



The Unofficial Guide
for
New Marching Band
Parents

Marching Band 101

A guide for new band parents (and veterans, too).

This guide is the product of former “new band parents” who spent a good bit of time in our first year in various stages of confusion. We hope this document will help ease you through the transition from “new band parent” to “veteran” band parent.

Before we get started, let’s talk about communication. There are several ways to stay up to date on all things band related:

1. Mr. Bream updates the band’s website. He does an excellent job of keeping this and the calendar up to date, check it often!
2. Band App! Make sure to download and join the Band App with the code given for the respective school year. So as to not flood graduating parents/guardians, a new group is created yearly.
3. Bands Facebook Page-(Scotland HS Performing Ensembles). This is another key resource, if you are not on Facebook, you may want to consider joining just to follow this page.
4. Email communications- we also communicate frequently via email.
5. Instagram- follow Scotland_Bands
6. Website: www.scotlandbands.com

Here is a high-level breakdown of what to expect in the upcoming months:

May/June- Marching Band mini-camp and rehearsals

Minicamp is a very important and smaller scale version of band camp for new members. Students learn the fundamentals of marching and music, and use the time to prepare for the fall marching season. Those dates are given out and are on the various calendars. It is required for your student to attend **and** to have a physical on file.

July/August-Marching Band Camp

Band camp begins in late July/early August. The staff and students work very hard for about 8 hours a day, five days a week. The scheduled start and stop times may vary from day to day. (Mr. Bream will update the schedules on the calendars, please check it often as times and dates may change.) During camp, students learn the music and the marching routine for the fall show. They spend quite a bit of time outside each day. It is important that they dress appropriately. The kids get quite a workout. Be prepared for running laps and plenty of sweating. It is an experience most of the kids “love to hate.”

Band Camp Necessities:

- T-Shirts (it is HOT during the summer)
- Shorts
- Comfortable sneakers (no flip-flops or crocs!)
- Hat (optional)
- Sunglasses (optional)
- Sun Screen
- Water Container – we require a 1-gallon water container labeled with your child’s name. (unlimited water refills are available throughout the day)

Make sure your students eat a good breakfast before band camp, but please make sure they do NOT have dairy products for breakfast. We also recommend that they drink plenty of WATER before and during band camp. The band boosters do provide snacks during band camp. (Information will be sent out prior to band camp letting you know how you can contribute snacks.)

There is another major benefit of camp – when your freshman marching band student arrives for the first day of high school, he or she will already be a part of a well-respected group and will have a whole new group of friends (across all grades) to help with the transition into high school.

Pick up and Parking

When picking up your student after rehearsals, camp, and games please park in the last lot on the stadium side of the school. There is quite a bit of foot traffic and students moving instruments. It is a safety hazard to have parents driving through the lot.

Parent Preview

Band camp culminates with a “Parent Preview” at the end of band camp. The kids will show off everything they have learned. It is great fun to come out and see how far the kids have come in just a short time.

Post Band Camp

The fun continues! After the conclusion of band camp, the students rehearse nightly- usually 2-3 times a week until school/football games starts. Current schedules can be found on the various calendars. Students will still need to wear a t-shirt and shorts to rehearsals.

Once school starts, the students will rehearse after school on Tuesday and Thursdays, and some Mondays, with games on Friday. Check the various calendars regularly for updates!

Football Games

Home Games:

The band performs the national anthem at the home football games, as well as their show at half time and pep music in the stands. The band is usually one of the last groups to leave the stadium, and after each home game the band will march back to the band room. Mr. Bream does some quick announcements and then they have to pack up/clean up before being dismissed. Pick up in back parking lot after the game. The good news is that the game traffic is usually done by the time you leave the school! 😊

Call time for all games (home and away) will be posted on the website, the Band App, and the Facebook page.

Away Games:

A pep band performs in the stands at all away games. The students travel to the game on an activity bus, drop off and pick up is at SHS. You will need to send money with your student for food (concession stands) for the game. Students usually do not wear uniforms to away games unless it is in the latter part of the season. Band shirt and shorts/jeans.

Parades

The marching band participates in two Christmas Parades (the Hamlet and Laurinburg) each year. We also have a Homecoming parade, usually in October. Times and locations will be posted on the website, Band App, and Facebook pages.

Uniforms

Your student will be issued a marching uniform consisting of jacket, kilt, sporran, plaid, and brooch. These uniforms are the property of Scotland High School and are stored at the school. These uniforms will not be sent home. "Summer Uniform" is the marching uniform minus the jacket. In the place of the jacket students will wear a short sleeve, white button down oxford shirt. This will need to be purchased before the end of band camp.

Marching Shoes and LONG black socks (no ankle socks) will also be worn as part of the uniform. Marching shoes are \$45 dollars, and will belong to the student.

Band T-Shirts

A "show shirt" is provided to your student included in their fees. This shirt should be worn under the uniform and other events as directed by Mr. Bream.

Band Boosters

The Marching Band program is supported by a parent-run organization – the Scotland High School Band Boosters. By having a student in the band program at Scotland, you are automatically a part of the band booster organization. Parents volunteer their time in order to help provide your students with an enjoyable and rewarding band experience. Please join us during our monthly band booster meetings as it is your opportunity to voice your opinions, hear about how you can get more involved and most importantly get to know other parents too. We welcome all new parents and look forward to getting to know you and your students!

Want to be a part of the fun?! We need your help!!

During marching season, the students need many hands behind the scenes to make their show successful. It truly "takes a village" to keep the band programming running!

Below are some common areas for you to volunteer:

- Chaperone -There are many opportunities to chaperone- Home games, away games, parades. It is a great opportunity to meet new band parents and help out the program.
- Roadies- They help transfer equipment and get it on and off the field during half-time shows.
- Help with uniform fittings and alterations. (happens over the summer during band camp)
- Any other special talents or skills you have to offer the program! (sewing, business connections for snacks/donations, etc.)
- Help with concessions at the home football games!
- Please see a Board Member with questions or to volunteer

Fundraising

Believe it or not, your commitment fees do not cover all of the band expenses. The commitment fees actually only cover about 1/3 of our operating costs (music arrangements, staff, transportation, equipment upkeep, etc.). We rely heavily on fundraising to cover our operating costs. If every band parent would commit to participating in one or two fundraising events we would be in great shape.

We have several different fundraisers throughout the year including our Booster Card sale in August, Concession stands during the sports seasons, and other various events throughout the school year.

Participation is key and we ask that you please try your best to help out the program.

Helpful Hints

Mr. Bream, the staff and the booster organization want this to be a positive experience for all the students and their families. Here are some helpful hints (learned from our own experiences):

- The BEST Way to communicate with Mr. Bream for questions is AFTER rehearsal, or anytime via email.
 - Hold your child responsible for being prepared. The first time they forget something will likely be the last. They really do learn to be resourceful when they have to be.
 - “If you are early, you are on time. If you are on time, you are late. If you are late, get ready for a lap.” This means that students are expected to arrive for all band events scheduled practice 10 minutes early so they are in position and ready to rehearse at the scheduled start time. If start time is 4:00 p.m., plan to arrive by 3:50 p.m.
 - Mr. Bream and the instruction staff try very hard to end practice at the scheduled time. Occasionally practice may run over. Please be patient....it’s usually for a very good reason.
 - Network – Take the opportunity to meet other parents (after practice, at games & competitions, fundraising activities, etc.). This is how we all met each other. It is also the best way to get helpful hints on band parenting from others.
 - Be prepared to cheer! The band loves it when they have their own cheering section at games and competitions.
 - Stay up to date on all schedules via the calendar on all the media sources we have.
 - Don’t hesitate to ask any of the “veteran” band parents or Booster Board Members. We’ve all been there and no question is a “dumb” question.
 - Long Black Socks, Long Black Socks, Long Black Socks...
- Questions?
Contact **Jamie Bream** at: jbream@scotland.k12.nc.us