

Rookie Survival Guide

Hello parents, Rookie year is the most daunting as there is so much new information being thrown at you at once, so I want to go ahead and address some questions that you may have now.

Camps- We will have three camps that will take place this summer

July 16th-19th will be rookie camp 8:00 am- 12:00 pm- this is where your kids will learn how to march and get familiar with the expected rules of marching band. **This is required for ALL first time marchers regardless of grade level.**

July 15th-19th will be percussion camp 12:30-5:30- This is where the percussion students will learn the show music on their instrument with the rest of the drum line. We will have a professional come in to assist in the learning process. **This is required for ALL percussion players, regardless of if they are rookies or not. This is ONLY for percussion players.**

July 15-19th will be auxiliary camp 12:30-5:30- This is where your child will learn the routine to go with the show music. We will have a professional come in to assist in the learning process **This is required for ALL auxiliary members, regardless of if they are rookies or not. This is ONLY for auxiliary members.**

If your student is both a rookie and a percussionist/ auxiliary member please send them with lunch so that they may eat from 12:00-12:30, or send them with money and a permission slip to go across the street to country boys for lunch.

July 22-26th will be Full band camp. This is where the full band will get together and learn not just the show music, but also the marching drill. We will attempt to learn as much of the show as possible during this time. We will have 5 professionals come in to assist in helping the students get the most out of this week as possible. **This is required for ALL marchers in the band!**

Lunch will be provided during full band camp for all students.

Missing these camps can result in sidelining for performances or even removal from the program, they are extremely important!

Uniforms-

We will fit your child for uniforms and marching shoes during band camp. These uniforms stay in the band room and are not to go home at any point. The uniforms belong to the school, but your child will be using them for the season. We send the uniforms off to be dry cleaned, do not

attempt to clean them yourself. Since the uniforms are school property, your child is expected to take good care of them. If damages are caused by neglect or misbehavior on the child's part, repairs or even replacement will be required from the family.

Cost- My band boosters will be sending home a letter this week explaining the money needed to run the program. The total will be no more than it has been in the past years which is \$400. With that said, rookie year does come with a few expenditures that you only have to pay once but are not included in the letter being sent by them.

Marching shoes- \$34

Flip Folder(used to hold the music in the stands)- \$10

Lyre (used to attach the flip folder to the instrument)-\$10

Band Boosters-

Just as with sports, the band takes a lot of people to make it run smoothly. We have a band booster organization that helps take care of things needed for our band. Parents of students who are in band are asked to join us for band booster meetings that are held in the band room on the first Monday of the month at 5:15pm CST. There are a few meetings that will be at different times or days, these are listed on the important dates page. These meetings are usually no longer than an hour. We discuss and vote on many important things.

Band parents will be asked to volunteer to help out at times with things such as running the concession stands. By no means do we expect each parent to work each game, but I do ask that each parent work at least one game in a season so that we share the load evenly. At the end of the day, everything that you will be asked to do is for the benefit of these kids!

Information dissemination-

RHSbulldogband.org

Site password: bulldogband

I will make weekly updates on our band website, however, to make sure that you are notified when I make a post I will send out a link on our Remind app. If your child has a phone, I ask that both you and your child are in the Remind group. I will send some information to the students only and at times I will send information to parents only. These notifications are typically no more than once a week and are always at reasonable hours.

If there is ever something that you don't know or have a question on, I encourage you to reach out to me personally at kevin.dunham@cleburneschools.net There is no question too silly to ask me, this is new to you just as much as it is to your child.

Attendance-

Band is a group activity and I say to the kids often "We either succeed together or we fail together". Due to this aspect of band, we count on each other to be reliable. All practices and performances are required. We have 10 football games in the regular season and any potential playoff games depending on the season, we also have up to three competitions a season as well as a Christmas parade.

Missing over half of the practices in a week will result in the student being sidelined for the performance that week. This is not just a punishment, but also to ensure the safety of everyone involved, if a student doesn't know where they are supposed to march, it can be a danger to all involved.

When a student is sidelined, they are still expected to be present at the game and play in the stands.

Missing a football game or competition will result in a zero in the gradebook.

Football Games-

The band will attend ALL varsity football games and perform our show at them. We will ride buses to the away games. I will post a call time for the game each week so that the kids know when to be in the band room. In the past two years we have had food provided for the students before each game, we plan to get this again this year.

Students are welcome to stay in the band room with me until call time on these days, but if they do so they must stay IN the band room and not run in and outside. I am legally responsible for them if they stay, so this rule is to help me keep an eye on them and ensure their safety. I do allow the students to go across the street to country boys briefly for food/ drinks with parental permission.

As stated above, all varsity football games are not only required, but are a test grade. Missing too many football games can result in removal from the program.

When at these games we have a blast! The students get to play music in the stands for 1st, 2nd, and 4th quarter to help energize and pump up the fans. The students are expected to be engaged in the game and cheer for our team. We will have the 3rd quarter off for the students to get food from the concession stands following our halftime performances.

Competitions-

Just like with sports, band is also competitive. We will travel to up to three competitions in a season, dates provided in the important dates page. These are the most important part of the season as we get to go compete against other bands that have also been working hard.

Much like the football games the competitions are graded, but are worth TWO test grades instead of one.

Missing a competition can even result in removal from the band program. I can not stress enough that we either succeed together or fail together and missing people will GREATLY impact our capability.

These competitions are not just the most important part of the season, but also the most fun! We will find out our performance time a week or two before the competitions. After we perform, we will have the chance to watch other bands and enjoy meeting other band students as well as get food from concession stands and sometimes food trucks. These days are often the favorite of the whole band!

Leadership-

Marching band is a very unique program in that we use a thing called the chain of command to help everything run smoothly. The chain of command is as follows

Mr. Dunham, Instructors(professionals hired by the band to help out), Head Drum Major, Co Drum major, band Captain, Section Leaders, Section Members.

The purpose of the chain of command is to delegate responsibilities making everything run smoother. If a student has a need, their section leader is the first person that they will ask. If this need is above the section leaders capability it works it's way up the chain, next would be the band captain. If there is something that is serious, obviously that students will come directly to me instead.

Example: A student realizes that they can not find their shoes. They will go find their section leader who will either help them find it, or take them to the extra shoe box and help them find a pair that fits.

You see that in this case, there was no need to involve the band director as it could easily be solved beforehand.

Another example: The student is having a hard time with a rhythm. They go ask their section leader, but the leader is also having a hard time, the leader will then take the student to the band captain who will be able to help them out.

In this example, the section leader was not able to fully help, so they went to the next person in the chain of command. In this case the band captain was able to handle it, but if not, they too would continue to go up until resolved.

The idea behind the chain is to find not only the best, but also the simplest solutions to problems.

Most sections have two section leaders with the exception of low brass who have three and clarinet and dance line who both have 1 only. The students need to be respectful to the leaders just as they would to an adult. If in any case a leader is not acting appropriately as a leader should, please approach me directly instead of using the chain of command.

I personally interviewed and auditioned to select my leaders, they are all kids that I trust highly.

Sectionals-

There are times in practice where we will have sectionals. Sectional is when each instrument goes to a designated area and works on music specific to that instrument. This is the time that the section leaders do the most work, as they are the ones who run these. Mr. Dunham and the Drum Majors will make their way to each sectional, but it is led by the section leaders.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, I love getting to know the parents just as much as the students so never feel like you are a burden if you reach out, I assure you I want to help!

Thank you for reading through all of this, let's have a great season and welcome to the RHS Bulldog band!