

FRESHMAN/NEW PARENT GUIDE TO BUC BAND
2008-2009

Welcome to the fun and fast paced world of the Buc Band. The Buc Band Booster Club provides the following explanations so that you can be “in the know” and keep up with life in the Buc Band.

The Booster Club is a non-profit organization that exists to support the band students, directors, and their activities. The duties of the booster club include the following:

- Financial support
- Chaperoning all games, contests, trips
- Loading/unloading trucks/equipment
- Organizing and hosting parties for the band
- Uniform checkout
- Water/Sprites during games/contests
- Maintaining equipment
- Assisting band directors
- Capital Improvements
- Upgrading practice field
- Spirit
- Web Posting / sending information

Meetings are typically held the 2nd Tuesday of each month from August to April – except December. Meetings are approximately one hour, *except the August meeting, which runs closer to 2 hours*. Attending booster club meetings is the best way to stay informed and contribute to the band’s activities. **At the August meeting you will:**

- Be introduced to and hear reports from band directors and booster club officers
- Be able to purchase booster club shirts, hats and window decals
- Sign up to chaperone games
- Sign up for other volunteer opportunities
- Receive answers to your questions

During football season, the band attends all games to play stand tunes and perform their show at halftime. The band also attends 4-5 marching band competitions in October. Students are required to attend all games and contests.

There is a Christmas concert, region band tryouts, solo & ensemble contest, jazz band, chili supper concert, pre-UIL spring concert, UIL concert and sight-reading contest, band-o-rama, and jazz-o-rama. Each spring there is a weekend concert contest/pleasure trip. Once every four years this trip may be out of state – usually to Disney World.

WEBSITE for the band is www.bucband.org maintained by Mike Caserta. Information included at the site:

- Student and parent information
- Calendar
- Marching information
- Concert information
- Officers - contact list
- Activities
- Booster information
- Guest book
- Pictures
- Maps / Directions

A HANDBOOK is given to each student in August. The handbook includes a calendar, grading policies, rules, uniform care, rehearsal requirements, etc. The last page in the handbook must be signed by a parent and returned before a student will be issued their uniform.

ELIGIBILITY: Students must be passing all classes to participate in band activities outside of class time. Student ineligibility adversely affects the whole band’s performance, whether on the marching field or in the concert hall.

STUDENT LOADING/UNLOADING: Student drop off/pick-up zone is the student parking lot or the circle drive in front of the school. **DO NOT AT ANY TIME DRIVE IN THE BUS DRIVEWAY ALONGSIDE THE BAND HALL.** This is for the safety of our children and is reserved for the Directors only. Please communicate this to friends and family who may be picking up or dropping off your student.

BOOT CAMP: Be sure your student has eaten and has consumed water prior to practice time. The purpose of boot camp is to learn marching fundamentals. Bring instruments and a large, filled water bottle. Extra water will be provided to refill bottles.

At all marching practices, including after-school practices, the directors allow for several short (less than 2 minutes) water breaks. It is crucial that your student bring a water jug or bottle of water to every practice.

SUMMER BAND: Summer band begins two – two and a half weeks prior to the start of school. Summer band is to review marching fundamentals and begin to learn the marching show. Mornings will be marching outdoors; afternoons will be playing indoors. Wear comfortable, decent clothing, socks, running shoes (not sandals or flip-flops,) sunscreen, and a hat. **Students need to bring their own water.** Times will vary, especially the second week, depending upon teacher in-service schedules. Percussion and colorguard have different schedules. During the lunch break the students are on their own. During summer band and/or after-school rehearsals, your student will be required to attend section rehearsals to learn, perfect, and pass off the “Tiny-Whiny” fundamental marching drill as a section in front of the drum majors. This must be completed before the section can receive their uniforms. There is fierce competition to be the first section to receive uniforms. Ask your student when they need to stay for these rehearsals. These will sometimes be last minute – please be flexible.

FISH AUCTION: This is a fun event where all freshmen are paired with a senior student. Their senior is the person to call with questions and act as a big brother or sister! It is totally optional, but freshmen and their seniors traditionally present each other with small, token gifts at times such as first game, homecoming, birthdays, Christmas, or just for fun.

AFTER-SCHOOL MARCHING REHEARSALS: Held daily during marching season. On Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, practice is held from 3:45 to 5:30 PM. On Tuesday, practice is from 6 to 9 PM. There will be some Tuesdays that practice is at Hopper Field. Sectionals are frequently called last minute after band practice.

UNIFORMS are signed out to students, who are responsible for them, just as they are for textbooks or any other school property. The school provides pants, blue coat, black coat, hat & hatbox, and a garment bag. The student will need to buy a band T-shirt (\$8) that is worn for pep rallies and under the uniform, black socks, black band shoes, a towel to sit on in case of rain, and an all-black backpack. It is a good idea to get 2 t-shirts because they get a lot of use. The black shoes are special marching shoes and are to be purchased from a vendor who will take orders one day during summer band. They will also be worn with the uniform for concert season. Students are never allowed to eat while in full dress uniform. They may drink only water or Sprite. There are specific guidelines for hemming the pants. Instructions will be given to the students with their uniforms. Rain plan B for games is black band shoes, black socks, black shorts and band t-shirts. Every Friday your student should bring everything necessary for marching to school. They should already have their band t-shirt on for the pep rally. Detailed instructions are given in the policy handbook.

FOOTBALL GAMES: Band students will leave directly from school. The kids will need food! They can bring a sack lunch, you can deliver a meal to them, or a participating restaurant will deliver meals for students who have ordered/prepaid for them by Thursday (more details in August.) Students bring their uniforms in the morning and change after classes are over. There is a real time crunch to get out on the practice field for a run-through before loading the trucks and buses. Students will be in full uniform for the graded run-through.

Home football games are held at Hopper Field. **All** students are transported by school bus to the stadium.

If a student wishes to ride home with a parent, he/she may be signed out during the fourth quarter only, and may leave with the parent only after the Alma Mater, when the band is dismissed to board the buses. Alternate travel forms are required if anyone other than the student’s parent will be taking them home. These are available in the school office and must be completed, notarized, and turned in to a band director by Thursday morning of the game/contest week.

PARENT MARCH-O-RAMA: On one of the Tuesday night marching practices early in the season, parents join their student on the practice field for a fun opportunity to experience marching. Immediately following is an ice cream social. Ice cream is provided by the freshmen, drinks and toppings provided by the sophomores and juniors.

COMMUNITY PEP RALLY: To kick off the football season, the school holds a community pep rally in the performance gym (9th Grade Center). School and community dignitaries attend and the band plays spirit songs.

HOMECOMING BONFIRE: On the Thursday before the homecoming football game, the band participates in the homecoming pep rally, held after marching practice. The pep rally is held in the 9th grade performance gym, and the bon fire is lit after.

BOA: BOA (Bands of America) is one of the premiere marching band competitions in the United States. The Buc Band competes in at least one BOA event per year. Videos are available for purchase from independent vendors at all marching band competitions. UIL competition is a great place to videotape the band’s marching show, as no videotaping is allowed at BOA. Visit www.bands.org for more information on BOA.

PARTIES: During the August booster club meeting, there will be a party for the band students at the Clute pool sponsored and chaperoned by booster club members. Lifeguards are provided. A masquerade party is held after the Festival of Lights parade in November. Everyone (including chaperones) comes in costume and competition for prizes is fierce! The booster club provides food, drinks and music. Band banquet (a dress-up affair) is held in May. Students pay \$15.00. A small gift is given to all students by the booster club.

REGION BAND: Freshman region band tryouts are very soon after marching season. It is an honor to make the band, but there is no clinic or performance. The music is distributed in August. Freshmen can also try out for high school region band in November. Because the band is busy with marching music, preparing for region tryouts requires individual effort. Region band is a terrific experience and well worth the effort.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE: The solo and ensemble contest is held in late January or early February. All students prepare a solo chosen with the help of their director and/or private lesson teacher. The students must either provide or pay for a school appointed piano accompanist (\$30.00).

CHILI SUPPER AND SILENT AUCTION: This is a fundraiser held the same Saturday as Solo and Ensemble. Students sell tickets, with net profit going into individual accounts. Many area businesses help sponsor the chili supper. Student and parent volunteer efforts are required to make this a success. The jazz bands perform during supper with all bands performing in concert after supper in the auditorium. Proceeds from the Silent Auction are used to purchase special equipment for the band.

FINANCES: Following is a list of financial obligations for the band student. The dollar amounts listed are approximate based on the previous years' fees. (Color guard/Winter guard not included)

- Booster Club Student Fee (estimated) \$150.00
(Required to earn uniform)
- Marching Shoes \$40.00
(Required)
- Spring trip fee – in state (3 years) \$325.00
- Spring trip fee – Disney (every 4th year) \$850.00 (Spring 2012)
- Accompanist fee (solo/ensemble) \$30.00

STUDENT ACCOUNTS: Each student has an account within the BISD band account to accumulate funds for the spring trip. In order to assure that every band student has the opportunity to attend the trip, one or two fundraisers will be held. Follow the trip commitment fee schedule on the band calendar. Checks for this account are to be made payable to BISD, with the student's full name and 301 on the memo line. 301 is the locker used to collect all payments for your student's band account. Please do not make payments in cash or to the booster club.

BAND STUDENT FEE: The Band student fee is separate from student fundraising. Money from this fee is used to support the needs of **ALL** students in the band program. Checks are to be made payable to Brazoswood Band. The booster club provides necessities that the school district cannot:

- Marching drill
- Music arrangements
- Maintaining/repairing equipment
- Uniform maintenance
- New Equipment and capital improvements
- Refreshments
- Props

VOLUNTEERING: Every event on the band calendar is a volunteer opportunity and our organization is only as good as the parents who volunteer within it! There are jobs for everyone and help is always needed. Step up and sign up! Sign-up sheets will be at all booster club meetings for bus chaperones, chili supper help (many hands needed,) maintenance/repair crew, capital improvements, assigning uniforms, student parties, etc. Volunteering is an excellent way to get to know the students and other parents.

We hope this information is helpful. As you can see, the Brazoswood Band and Booster Club are very active. Please share your time and talent for the good of the Buc Band. If you have any questions regarding the Booster Club and any of its activities, please do not hesitate to contact any board member. You can also contact us via the website.

WELCOME ABOARD!