

# Things Every Band Parent Should Know

aka: The Band Boosters "Band Parent Handbook"

## Welcome!

The following information has been put together by band parents (past and present) who devote a lot of their time selling cheesecakes or pretzels, and following school busses to competitions and/or away football games. By being a Band Parent/Family Member; you are automatically a Band Booster!

**Please set aside Saturday, May 28, 2011** – We will be running a gold fish booth at the **Collingswood May Fair** setup will be from 6:30am-8:30am, the fair begins at 10am and runs till 5pm. We will need parent volunteers for two hour shifts throughout the day. So far we have parents for the 10am slot. Please contact the Band Booster Secretary Laurie at [laurie\\_webber@yahoo.com](mailto:laurie_webber@yahoo.com) and let her know if and what time slot you can volunteer for. 12-2, 2-4, 4-5 and break down.

## Band Booster Meeting Dates 2011-2012

All meetings will be held in the band or choir room unless otherwise noted, and will begin at 7 PM.

- Tuesday, June 7, 2011 (Mandatory 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting)
- Tuesday, August 9, 2011
- Tuesday, September 13, 2011
- Tuesday, October 11, 2011
- Tuesday, November 8, 2011
- Tuesday, January 10, 2012
- Tuesday, February 7, 2012
- Tuesday, March 13, 2012
- Tuesday, April 10, 2012 (Elections)
- Tuesday, May 8, 2012
- Tuesday, June 5, 2012

## Our Band Booster Executive Board:

Director	Joe Lerch	<a href="mailto:jdlerch@pantherband.net">jdlerch@pantherband.net</a>
President	Peg Schnyer	<a href="mailto:pschnyer@gmail.com">pschnyer@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Janis Danielewicz	<a href="mailto:janisdee16@aol.com">janisdee16@aol.com</a>
VP of Ways and Means	Trish Moler	<a href="mailto:katzstorm@comcast.net">katzstorm@comcast.net</a>
Treasurer	Vicki Kroljic	<a href="mailto:barronness@aol.com">barronness@aol.com</a>
Secretary	Laurie Webber	<a href="mailto:Laurie_Webber@yahoo.com">Laurie_Webber@yahoo.com</a>

## What Time Commitment Does Band Require of My Student?

TIME MANAGEMENT will be the most important tool that your children will acquire when they become members of the CHS band program. Your student will learn how to keep a schedule, how to be punctual, and how to set priorities.

Band practice typically **begins** at 6 o'clock. "If you're early, you're on time ...if you're on time, you're late."

**Drop your child off at 5:30 - 5:40.** The band typically takes the field for warm-ups around 5:45. Management of a band this size is a monumental task and it becomes even more difficult if members are absent without permission. Please help your student make every effort to be there on time and prepared.

- Rehearsals will begin July 6<sup>th</sup> and will be every Wednesday night from 6-9 pm.
- There is a full-day rehearsal on the CHS field on Friday August 19, 2011 from 9am to 3pm this is Mini-Camp.
- Mandatory away Band Camp is from Saturday August 20, 2011 through Wednesday August 24, 2011. This camp is held at Camp Green Lane in Lansdale, PA (Transportation is provided via school busses). The cost of Band camp per student has yet to be determined but, includes lodging and 3 meals per day for the 5 days while they are at the facility. See the Band director's information for more on this.

After band camp, band rehearsal is every Tuesday and Thursday from 6-9 PM, until the last competition.

The Band Director will provide a detailed schedule to all band students. The schedule will also be posted on the Band's web site at [www.pantherband.net](http://www.pantherband.net). It will list every rehearsal, football game, and competition your student will be **required to attend**. The Band counts on ALL members for each rehearsal and competition. Please see the Student Band Handbook for the consequences of missing these mandatory events.

On a competition day, students should plan to set aside the entire day. They typically to report to the band room at 9 or 10 am to rehearse, then are bussed to the competition site and may not return until 9 or 10 pm (sometimes later depending on where the competition is located).

Our band director, Mr. Lerch has chosen an excellent program for this season and is in the process of developing an intriguing musical and visual package for this seasons Marching Band program. The show for this season is entitled 'I Believe', and the kids are already excited to get started. We encourage parents to get involved, to attend the competitions and see the kids perform, as well as see the program develop and change while the marching season progresses. It has been our experience that, while this is a demanding program the rewards are tremendous. In fact, being in band helps make the transition from Middle to High School easier for many students. The kids have upper classmen band friends who believe in them, and in their contribution to "the Band family."

Some things that are expected of Band Parents:

- Make your child responsible for being prepared for all rehearsals and performances.
- Attend the monthly band parent meetings (Booster Meetings); it's the best way to know what is going on!
- Attend competitions and cheer for our students!
- Sign up for the e-mail list; with our secretary – Laurie at [Laurie\\_Webber@yahoo.com](mailto:Laurie_Webber@yahoo.com).

## What Financial Commitment Does Band Require of My Child (and me)?

It is necessary for the students to fundraise funds to pay for activities such as band camp and the annual spring band trip. Throughout the school year we provide opportunities for your child to earn band profits to pay for these activities. Our fundraising chairperson is Trish Moler; attend the monthly Band Booster meetings to see what is going on. Common fundraisers are: Cinderella Cheesecakes, Annual Spring Basket Raffle, "Dinner Out" nights, Annual Home show competition, Concession Stand during home football games.

When your child participates in a fundraiser, the profits are recorded by Mr. Lerch on the student's "Band Bank Accounts". Some profits may be split with the Booster organization and some will be 100% for the student's accounts. Contact Mr. Lerch for more information about this. If your child chooses not to fundraise, your child will still have a Band Bank Account, which you will be responsible to fund. The Director will inform you when payments will be due for any given activity.

Uniforms are provided for the marching band, (Color Guard - please check with your Guard Instructor on what you may need to purchase, as that varies year to year). Marching Band members must purchase a special type of marching shoe - Dinkles, (about \$30) and gloves are required for non-percussion members (about \$5). All uniforms must be kept clean and neat and the child must have all parts of the uniform (**including black socks**) in order to perform. The uniforms stay in the band room except when needed to be dry cleaned. But, you **must check out your uniform with a staff member** before removing your uniform from the band room.

Your child will need to bring food and/or money to purchase food at the competitions. Lunch, and sometimes dinner must be anticipated to be brought or bought.

## Do Parents go to Competitions?

YES, absolutely! Parents are encouraged to attend competitions; tickets for competitions can be and should be purchased from Mr. Lerch. We say this because the profits from all tickets that we sell for any competition we keep. If you buy at the gate the Band hosting the competition will get the profits. You will often find Collingswood band parents sitting together and cheering on our kids. Getting involved in the band program will give you the opportunity to share with your child the last few years of their education. Your child might say they would rather not have you around, but most parents actually learn that in reality they appreciate your involvement and will thank you in the future. Bring with you (or keep in your car):

- Warm clothing/blanket – Competitions are held outdoors in the evening, and can get quite cold.
- Stadium seats – can be purchased at sporting good stores
- Money – there is always good concession food available for sale
- Camera – record those Kodak moments

## Final Note

The band room is the sanctuary of the musicians and staff. We, therefore, have been asked to be respectful of this area. Please do not enter the band room during practices or before the students have been dismissed. The staff needs the students to concentrate solely on their musical and performance directions without the distractions of parents asking, "Are you done yet?", "Mr. Lerch, I have a question," etc.

Also, after practice there is usually a "staff meeting." This needs to be handled in a closed session (parental involvement is not needed or welcome.) Your kids will be out as soon as the staff dismisses them. The staff is mindful of the time and will dismiss as soon as possible. If you need to contact Mr. Lerch, please email him at [jdlerch@pantherband.net](mailto:jdlerch@pantherband.net).

**Band Parent Questionnaire**

The Booster secretary and Mr. Lerch will keep all this information confidential

**Return ASAP to "Booster" mailbox (on the band room wall)**

**Band Member**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone of band member: \_\_\_\_\_

Band Member's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

School: (circle one) CHS CMS Oaklyn Woodlynne

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contacted me by: EMAIL PHONE  
(circle one)

I can help with: \_\_\_\_\_

And \_\_\_\_\_

My other talents are: \_\_\_\_\_