

***Arlington Heights High School
Yellow Jacket Bands***



Student and Parent Handbook

Arlington Heights High School

4501 West Freeway

Fort Worth, TX 76107

682-233-3179

Mrs. Sarah Weeks, *Principal*

Mr. David Wiebers, *Band Director*

Mr. Spencer Crawford, *Asst. Band Director*

2018-2019

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Arlington Heights High School Band Program!

Congratulations on deciding to join one of the premier musical ensembles in Fort Worth, TX! “Achieving EXCELLENCE through dedication, unity, high expectations, and consistency” is the mission of the Arlington Heights High School Band. As new students make their commitment to join the award-winning program, we are just as committed to offering you one of the most outstanding opportunities in the high school experience: being included as a member of one, or more, of our accomplished performing groups!

For those of you who may be new to the Arlington Heights High School Band Program, we offer students a wide variety of performance opportunities including participation in the pride of Arlington Heights: The Yellow Jacket Marching Band, our highly esteemed Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble and various other ensembles!

It is our sincere hope that, as you join our current student membership and parent volunteers, you will be able to experience for yourself the personal satisfaction and recognition that will certainly continue to be the result of our dedication to, and love of, music.

This handbook is intended to be used by the students, parents, administrators, staff and directors as a convenient source of information regarding the varied aspects of the Heights Band Program. We have tried to cover as thoroughly as possible every facet of the program. Students and parents must read this handbook carefully and sign and return the agreement form located in the book. Band members are expected to abide by and understand all rules and regulations set forth in this handbook. That level of dedication and purpose will lead to performances filled with **passion and pride!**

The friends we make, the lessons we learn, and the skills we develop over the years of band will last a lifetime. We are truly a family.

We look forward to welcoming you into our band family!

GO JACKETS!

David Wiebers
Director of Bands
Arlington Heights High School
david.wiebers@fwisd.org

Your Very First Assignment

Assignment: Get Connected to CHARMS

The very first assignment for Yellow Jacket Band parents and students is to create a CHARMS account. With Charms, you can keep up to date with the band program. There are several things that you can do once you login to Charms. You can check the band calendar, email teachers, view handouts and student forms, view your child's absences and tardies from rehearsals, and even keep a practice log of your student's practice time. It is easy to login to Charms, and for those of you who are new this year, a step by step guide follows:

Step 1

Visit www.charmsoffice.com

Step 2



Click on "Enter" then on "Parents/Students/Members"

Enter the school code: "ArlingtonHtsBand"

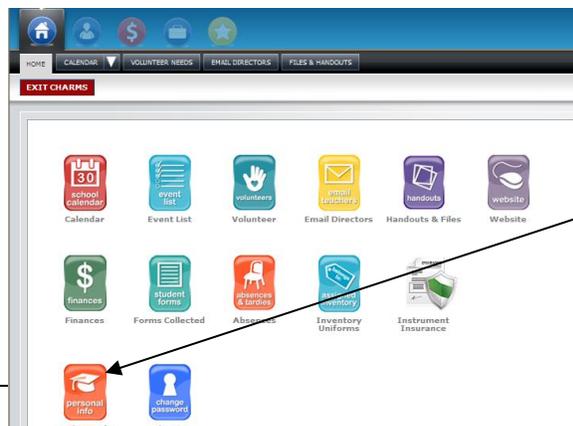
Step 3



Type your student ID# here and select "Enter"

If you do not know your student's ID number, contact the band office for assistance.

Step 4



You can now access the Parent/Student Area.

Please take time to update your Personal Contact Information

Performing Ensembles

I. Marching Band

To be a member of the Arlington Heights High School Yellow Jacket Marching Band, which is a competitive marching band under the University Interscholastic League (UIL) guidelines, each member must be enrolled in the proper band class during the school day. Each member must comply with all rules and regulations of his particular band class. The students agree to attend summer rehearsals and are required to attend band camp. Exceptions must be cleared through the directors well in advance. Each member must meet all financial obligations and must attend all rehearsals and performances of the group. Fundraisers will be available to help meet the financial obligations. Marching Band is designated as a “Co-Curricular” activity at Arlington Heights High School. Very high expectations are held by each marching band member. A commitment to excellence means a commitment to be present at every marching band rehearsal.

II. Concert Bands

This year, the Arlington Heights Band will be expanded to include two auditioned concert groups: Symphonic Band and Concert Band. Much more detailed information may be obtained about the Bands from the ensemble’s class syllabus which is distributed on the first day of class each semester. Please read the syllabus carefully – all concert dates will be distributed the first day of school and can already be found on the band website.

III. Jazz Ensembles, Percussion Ensembles, Winter Guard, and other small ensembles

These ensembles are all co-curricular and normally begin once Marching Band season is over. The Winter Guard is an active and integral part of our program, and our jazz program is in the restructuring process which is promising to be the premier high school jazz ensemble in the district. Heights also offers several chamber ensemble opportunities which compete at the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest. We are extremely proud of all of our small ensembles and soloists, giving students ample opportunity to perform in groups and individually to showcase their talents and interests.

Financial Information

Fort Worth ISD provides basic support for their band programs. We are fortunate that FWISD holds the arts in very high regard as an academic subject and provides a high level of support for all arts programs. However, since the financial investment to maintain the level of excellence in our band program is great, our band booster club must supplement the system’s support of our band program. Fundraising events are scheduled throughout the year to help our band program maintain the high level of success that we have enjoyed and to help individual students offset any costs related to band events. If a band family experiences financial difficulty, the director should be notified. Fundraisers and payment plans will be available to ensure that all students who wish to participate in the Arlington Heights High School Band program will be given the opportunity to do so. Please note that if this case arises, the director must be notified. Such cases will be treated with strict confidence.

Band Fee

The band directors and staff work to create a budget each year that is an estimation of the necessary operating expenses needed for the following school year. The directors, along with the Band Booster Executive Board, work to outline and estimate the profits from scheduled fundraisers throughout the year. In most cases, a shortfall exists between these two figures. This shortfall is divided equally among all participating members in the various ensembles of the Arlington Heights Band program. This amount is called the “Band Fee”. The amount of the fee must be paid for participation in the band. For families that may be struggling financially, the Band Boosters are able to make accommodations to those that fill out a written Assistance Form which can be obtained from the band office.

Traditions and Philosophy

The Heights Band has developed a proud tradition of excellence since the school was established in 1920. During the past few years and forth coming years, we will experience an unprecedented period of growth in our program. While exciting, this growth brings with it several problems that we will have to address as a program. You, in becoming a member of this organization, assume the responsibility of continuing the proud tradition of the Heights Band and blazing new trails for the future. The AHHS Band program is dedicated to providing educational experiences for its students in the performing arts. All educational activities will take place in an atmosphere which promotes social and artistic development of the students through creative and innovative programs, each based upon high quality leadership and instruction. In addition, it is our belief that the process of continual improvement is just as important as the end result. This places emphasis on the development and growth of each individual student, not specific performances, ratings or placements.

“Success is a journey....not a destination”

Attitude

Those students who have a positive mental attitude, regardless of their individual skills, will always have a place in the Heights Band. A student’s work ethic, treatment of others, and positive attitude have much more to do with this program’s success than individual talent. Heights band students are expected to project a positive mental attitude including a generally cheerful outlook towards rehearsals and performances, cooperation in the preparation and maintenance of equipment and facilities, and an eagerness to do whatever is necessary to be successful. In short, the total band member is someone who is always willing to give their best for the good of the organization and all members in it.

Band Office & Communication

The band office at Arlington Heights High School is the business office of the Arlington Heights High School Band Director. Please treat the office as such. All rehearsal times are published well in advance, so parents should not need a phone call to verify that we have dismissed on time. On occasions where the band is arriving back at an unspecified time, students will be asked to place calls as we approach the school. Please don’t delay in picking up your band student – chaperones and directors would like to leave in a timely manner after travel as well. All communication with the band office is encouraged to take place through email – it is the most efficient means of reaching the band director. Please use the address david.wiebers@fwisd.org or use the link from the band website www.ahhsband.com, by clicking on the “Staff” page. The website contains a wealth of information about our band program. You should check the website often for the latest information about the Heights Band.

Mr. Wiebers may be reached in an emergency via the band office number which also connects to his cell phone at (682)233-3179. Please call or text should something happen at the last minute before a rehearsal or performance.

Band Staff

Paid professionals, technical assistants and guest artists are a vital part of the band program. Without their help, the Heights Band would not be able to achieve the standard to which we aspire. They must have the respect of all students and parents. Staff members are chosen by the director and are directly responsible to the director. Students should give these staff members the same respect they give any member of the AHHS faculty. Any problems should be brought directly to the director. Do not confront the staff member directly. Additional staff will be hired during the course of the season and will provide the highest caliber of instruction for our students.

Grading Policies

When students are enrolled in a band class during the school day, credit is given to that student toward graduation. Each class has specific requirements for earning a numerical grade for participation in the ensemble for that grading period. A very detailed class syllabus is distributed on the first day of class in each group. You are encouraged to read, sign and return the syllabus so that you are aware of the grading and attendance policies of that particular class. All syllabuses are available on our website for ease of reference as well.

Classroom Procedures

All students must be inside the band room before the tardy bells rings. At two minutes after the tardy bell, each student is expected to be in their seat, with instrument, music stand and the necessary materials (PENCIL!!). There will be silence in the band room when the conductor steps onto the podium. Warm up is a crucial time in each rehearsal. This is when we focus on the fundamentals of our playing so that we may improve both as a group and as individuals. Brass players should have all necessary mutes and valve oil. Reed players should have at least one spare reed at their seat during rehearsals. Ideally, you should have four to five "good" reeds that you rotate from day to day. Your reeds will last longer and you will get better play from them if you do not use the same reed all of the time. Percussionists should make sure you have all of the required equipment needed to perform on your assigned instruments and music prepared before rehearsal begins.

Cases should be left in the instrument storage room. They are unnecessary obstructions in the rehearsal area. At the end of rehearsals, make sure you put all of your equipment away. Everything must be put into the proper storage place at the end of each rehearsal. Instruments must be put back into the instrument storage room until it is time to take them home for practice. All percussion accessories are to be put away at the conclusion of each rehearsal – large equipment will be stored/moved properly at the end of each rehearsal day.

Problems of an individual nature (music missing, instrument problem, etc.) should not take class time. These issues should be dealt with either before school, after school or just before class as a last resort. Talking during rehearsals should be kept to a minimum. Any necessary talking should be about the music we are studying and should never be a distraction to the conductor or other students. When the conductor is instructing, there should be no talking.

Rehearsal and Performance Attendance

Band practices and performances are mandatory. Any request for an exception must be submitted in writing and approved by the directors two weeks in advance of the conflicting date, except in emergencies. Work is not an acceptable excuse for missing rehearsals or concerts. Our schedule is announced far enough in advance to avoid conflicts. Parents, please make every effort to make regular doctor's appointments around the bands schedule whenever possible. Also, please be advised that if you choose to participate in other extra-curricular activities such as cheerleading or cross country, you must work your schedules so that you do not miss band rehearsals or performances for these activities. Students are responsible for arriving at each rehearsal and performance on time (early) and prepared (properly dressed, instrument and music ready). Parents are urged to see that their children take this responsibility seriously. Unexcused absence from a mandatory dress rehearsal or performance will severely affect students' grade.

Please read the following page for excusable and inexcusable absences from a performance or rehearsal

Excusable Absences:

- Sick and not in school
- Death in the family
- Religious holiday
- School activity conflict excused by the director WELL in advance (more than two weeks' notice)

Inexcusable Absences:

- Dentist/Orthodontist appointment
- Driving test or Driver's Ed Courses
- Homework or make-up work (time management is important!)
- Attending a rock concert or sporting event
- Birthday
- Work
- Trips (vacations) without proper advance notice (at least two weeks for rehearsals and four weeks for performances)
- No transportation (section leaders can assist you with rides if you need one)

Inspections

Uniform and instrument inspections will be held prior to each uniformed performance. These are conducted by the Drum Majors, Band President and Section Leaders. All problems noted during inspection will be reported to the director, who will determine whether or not the student will be allowed to perform. If an item from the uniform is missing, uniform parents may be able to assist with additional items available for rent.

Instrument and Equipment Use

Most band members are expected to provide their own instruments. School instruments are available and will be issued at the beginning of each school year for a rental fee due at registration. The student is responsible for proper care and use of the instrument once issued. The school will repair school instruments for issues due to normal use and age. Any damage other than what would be considered normal wear and tear will be the individual student's responsibility to have repaired and the student will be responsible for the cost of said repairs. Individual instruments should always be maintained in top playing condition. Instruments in poor playing condition will have a negative impact on your ensemble. Remember that horseplay can cause damage to instruments and equipment. Be careful with your own instrument and place it out of harm's way if it is necessary for you to put it down. Never play around with or play on someone else's instrument.

Parents are encouraged to provide the best possible instrument for your child. If you are interested in purchasing a "step up" instrument for your child, please speak with your director prior to your purchase. Many times we are aware of other opportunities, and you should always obtain a price from more than one source prior to your purchase. Qualified music retailers are the best source of equipment in most cases.

Uniform Information

Marching band uniforms will be issued by the uniform committee of the Band Booster Club. Uniform fitting will take place during Marching Band registration prior to band camp each summer, beginning with seniors and returning marchers. Marching shoes will also be ordered at this time. A uniform use contract will need to be signed by both student and parent assuming responsibility for the uniform. The uniforms will be kept at school in the uniform room. Uniforms are checked out prior to each performance and returned after each performance. Uniforms will be cleaned several times during the year.

General Band Rules

- Tennis shoes and socks must be worn to all marching rehearsals
- Chewing gum is not permitted in any rehearsal or the band room
- No food or drink is allowed inside the band room at any time
- A band member must respect the AHHS Band uniform at all times
- There is absolutely no hazing allowed within the Heights Band
- Be in your seat, prepared for rehearsal on time
- Treat all students as you would like to be treated
- Respect other people's property
- Public displays of affection are not allowed while on a band function.
- No jewelry (other than assigned jewelry for some concert uniforms), no fingernail polish nor excessive make-up is allowed while in uniform. Leave expensive jewelry at home.
- Always show other band members courtesy and respect
- Remember to always show your support for other groups' performances
- Show respect for all adults assisting with our band program at all times
- Keep your language clean. You never know who might be listening!
- The Heights Band is a class act, one that exudes professionalism in everything we do. Always conduct yourselves as ladies and gentlemen.

Band Awards Banquet

Annually each spring, the AHHS Band sponsors the annual Awards Banquet. The banquet is held to recognize the achievements, both individual and group, made by the AHHS Band during the year. Every student in the band program will receive some type of recognition at the banquet and all students and parents are urged to attend the celebration. Band Letters, Merit Awards and special recognitions are all a part of the banquet. Also, a special slide show and tribute to our graduating seniors completing four years with the band will take place. The banquet is held off campus and includes a three-course meal – there is a per person charge for the banquet.

Band Letters

The lettering process for band is under revision for the next school year. More details will be given at the start of the school year.

Travel

The Arlington Heights High School Band travels frequently during the year, including many out-of-city and even out-of-state trips. Be aware that travel is very expensive and is a privilege, not a right. FWISD provides transportation to our football game performances and UIL Competitions. The Heights Band utilizes school buses or charter buses when we travel to other marching competitions and other events. In the event that an overnight stay is involved in our travel plans, an itinerary will be prepared and distributed to all students and parents. Remember that all district, school and band rules apply for the duration of the trip. Each time we travel we are representing Arlington Heights High School and our Heights Band Family.

BAND MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE AT THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME, WITH THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT AND READY TO GO ON ALL BAND TRIPS! ADHERING TO THE PRINTED ITENERARY IS VITAL FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE TRIP. ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT THE WISHES OF AN INDIVIDUAL NEVER OVER-RIDES THE COMFORT OF THE GROUP. BAND TRIPS ARE JUST THAT "BAND TRIPS". DO NOT CONFUSE THEM WITH FAMILY VACATIONS WHERE PLANS MAY BE CHANGED ON A WHIM!

EVERY MEMBER OF THE HEIGHTS BAND PROGRAM WILL BE GIVEN A TRAVEL FORM TO COMPLETE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. THIS MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED BEFORE ANY SCHEDULED EVENT SO THE DIRECTORS AND CHAPERONES ALWAYS KNOW HOW TO BEST ASSIST IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.

ROOM/ HOTEL GUIDELINES (Over Night Trips)

- Only assigned roommates or chaperones are allowed in rooms. Due to the large amount of students involved with trips, and the amount of time involved, it is important that all students have the ability to have privacy and sanctuary when needed. All students will enter only those rooms assigned to them. Girls in boys' rooms or boys in girls' rooms will be a serious violation of band rules.
- Students are responsible for any damaged items in their rooms. Report any damaged item prior to moving in. After moving in, students are responsible for the condition of their room.
- No loud TV or music in rooms that may disturb others. Loud talking is not permitted. No running down walkways, corridors, stairs, lobbies, etc. Be courteous to other guests—we are not the only ones staying in the hotel. Students must keep in mind that they represent not only themselves, but their band, their school, and their state whenever they travel.
- No phone calls, movie rentals, or room service at the Hotel. Your personal cell phones or public pay phones are your means of communication. No room to room calls are permitted.

"FREE TIME" GUIDELINES

- Boundaries and check-in times will be set and strictly enforced.
- If free time occurs while at hotel, always stay within the boundaries of the hotel and its grounds.
- Never leave an area in which the band is designated to be with anyone, including parents or friends

Standards for Behavior on Buses

- Re-read the "General Band Rules" and "Travel" found in this handbook.
- Chaperones should check over each bus before anything is loaded and relay any problems to the driver and band directors.
- Chaperones should load before the students and spread out through the bus. The front seats on both sides of the aisle are reserved for the directors and staff members.
- Students must ride on the bus that you sign up on. Do not change buses!
- Students are not to put anything on the bus until told to do so by a chaperone or staff member.
- Students must remain quiet while on campus or point of origin and once we arrive to our destination.
- Roll must be checked before the bus moves and after any stop at which anyone gets off the bus.
- The bus driver is to be treated with respect. Different drivers have different standards and whatever the driver says goes!
- Nothing is ever to protrude outside the bus windows (head, arm, instruments, etc) nor should any item ever be thrown or dropped out of a window.
- Normal conversation is appropriate; shouting or screaming is not. Singing may or may not be ok, depending on the driver, content and musicality. Good singing might be acceptable, bad singing never is.
- Radios, mp3 players or CD players are permitted on school buses as long as headphones are used. Remember that no one but you should hear your mp3 player.
- You are to sit in your assigned seat. You signed up for it, so you must sit in it. Chaperones may re-assign seats if they deem it necessary; students may also be assigned to a different bus at any time at the discretion of the director.
- Students are not permitted to change out of the uniform unless instructed to do so by a director.
- To avoid problems, bus windows should stay up as we enter or leave another school campus.
- All students are to keep the bus clean at all times. At the end of the trip, every student should check the area around which he was sitting, including the floor and overhead storage. Band officers have the responsibility to see that the bus is left in proper condition.
- Public display of affection between students is not allowed on any bus at any time.
- Be courteous and do what the chaperones ask the first time they ask! Always remember to thank the drivers and chaperones when we return.

Football Game Procedures

- Students will check out their uniform for each performance
- Ponchos and woodwind instrument cases will be taken into the stadium if there is a threat of rain
- Plumes will be issued prior to the performance and picked up after the performance (weather permits)
- Percussionists, colorguard, sousaphone and other large equipment need to be ready to load early
- All band instruments and equipment must be sparkling and "ready to go" for inspection
- No band member is permitted to leave the organization in advance of group dismissal at any time, unless excused by the director, in which case a note from the parents is needed
- While seated in the stadium, only band members are allowed in the ranks, and the band will always sit in assigned sections and seats
- Attention should be given to drum majors and directors at all times while the game is underway
- We will play only as a group while in the stands. Solo performance is strictly forbidden. Any section cheers or selections must be rehearsed by the section leader and approved by the directors prior to public performance.
- No inappropriate cheers are ever allowed
- Band members should avoid jumping as the team scores, as this type of enthusiasm may result in damage to an instrument, plus our best support to our team comes from our music!
- In order to move in an organized fashion, we must be able to give instructions in a rapid manner. Everyone will listen to the directors, staff and drum majors when directions are given.
- The band will march to the stadium and back from the stadium. Once we have returned to the bus area, students will wait at attention for dismissal by the directors
- All performances are mandatory. If you are unable to attend a performance, you must provide written explanation in advance. Personal illness, death in the family, weddings and religious holidays are usually the only excuses for missing a rehearsal or performance.

Contests and Festivals

Contests, Festivals and other adjudicated events are important features of the Arlington Heights High School band program. It is through these activities that we obtain feedback about our progress as individual musicians and as an ensemble. Although we never "live or die" by any one judge's or panel of judge's opinion of our performance, it is important that we learn the value of giving maximum effort and standing by the results as our best possible effort on that day.

Competitive performances are packed with emotion. Because of the amount of time, work and discipline required to produce an award-winning performance, we develop great camaraderie within the organization. We share hardship, discomfort, fatigue, heat, cold, disappointment, fears, tears, joys and success. Along with these emotions goes a high level of tension which can often cause students to react immaturely. We learn to avoid these normal pitfalls and to channel our energy and attention toward the goal of performance excellence and the ultimate success that will follow.

The Heights Band will stand with silent pride as scores are announced and graciously accept the results, regardless of outcome. We show our appreciation and respect for those who have earned the right to score ahead of us and gracefully accept our own successes. Many of our competitors will not understand that we are able to congratulate those who are ahead of us and appreciate their performance. These are the people who will not ever know the true reason for participating in a competition, but will mistakenly equate winning with coming in first. We will come in first when we deserve to, based on our performance. Until then, we know "winning" is the state of every individual having endured the hardships, take the chance of competing and done their personal best in their own "commitment to excellence".

The bands image is based on each individual. Our public reputation is based upon our appearance, our actions and our projection of pride. It is the responsibility of each band member, parent and staff member to insure that we present the best possible image at all times.

Solo and Ensemble Competition

The UIL Solo and Ensemble Competition is held in February each year. This event gives students an opportunity to excel individually or in small groups. Students will be assigned a solo or may select their own music from the Prescribed Music List (PML). There will be an entry fee assessed for each event entered. Solos are to be memorized for the performance. All Class I Solos earning a Division One at the region contest have the opportunity to compete at the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Competition (TSSEC) in Austin during the month of May.

District and Region Honor Bands and All State Band

All band students will be issued a copy of the audition material for the auditions at the beginning of the school year. The district audition is typically held in November and the Region Auditions will be held in three phases during December (Phase 1 – all 10 thru 12 grade students and select 9th grade students that wish to compete for All-State; Phase 2 – students that have passed the first phase; 9th grade – all 9th grade students trying out for Region Honor Band only). Area auditions take place in January and are open to all students that advance through Phase 2. The area auditions determine placement within the All-State Band. Region Honor Band clinic and performance takes place in January. The All-State Band performs at the Texas Music Education Association Convention in San Antonio during February. Other Honor Band opportunities may be available to Heights band students during the school year, either based on audition or application. Students will be notified of these events at the appropriate times.

Daily Warm Up Tips and Techniques

I. Warm Up

This part of your daily playing is the most important part. Therefore, use it with great care!

- Don't play in the upper register
- Don't play too low at first
- Don't play too loud
- Don't play too soft

Play in your middle register, mezzo-forte and gradually extend the register and dynamics as your lips and embouchure begin to respond with agility and flexibility. Focus on creating a great, centered tone (Warmth and Clarity)

II. Techniques

Strive to master all phases of your instrument not just one part or the part that you already do well.

Work for progress and results. The four big "dos" for focus during a practice session:

- Do work to increase breathing capacity and support
- Do work to develop embouchure strength and flexibility
- Do work to increase speed and strength of fingers
- Do work to increase tonguing abilities

Each day, attempt to strengthen your breathing technique and gain better control; attempt to strengthen your lip muscles to gain endurance in you playing (long tones are the best); attempt to strengthen your finger muscles for better dexterity and control (a metronome is your best friend here); attempt to strengthen your tonguing muscles to gain control, evenness and speed (in this order...never speed first!)

III. Other Phases (to be covered as needed)

- Range (especially brass)
- Altissimo exercises (clarinets and saxophones)
- Scales and arpeggios
- Interval studies (3rds, 4ths and 5ths)
- Lip slurs (brass)
- Chords (broken arpeggios)
- Single/double/triple tonguing
- Flow Studies
- Long tones with crescendos and decrescendos
- Sight reading skills

Coping with the Summer Heat

The band staff is keenly aware of the challenges that come with the heat that is common during the summer in Texas. The band has multiple parent volunteers with medical expertise, and there is always a parent or athletic trainer present at rehearsals. At the marching practice field, water is provided, though students should supply their own; there are frequent breaks with shade available. Fans and mist (when needed) are also provided during breaks. Volunteers do go onto the field if they suspect a student is not looking well and ask the student to take a break. You can help prevent some of the problems caused by the sun and heat if you assure that your child takes some reasonable precautions.

- Drink plenty of fluids the night before (avoid carbonated beverages)
- Wear light colored clothing
- Don't wear jeans or other long pants
- Bring a cooler with your own additional drinks (Gatorade and water is best)
- Wear sunscreen
- Bring a hat or visor
- Bring sunglasses
- Bring insect repellent

As per FWISD regulations, the heat index will be closely monitored by the staff and athletic trainers. Because these could be either inside or outside rehearsals, rain would typically not cause a rehearsal cancellation.

Private Lessons

The AHHS Band has a fantastic group of instructors for every instrument. Private lessons are an irreplaceable component to developing an outstanding musical organization. Students that truly wish to excel on any musical instrument will find private instruction rewarding and enjoyable. As you improve individually, your ensemble improves. As you improve as an individual musician, your excitement towards practicing improves and your ability to contribute to the ensemble improves. The directors will assist you, if needed, in selecting a private instructor. Private lessons are the key to excellence on your instrument and the key to your selection for membership in region and all-state band, so start as soon as possible. Information about the Private Lessons Program at Heights will be issued during the first few days of band camp in August.

Student Leaders

Drum majors, Band President, and section leaders are selected by the director after an application/audition and peer evaluation process. Serving as a student leader means you will work harder and more will be asked of you in every aspect of the band program. Section leaders will assist with the administrative workings of the band as well as have instructional duties.

The band council is a group of leaders that work with the directors in an advisory capacity. These students will also be called on for special presentations to accept awards, have pictures taken with political representatives, etc., on behalf of the band. The Band Council is made up of the Drum Majors, the Band President, and section leaders at large for every concert ensemble and some co-curricular ensembles. Equipment managers will also work with the band council during the marching season. The band council will meet bi-weekly and work closely with the director to provide the most efficient and successful daily rehearsal environment as possible.

All student leaders will carry out the policies of the band, the directors, the school and administration to the best of their abilities. If any student has issues with a student leader, please bring your concern to the director in an appropriate and timely manner (in the middle of a rehearsal is not appropriate). Student leaders cannot give permission to miss a rehearsal or performance, be tardy or leave an event early. Student leaders should be positive and work in the best interest of the Arlington Heights High School Band.

Band Boosters

Parents are an important part of the Heights Band program, and have a vital role to play. Without the assistance of and cooperation of the band parents, there would be no chance to reach the level of performance and excellence we aspire to. There are many things parents can do:

- Attend monthly Band Booster Club meetings held in the band room.
- Volunteer for parent committees. There are many different committees from which to choose: chaperones, uniforms, transportation, equipment, and publicity are a few of the numerous committees.
- Be supportive of the band program and your child’s participation by:
 1. Assisting your child to be prepared and punctual for every rehearsal and performance
 2. Notifying the directors if your child is to be absent or late for a performance or rehearsal. This should be done in advance except in emergency situations.
 3. Encouraging your child to practice at home and help them find a quiet place to do so.
 4. Showing your interest and support in your child’s music study by enthusiastically attending every performance possible – they may not admit it to you, but this means the world to your student!
 5. Discussing with the directors and staff anything that will help them understand and better serve your child.
 6. Arranging for private lessons for your child if at all possible.