

Dripping Springs

TIGER BAND

PARENT HANDBOOK

MARCHING - CONCERT - COLORGUARD - PERCUSSION

2025-
2026



INTRODUCTION

Welcome! Your student is now a part of the award-winning Tiger Band and the highly successful Dripping Springs Band program. This is the largest program in the High School. It is a very exciting time to be part of a program that continues to meet, and exceed, the challenges it sets for itself. We look forward to excelling in the year ahead with your student's willing participation and your support.

As HS band parents, you will probably have a multitude of questions that we hope this handbook will answer for you. As we progress through marching and concert season, you will be introduced to new terminology, requirements, and events. We hope to answer most of the questions that arise throughout your Freshman year and beyond, thereby enabling you to enjoy it to the fullest!

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WEB SITES

Dripping Spring Tiger Band Website – <https://dstigerband.com>

- Official website of the Tiger Band. Here you will find news, volunteer opportunities, resources, calendars, and more.

Dripping Springs Booster Hub site - <https://app.boosterhub.com>

- Official platform for receiving updates/announcements and for communicating with other band parents and directors.

Dripping Springs Parent Facebook Group - www.facebook.com/groups/tigerband25/

- Private facebook group used to ask general questions, receive event reminders, volunteer opportunities, and share photos and videos of band events.

Tiger Band Fans page - <https://www.facebook.com/dsbandboosters>

- Public page used to celebrate the Tiger Band, notify supporters of upcoming events, and recognize our sponsors.

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1. PRE-SEASON: THE SUMMER

1.1 OPPORTUNITY DAYS FOR MUSIC PASS-OFF

Each year there will be a portion of the marching show music that must be passed-off prior to August 1st. To assist with that requirement, there will be two optional Opportunity Days scheduled, one each in mid-June and mid-July, to give students the chance to pass-off their music from memory, or to get assistance. If your student isn't available during the scheduled Opportunity Days, appointments may be scheduled directly with Mr. Woods. Students who pass off their music before summer band begins will be released from rehearsal early the first couple of days.

1.2 BAND REGISTRATION

Band Registration is the first major band event of the year and is vital for ensuring you have all the correct supplies, uniform pieces, permission slips, medical forms, and pay any fees necessary for the whole year. In addition, volunteers can sign up for all sorts of opportunities to help support the band program.

All required forms may be downloaded under "files" on BoosterHub (<https://app.boosterhub.com/>). The physical form must be completed by a doctor and turned in the first day your student participates in Summer Band. The conflict sheet and medical release forms must also be signed and turned in the first day (which is earlier for the Leadership Team, Percussion and Color Guard, than for the rest of the band.) During the Registration Day process, volunteers will double check all items in your order, finalize your order, and collect payment.

REGISTRATION DAY is held in the DSHS Band Hall. Attendance times for each grade are staggered for REGISTRATION DAY, starting with the Seniors, to streamline the process as much as possible. For 2025, the date is Saturday, August 2. During the Registration Day process, volunteers will double check all items in your order, finalize your order, and collect payment. Payment is due during REGISTRATION DAY for any fees due or items purchased. Payments will be made to the DS Band Boosters, and only credit cards will be accepted - no checks or cash.

1.2.1 FEES

The Dripping Springs Band program is trying hard to avoid having to go to a 'pay to play' program, like so many larger schools have had to do. The Band Directors do their best to keep costs down, but there are many expenses involved in maintaining a competitive high school band program. The costs include items such as instrument purchase, maintenance and repair, marching music and drill design, additional band staff for percussion, marching and color guard assistance, props, equipment, uniform repairs and replacement, and equipment trailers and transportation, etc.

The Tiger Band does receive money from the school district, but it relies heavily on funds raised by the DS Band Booster organization.

1.2.2 INSTRUMENT SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

All Band Students will need a flip folder, music 3-ring binder and instrument lyre for marching season. These can be purchased at most music stores in Austin. Each instrument has bare minimum specific requirements as follows:

Flute: cleaning swab, tuning rod

Oboe: cleaning swab, reed case (holds 4 reeds), at least 4 good working reeds

All Clarinets: cleaning swab, reed case (holds 4 reeds), at least 4 good working reeds, cork grease

Bassoon: large silk cleaning swab, reed case, 3 good working reeds, water container

Saxophone: silk cleaning swab, reed case (holds 4 reeds), at least 4 good working reeds, cork grease

Trumpet: valve oil, slide grease, straight and cup mute

French Horn: rotary oil, tuning slide grease, transposing mute

Trombone: superslick slide grease, spray bottle, tuning slide grease, straight and cup mute

Euphonium: valve oil, tuning slide grease

Tuba: rotary oil, tuning slide grease

Percussion: mallet bag with all appropriate sticks, mallets labeled with student's name.

Colorguard: gloves, black and white electrical tape

It is highly encouraged for students to upgrade their instruments if still using a beginner model.

In addition, each student is required to purchase a water jug/koozie which is paid for at registration.

1.2.3 UNIFORM ACCESSORIES

The DSISD provides formal uniforms for both marching and concert season; however, students will need to purchase some items for their own informal uniforms and some accessories to the formal uniform. Items other than undergarments will be ordered by the band boosters. This list may change slightly from year to year based on need and availability.

It is highly recommended that you provide your student with a small bag (e.g., gym bag) to keep their items together so they won't get lost. Each student has a locker in the band hall, for short term storage...this locker is not intended to be used as a storage closet - students should take used clothing home daily.

1.2.4 PHYSICALS

All band students must have a completed UIL physical valid for the whole academic year (from June through the end of the following May), on file with the Band Directors by the first day of summer band. The form must be completed by a physician. The required physical form can be downloaded under "files" on BoosterHub (<https://app.boosterhub.com/>).

1.2.5 AWAY and HOME GAME MEALS

Band Boosters provide dinner before we leave for AWAY football games on Friday nights during marching season. For the majority of the away games we need to leave the school quite quickly

after school has finished. The students may not leave campus to purchase food on away game Fridays. Away Game Meals will be added at Band Registration for the entire marching season. Vegetarian and gluten-free options are available.

For HOME GAMES, many students bring a “second lunch.” The Band Council usually sells a meal as a fundraiser, sign up and payment for this option will be at Band Registration. Students may leave campus, this will NOT be monitored by the Directors or boosters. Students must NOT be late returning to campus for inspection time as determined by their Section Leader.

1.3 SUMMER REHEARSALS

Summer rehearsals generally begin the last 2 weeks of July and continue until the beginning of school. It is a very important time of intensive instruction for the new students to learn their marching techniques, all students to become familiar with and learn the music for the marching program and start to put together the music and the drill. In addition, it is a great time and place for the new students to integrate into the band and become a part of the Tiger Band family.

Students do sometimes have difficulty with the degree of physical activity during the day, particularly if they have been inactive all summer. We highly recommend that your student become acclimated to the Texas heat, with plenty of sunscreen and hydration, in the weeks leading up to summer rehearsals. A conditioning camp may be helpful for your particular child.

Traditionally, the Seniors will have a lock-in (with parent chaperones) where they can stay up all night. A permission form is required for this activity and can be found under “files” on BoosterHub (<https://app.boosterhub.com/>).

All parents/family members are invited to attend Preview Night at the Dripping Springs High School. The students demonstrate some of the things they have learned, and it is a great chance for families to show their support of the student’s hard work! This is typically held the first Saturday after school starts.

2. MARCHING SEASON: THE FALL

2.1 COMMUNICATION

2.1.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The majority of the communication between the Band Directors and the parents is done via a weekly newsletter sent via email by the VP of Communications. It is vital that you make sure your email contact information is kept up to date in BoosterHub, and that your settings are set to “allow emails”, so that you continue to receive these important communications. Please keep your contact information updated with DSISD’s Skyward as well since the Directors may use that to communicate with you. Be sure to have Derek Woods <derek.woods@dsisdtx.us> in your address book, as that is the email that Mr. Woods will most often use to connect directly with parents.

Weekly newsletters and announcement sheets are also posted to the BoosterHub files (<https://app.boosterhub.com/>).

Directors will also communicate directly with parents and students via BoosterHub chats.

2.1.2 SIGNING OUT STUDENTS FROM OFF CAMPUS LOCATIONS (football games, contests, etc.)

It is very important for parents to note the DSISD regulations regarding signing out your students from an away game or contest. We provide transportation to and from all away games and contests. If you want to sign out your student from the off campus location you must find the chaperone who is in charge of the bus on which your student traveled. The chaperones have a release form, which the parent or legal guardian must sign, before you may take your student.

The parent or legal guardian may only sign out their own child. If you need your child to be taken from the off-campus location by another parent or legal adult, you must obtain a different form from the DSHS Principal's Office (signed by DSHS Principal and parents) in advance. You must give this form to the Band Directors before we leave DSHS for the away game or contest. Once we have this form, the parent given permission to take your child must still sign your child out with the chaperone before leaving.

If parents do not follow these rules it causes problems and delays for the whole band trying to leave the off campus location to come back to the high school. We have to call the parents of every student who has left without being signed out and confirm they are safe before we can leave.

The same rules for checking out students from off campus contests during contest season.

2.2 PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

Texas high school marching bands are considered among the most accomplished and competitive bands in the country. Football is big in Texas and so are the marching bands that perform during half-time. To be able to compete against the best bands takes a complex musical program, and to master it takes practice. A lot of practice and a lot of hard work. Those hours of practice are essential to the success of the band and having perfect attendance for every practice is ideal.

As per UIL regulations, "the directors are limited to 8 hours a week for practice outside the regular school day" (bands from other states don't have that limitation), so the band really needs every member in attendance for every practice.

It's understood that missing a practice sometimes can't be avoided. But if you want your child to have a successful band experience, please do your best to schedule that doctor's appointment or orthodontist visit for a time that does not interfere with the practice schedule. Students are required to make up any missed practice time.

If your child is involved with other activities, such as athletics or choir, make sure to notify the directors so they can work with you to avoid scheduling conflicts. One of the directors will be glad

to talk with a coach, or sponsor, to work out a schedule that takes your child's needs into consideration.

If there is bad weather, students are expected to report to the band hall for practice. If there is lightning in the area or heavy rain, the practice will be held indoors. If there is no electrical activity and only light rain, the band may practice outside without instruments. The band directors use a lightening detector to carefully monitor potentially hazardous weather conditions.

Morning practices before school are at the High School. Students may want to bring a clean shirt (and deodorant) to change into afterwards. Evening practices are held at the High School practice lot or Tiger Stadium.

All students are expected to help make sure all rehearsal areas are clean and secure and equipment and props put away before leaving. Rehearsals will end at the specified time, then the student may have a short section meeting or tasks to assist with rehearsal clean up before leaving for home. This may take 5-15 minutes, depending on the pace of your student. Please plan appropriately.

Any changes in performance or rehearsal schedule will be communicated with as much notice as possible, usually via email, BoosterHub chat, and/or Facebook.

2.3 BENCHMARKS

Many of you will be familiar with the benchmark system from the Middle School bands. Every nine weeks, students are given a series of "benchmarks", divided into three-week segments, which they need to play-off in front of a Director. They must pass off all of their benchmarks in order to remain eligible to play in the band.

In High School, students do not always have the opportunity to play-off benchmarks during the school day, so it may mean making time to do that either before or after school.

2.4 PRIVATE LESSONS

Why pay for private lessons? Private lessons are essential if your child is to grow as a musician.

Every student can benefit from one-on-one instruction, improving their technique, and gaining knowledge of their instrument. Private lessons are optional, but students wishing the opportunity to excel on their instrument, to participate in the Region Band audition process or work towards UIL State Solo and Ensemble are highly encouraged to study privately.

Because the bands are large, the directors are unable to provide significant individual help.

The initial sign up for private lessons is at Registration, but depending on private teacher availability, sign up may be anytime throughout the year on a first come first served basis.

2.5 DSISD NO PASS, NO PLAY GUIDELINE

For some, the Freshman year proves to be difficult; adjusting to the demands of high school, it is easy to become overwhelmed. DSHS has full reporting periods as well as interim reporting periods.

Students can lose eligibility at the end of the first 6 weeks, and at the end of every 9-week grading period, if they have less than a 70 in any class. If ineligible, the student may continue to practice but cannot participate in contests or play at football games. Students may regain eligibility at interim reporting periods every three weeks. Please note this is a UIL guideline and NOT the Directors' decision. Once the student has regained eligibility, they will be allowed to participate but may not get their permanent marching position back. NOTE: No Pass, No Play is a State law.

2.6 PRODUCTION CREW

Marching band drills are designed for a fixed instrumentation. The directors do select a minimal number of students to be "Production Crew". They perform at all football games as either a "shadow" or in their Production Crew role, and all competitions. These students will have important performance roles related to manipulating props but may also be called upon to fill a hole in the drill if another student becomes ineligible or sick. The number of Production Crew members must be determined in May in order for the design process to be completed for summer band

Several criteria are taken into account in the selection of Production Crew:

- Marching Skills – students will be required to pass-off all the basic marching skills to a band director at summer rehearsals.
- Music Skills – there are specific dates by which sections of music are due to be memorized and passed-off. The goal is to have every student pass-off every section of the music.
- Attendance, behavior, and no pass no play eligibility history - the directors continually re-evaluate students' performance throughout the season. If your student is a Production Crew initially, it does not mean that they will not attain a marching spot on the field during the season.
- Number of each kind of instrument. Drill design works best with certain number combinations.

2.7 STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

2.7.1 DRUM MAJORS

The Drum Majors direct the band during performances in the stands and on the field and represent the band on the field during awards presentations at competitions.

A Drum Major needs to be not only a great musician and conductor, but someone respected by his/her peers. They need to demonstrate high standards personally, academically, and musically, and handle themselves well in the public eye. The Drum Majors are chosen as part of the Section Leader Tryouts towards the end of the spring semester. Interested students must submit an

application along with an essay and DSHS faculty evaluations, as well as complete a teaching and conducting audition judged by local, visiting band directors. Students may collect “points” by participating in band volunteer events, solo events, etc., that will be used in their overall evaluation.

2.7.2 SECTION CAPTAIN OR LIEUTENANT

Each major section (Winds, Percussion, Colorguard) will have at least one Captain OR Lieutenant selected by the Directors chosen from the students auditioning for a Student Leadership Team position. Duties and responsibilities may vary from year to year depending on the needs of the band as a whole.

2.7.3 SECTION LEADERS

The Section Leaders’ duties during marching season are:

- to make sure their section members know their music,
- to help their section with their marching techniques and drill,
- to perform uniform inspections before leaving for a game or competition,
- and to keep the section focused on the task at hand.

If your student has any questions regarding the band program they should go to their Section Leader first and see if they can help.

The Section Leaders are chosen as part of the Section Leader Tryouts towards the end of the spring semester. Interested students must submit an application along with an essay, DSHS faculty evaluations, peer evaluations, and complete a performance audition judged by outside judges. Band students may collect “points” by participating in band volunteer events, solo events, etc., that will be used in their overall evaluation.

2.7.4 BAND COUNCIL

The Band Council is responsible for organizing Home Game meals and other social activities for the band members. These have included activities at summer rehearsals, a summer party, Halloween costume party, movie nights, etc. They also are responsible for organizing the end of year Band Ball in April.

The Band Council officers are elected by the band students at the end of the spring semester, with the exception of the grade level Representatives, who are elected during or after summer rehearsals. The positions are president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, historian, color guard representative, and 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade representatives.

2.8 COLOR GUARD

The Color Guard uses dance moves, flags, sabers, rifles and other props to interpret the music that the marching band is playing. Their costumes and flags are designed to complement the show theme and visually enhance the presentation on the field. A marching band alone might sound wonderful and present an interesting show, but it would lack the color and excitement that a good

guard adds. The tradition of the color guard is military based, hence the use of the flags and “weapons” in the show. However, the guard is not limited to those props. In the past, we have used fences, ribbons, gold tires and giant picture frames to name a few. Besides performing during Fall Marching Season, they may also compete in Winter Color Guard (see Section 3.9).

2.9 THE MARCHING SHOW

2.9.1 THE UNIFORM

Marching band uniform design has become quite specialized and detailed to ensure each band gives a uniform appearance on the field, highlighting their marching capability and music, and not distracting from the drill.

A “shako” is the style of hat that the band members wear with the uniform, except the Tuba players (who wear a beret so as not to catch in their instrument) and Front Ensemble performers. The “plume” is the feather that is placed in the shako just before the band goes on to the field to march.

For the majority of football games the Tiger Band wear their black pants to march, however we may change to the white pants for contests. The contrast of the white with the marching field means that our drill and marching technique can be seen much more clearly and it is a sign of confidence to the judges.

The school provides the pants, jackets, shakos and plumes. Students must provide the items to wear under their uniforms, which are a grey dri-fit t-shirt, dark grey spandex shorts, long black or white socks, and black or white marching shoes corresponding with pant color. Marching shoes are purchased during Band Registration.

2.9.2 THE MUSIC AND DRILL

In December, the Directors have a design meeting, discussing what worked in the previous show and what inspires them. During that meeting, they reach an agreement on a general direction they will take with the next season's show. Then they go to professional music and drill designers with ideas

2.10 MARCHING CONTESTS

The Tiger Band usually competes in 3 to 5 marching contests each season, in addition to any UIL contests. We compete in contests to get feedback on our performance from qualified judges. From this, we can assess our progress in marching, musicality, performance, and overall development of our program. In addition, it is exciting to see how we line up against other bands across the State.

2.10.1 TYPES OF CONTESTS

The Tiger Band competes in several different types of marching contests each year. They are:

- UIL (University Interscholastic League) - The UIL has divided Texas into Regions and Areas. Dripping Springs is in Region 18, Area D. The UIL also categorizes high schools by student enrollment size; Dripping Springs HS is currently categorized as a 6A High School. Each

October, a marching contest is held in each region. The bands first compete in a Region competition, and if they receive a superior rating (an overall 1), they advance to Area competition. The top scoring 4-6 bands (depending on the number of competitors) in Area then go on to compete for State honors.

Our area is very competitive, with a number of high caliber bands. The Tiger Band won the State Marching Contest in 2009, second in 2011, sixth in 2015, and second in 2017. Since becoming a 6A High School, the Tiger Band has qualified for State in 2022, 2023, and 2024.

- BOA (Bands of America) - BOA division on Music for All, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that promotes high school music education through competitions and festivals held around the country.
 - Regional Championships are single-day events limited to a maximum of 32 bands in preliminary competition with the ten highest scoring bands advancing to a final round.
 - Super Regional Championships are a two-day event with a maximum of 84 bands, with the fourteen highest scoring bands advancing to a final round.
 - The Grand National Championship is a three-day Preliminary, Semi-Finals, and Finals event that has a maximum of 118 participating bands and is held at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana. A minimum of 30 bands will then advance to Semi-Finals. The top 12 scoring bands from Semi-Finals, regardless of class, advance to Saturday evening's Finals.
- Texas Marching Classic (TMC) - high school bands from Austin–metro, San Antonio, Laredo, Central Texas and Houston compete in a one-day contest which features both Preliminary and Finals Rounds.

2.10.2 JUDGING CRITERIA

Judges evaluate different aspects of a marching show. At most contests, judges are looking at how well the students are achieving their responsibilities in the areas of marching, music, and color guard. Show design and effect are also evaluated and can be part of the overall score.

You may also want to google the criteria for judging for the various organizations, UIL, BOA and TMC, as they differ somewhat from each other.

For another perspective on competition judging, please read the following article, written by a former long-time band booster from another school. (The following is an excerpt from an article written by George Yenetchi, former Band Booster, R.S.Sterling HS Band.)

Why You May Not Agree with Marching Contest Judges (and why it is not the judge's fault)

“...Some marching show spectators (especially band members and their parents) find that they sometimes disagree with marching contest judges' decisions. That is OK. There are many reasons you might be in honest disagreement with good judges. Judges look for performance excellence not entertainment value. A skilled performance of a dull show will score better than a mediocre performance of an interesting show. (Of course, the ideal is a great performance of a great show.) Audience members are impressed by entertainment value, as well they should be. They should not

compare their opinion of a show, which was based on how well they were entertained, with the opinion of the judges who were evaluating how well specific skills were demonstrated.

Contest guidelines require that bands demonstrate certain specific skills in performance. For example, guidelines often require that bands demonstrate both loud and soft playing (BOA guidelines specify “all dynamic levels”). A band that only plays loudly, no matter how well they do it, will lose points. A loud thrilling show that brings the audience to its feet cheering and clapping may therefore score poorly. Another area that often lowers the scores of bands that look and sound very good is woodwinds. Increasingly, judging guidelines want the woodwinds to get equal time with the brass and percussion. The days when clarinets could be seen and not heard are past. Judges pay very little attention to (band) size, uniforms etc. Just like an elephant, a 400-piece band is impressive just by being there. However, judges give no points for being there. At most contests, judges ignore who has the nicest uniforms, the prettiest flags, or the best props. It is hard when you have just spent \$80,000 on uniforms and band parents have worked for four weeks making props, to realize that the judges are more worried about how your band’s feet look.

Judges can only judge the one performance they see. Judges do not know how hard the kids have worked. They don’t know that the soloist got sick. They don’t know that the band performed the show better last week. They don’t know what special adversity your band overcame. If they knew, they might be even more impressed than you are, but they don’t know.

Judges detect small mistakes. Judges have the training and experience to detect problems with intonation, tone quality, balance, ensemble, etc. These subtleties aren’t even noticed by normal people. These small differences separate the very, very good from the merely very good. Just because these differences are tiny does not mean that they are not real.

All artistic judgments are subject to subjectivity. Even the best judges do not always agree. One judge may be more concerned with intonation while another will care more about ensemble. These are not evil biases. These are legitimate artistic differences. At some contests, you get judges who tend to pay less attention to the particular weak points of your band and at other contests you don’t.

As we enter the 3rd Millennium, the average level of school band performance is as high as it has ever been. It is still improving. As the real quality differences among the bands decrease, the judges’ job becomes harder and the rankings mean less...”

2.10.3 YOUR ROLE

One of the most uplifting aspects to attending competitions is how supportive most of the other parents and fans are of every band that competes. But there are exceptions. Some parents from other schools have been overheard loudly grumbling about the ineptness of a particular band, how the judges messed up, and/or how they show their favoritism to a particular band. Your role is more than just to cheer on the Tiger Band (although you are encouraged to do so!); when you are in the stands in your Tiger Band show shirt or DS Band Booster shirt, you represent our band and our community. Try to keep in mind that everyone is there to cheer for a particular band and be kind.

- Keep any comments about other bands or color guards positive.
- Be courteous and don't talk or get up to walk around during a performance.
- Don't boo, jeer, use irritating noise makers (such as air horns), or otherwise be obnoxious.
- Don't grumble or complain about the judges' decision. Be a good role model.

MARCHING BAND CONTEST ETIQUETTE

One of the most important parts of a band show is the audience. It is very disappointing for band members who spend weeks and months preparing a show to walk into a large stadium and find that the seats are empty. There are many types of spectators at a band show, and they have many different reasons for coming to the show. However, they all have one thing in common and that is that they should be allowed to enjoy the experience.

Things you should do at a band show:

- Support all bands. Regardless of which band is on the field you should applaud or even cheer when they do a good job. Reaction from the crowd will encourage the band to perform better and will result in a more enjoyable show for the audience.
- Watch the whole show. Observe different elements of the band's performance. Your interest may be percussion, but you might be surprised with the work the Color Guard is doing. Often, several things are going on at once in a show. If you watch a show several times you may see something new on each occasion.
- Show up early. This is especially true for supporters of larger class bands. Many smaller class bands have great shows. Arrive early at the next show and see what you have been missing.
- Buy something from the concession stand. In many cases a band competition may be the major source of a band program's yearly budget. They have made a large investment and would appreciate your support. In most cases you will find that the prices are much less than what you will pay at your local movie theater.
- When the Tiger Band takes the field, join in the group cheer. Listen for the designated band parent to say "Go Tiger Band on three. 1-2-3.." and then shout out "GO TIGER BAND!!!"

Things that you should avoid at a band show:

- It is important to realize that although it is fun to visit with family and friends during a contest, it is unfair to distract other spectators from enjoying the show. This is true at any performance, including a marching band performance. Be respectful of all other spectators and hopefully they will extend you the same courtesy.
- Do not leave or enter the stadium while a band is performing. Try to avoid any unnecessary movement, especially while a band is performing. At most contests, the time for each band is fifteen minutes. Each show lasts around 7 to 9 minutes so that gives you plenty of time between bands to leave the seating area for concessions or to enter the stadium.
- Do not talk on your cell phone. Turn off your cell phone or set it to vibrate. If someone calls you on your cell phone you can return the call between bands. Please do not talk on your phone during a performance.

- Do not allow children to play in the stands and distract other spectators. Obviously, children are the future of this activity. It is good for them to see why big brother and big sister are always at practice and are not at home. However, for their safety and as a courtesy to others, they should not be allowed to run up and down steps and play in the aisles, so others may enjoy the show.
- Do not make negative comments about other bands. That color guard uniform that you don't like may have been made by that guard member's mother that is sitting behind you. That man sitting in front of you could be the arranger or drill designer or even the band director. If you don't have something nice to say, then you probably should not say it. Remember how hard your band's members have worked to get their show ready for the field. Chances are that the other bands have worked just as hard to get their show ready.
- Do not obstruct the view of others. Please avoid standing in front of people trying to watch the show. If you have a banner to display, try to do so from the top of the stands or in some way so that others can still see the bands.
- Do not boo other bands or the contest results during the awards. Unfortunately, everyone is not going to agree on contest results. Booing the award winners, or the judges, will not accomplish positive results.

Hopefully these tips will make your experience more enjoyable as you cheer for your favorite band and support all the performers of this amazing art form.

2.10.4 HELPFUL INFORMATION AND IDEAS:

Here are some things you learn after a season of marching contests, but you wish you'd known before it:

- Take a hat and sunscreen, wear a cooling neck wrap.
- If you're able, and your child's interested, buy patches. They are inexpensive and can either be put on your child's letter jacket when he/she earns it or put in a shadow box for display. It can be impressive to have patches representing all the competitions in which your child participated.
- Check out the SmugMug Gallery of photos on our band booster website, for close ups of your child. Can't find a shot you like? Check out the Jolesh Photography Web site. When you see several professional photographers on the field during a UIL competition, it's likely they are with Jolesh Photography. If you want a close-up, action shot of your child marching, Jolesh will probably have a good one available to order a few weeks after the competition. Their packages are not cheap, and our band does not get any of the proceeds, but their photographs are unique.

2.11 INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

The TMEA (Texas Music Educators Association) coordinates an individual competition to select students for District, Regional, Area, and All-State Bands. These are concert bands rather than marching bands; however, only the Regional and All-State bands actually perform. The TMEA utilizes similar Region, Area and enrollment size designations as set by UIL.

Your student will receive their Region audition music at the beginning of the school year in August. The same music is provided for all grade levels and playing ability, so it can be quite challenging for the Freshmen, however, everyone is encouraged to audition as it provides excellent experience for future years.

Region auditions are held in November or December. Participation in Region auditions is mandatory for students in DSHS Wind Ensemble but optional for students in Symphonic and Concert bands. It does count towards DSHS leadership tryouts at the end of the year. From the Region auditions students may be placed in the District band and the top-scoring students are placed in the Region Concert or Symphonic Band (sometimes called the Wind Ensemble). The very best students are also designated to advance to the Area competition. The Region Concert and Symphonic bands have a clinic and performance. See the current Tiger Band Calendar for dates.

The Area contest takes place in January and from that the top scoring students are placed in the Texas All-State band. This is a huge accomplishment to be ranked among the top players in the State! The All-State Bands participate in a clinic and performance at the TMEA conference in, generally the 2nd week of February in San Antonio.

2.13 BAND JARGON

- Some terms you may not have heard before:
- Auxiliaries: Another term for Color Guard.
- Battery: It is the group of percussionists who play a variety of marching percussion instruments (drums, cymbals). They are known for their ability to do the “crab-step”, a step-over sideways marching step.
- The Front Ensemble: Also known as the Pit. It consists of stationary percussion instruments such as the marimba, synthesizer, vibraphone, bells, xylophone, electronic timpani, cymbals, and chimes.
- Drumline: Consists of the Battery and the Pit.
- Quads: A set of multiple tenor drums worn by percussionists in the drumline.
- Tiger Band Chant: As you sit in the stands at a contest and wait for the Tiger Band to march in, you may hear all the band perform this Tiger Band chant before entering the stadium: “Band Ten Hut” “Hey, Band, Drill the Position of Attention, Feet Together, Stomach In, Shoulders Back, Chin In, Head Up, Eyes with Pride, Eyes with Pride, Eyes with Pride.”

2.14 FOOTBALL GAMES

Home games are held at Tiger Stadium at the High School. When the second quarter of the game is almost over, the band leaves the stands and goes onto the track to begin warming up. The Tiger Band performs their marching show on the field during the halftime break.

At each game, the Band Directors nominate a band member as “Marcher of the Week” and the Band Council nominates a band section as “Section of the Week.” Both are announced just before the commencement of the halftime show.

Once the game ends, the band remains at the stadium to play the School Song for the team and fans. At some Home Games there may be a “Post-Game” performance of the marching show. If the Tiger Band has been in formal uniform there is a strict procedure that the students must follow to return their uniforms to the storage closet, which may take up to half an hour or more to process all the students. After away games, if you are waiting for your child, we welcome your assistance with unloading trailers.

If you want to take your student directly from an away football game please follow the procedures for signing out your students with the chaperones as detailed in Section 2.1.2. Students must ensure they have delegated someone responsible to return their uniform to the closet in the band hall and put up their instrument for them.

3. CONCERT SEASON: THE SPRING

3.1 COMMUNICATION

The majority of the communication between the Band Directors and the parents will continue to be done via a weekly newsletter sent via email by the VP of Communications. The newsletters will also be posted on BoosterHub files (<https://app.boosterhub.com/>).

3.2 CONCERT BANDS

Dripping Springs High School has three concert bands: Concert, Symphonic, and Wind Ensemble. For Wind instrument players, auditions for placement in these bands take place at the end of the previous school year in April or May, utilizing specific band audition music. Percussion students complete the audition process in late November. Results of this audition will determine which concert band class period they will be assigned. This may result in a schedule change for the second semester.

3.3 SECTIONALS

Concert and Symphonic Bands, and the Wind Ensemble, have a sectional practice schedule that will be distributed at the beginning of the spring semester. Sectionals can either be scheduled before or after school. The Band Directors will ask the students to let them know of any potential conflicts before they schedule the sectional practice times.

3.5 CONCERTS

All three HS bands give three concerts during the year. The first is the Holiday Concert in December, followed by a pre-UIL concert, usually in March, about a week before the UIL Concert contest, and finally, the Spring Concert in May. There may also be opportunities to watch the bands rehearse with outside clinicians during the season.

3.6 CONCERT UNIFORM

The band program provides the concert uniform. It utilizes the black marching pants with a plain black jacket. Students must provide their long black socks and black marching shoes, and short-sleeved t-shirt to wear under the jacket.

3.7 COMPETITIONS

Although concert band season is not nearly as hectic as marching season, there are several important competitions:

- UIL (University Interscholastic League) Region 18 Solo and Ensemble - competition for high school students. Because of the opportunity for advancement, UIL Eligibility rules apply for participation in this event. All DSHS band students will be required to prepare and perform a solo. Pieces are selected from a UIL specified list at different “class” levels for each student depending on playing ability. Students are graded on a level 1-3, with 1 being the highest rating. If a student receives a Division 1 rating on a Class 1 piece that has been performed from memory, they qualify to attend the UIL Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest.
- Students may also perform as part of an ensemble but must receive a Division 1 to qualify to attend the State contest in May. Please make sure that your student is available on the weekend the State competition is scheduled, particularly if they are part of an ensemble.
- UIL Concert and Sightreading - competition for High School bands. This is typically held in April, and the bands can receive a rating between Division 1 – 5, with 1 being the highest rating.
- State Honor Band –In alternating years, a recording of the Wind Ensemble’s UIL music is submitted for judging on the Region level. If the band receives a high enough score, it goes to compete in Area. If the recording is determined to be one of the top two in Area, it goes on for judging at the State level. The top scoring band at the State level is designated State Honor Band for the following year and they are invited to perform at the Texas Music Educators Clinic and Convention in February.
- Additional Concert contests may be scheduled for the Wind Ensemble during May, at the discretion of the Band Directors.

3.8 PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

After the competitive marching season concludes the Percussion section shifts gears to band placement auditions and the holiday concert music. The band placement auditions use region music and region auditions to determine which band period the students will be in during the spring semester. After the holiday performance with the winds, the Percussion section starts to learn Percussion ensemble music and hand out solos for the first solo contest of the spring semester.

The beginning of the spring semester is largely focused on Percussion ensemble music and solo work. The first solo contest occurs in early February followed by the district wide Percussion concert in late February. The middle of the semester is solely focused on UIL preparation with the

concert ensembles. After UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest, students compete in a second solo contest with the winners performing at the "Family Dinner" event in April. The spring semester wraps up with the Spring band concert and marching Percussion auditions.

3.9 WINTER GUARD

Winter Guard consists of all the Color Guard performers in the Tiger Band and any other non-guard students interested. There may be a Varsity and JV team, depending on the total number of performers. Enrollment in the Varsity class is required for placement on the Varsity team, unless at Director's approval.

Winter Guards perform shows set to edited, recorded music and utilize the usual Guard accoutrements of flags, sabers, and rifles, as well as other props. A large, digitally printed tarp is often used to cover the gym floor, helping to set the stage for the performance. Units are grouped into "classes" and judged on the effect of the design of the show, and the aptitude of the members in movement and equipment work based on the criteria of that class.

Competitions are held in HS gymnasiums and college arenas from January through early April. The Texas Color Guard Circuit (TCGC) offers local competitive competitions, with circuit championships in early April. For the Varsity Guard, there may be additional costume fees depending on the show concept and needs. Winter Guard International (WGI) sponsors widely attended regional championships leading to the WGI World Championships held in Dayton, OH. There may be some overnight hotel fees that each student is responsible for depending on when and where the contests are located.

3.10 BAND BALL

Generally in April, the Band Council coordinates a Band Ball to which all band students are invited to attend. It is a celebration of all the Band's group and individual achievements throughout the year. Dinner is served along with dancing and socializing.

3.11 JAZZ BAND

The Tiger Jazz program is an after school organization, rehearsals beginning after the marching band season has completed. Depending on interest level, there may be auditions for band placement. The Jazz Band is open to all Tiger Band students and includes the following instruments: Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Drum set, Vibes, Guitar and Bass. Students playing non-traditional band instruments do not need to be part of the DS Band program but will need to audition with the Band Directors prior to signing up.

The Jazz band performs at several events during the year. Past events include:

- An Evening of Jazz in the Spring
- Founders Day Festival Celebrations in April
- Various events at the Middle schools and Elementary schools
- Jazz Festivals

3.12 BAND TRIPS

Band trips will occur generally every two years. Trips will have some performance or competitive component built into the experience. The scope, distance and cost of the trip will vary, but every Tiger Band student will have the opportunity to participate in at least one Band Trip during their 4 years. Non-competitive trips will be optional, competitive trips may be required. Each student is responsible for the cost of the trip, but cost should not be considered an impediment to participating in the program. The Tiger Band Boosters are committed to ensuring that all students that wish to participate are given the opportunity through scholarship or sponsorship assistance.

The Spring Break 2013 trip was to Orlando, Florida, and included time at Universal Studios and Disneyland and the opportunity to visit Disney Studios and record a cartoon soundtrack as a session musician. The March 2017 trip was to Hawaii and included playing a concert on the Missouri in Pearl Harbor, as well as many wonderful sightseeing opportunities. The 2014 trip to Atlanta, GA, and the 2018 trip to St. Louis, MO the Tiger Band competed in BOA Super Regional Contests. The 2023 trip was to Indianapolis, IN for the BOA Grand Nationals Championships. Future trips, for example, may include the following destinations: Carnegie Hall in New York City, Western International Band Clinic in SeaTac, WA, Music for All Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis, IN.

4. DRIPPING SPRINGS BAND BOOSTERS

4.1 PURPOSE

The Dripping Springs Band Boosters is incorporated as a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization to provide both fiscal and organizational support for the Dripping Springs Band Programs at the High School and Middle Schools.

The school district is not able to cover all the items necessary to make the DS Band Program competitive with the best bands in Texas. By offering volunteer support to manage many of the organizational tasks associated with such a large program, we can enable the band directors to do what they do best, teach our students.

4.2 BAND BOOSTER BOARD

The DS Band Booster Board is elected on an annual basis at the Annual Membership Meeting in April for the following fiscal year, which runs from June 1st – May 31st. Any Booster member may seek election for office.

The Board is composed of the following officers eligible to vote, with the exception of the President, at the Board meetings.

- President - responsible for the overall coordination of the Band Boosters, the general communication between the Directors and the band parents, and presiding over all booster board and general membership meetings. Votes only in the case of a tie.

- Secretary - responsible for taking the minutes at all board and general membership meetings, and maintaining files of previous minutes and agendas. The Secretary keeps copies of all the by-laws and other legal documents, and gives all notices as provided in the by-laws or as required by law.
- Treasurer - responsible for the financial record keeping of the organization including preparation and tracking of the budget, all deposits and withdrawals, and writing of checks. A monthly financial report is given at every general membership meeting.
- VP Chaperones - responsible for coordinating the chaperones for home football games and all away events.
- VP Concessions - responsible for coordinating the work and volunteers for the concession stand for home football games, graduation, and special events.
- VP Communications - responsible for sending out the weekly newsletter from the directors to the parents and maintaining social media sites. Photography/videography is also part of the communications team.
- VP Fundraising - responsible for overall coordination of the fundraising events. Most of these events have separate organizing committees.
- VP Uniforms - responsible for coordinating the fitting, distribution and check-in, maintenance and cleaning of all uniforms.
- Color Guard Liaison - represents the Color Guard in the booster organization.
- Percussion Liaison - represents the Percussion group in the booster organization.

4.3 MEMBERSHIP

Any family who has a child in the high school band program is a member of the DS Band Booster organization and is entitled to vote at the general membership meetings. There is an optional annual Band Booster membership fee of \$25/year per family. This covers families with siblings.

4.4 COMMUNICATION

Most of the communication regarding Band Booster volunteer needs and events takes place via announcements on Boosterhub. It is very important that you keep your email updated in the Boosterhub system to ensure you continue to receive communications.

4.5 WEBSITES

The High School Band Program website (<https://dstigerband.com>) is updated by the Band Boosters and contains information for your student including:

- Band Program Calendar
- Announcements
- Director Information
- Band Information
- Photos
- Video Clips
- Booster Board Contact Information

- Parent Handbook
- Required Forms
- Information on Fundraisers and Sponsorship Opportunities
- Links to SmugMug, Facebook, Instagram, and the DSISD website.

The band’s official communication is BoosterHub. Please visit regularly for announcements and communications from the Directors (<https://app.boosterhub.com/>).

The Band Boosters also have a Parent Facebook group to share posts and information with fellow band parents (www.facebook.com/groups/tigerband25/).

4.6 FUNDRAISERS

The Boosters organization holds several fundraisers throughout the year to be able to pay for items in the band program budget that are not covered by the school district. Currently, these include items such as music and drill for the marching program, additional instructors for Percussion and Color Guard, props for the marching program, a music library, percussion supplements, etc. Any items purchased by the booster organization are intended to benefit the band program as a whole. Parent volunteers are needed every year for all of these fundraisers. Please contact a Booster Board member if you have any questions about volunteering.

4.6.1 HEB CARDS

Purchasing HEB/Central Market Gift cards each month is an easy way for you, your family, and friends to support the band without spending any additional out-of-pocket money. You simply purchase gift cards at their face value (\$20, \$50 and \$100 increments) and HEB donates a percentage of the card value to the Dripping Springs Band Boosters. Gift cards can be used on all food, gas, pharmacy, cafeteria, or photo purchases --anything you usually buy at HEB or Central Market. The Boosters sell HEB Cards by mail-order. To learn more about this program, including how to purchase cards, please email hebcards@dsbandboosters.org

4.6.2 CONCESSIONS

The Band Boosters have a contract with the DSISD to coordinate and provide volunteers for the preparation and operation of the concession stand at the HS stadium for all home football games. The profit from the concession stand is THE major fundraiser for the Tiger Band, and parents are highly encouraged to volunteer to work at least 2 Home Game shifts per adult over the course of the season. While it does take extra time, energy, and person-power, this is a great social opportunity to really support the Tiger Band Program

4.6.3 EVENING OF JAZZ

In the Spring, the Jazz Bands hold their Evening of Jazz at a local venue. The High School and Middle Schools Jazz Bands provide the entertainment. This is a fun event for both students and parents. Volunteers are needed to plan and execute prior to the night of the event and setup and clean-up of the day of the event.

4.6.4 THUNDER IN THE HILLS DRUMLINE CONTEST

The Band Boosters holds an annual Drumline Contest, Thunder In The Hills (TITH), usually on the 3rd Saturday in September. We rely on sponsorships, drumline registrations, and concessions to help raise funds for the band program. This event requires planning ahead of time, coordinated by Band Booster volunteers and Directors. Students are required to volunteer for at least one shift, and lots of adult volunteers are needed throughout the day.

4.6.5 PAGEANTRY IN THE SPRINGS TCGC CONTEST

The Band Boosters may host Texas Color Guard Circuit Contest, Pageantry in the Springs. This event could occur between the end of January and the end of March. We rely on sponsorships and concessions to help raise funds for the band program. This event requires planning ahead of time, coordinated by Band Booster volunteers and Directors. Students are required to volunteer for at least one shift, and lots of adult volunteers are needed throughout the day.

4.6.6 SPECIFIC GROUP FUNDRAISERS

Specific groups, such as Percussion or Color Guard, may do their own fundraisers throughout the year to supplement their specific group's needs. The parents of students in these specific groups lead the volunteer effort to coordinate these fundraisers.

4.7 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

None of the volunteer positions described below require any kind of previous experience and we promise to provide all the "on the job" training necessary, you just need to show up and have fun! A description of volunteer opportunities can be found on the Tiger Band website (<https://dstigerband.com>). The first opportunity to sign up to help in any of the areas described is during Pre-Season camp. Additional information is made available at Band Registration. There will also be plenty of other requests for help throughout the year! We also need volunteers for all of the fundraisers listed above in Section 4.6.

4.7.1 CHAPERONES

We need parent chaperones for every football game (home or away) and all marching contests or UIL events that the band attends. Chaperones check students on and off the buses and sign out any students who leave from the off-campus location. You will stay with the band in the bleachers throughout the event; at full-day marching contests, you also stay with the band for warm-up, meals, nap time, etc. If a student becomes ill, a chaperone may need to stay with that student on a bus and forego seeing the band's performance. We strive to have a nurse accompany the band to all events, either as a chaperone, or in addition to the chaperones.

We prefer that chaperones ride the buses to away games or marching contests, as we need two chaperones on each bus (in addition to one Band Director per bus). If you want to help and absolutely cannot ride the bus, you may drive yourself or ride with a trailer puller.

4.7.2 PIT AND PROP CREW

For every game (home and away), or marching contest, we need a group of parents to help move the Percussion pit equipment, and props, onto and off of the field, before and after our show respectively. This is key to helping our performance run smoothly. The band students will direct you regarding what to take and where to place it. For away games and events, pit/prop volunteers can also be part of the chaperone crew; but for home games, pit/prop crew can watch the game from the stands, then join the percussion group on the track 6 min. before half-time, and return to the stands by the 3rd quarter.

4.7.3 MOVERS

The needs for moving the band varies year to year. Depending on requirements, parent volunteers may need to drive box trucks, use personal vehicles (or district vehicles) to pull cargo trailers, and/or help load and unload the trailers before and after competitions. This volunteer opportunity does not end with marching season! In the off season, parent volunteers assist with pulling trailers to colorguard and concert band events. If you have any questions or would like to be on the list of drivers, please reach out to bandmovers@dsbandboosters.org

Note: If you use your personal vehicle, your auto insurance policy should cover the trailer once it is hooked up to your vehicle, but you might want to confirm this with your particular insurance provider.

4.7.4 UNIFORMS

The Uniform VP and volunteers do an amazing job fitting all the uniforms within the first few weeks of school. This involves fitting, making alterations, and pressing. If you have basic hand sewing or ironing skills and would be willing to help, they would be most grateful. This can be a fairly flexible job timewise. The uniform crew has a very organized system for distributing and collecting uniforms on game and contest days. This includes volunteer help upon the band's return to the Band Hall. This is a great volunteer opportunity for parents of non-driving students, as you would be helping out while you're waiting for your student anyway.