding medical care during school events. It is not uncommon for many parents of the HBPA to have varying levels of medical training, and most of these parents have CPR training. It is strictly on the Good Samaritan basis that parents while present at events may provide basic first aid, including CPR, if necessary. **It is not necessary to have medical training to help support the directors, instructors or students at any band event.** All parents are appreciated to step up and help if they feel comfortable. If at any time the student wishes to call his or her parent, assistance will be provided to that student. Also, the parent volunteer aiding the child may contact the parent as well. The directors and instructors are made aware of every injury or illness and are very concerned for the safety of each and every student. Please refer to the Virginia High School League website for great information on preventing and treating heat related illnesses www.vhsl.org. The directors and instructors count on parents being present so they can call on them in time of need.

- **Gatorade Brigade [Volunteer Opportunity]**

The Gatorade Brigade provides Gatorade and water to the marchers during Band Camp in August. It's a great way to meet other people and to watch your marcher. There is a 3 hour morning shift and a 3 hour afternoon shift. Bring your lawn chair, and join the team that keeps our marchers hydrated!

- **Handbook committee [Volunteer Opportunity]**

The HBPA handbook was created by a group of parents who wanted to help all the band families have one place to go to find answers to the multitude of questions that exist for any and every member. While this book may not be all encompassing, it is a good place to start. This group of parents updates and maintains the handbook as needed. Any changes or additions to this handbook require approval by the HBPA Executive Board and directors.

- **Craft show [Fundraiser & Volunteer Opportunity]**

The craft show is a yearly fundraising event held in November. The proceeds of the craft show help the Hickory Band program. This is a large event with over 130 vendors. It is held in the school on a Saturday. Many student and parent volunteers are needed for this event for a number of needs including set-up, clean-up, assisting vendors, concessions and raffle table/sales. This is a 2 day event as set-up is done the Friday evening before and clean-up is done after the event is over. Volunteer needs are put out in October for parents and students.

- **Chesapeake City Christmas parade [Event Information]**

Every other year, the marching band participates in the annual city Christmas parade sponsored by the Rotary Club of Chesapeake. The marching band will normally hold a practice session for this parade the day of the event. The band participates on even numbered years.

- **Scrip [Fundraiser]**

The Scrip program provides an avenue for family and friends to purchase gift cards, both electronic and plastic, to major retailers while earning money for the band and for your student's account. The funds accumulated in the student's account may be used for various expenses such as band dues, gloves, dinkles(shoes), and other expenses. The gift cards cost no more than face value but these retailers have agreed to return a rebate back to the band. An agreement is signed by each participant which indicates how much money (percentage) will go to the band, and how much will go to the student's account for each rebate. The most common agreement is 60% to the band, 40% to the student's account. Here is an example:

\$100.00 Macy's Gift Card

10% Rebate = \$10.00 Rebate

\$6.00 to the band/\$4.00 to student's account (under 60/40 split agreement)

Make money for the band and for your student in your everyday spending. Over 700 retailers, restaurants, hotels, fast food, and grocery chains participating. Examples include Lowes, Olive Garden, WAWA, AMC Movies, Marshalls, and Wendys. With "ScripNow", you can receive your dinner bill at the table of a restaurant, order the electronic gift card, and pay your bill and tip and receive the advantage of the rebates! (Check the site to see which companies offer electronic cards.) A listing of current retailers may be found at <https://www.shopwithscrip.com> (click on shop to see retailers and their rebate percentages.) An email contact for the current SCRIP coordinator(s) may be found on the band website at hhsbands.org. This is a great fundraiser without selling or spending any additional money! The parent coordinator(s) for SCRIP is responsible for facilitating SCRIP agreements, assisting with activating PrestoPay, facilitating information regarding special offers and order dates, placing orders for plastic gift cards, answering questions regarding the program, providing the HBPA Treasurer with periodic accounting of credits for students' accounts, and recruiting/encouraging participants.

- **Amazon smile [Fundraiser]**

Amazon Smile is a program which donates 0.5% of eligible purchases back to the band which supports the band programs by purchasing and maintaining uniforms, instruments and equipment. It also helps pay for music instruction, marching instruction, competition expenses. Most items available on amazon are also available under the Amazon Smile program. Visit smile.amazon.com to shop. Link your account to support Hickory Band Parents Association. There is no extra cost to participate and it is a wonderful way to support the HBPA!

Events, fundraisers and volunteer opportunities may vary on a yearly basis depending on the directors and current members of the HBPA for that year. ***Again, information provided in this handbook should only be used as a guide and any changes may be made without notice at the discretion of the directors.***

Parent/Family conduct at events

Parents/friends/family try to sit together in a section to cheer on the Marching Hawks as they perform. Most wear their Spirit Wear, school colors, and/or Parent Show Shirt (if purchased.) Please be courteous, encourage and cheer for all bands. The students travel and stay together during competitions. They must follow the director's instructions regarding any food/concession based upon length of attendance. If you have any question regarding this during the event, an event chaperone may be able to assist in providing that information to you. It is important that the students are attentive to the directors and focus on their performance.

- **Practice and rehearsals**

While parents are always welcome, there are a few considerations we must give the staff and our students:

- ✓ Remain quiet.
- ✓ Watch from an area away from any instructional area so as not to interfere.
- ✓ Please remember there is no **smoking or pets allowed on school property**.
- ✓ Please heed any special instructions of the band staff while observing practice.

- **Football games**

The Marching Band performs half-time shows at all home football games throughout the football season and any playoff games. Parents and family are encouraged to attend games to support the band/guard, football team and cheerleaders.

- **Competitions/events**

The HBPA looks forward to a successful and entertaining season. Half-time shows offer an opportunity for the band to perform for the entire community, while band competitions allow the finer points of a performance to be appreciated.

At competitions, special considerations are needed for everyone to enjoy the performances. When representing our community and our students, **we have a responsibility to be positive, supportive and courteous**. Please keep these points in mind when you are enjoying a competition:

- ✓ Save your conversations for times between performances and be sure to turn off cell phones and pagers.
- ✓ Wait until a band completes their show to enter or leave the stands to avoid causing distractions for the band performing or other patrons watching the show.
- ✓ Be careful of your remarks about other bands because you never know who is sitting near you. Your remarks may hurt the feelings of a parent whose child has worked just as hard as yours and may leave a lasting negative impression of the Marching Hawks community.
- ✓ Always applaud a band's performance. All students work hard to perfect their performance and relish your appreciation of their efforts.

- ✓ Be prepared for inclement weather – bring a poncho! Avoid umbrellas because they can block the view of those behind you and the spokes can be dangerous in the close quarters of stadium seating.
- ✓ **DO NOT POST ANY PRACTICE, EVENT, OR COMPETITION PERFORMANCES ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA**
- ✓ If you video-tape, stand where you will not block the view of other members of the audience. **Please note that BOA forbids the use of recording devices.**

Traveling Information

The HHS band ensembles are no strangers to traveling. They are accustomed to local and long distance travel, all supported by the HBPA. The directors and staff do a phenomenal job at not only organizing amazing travel opportunities for our students but also ensuring their safe return. The directors clearly communicate expectations from students and parents alike. *At all times follow the directions of the directors* and below are a few helpful hints.

- **Bus procedures**

For football games and local competitions, school buses are utilized. Students are divided into buses by sections and Color Guard. For longer trips and out of state competitions, coach buses are utilized. The student will choose a bus buddy and sign up for a bus a few weeks prior to the time needed. Bus captains will be assigned for each bus. Students will meet in the auditorium for announcements before loading busses. At the performance site, buses will not unload until told to do so by the Band Director or drum major. Anyone wishing to pick up their child following a local competition must provide a written request for approval to the directors prior to the competition. Please plan, if possible, to pick them up after the awards ceremony or when the students return to the bus. There are several logistical issues associated with putting away instruments, returning plumes and retrieving belongings on a bus that will be locked until the entire group returns.

- **Overnight trips**

Room lists sign-ups will be before all overnight trips. Before checking into the hotel, room captains will pick up room keys to distribute to roommates. All bus captains and chaperones will be responsible for checking attendance each time the buses are loaded. No one may change buses or rooms without permission from the Band Director. Bus captains and chaperones must be informed of any such change. All band members will ride the bus to and from events unless special permission is given by the band director before the trip. Anyone wishing to pick up their child following a competition must provide a written request for approval to the directors prior to the competition. The student will not be able to leave prior to the finals performance, if applicable. The same logistical barriers apply. The student would also have to bring their belongings from the hotel, if applicable, which will be stored on a locked bus until the group returns to the bus. Please plan accordingly. Again, please discuss questions or concerns with the directors.

- **Hotels**

All rooms will be assigned and no changes will be made except those made by the Band Director and/or head chaperone. Students and their roommates will be expected to keep their room neat and clean. If the room is messy at checkout time, students and their roommates will clean the room before any bus departs. Students must follow curfew set by the Band Director and be polite to each other, hotel staff and other hotel guests.

Marching Band

Introduction

The largest, most visible and most well-known ensemble of the Hickory Band Program, the **Marching Hawks**, is comprised of band students *and* color guard members. This ensemble is known not only for its extreme high level of talent but also known for transforming the students while in the marching band. Most notably are the rising freshmen as they leave the comfort of middle school and enter high school. Marching band alumni describe marching band as having helped them make roughly 200 friends for the first day of high school. Transformation continues to occur throughout the students' career as a Marching Hawk as they are provided the opportunity to perform in various leadership roles. Students are encouraged to apply and audition for roles such as Drum Major, Section leader, Captain, Clean-up crew, Field crew and possibly other leadership positions. The directors and staff award the leadership designations.

The **Marching Hawks** normally attend all Friday night home football games, performing at halftime, and compete at local and national competitions. They may or may not travel to away football games. The band also supports the local community by marching in the Chesapeake Christmas parade as requested by the city.

Band Practice

The Marching Hawks begin practicing over the summer (Color Guard has practice clinics, try-outs, & placement late spring of the previous year). Students should attend all summer practices/rehearsals/sectionals as much as possible. We understand that many families take vacations during the summer months. Care should be taken to schedule these vacations around the scheduled band camps sessions. The directors normally have the summer practice schedule available to all parents and students on Charms by the end of the previous school year. As a hint, the band camp in August is **MANDATORY** and any absences need to be discussed with the directors. As a general rule of thumb, ***LET THE DIRECTORS KNOW OF ANY ABSENCES AHEAD OF TIME!***

Music camp:

Music Camp is usually held the second week of July. Freshmen and new members will go over the basics of marching. All band members will learn the music for the upcoming show. Color guard is included this week of music camp but their schedule may be different. Please get the specific "Guard" schedule from the directors or staff.

Band camp:

Band Camp usually begins the second week of August and runs for approximately 2 weeks. Details regarding Band Camp and Full Band Rehearsals can be found on the HHS Bands website (hhsbands.org). Attendance at all practices/rehearsals is required, so parents should plan accordingly. **Rehearsal is held rain or shine.** It is recommended that the students bring the following to Band Camp:

- water jug
- sunscreen, hat, insect repellent
- comfortable tennis shoes (**sandals/flip-flops are not allowed**)
- extra socks and foot powder
- pencil
- dot sheets at all times

Families are strongly encouraged to schedule any summer vacations before Band Camp begins.

Sectionals:

Sectionals are small learning ensembles for each instrument (i.e. flute, clarinet, drum line, etc.). They are generally held after the regularly scheduled rehearsals, on a day designated by the Band Director or section leader leading the sectional. Sectionals also provide a great opportunity for team building and band members to get to know each other.

After school practice:

Students are expected to attend every rehearsal and performance. Dates can be found on the HHS Bands website under information/calendar (hhsbands.org). Check the website regularly; communicate with your student, other band parents or staff, to stay on top of any schedule changes.

Fall camp:

One Saturday in September there is normally an all-day practice for all Marching Band members.

Band Uniforms

- **Items provided during the season**

- **Band**

Uniforms are fitted during band camp. Each student is assigned a numbered jacket, pants, shako (hat), and gauntlets. These are provided by the band. The uniforms must remain in the band room, properly hung, stored in garment bag when not in use. Students are responsible for properly hanging and storing their uniforms and shakos. The plumes (feathers in the shako) are provided at the time of performance. These are real feathers and will be placed in the shako and removed by the uniform parents using gloves. The students will be provided with a “show shirt” and the directors will advise the students when to wear their show shirt. If not instructed to wear their show shirt, the students must wear a plain black T-shirt under their uniform. This should not be any logos anywhere on the shirt.

- **Guard**

The Guard members are measured for uniforms during Spring training/try-outs prior to marching season. Gloves are normally present at the fitting so students may try on various sizes to determine the best fit and shoe sizes are recorded as provided by the guard member. Uniforms are then provided to the guard members during marching season to use and then return at the end of the season.

- **Items provided by the student**

- **Band**

The student will be responsible for purchasing black gloves (except certain sections) and dinkles (shoes), both of which are purchased through the band. It is important to order shoes during band camp so they will arrive in time for the first performance. The student should immediately write their names on the inside of the shoes on the orange part of the insole. The gloves can be purchased throughout the season in the band room prior to each performance or trip. The students must also purchase plain, long black dress socks to wear at each performance. Please make sure these are very long socks and do not have any logos.

- **Guard**

Students are required to purchase gloves, shoes, and any necessary hair, make-up, or hosiery accessories. The students will keep these items at the end of the season. During all performances, there is to be no nail polish or wrist or ankle bracelets present.

- **How to care for uniforms**

- **Band**

All students should properly hang and store their uniforms and shakos. If there are any questions, the section leaders and the uniform parents may provide assistance. Dinkles (shoes) should be shined prior to EACH performance. This is best accomplished with Pledge or a Pledge wipe. Parent volunteers launder uniforms as assigned by the uniform committee. A special detergent is used and provided by the uniform committee. Your assistance in this area is appreciated. Please see the uniform committee to sign-up.

- **Guard**

Directors and instructors will tell students when and how to launder the uniforms. **PLEASE BE SURE TO USE DYE & FRAGRANCE FREE DETERGENT AND NO WELL WATER IS TO BE USED ON UNIFORMS.** If you have well water, please find a team mate and ask for help with laundering your uniform.

Personal Grooming

All hair must be tucked under shako (except sections that do not wear shakos). Hair must be neat and off of the collar. No earrings, jewelry, or nail polish is permitted for performances. No makeup is allowed for all instrument players. Guard members will be instructed on the required hair and makeup. Dinkles (shoes) must be clean. Uniforms must be clean and pressed.

Damaged or lost items

Marching band uniforms cost *several* hundreds of dollars per student. Students are responsible for keeping up with all of their uniform items and should be mindful of carefully checking numbers of shakos prior to pulling them off the shelf. Each piece of the uniform has a different number and they are uniquely assigned to your student. The students are not allowed to eat or drink while in uniform, including candy and gum. They are also not allowed to engage in running or horseplay while in uniform. Damages should be reported immediately to the uniform parents as well as any lost items. Any damage to or loss of any part of the provided uniform will require the student to pay for the item lost or damaged.

Appendix I

Parent survival tips

1. **Your student is probably more capable than you realize.** They should and will begin taking responsibility of themselves (preparing snacks/lunch, transporting instrument, bringing water, etc.). If needed, you can work with them to create checklists for everything they need to bring.
2. **Get out of the car and come join us!** The “practice field” is located in the front of the school and band room. The last moments of practice often involves the kids running through portions of the program on the practice field. Come out, listen, and talk to some fellow parents.
3. **End of Practice** – The students will be crossing the area from the practice room and the band room in large numbers. Some will be pushing instruments and equipment. Please do not block the areas where the “wooden ramps” are placed and please proceed through this area with extreme caution. Some evenings, it is dark when band releases. There are a significant number of cars. Plan the pick up with your student. You may choose to park and stand outside the band room or practice field to meet your student.
4. **Pick up at School Following Competition** – The entire fire lane area is reserved for the busses and pit transportation vehicles. When the band is returning on school or charter buses, please keep this area clear of all vehicles. The buses park in the inside lane next to the front of the school, and the pit trailers park at the curb in front of the band room. Equipment including podiums and instruments must be unloaded and the students assist in this process.
5. **Football Games:** Your student will be in full uniform and sitting with the band at football games. They are not permitted to eat/drink (including gum/candy) while in uniform. Please do not attempt to give them anything during the game. The HBPA provides bottled water to each student after their performance. The students are also required to have a chaperone accompany them to the restroom. They are not permitted to go with parents, or staff. Sit back and enjoy! They are just as entertaining in the stands as they are when they perform on the field. Bring your camera, but please do not post any videos online! The show is a work in progress and is adjusted throughout the season and after each competition. We do not want others to view the show prior to the competitions.
6. **What to bring:** Always bring warm clothes to be prepared and something to sit on. There are charges to get into football games and competitions. Consider bringing CASH. It is suggested to review the BOA website (bands.org) to see the souvenir merchandise with your student. There will be very little, if any, opportunity to coordinate with your student at the event what they desire to purchase and quantities are limited. If purchasing apparel at a BOA event, an iron-on decal with the event

- and our school name will be available for purchase, along with options to add their section, finalist, and other options. The event volunteers apply these to your purchased items (most have them applied to the sleeves.) Of particular short supply are patches with the location/city of the event. These items are also available online.
7. **Band Directors are people, too.** But they are BUSY people. They work long hours and their main focus is the students. If you have a specific concern about your child and the band program, it is best to set up a time to discuss it. If you need general information, often fellow HBPA members can answer them.
 8. **We Need YOU!** Come to the HBPA meetings, volunteer in one or more areas. There are many opportunities. Volunteering also provides an opportunity to meet new friends (often life-long) and to stay in tuned to what is going on with the band.
 9. **Join CHARMS, constantly check email, become a member of the HBPA Facebook community, and frequent the HBPA website.** There are many avenues used for the flow of information. Stay connected!
 10. **No Milk Products on the morning of Band Camp.** Historically, this causes upset stomachs.

Appendix II

Student survival tips

1. ALWAYS be on time, which really means 10-15 minutes early.
2. When in doubt, stop talking.
3. Show respect to everyone and listen to what ‘veterans’ have to say. They’re probably right.
4. Don’t expect to know everything the first day. Even people who have marched before still have things to learn.
5. Take things seriously, but not TOO seriously.
6. We are very good at what we do because we can focus when we need to.
7. Stay well rested, fed, and hydrated. Avoid dairy products before band camp.
8. Always have all your materials on you or close enough that you can get them quickly.
9. Know how to work, but also know how to relax. Know that the two NEVER occur at the same time, EVER.
10. Keep up on your schoolwork. Take every opportunity to do your homework. On the bus, extra time in class, at appointments — do whatever it takes. Be as productive as possible.
11. You will be called out eventually. Don’t be afraid. When it happens, just speak up and don’t worry about being wrong.
12. Always trust the instructors. Especially when you think they aren’t right. They are rarely wrong.
13. You may want to quit. But **DON’T QUIT!**

Appendix III

Glossary of Terms

BOA (Bands of America aka Music for All): You will hear the term BOA used quite a bit. It is a national program for various types of music — not just marching bands. There are State competitions, Invationals and a BOA Regional, but the granddaddy of them all is the BOA Grand National Championship in Indianapolis. Bands from all over the US come to this event.

Captions: Awards are given in competition to acknowledge specific excellence in the areas of *Music*, *Visual*, and *General Effect*. There is a relationship between these awards and the final competition scores, as the captions are subcategories used in the overall scoring. It is possible to win the caption awards and still not win the competition, although more often the winner of *General Effect* is also the winner of the overall competition. Invitational scores will usually be announced. HOWEVER, ISSMA Regionals, Semi-State, and Finals scores are NOT. Only Band Directors are given scores. The Directors will share this information with the band, but under penalty by ISSMA, these scores cannot be posted to any website. Those bands given a ‘Gold’ ranking at these competitions will have the opportunity to move on to the next level.

Charms: A website used to convey information from the directors to the parents. Some tests are issued on this site.

Class A, AA, AAA, AAAA: Designations assigned by school size for purpose of competition. For state competitions, Hickory is a Class AAAA; for BOA, Hickory is AAA. This is subject to change.

Dinkles: The black shoes worn by marchers. Marchers are required to purchase dinkles.

Dot sheets/books: Your child will be required maintain a notebook that is their personal map of the show. The dot book contains their specific show coordinates, spot on field, relation to other people, relation to the form, direction that they come from and the direction they move. They also include counts for each set and extra notes such as step size and visual details. If a show formation is the map, the dot book is the “YOU ARE HERE” for each band member. The band members build and maintain their own dot books.

Drumline: All percussion instruments including the pit.

Euphonium: The euphonium (Euphs) is a valve instrument. The Hickory marching band marches with euphoniums and baritones instead of trombones.

HBPA (Hickory Band Parent Association): The success of the band program is threefold: the dedication and talent of the staff, the hard working dedicated students, and the ongoing efforts of the parent volunteers. If you have a child in any of the Hickory Band programs you are a member of the HBPA. The HBPA is made up of parents, some alumni band parents, and grandparents that work year round to make sure the band has everything they need to be successful.

Hornline: If you can blow wind through the instrument, it is on the hornline. The hornline consists of trumpets, mellophones, baritones, euphoniums, tubas, saxophones, clarinets, flutes, and piccolos.

Mellophone: is a brass instrument that is typically used in place of the horn (sometimes called a French horn) in marching bands or drum and bugle corps. Hickory marches with mellophones.

Props: Short for ‘properties’ are used to enhance the shows. Flags, hoods, sabers, all manner of structures, are all props. We make most of our own show specific props and it is a huge undertaking. Whether we need carpenter skills or sewing skills depends on the show. Watch for requests to help out.

SEVMG (South Eastern Virginia Music Games – said as one word “sevmeg”): This is a competition Hickory High School Band hosts every Fall. It is our biggest fundraiser. Each band member is required to volunteer for this event. Parent volunteers are also needed.

Scrip: This is a fundraising tool. You can purchase gift cards with a percentage being donated to the HBPA.

Sections: Each instrument is a ‘section.’ Each section develops its own pride and personality. For example the hornline is made up of the tuba section, the trumpet section, saxophone section, etc.

Shakos: The hats worn by the marching band with the big plumes in front.

The Pit: The non-marching portion of the band. Includes keyboards, certain drums, some percussion instruments, and whatever instrument that is not practical to march. The pit requires a ‘pit crew’ to help get equipment on and off the field. If you are going to be at the show anyway, consider helping out.

VMEA: Virginia Music Educator’s Association