



## New Band Parent Survival Guide

Welcome to the Redhawk Band Boosters! We are so glad you and your child will be joining us this year. We recognize that the investment of time and money can be a bit overwhelming at first – it gets easier! Following are some bits of wisdom we've learned over the last few years; we hope you find this helpful as we begin another amazing band season.

### SUMMER BAND

- Get your child moving now – walk, bike, jog, swim – work those muscles! Spending the next 6 weeks in front of their favorite electronic device will guarantee soreness the first couple weeks of band.
- The parking lot is really hot! Please help students stay hydrated at home, too – drinking an extra glass of water in the evening will make the next day in the heat a little easier.
- Wear proper tennis shoes! Not all (really cute/cool) summer shoes are great for marching on concrete. To avoid shin splints and sore or damaged feet, make sure students wear good supportive athletic shoes to rehearsals.
- On the multiple practice days, consider sending a sack lunch and drink with your student. It saves you extra drive time, and the kids use that time to rest and recharge while getting to know one another better.
- Camelbak bladders can be filled the night before and refrigerated, or you can even fill them with ice to help keep the water cold. Extra cold water is supplied by the wonderful student water crew. Encourage your children to take water breaks when they need them! Wash the bladders in warm soapy water & rinse thoroughly frequently.
- Sunscreen and sunglasses/hats are mandatory! Sunburns and sun-damaged eyes make for miserable rehearsals.
- Encourage your child to participate in any summer socials with the band and/or their section. Getting to know your band family makes the whole experience more fun!

### MARCHING BAND & SCHOOL

- Be encouraging and know that your child is going to be really tired, especially while it's still hot. The directors are great about keeping the practice schedule reasonable so there is time for rest and homework.
- Sometimes band rehearsals conflict with a teacher's set tutorial times – encourage students to talk to their teachers about making up classes/tutorials/assignments due to band. The Liberty staff is great and wants your student to succeed.
- Some contest days will be long, and there will be time on the bus or between performances to catch up on reading assignments or other homework. Encourage your students to think ahead!
- Use HAC to help your student keep abreast of assignments. If your child is getting overwhelmed, have them talk to their band director! Everyone understands that our kids are students first.

### GAMES & CONTESTS

- Please come – we have a blast! Band parents usually sit together near the band, even when they aren't chaperoning.
- Purchase an "Unbridled" show shirt or other Liberty Band gear for yourself. We wear them to contests and games to show our support for our awesome students!
- Bring a few extra dollars to contests to purchase the "patches" that can go on your student's letter jacket (or on a blanket, or in a scrapbook, etc). Great memories!

### GETTING INVOLVED WITH RBBC

- Volunteer at performances and other events! We have a ton of fun, and you'll get to know the other band parents, as well as the students. Don't want to ride the bus? Work concessions or help with the equipment crew! Opportunities abound for you to be able to share your unique gifts and talents. All jobs are equally fun and never boring!
- Attend booster meetings – these are always open to all band family members. We meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays of each month in the band hall at 6 pm, unless otherwise noted on CHARMS.
- Speaking of CHARMS – it's your best friend for staying informed. Check it frequently to stay in the loop on band happenings and to see how you can volunteer. Sync the CHARMS calendar to your smart phone!
- Like us on Facebook! You can find us at LibertyRBBC.
- Please read all emails from the Redhawk Band Boosters Club (RBBC)!
- Participate in the fundraisers! We hold a few key & easy events throughout the year to help raise money for financial aid and senior scholarships, to fund the props and cool equipment for the marching and concert programs, to bring in awesome clinicians, and to help defer costs to the parents for Spring Trip, among many other worthwhile band functions. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!
- We know that having a child in band is expensive. The Liberty band staff and RBBC make every effort to keep costs down while providing a high quality and efficient music education program. Financial assistance and installment plans are available – please don't hesitate to ask about them!
- With more than 260 students in band and guard this year, we'll need all parents to participate in some way to ensure the success of the program. Please get involved – you'll be glad you did!

You can find the booster club info at [www.redhawkband.com](http://www.redhawkband.com). Please don't hesitate to contact any one of us if you have questions. I'm looking forward to meeting and working with you!

**Go Redhawk Band!**

Peace,

**Susan Burden**

RBBC President 2015-16

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