

# **LBJ Band New Member Guidebook**

**June 2008**

**[www.lbjband.com](http://www.lbjband.com)**

## *New Parents and Members*

# Welcome to the LBJ Band!

You are about to begin four great years with one of Texas' finest bands!

The directors look forward to having you join our band family.  
Musical excellence, along with academic excellence, is what we are all about.

In this guidebook you will find information to help you as you prepare for the next four years.  
Feel free to call us if you have any questions or concerns.

**The directors look forward to meeting you and your family!**

**Don Haynes**, Band Director  
donhaynes2@aol.com  
414-7032

**Ponder East**, Jazz Band Director  
pondereast@hotmail.com  
414-7013

**Brian K. Burks**, Assistant / Marching Director  
briankburks@yahoo.com \*  
*\* please note the "K" between brian and burks*  
841-4021

**Tyler Dempsey**, Percussion Director  
Tyler.Dempsey@austinisd.org  
841-4021

**Fernando Hernandez**, Colorguard Director  
nando0215@yahoo.com  
414-7032

**Nathan Ward**, Percussion Instructor  
Ward.Nathan@yahoo.com

**Katie Jordan**, Colorguard Staff  
kjguardgirl@gmail.com

Dear New Band Parents,

Welcome to...

The ONE...

The ONLY...

LBJ Jaguar Band!

We believe that you and your child are in for a real treat. Not only will your child be in band class, but you and your child have also joined a family - the LBJ Band family. For us, being part of the LBJ Band family is a wonderful experience, and we hope the same will be true for you.

This guidebook is intended to give you insight into the traditions and language of the LBJ Band. As with any family, we have certain ways of doing things. Sometimes, those of us who have been around awhile forget to tell the new folks what we are doing or why we are doing it. We may use words or terms that are unfamiliar to you. It isn't that we want to keep you in the dark; it's just that we sometimes forget that not everyone knows about "band things". This guidebook is a sincere attempt at inviting you into our LBJ Band family and helping you feel at home.

It is our hope that by helping you to be better informed from the beginning, you will choose to jump in and find a way to put your time and talents to work for our kids. It is usually true that the more quickly you find a way to become involved, the more at home you and your child will feel. We'd love to have you join the band board, or help with any of the other many band volunteer opportunities.

If you have questions or are confused about anything, please don't hesitate to speak up. If you aren't sure about how to become involved, please ask. We want your whole family to feel absolutely at home in the LBJ Jaguar Band.

Again, welcome!

Mary Owen

Band Booster Board President

mary@casadeowen.net, (512) 797-8818

Barbara Springer

Freshman Liaison

baspringer@austin.rr.com, 257-2685

## Types of Bands at LBJ

### Concert Band (Band Class)

This is the class in which your child will be enrolled during his or her regular day at LBJ. There are three class periods for band. As Director of Bands, Mr. Haynes has primary responsibility for the entire band program; however, our band directors work very much as a team and will share teaching responsibilities for each class.

Class / Band Name:	Concert Band	Symphonic Band	Wind Ensemble
Musical distinction:	challenging; prior band/music experience expected	more challenging	most challenging
Members:	made up of mostly freshmen and sophomores	made up of mostly sophomores and juniors	made up of mostly upperclassmen

Class placement is determined by the directors after a tryout. During marching season, class time will be devoted primarily to perfecting the marching show music. All three bands will play much the same music. Beginning in November, the bands will begin to take on a different "attitude" as the focus shifts from the marching show to concert and competition music. From mid-November through May, the focus will be on perfecting stage/concert performances. Of course, each child will be challenged to stretch and improve musically as an individual and as a member of the band throughout the year.

### Jazz Band

The Jazz Band program is under the direction of Mr. Ponder East. Students can participate in Jazz Band only after completing an audition. It is possible to take both "band" and "jazz band" at the same time, but students who choose this route must work carefully with the counselors to be sure they have all the required credits needed for graduation. Jazz Ensemble [listed as Stage/Jazz Band] meets 1st period and Stage Band [listed as Instrumental Ensemble] meets 3rd period. Students who do not enroll in a jazz class may participate in the after-school rehearsals and all performances. Please consult the LBJ Band website for much more information about our jazz band program. ([www.LBJBand.com](http://www.LBJBand.com))

### Marching Band

This is the band that takes the field at half time during football season and the band that competes in UIL marching competition. It is, in reality, the combined band of LBJ. There will be members of all three concert bands marching on the field at the same time. The band sits together during football games and keeps the team, other students and parents entertained with catchy tunes, the fight song and the school song.

The marching band practices during the summer and after school. The after-school rehearsals are critical to the marching band's performance since there is no time during the school day when all the members of the marching band are in class together

### Full Orchestra

In addition to the different bands LBJ has to offer, band students have the option of participating in Full Orchestra during the spring semester. Membership in full orchestra is determined by audition. The full orchestra practices after school to prepare for UIL competition and spring concert season.

## Band Directors

LBJ has an incredible staff of dedicated band directors. The amazing Mr. Don Haynes has been head Band Director at LBJ High School since 1975. We are fortunate to have Mr. Ponder East as the Band Director of our two jazz bands. In addition, Mr. Brian Burks and Mr. Tyler Dempsey both contribute to our program as Assistant Band Directors. Mr. Haynes and Mr. Burks share responsibility

for the three concert bands and for the marching band. Percussion instructors are Mr. Dempsey and Mr. Nathan Ward. Mr. Fernando Hernandez rounds out the team as Colorguard Director.

## **Student Leadership**

The LBJ band offers students the opportunity to explore and practice leadership skills. Mr. Haynes relies on the student leaders to assist with many aspects of band life. There are numerous opportunities for your student to get involved in leadership positions during his or her time with the band. The student leadership is divided roughly into two categories: performance and operation. The performance leadership works directly with the directors to instruct band members and communicate important information to the band. The operations leadership is known as the Band Council. The Band Council handles the million and one things that have to be done to keep the band running smoothly and make it a fun place to be. The roles of each side of the house overlap somewhat, and it is not unusual for a student to have a leadership position in both the performance and operations sides of the house at the same time.

### **Performance Leadership**

**Drum Majors:** Drum majors conduct the marching band on the playing field. Drum majors are chosen through a tryout and election process in May of each year to serve for the following year. Drum Majors are expected to attend a summer drum major training camp and ALL band rehearsals. The Drum Majors work closely with the directors to teach the marching drills. There is usually one Head Drum Major and two or three Assistant Drum Majors. The Drum Majors wear white uniforms and are almost always juniors or seniors.

**Captains (Brass, Woodwind, Colorguard, Percussion Battery and Percussion Pit):** The Captains serve as the head of their sections They facilitate communication within the band and oversee section leaders. The Captains sometimes orchestrate special rehearsals for their sections as needed. Captains are always upperclassmen and are appointed by the directors.

**Section Leaders:** Section leaders facilitate communication within and between sections of the band, as well as assist with music and marching training. The size of the section determines the number of Section Leaders within a section. Your student's Section Leader is his/her touchstone in the band. If your child has a question, ask the Section Leader. If your child has to miss a rehearsal for some reason, make arrangements with the Section Leader. If your child needs help, ask the Section Leader. Section Leaders also serve as the primary "morale officers" of the band. Each section has its own traditions and customs, upheld and carried forward through the leadership of the Section Leaders. Section Leaders try out and are selected by the directors. The directors rely more heavily on the skills of the Section Leaders during marching season when the entire band is assembled at one time.

### **Band Council**

**Band President:** The Band President serves as the directors' communication link to the operations side of the band and as the chief morale officer of the band. The President, with the assistance of the other band officers and section leaders, organizes full band social events, the band banquet in the spring, big brothers/sisters, director gifts, concert set up and a long list of other odd jobs to assist the directors. The vice president from the previous year rises to the role of president after an interview with the band directors.

**Vice President:** The vice president is elected from within the band membership with the intention that this person will work hand in hand with the president and learn the working of the band so that he/she will rise to the position of president the following year. This system guarantees the maximum continuity for the band. The vice president works closely with the president to accomplish the goals set forth by the directors and the band leadership. Movement from vice president to president is determined after an interview with the band directors.

**Secretary:** The band secretary is responsible for taking attendance at all rehearsals. The secretary works closely with the parents of the LBJ Band Board to help collect and account for money for special events such as Band Banquet. The secretary is elected by popular vote each spring to serve the following year.

**Historians:** The band historians compile a scrapbook of each year's activities to provide a history for the band. The historians are elected in the spring of each year to serve the following year.

**Uniform managers:** The uniform managers maintain the uniform inventory for the band. They are responsible for issuing and collecting uniforms. If your child has a problem with his/her uniform, contact the uniform managers. Uniform managers are appointed by the directors.

**Instrument managers:** The instrument managers keep track of the school's instruments. If your child rents an instrument from the school, he or she will deal with the instrument managers. The instrument managers work closely with the Band Booster Board treasurers to make sure all rental fees are paid on time. Instrument managers are appointed by the band directors

**Librarians:** The librarians issue and keep up with the sheet music library. The librarians are appointed by the band directors.

**HRs:** HR stands for "hell raiser," although the HRs do anything BUT raise >>>>! These are the "work horses" of the band. They load, haul and set up the mountain of equipment needed for each rehearsal, game and performance. They are responsible for hauling water in the band coolers for games and competitions. If there is work to be done, there will be an HR around to do it! HRs serve on a volunteer basis, with the head HR being elected by the other HRs. The seal in the middle of the turn-around circle in the parking lot behind the band hall is the HR seal.

### **What about school-owned instruments?**

Most band students either own an instrument or rent one from a local music supply company. There is limited availability of certain (larger) school-owned instruments. The AISD established instrument repair fee for these instruments is \$25 per semester, and \$25 for summer use. Checks should be made out to LBJ Band.

### **How much time will my child need to reserve for marching band?**

The answer varies. In the fall, during marching season, your child will have after-school rehearsals or performances four days a week from 4:00 until about 5:30. The directors will establish a schedule for both full band and sectional rehearsals. (For example, last year the full band rehearsed on Mondays, woodwinds only on Tuesdays, brass and percussion only on Wednesdays, full band rehearsed or performed at games on Thursdays and Fridays. This year's schedule will be announced during Summer Band.) On game days, your child will probably not come home until after the game. In addition, your child will need to find some time to memorize and practice his/her music. Once the music is memorized, your child will probably not need to spend as much time on individual practice during the fall. The entire band plays the same music for all of marching season (July - November). As the band enters concert season (November - May), your child will not have after-school rehearsals every day, but she will need to spend significantly more time on individual rehearsal at home. Some after-school sectionals can be expected in the spring. The majority of band members continue private lessons outside of school time. Yes, band is a major commitment, but as with anything worthwhile, the more you invest, the more you will get out of the program.

### **What happens if my child misses a rehearsal?**

Mr. Haynes and the band directors realize that there will be times when life outside band must come into play. Doctor and dentist appointments are important. Each section of the band has one afternoon a week "off" for exactly that purpose...to make appointments and to do homework early in the day to allow for a good night's sleep. *The directors ask in all sincerity that students try to schedule appointments on their day off.* When one person is gone during marching practice, the problem is amplified many times over. It is simply impossible to learn to march a show if there are "holes" instead of bodies on the practice field. Those students who are at practice can't figure out where to go because the people they should be following are missing and the people who are missing don't know where to go when they return. Everybody loses.

If your child MUST miss rehearsal or part of a rehearsal, have your child explain the situation **in advance** to his or her section leader and the band director responsible for your child's band.

### **How does my child manage to be in band and keep up his/her grades?**

Mr. Haynes, as well as the other directors, will tell you unconditionally that grades must come first. If a student is failing a class, he/she cannot march. Time management is critical and is easier for some students to learn than for others. The secret, if there is one, is to think ahead and stay caught up. Working ahead is the key.

Make sure your child has a planner and uses it. Besides school assignments, they can track all game, rehearsal, and contest dates in the planner as well. Help your child make a plan to work through schedule conflicts. Seek help at the first sign of confusion or trouble. The teachers at LBJ/LASA are there to help your child be successful. They are glad to work with your child before school or during lunch. If after school is the only time your child can get help, have your child talk to Mr. Haynes and his/her section leader and they will work out something. Mr. Haynes is also great about matching up band kids as tutors/mentors, but he has to know there is a problem before he can help find a solution.

Help your child learn to work smart and be efficient. Help your child set up a realistic time schedule for homework for any given day and encourage them to stick to it. After the allotted time for a given assignment, move on to the next subject and go back to finish later. It might help for them to start with least favorite or hardest assignments first before they get tired and frustrated.

Make every minute count. There will be chunks of time available for homework in your child's day if he or she will make it a habit to look for them. A few minutes during lunch...if a teacher finishes a lecture a few minutes early...in the car or on the bus on the way home...ANY time your child has to wait during the day. A few minutes here and there add up, so encourage your child to take advantage of those times.

### **Can you explain "the show"?**

"The show" is the performance the marching band spends hours and hours and hours perfecting for UIL marching competition. The band performs the show, or part of it, during half time at football games. The show is 8 minutes long and is made up of three parts – the "opener", the "ballad" and the "closer." The music is dramatically different for each part to showcase the band's ability to play and march to a variety of music. In addition to the three main parts of the show, there may also be a "percussion break" that showcases the drumline or other percussion.

Watching a show is like watching a three-ring circus. It is impossible to keep up with everything. At any given time, in addition to the band, drumline and pit, there may also be flags, rifles, sabers and dancers.

The show comes together bit by bit and week by week. Each day the band learns several new charts or sets. Charts are pieces of paper that tell the band members where they should be standing at certain points in the music and how many steps it should take them to get to that point from the last point. A set is made when band students form up as indicated on their charts. You can see now why it is SO important not to miss a marching practice! A group of charts makes a chunk. A show is made up of many, many chunks. It is nothing short of awesome to watch our kids put it all together on the field.

UIL District Marching contest is usually held in mid-October. If a band scores well enough at the District competition, they continue to move up the UIL competition ladder through October and into November. The show will be next to perfect by then. All marching bands compete at the District level each year; however, due to the number of marching bands in the state of Texas, bands only compete for state level titles every other year. You call the years you compete for state titles "state" years because we are *sure* we will go to the state competition! The band will continue to march the show until they are eliminated from UIL competition. If that happens before the end of football season, the band will probably march a different show during half time...something more fun and less complicated than the competition show. Traditionally, the graduating seniors have a voice in determining what the very last half time show of the year will look like.

### **What is a "shadow"?**

A person who does not have his/her own marching position (spot) in the show, but rather shares the same spot during practice with another like-section member, is called a shadow. Often the two individuals will trade off in weekly halftime performances until band contests grow near. Each year there are 12 or so students who fall into this category. From a drill-writing standpoint, it is wise for a marching band to save back a few substitutes for those inevitable occurrences such as injuries, failed grades, long illnesses, or a death in the family. Shadows for a specific football game or event will still wear their marching uniform and enter and leave the field with the rest of the band during games and competitions, but they do not march in the show. The basic concept is that 2 young marchers will learn/share the same spot in rehearsals. Should a nearby marcher go ineligible, or for some reason become inaccessible, one of the shadow members can slide over- learning the new spot. This procedure helps the band to avoid marching a "hole" in the show.

### **What is the Band Jamboree?**

The AISD Band Jamboree is our first opportunity of the year to see the marching band in action on the field. The Band Jamboree is typically held just a couple of weeks after school begins at Toney Burger stadium in southwest Austin (directions are available on the Charms calendar). Each band in AISD performs just the first movement of their marching show...just a teaser for what is coming a bit later in the season. The bands perform in order from smallest to largest. LBJ typically performs about 2/3 of the way through. There is a grand finale which is usually a performance by a college band.

You have to buy a ticket to watch the performances at Band Jamboree. (Tickets are available at the gate.) Parents and spectators sit on the south side of the stadium. Band members sit on the north side. The band will travel to the stadium by bus from LBJ. Some students will be allowed to leave with parents straight from the stadium at the end of the evening; others will need to return to LBJ to help with unloading. Your child's section leader will be able to tell you whether your child will be able to leave with you or whether he or she will need to return to LBJ with the buses. This is our first really late night challenge of the year. Help your child plan ahead...there won't be much time for homework on this night. Additionally, LBJ usually plays just about at the end of rush hour (6:30ish). If you aren't used to negotiating traffic going across the river at rush hour, be sure to give yourself plenty of time. Despite traffic delays, seeing your child on the field for the first time makes the inconvenience worth the effort.

### **What is a marching contest?**

A marching contest is an opportunity for schools to perform their marching shows in front of a panel of judges who offer critiques to help them improve their shows in preparation for UIL competition. Typically, schools organize marching contests as fundraisers for their band programs. Bands pay a fee to attend the contest and receive the benefit of the judges' remarks.

### **What is the Capital City Marching Festival (Cap City)?**

LBJ, in partnership with Crockett High School, puts on Capital City Marching Festival the first Saturday in October each year. This is the primary fundraiser for the LBJ band and every family is needed to help make it a success. We will host approximately 20 schools at Burger Center on that Saturday. LBJ and Crockett will march in "exhibition" (which means we will receive critiques from the judges, but will not be eligible for awards and trophies) It is a busy, fun day, and it's not too early to sign up for the Cap City job you would enjoy the most. Please mark your calendar now for the first Saturday in October, and plan to make a day of it!

### **What happens after marching season is over?**

The band moves into concert season at the conclusion of marching season. There are typically four concerts during the remainder of the school year: Winter, Pops, UIL and Senior Salute. The Jazz Bands often hold concerts separate from the other bands. In addition to preparation for concerts and UIL concert band competition, the students are encouraged to participate in solo and ensemble competitions. After school marching rehearsals are no longer needed. You can expect some sectional work after school during the second semester, but it will not be every day. Many students shift to winter or spring sports, or audition for the full orchestra, which means they will still be at school until 5:30. Although your student will not have band practice every day after school, more individual rehearsal time is needed during concert season to master the music.

### **What equipment/supplies will my student need other than an instrument and uniform?**

If your child is in marching band or stand band, he or she may need (upon director's request):

- \* a "floppy" 3 ring binder to hold chart pages
- \* two very long boot laces or a soft rope or cord (This is used to make a "sling" for the chart notebook so your student can wear it over his/her shoulder at marching practice.)
- \* a pencil
- \* a piece of sidewalk chalk to mark spots on the practice field
- \* a lyre (This is a clip to hold the flip chart on the instrument. Not all instruments use lyres. Check with your child's section leader.)
- \* a flipchart (to hold stand band music)

For band class:

- \* a folder or notebook
- \* a pencil and a pen

Pit:

- \* a 3-ring binder to hold music (check with your child's section leader)
- \* 20 clear sheet protectors (pit and battery)

All students will need a sturdy, zippered hanging bag to transport their formal uniform. (Sold at Everything Day.)

### **How are grades determined in band?**

According to the Band Handbook (distributed in the fall):

"LBJ Band members are evaluated and graded on the following criteria:

- A) playing of marching music, district music and concert music
- B) consistent daily participation and a positive attitude
- C) attendance and participation at all required performances"

The LBJ band program complies with AISD policy regarding all grading procedures. Parents are contacted when a student's performance is substandard, unacceptable conduct is displayed, or poor attendance is noted. Juniors and Seniors can earn honors credit for band class (see directors).

### **What is the Colorguard?**

The Colorguard is an important element of the marching band, providing an additional visual component to the marching routine. The Colorguard is open to all students, male and female. Colorguard members perform a choreographed routine using flags, sabers, rifles and assorted other props. The Colorguard begins preparing for each season at the same time as the drumline, typically introducing prospective members to the coming season's show the first week of summer and summer band camp a week before the entire band reports. Colorguard members have a uniform that is different from the regular marching band members and may be more expensive than the marching uniform. The uniform will be ordered through the school, except for footwear and gloves. Guard

members are financially responsible for their own uniforms.

The Colorguard's performance is judged during competition, so it is an important element to the marching show. Once marching season is complete, some guard members choose to participate with the Winter Guard team. The Winter Guard is a non-UIL team competition under Winter Guard International sanction for the state of Texas. LBJ has fielded Winter Guard teams with most members coming from the Colorguard; however, it is not a requirement to participate in both guards. Students may participate in Colorguard even if they are not in a band class. A student may not be in both Colorguard AND *march* in the marching band. (Though, Colorguard is considered part of the marching band!)

### **What is "the pit"?**

"The pit" (also called "front ensemble") is made up of the stationary percussion instruments and the students that play them. The pit is a critical element of the band. These instruments form up on the sideline at the 50-yard line facing the home stands. This group, along with the drumline, practices long and hard to get their rhythms down perfectly. Although the pit members don't march, they move from instrument to instrument along the sideline.

The "Pit Crew" is made up of parents who volunteer to help move the pit instruments. The Pit Crew moves to the gate where we unload at the middle of the second quarter and helps to position the vast array of instruments along the sideline. They watch the show from the track and then help to quickly clear the instruments away after the show. We could not function as a band without the help of the Pit Crew. You are more than welcome to join this awesome group of volunteers.

### **Are there pep rallies?**

Pep rallies are held before football games at the discretion of the principal. The band plays for all pep rallies. On pep rally days, the band will be dismissed a few minutes early. The band forms up in the large, open hallway in the fine arts wing with instruments in hand. The band forms up in lines, by section, and marches into the gym. The band usually stands during the pep rally. Pep rallies are usually held the last thirty minutes of the day.

### **What are Spirit Days?**

The cheerleaders organize Spirit Days at LBJ. The cheerleaders will designate a theme for the day: western, twin, retro, super hero, etc. The theme is posted in the main hallway and announced at the beginning of the week with daily announcements. Students are encouraged to dress accordingly. Participation is totally optional. Dress code rules are still enforced on Spirit Days.

### **How does "tailgate" work?**

On football game days, the band will have a "run through" (short rehearsal) right after school. "Run-throughs" usually last 30 - 45 minutes. In order for the students to get to the game on time after rehearsal, our wonderful band parent Food Service committee organizes a "tailgate" meal before each and every game. The meal is prepared and served in the LBJ cafeteria. (The grilling is done on the patio.) Your child (band or colorguard) can get a good meal for a real bargain (\$4) before they head off to the game.

Parent volunteers start setting up about 3:00 and stay busy usually until around 5:30. The menu varies. There is usually a choice of hot dogs, hamburgers or veggie burgers served with chips, cookies, fruit and lemonade. Some days we have sub sandwiches, and for homecoming we usually fix a special meal.

Volunteers are needed to set-up, take money, serve, grill and take down. You can volunteer for one or two games, or for the whole season. Although the games are on Thursday or Friday, there will also be opportunities to volunteer on weekends for events like marching festivals. This is a simple, fun way to help out and get to know the kids as well as enjoy the company of other band parents.

### **When and where are the football games? How long do they last?**

Thursday night games usually begin at 7:00 PM. Friday night games usually begin at 7:30. Games typically last about 3 hours. The football schedule is posted on the LBJ website, the LBJ Band website, the Handouts section of Charms, and the AISD website, as well as in the Band Hall. The schedule tells you which stadium we play in each week and whether we are the home or visiting team. Instructions for driving to the stadium can be found with that calendar entry on the Charms calendar. In town, we play at either Nelson Field (just off of 290 between I 35 and 183), House Park (just south of Enfield [15<sup>th</sup>] at Lamar), or Toney Burger Stadium (on the south side of 290 just east of Brodie Lane). Note that when we play at House Park you need to GO EARLY! There is very little parking. Be ready for a hike! (This school year we won't have any games at House Park, but most likely we'll be there again next year.)

### **Do I have to buy a ticket to come to the football games and watch the band?**

Yes...even if you just come for halftime. Everyone has to have a ticket except uniformed band members, band directors, and sometimes the pit crew (parents who load and unload the band trailers at the track). Tickets are purchased at the game field. Depending on the district (AISD, Hayes, etc.) tickets range from \$6 - \$8 per game. Student price is around \$3. Due to security restrictions, most stadiums are now requiring a new ticket purchase each time you exit the stadium. AISD employee? Good news: if you show your badge at the ticket booth for AISD games, you'll receive a discounted ticket price (student price). Oh, and by the way, the purchase of a ticket is required to watch marching competitions as well - and those prices vary.

### **What does my band student need to take to the games?**

Other than his or her complete uniform, hat, gloves, instrument and music, your child might consider taking a water bottle (the band provides water, but it is more handy to have your own) and a small hand towel to wipe down the bench. If it has been raining, a small piece of plastic is helpful to sit on. Note that band members are not allowed to eat during games, nor are they allowed to drink anything but water during games. Food particles and sticky drinks tend to do bad things to musical instruments and uniforms.

### **Speaking of rain, do we march in bad weather?**

Well...that depends on how you define "bad"! As a general rule, yes, we suit up and head to the game as a show of support for our school and our team. Of course, the directors have our children's safety foremost in their minds. They would not put our children in danger. If it is really raining, the band may leave instruments on the bus. If it is really cold, help your child plan layers to wear under his or her uniform. If it is really hot, make sure your child has water on hand. Listen to local radio stations for announcements about game cancellations. Many students have cell phones, or have friends who do. We will make sure students are able to call you to tell you if plans have to change due to weather.

### **What are the announcements that the band makes right after half time at the football games?**

There are several sets of announcements going on in the band stands during the third quarter. First, the weekly awards are announced. Each week awards are given for the section of the week, section leader of the week, marcher of the week, and so on. Recipients of these awards are nominated by section leaders and band officers, and chosen by the band directors.

The students also use the third quarter to give out some humorous awards that are surprises to the Band Directors as well as the rest of the audience!

The other set of announcements involves "crossing over." During each game, members of the home team band "cross over" to welcome the visitor band. The home band delegation is introduced on the visitor side and then they, in turn, bring a delegation from the visitors' side over to introduce on our side. Cheerleaders introduce cheerleaders, drill team introduces drill team, band introduces band. Small gifts are exchanged between the bands. This is the band's version of the mid-field hand shake

before the game begins. It is intended to build community and camaraderie between the schools.

### **What are "stand tunes" and "brass jams"?**

Stand tunes are catchy, popular tunes the band plays to pump up and entertain the crowd during games. "Hey, Baby" and "Free Ride" are two of the band parents' favorites. You are encouraged to sing along to "Hey, Baby" and do the motions to "Free Ride". Don't worry, the "old folks" will teach you! It's true, band parents tend to have as much fun as our kids!

Brass jams are catchy, energizing tunes and rhythms that ONLY the brass and percussion play. "Black on Black" and "Seminole" are examples of favorite brass jams. The rest of the band has appropriate motions/routines/exercises that go along with the brass jams.

### **Is there a parent protocol at football games?**

Yes...come, wear purple and have fun! Beyond that, we are a pretty laid-back group. We tend to sit next to the band, often to their left. You can see the half time show best from up high, but you can always migrate to the top and stand during half time if you choose to sit down low. We stand for the school song, make an "J" with our thumb and forefinger of the right hand and sway back and forth. We take lots of pictures. We try to watch our kids without letting them know we are watching them! :)

The band sits in a roped off section. We try not to cross the ropes unless it is really important. You can pass a message down the line to your child across the ropes or get your child to come meet you at the rope if you need to visit or get word to your child. Former band members and visiting junior high students are allowed to sit with the band, but no other guests, not even dates. Remember, your child has a job to do during games!

### **What are the words to the School Song?**

We honor our colors, the purple and white.

We praise the Johnson Jaguars with all our strength and might.

We sing our school's praises, we aim for the sky.

The Purple Pride we fight for will never, no never, die.

The Purple Pride of LBJ forever more will fly.

If you learn these words and sing along, you'll be ahead of most existing band parents!

### **How do I get a band bumper sticker?**

Bumper stickers are given to new band students at the end of Summer Band. If you need one for a second vehicle, or get a new car, just ask a director and they'll give you another one.

### **How do I find my child at the end of the game?**

Before your child leaves for school on game days, make a plan for where to meet after the game. Some students will have to go back to the school after the game to unload instruments (HR's, percussion, etc.). Some students can go home from the game. Your child will know what his post game responsibilities will include. Your child will leave everything in a friend's car or on the bus during the game. Before your child leaves the game, make sure she has everything she needs from school (books, homework, etc). Many of us gather by the buses after the game. Feel free to help get the percussion gear loaded up while you're waiting.

### **Can you explain the different band uniforms?**

The winter uniform is the formal uniform. Your child will be fitted (at school) for this uniform, including a pair of black bibbers (overalls), a jacket (mostly black with some purple), and a hat. It is your child's responsibility to take care of and keep up with all pieces of the uniform. The black bibbers should be hemmed (with a temporary hem) so that they come to rest at the top of the marching shoe with *no break*. The jacket sleeves should rest at the wrist with arms down. You are free to whip stitch hems, but please **DO NOT CUT OR SEW IN A PERMANENT SEAM**. Each student pays a uniform

fee which the clothing committee uses for professionally cleaning the uniforms. Please do not attempt to wash the uniform yourself. Be sure to let the uniform “air out” after each wearing. Wet uniforms (whether from sweat or rain) mildew fast. The travel bag is for travel, not for storage.

In addition to the issued parts of the formal uniform, you will purchase marching shoes, black socks, clothing bag, gloves and white and purple band t-shirts. Everything except the black socks will be ordered at school on Everything Day. You will need to purchase black socks on your own. The white band t-shirt will be worn under the jacket and black bibbers. The band usually travels in bibbers and white t-shirts, putting on the jackets at the last moment. Most students wear shorts under their black bibbers. We tend to do lots of changing on the buses and in places where there is not a lot of privacy.

The formal (or winter) uniform is terrific, but it is VERY hot. Mercifully, UIL does not require us to wear the formal uniform until October 1<sup>st</sup>. Until then, we march in our summer uniform. The summer uniform consists of a purple band t-shirt, uniform shorts, white socks and white tennis shoes. The uniform shorts were ordered during Boot Camp. You will need to provide white socks and “mostly white” tennis shoes. It's a good idea to buy tennis shoes that can be washed or at least cleaned easily. The band marches rain or shine and it sometimes takes a bit of bleach to find the white in those marching shoes!

For some concerts, we wear dress clothes. Boys wear dress slacks and dress shirts at a minimum, with coats and ties always an acceptable option. Girls wear nice slacks, skirts and blouses, or dresses. Students should give careful thought to what they wear to concerts. The clothing selected should be nice, yet comfortable and modest when the student is seated on the stage playing an instrument, with care given to the audience's view.

For other concerts, especially the UIL concert, the band may be told to wear the black bibbers and jackets from their formal uniform. Wind Ensemble students are provided with formal black dresses/tuxes for concert performances. Your child's band director and/or section leaders will let them know what the appropriate uniform of the day will be.

### **Uniform Notes**

It is always a good idea to have a couple of safety pins handy. Pin a couple of large safety pins on the underside of your child's bibber strap, where they won't rub his or her shoulder, or tuck them in the bibber pocket.

In particular, before band competitions, it is absolutely essential that your child reviews his/her uniform to ensure that black socks are worn, hems are appropriate (see previous section) and shoes are clean.

Gauntlets (part of the uniform that goes on the wrist) and plumes for marching hats are distributed before the band goes onto the field. Tuba players don't wear regular marching hats; they will have berets.

### **What can you tell me about the band trips?**

Band trips are a wonderful opportunities for our kids to bond, blow off steam, explore new cultures and practice their independence – all in a carefully structured environment. The LBJ Band takes a trip each year. The trips are on somewhat of a cycle. At least one time during your child's four years at LBJ, they will be invited to take a BIG trip...overseas, Hawaii, etc. The year just before and after a BIG trip, the band trip is usually “local”...San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, etc. The fourth year, the trip is a bit more extensive, but not as extensive as an overseas trip. Invitations to perform at special events can change the usual plan.

The Band Booster Board (band parents) and Mr. Haynes determine the trip location. The Band Trip committee makes all the travel plans. Trips are planned approximately a year in advance. *Participation in band trips is optional.* If the band trip occurs during the school year, or if the students will miss class due to the trip, “no pass, no play” comes into effect – students must be passing their classes to participate in the band trip. If the band trip falls on a holiday or in the summer, students are exempt from the “no pass, no play” standard. Members of the orchestra and choir are sometimes invited to participate in the band trip with band members.

Band parents act as chaperones for band trips. Chaperoning a band trip is GREAT fun, BUT IT IS NOT FOR THE WEAK AT HEART. Chaperones must be prepared to be "on duty" long hours, be willing to be responsible for a group of young people they may or may not know ahead of time, and be willing to be surrogate parent, nurse, policeman and travel guide all in one. Although you will be exhausted when you return, chaperones have just as much fun as the kids.

Each band student and chaperone is expected to pay his or her own way to participate in band trips. The trip chairs organize the trip and work up a budget well in advance. The cost of the trip is broken down into "manageable" payments due at intervals throughout the year. The Band Board works hard to organize opportunities for the band members to raise money to help pay for their trips, but ultimately, the expense of the band trip is the responsibility of the student and the parent.

Band trips are NOT intended to be family vacations. If parents volunteer to be chaperones on a trip, they agree to be responsible for young people other than their own. Trying to keep up with younger siblings often compromises the trip for both the band members *and* the siblings, spoiling the trip for everyone.

All band students are welcome on band trips (including, of course, Colorguard, Jazz Band, and Stand Band members).

### **Will the Band Trip be during Spring Break?**

In order to NOT miss school days on a major band trip, we have used the Spring Break week 4 times. (1) London/Paris in 2000, (2) Hawaii in 2004, (3) Beijing in 2007, and (4) New York in 2009. When we take local (closer to home) trips we usually travel over a Friday, Saturday, Sunday weekend, often in late April.

### **Please explain my student's band account.**

Just like with any family, it takes a lot of money to keep things "up and running." Your student's band account is intended to make life easier for both you and your band student. You will deposit money into your student's account at the beginning of the school year. We suggest that you begin with a minimum deposit of \$25.00. Your student will use his or her band account as a debit account to pay for incidentals that come up throughout the year.... gloves, contest fees, etc. The money you put into your son's or daughter's band account will be for his or her use only and can carry over from one year to the next.

To add money to your student's account, the preferable method is by using a check. Checks should be made payable to: **LBJ Band Boosters**, and always include on your check:

1. Student name
2. Home phone number
3. Check purpose

Paying with cash is acceptable but discouraged unless it is given directly to the treasurers. Cash should be placed in a sealed envelope with the amount and purpose clearly marked on the outside and placed directly into the band vault. The cash will be reconciled as soon as it is picked up, but the LBJ Band Boosters is not responsible for any discrepancies. Cash deposited into the vault with no identifying information will be considered an anonymous donation to the Band Boosters.

Paying with a credit card is currently not an option, but we hope it will be soon.

To see the balance of your child's student account, log onto your child's Charms account and click on the \$ icon. The treasurers will send out periodic notices notifying families of negative balances.

To pay for band expenses out of your student's account, after verifying your student's balance on Charms, get a green "Student Account Transfer Form" located on top of the band vault. Fill out the form completely and drop it into the vault. The band vault is located in the band hall, to the left of the bulletin board. It is the drop box for all band forms and payments.

### **How do I get a refund of money from my Student Account?**

Under IRS rules, student account money that was earned through student fundraisers (e.g. UT concessions, wreaths, etc.) cannot be refunded. This is because any tax-exempt earnings must

be used directly by the organization. However, if you have deposited your own money and would like a refund, this can be accomplished by contacting the treasurers as long as proper documentation of the original deposit exists. Any funds that cannot be refunded may be transferred to another band student account or donated to the LBJ Band Boosters. Any student account balances not claimed within 6 months of graduation will automatically be deposited to the general funds of the LBJ Band Boosters.

### **How can band family members make donations to the band?**

Make checks payable to LBJ Band Boosters and mail to:  
LBJ High School Band  
c/o Don Haynes  
7309 Lazy Creek Dr  
Austin TX 78724

Donations are tax-deductible. If you wish to have a receipt, please request this at the time the donation is made.

### **How do I contact the Band's Treasurers?**

Send your questions to [LBJbandtreasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:LBJbandtreasurer@yahoo.com). You will receive a response within five days.

### **What is "My Fair Share" and what is it used for?**

A system used by the LBJ Band and many high school bands throughout Texas to fund a portion of band expenses not covered by the school district is called "My Fair Share" (MFS). The LBJ Band holds many general band fundraisers throughout the year (e.g., Capital City Marching Festival, stadium cleanups, etc.), but unfortunately these do not generate adequate revenue to support the level of achievement an active band our size demands.

The MFS amount for each LBJ Band family is subject to change each year when the board adopts the initial budget for that year. The term "LBJ Band" encompasses marching band, concert bands, jazz band, and color guard, and every member of each group is expected to participate equally. However, a family with multiple band members is still only responsible for one MFS annual payment. Examples of our yearly needs include new music, new equipment for the band, necessary repairs, the trailers to haul equipment, and most of all, special instructors who are carefully selected to teach their specialized areas. These instructors are the best in their field, and they enrich the efforts of our LBJ Band students with a passion and devotion that prepares us for many key competitions and performances.

The LBJ Band Booster bylaws permit the Band Board to set the annual MFS amount and the penalties for non-payment. The following language was adopted by the LBJ Band Board on July 9, 2007:

"Students have the following payment options:

- a. Full payment of the MFS amount at Everything Day.
- b. Allocation of Student Account funds from the preceding band year, and the remainder (if any) paid by November 1 of the then current school year.
- c. A 50% payment at Everything Day, and the remainder paid by November 1 of the current school year.
- d. Agreement with the Band Director to participate in and allocate funds from fundraising events to pay the MFS amount before fundraising monies may be used for other band items or activities.
- e. A MFS scholarship for applicants screened and approved by the Band Director"

Because of the critical need to fully fund the school year band budget, the failure to pay MFS will result in the withholding of band privileges for students who have not paid their MFS amount or agreed to one of the other payment options. The following band privileges will be suspended:

- a. Participation in the annual Band Trip.

- b. Contribution from the Boosters to offset the cost of the school letter jacket.
- c. Participation in the Band Banquet.
- d. Participation in the Band football performances.
- e. Eligibility for band leadership positions.”

In an effort to be sure that every family is fully informed, a copy of the full MFS policy will be sent home from summer band camp, the policy will be distributed via CHARMS, and it will be available at Everything Day. The Everything Day checkout form requires that parents initial receipt of the policy.

If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact Don Haynes, LBJ Band Director, at [donhaynes2@aol.com](mailto:donhaynes2@aol.com) or Mary Owen, LBJ Band Booster President, at [mary@casadeowen.net](mailto:mary@casadeowen.net)

### **What about fundraising?**

Several fundraising opportunities will be offered throughout the year. Students who work concessions at UT football games or participate in other *individual* fund raising efforts will have their accounts credited for their share of the profit for the particular event. When your child signs up to work a fundraiser, be sure you and your child understand whether the money for the event will be credited to individual accounts or to the band as a whole.

### **What do you mean by "students who work concessions"?**

Band students have an opportunity to earn money for their band account by selling drinks at UT home football games. The band members sell bottled water and cokes up in the stands. There is a drinks station under the stands where the band parents get the drinks ready, and students carry them up and sell them to the fans. Students will be notified of when and where they can sign up for this opportunity.

### **Does my child have to participate in UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest?**

Well...yes and no. For MOST students, participation in UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest is optional. ALL students are strongly encouraged to participate. Students in the upper bands are expected to participate at some level. Your student should speak with his or her director for individual advice about participation, choice of music and information about accompanists. Entry fees for Solo and Ensemble can be drafted from a student's band account.

### **Are private lessons required for band members?**

Students are strongly encouraged to continue private instruction on their instrument. Our band directors do a magnificent job of stretching our students, but there are too many students in class to allow for the kind of one-on-one attention your child will receive from a private instructor. Private instruction is particularly helpful in the spring when students prepare for Solo and Ensemble Competition. The directors keep lists of private instructors for most instruments. Some instructors come to the school and give lessons either during band class or after school.

### **What are Big Brothers and Big Sisters?**

Each year the band officers organize Big Brothers and Big Sisters for new members in the band. The purpose of the Big Brother/Big Sister program is to give new students a friend and mentor in the band. Big Brothers and Big Sisters are assigned at the request of the new band member. Freshmen and other new band members will be invited to sign up if they wish to participate in this activity. Being invited to be someone's Big Brother or Big Sister is an honor and a responsibility to be taken seriously. The newcomers typically ask upperclassmen in their section to serve as these mentors, but if a student is uncomfortable asking a person to fill that role, the band leadership will find someone. Once a Big Brother or Big Sister has been assigned, the freshman or new band member becomes a *Little* Brother or *Little* Sister!

Big Brothers and Big Sisters touch base with their Little Brothers or Little Sisters on a weekly basis. Big Brothers and Sisters typically exchange candy or other small gifts or tokens of friendship with their Little Brothers or Sisters on football game days, at marching contests and sometimes at holidays. Being part of the Big/Little Brother/Sister system gives your child an opportunity to connect a bit more deeply with another band member.

### **What is stadium clean up?**

The LBJ Band and Band Boosters work together to clean part of the University of Texas football stadium after UT home games. This is a major fundraiser for the LBJ band. The money raised goes into the general Band Booster fund, not your child's individual band account. Each section will be assigned one or two dates during the year for stadium clean up. One or two dates...that's all! Band members are *required* and parents are *strongly encouraged* to attend on their designated clean up dates. If you have a conflict on your section's date, let your section leader know and you can make up the clean up time with a different section.

The way it works is that we get together early on the day after the game (usually) and descend upon the leftovers from the day before. We pick up trash, recycle bottles, sweep and blow the trash. It's a good idea to wear old clothes appropriate to the weather. Bring work gloves or rubber gloves -- some of the leftovers are pretty disgusting! Bring gas powered blowers if you have them. UT provides trash bags, rakes and brooms. No, it isn't exactly what you think of as fun, but band parents and kids can't get together without MAKING it FUN! We have contests to see who can find the most unusual whiskey bottle or who can stack the most water bottles in the shortest amount of time. We sing silly songs and make all kinds of jokes. And the more of us there are working, the faster it goes! We are usually finished by mid-morning.

### **What is the Band Banquet?**

The Band Banquet is organized by the Band Council and held on a Saturday evening in the late spring. Although parents are invited to attend, this is a night for the kids and the directors to celebrate their year together. The attire is usually semi-formal. The banquet and dance are held at a hotel or other nice facility. Dinner usually begins about 6:30 or 7:00, followed by an elaborate awards ceremony in which the seniors give out rather "colorful" awards to their peers, the directors give out numerous awards and the leadership of the band for the following year is announced. A dance follows the awards presentation. Parents are invited to attend, but are usually invited to leave as the dance begins. :) Tickets for the Band Banquet are usually about \$25 each. Your student may draft his or her band account for the ticket amount, provided there are sufficient funds in the account.

### **Does the Band have a Randall's Remarkable Card Number?**

Yes! Thanks for asking. The number is: 347

### **Who are the Band Boosters and what is the Band Booster Board?**

Hopefully YOU will soon be a Band Booster! Anyone who is a parent, friend or supporter of the LBJ Band can become a member of the Band Boosters by paying an annual membership fee of \$20. Membership fees go into the general band fund to purchase supplies for the band. The Band Booster Board (or Band Board) is a group of Booster members who have agreed to serve the band in various volunteer capacities. We have a food service team, trip planners, treasurers, senior jacket orderers, a directory creator, a webmistress, a trailer committee and more. The Band Booster Board is the group that gets the Boosters organized to accomplish what needs to be done...whatever that may be...to provide support for our band, our children and our directors. We work hard, are very proud, and have a whole lot of fun! The Band Boosters meet the first Monday of every month in the Band Hall at 7:00PM. Everyone is always welcome to come.

### **What is "Charms"? Where is the Band Calendar?**

Charms is a web-based management system for the band program. It is used for generating

band emails, and it also contains the most up-to-date band calendar, details about upcoming events, and student uniform and account information. To enter the system go to: [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com). At the prompt for Parent / Student login, enter **lbjhsband** . On the next screen, you'll have easy access to the Band Calendar. By entering your student's ID/ password, you'll gain access to much much more! Here you can access Handouts (including Band Board meeting minutes and trip forms) and student financial information. Also, please look at Student Info. It is important that this section be complete and accurate so that the band directors and the band directory will have the correct contact info for you. If you don't know your password, or have any other trouble accessing Charms, simply email Barbara Springer ([baspringer@austin.rr.com](mailto:baspringer@austin.rr.com)) and she'll help you get into the system. Also, if you have questions about, or observe errors on, the Band Calendar on Charms, please let Barbara know.

### **How can I stay up to date on what is happening with the band?**

Come to Band Booster meetings, read your email, ask your student, check the band web site [www.lbjband.com](http://www.lbjband.com), log on to Charms, or call a Band Booster Board member or the Band Hall. (If you don't have regular access to email or the internet, *please* let us know so we can make sure you get all the important band messages!)

### **How can I get involved?**

Give us a call or send us an email ([baspringer@austin.rr.com](mailto:baspringer@austin.rr.com)). We'll help you get involved even if you only have a small amount of time to offer. We think you will discover that the more you invest in the band, the happier and more connected both you and your child will feel. We look forward to welcoming you into our band family and helping you find a place where you feel comfortable.