Hancock

 High School

Pride of Hancock



Band Parent

 Survival Guide

Welcome to The Pride of Hancock Marching Band! We are very excited to have you and your band student as a member of our organization. As a “rookie” band parent,

I hope you find the information in this “unofficial” handbook helpful! It has been put together via internet research and suggestions from other new parents, as most of us spent our first year in various states of confusion with LOTS of questions.

Over the next four years, your band student will work hard! They will experience triumph, as well as defeat. They will learn responsibility, accountability, discipline, and a sense of family! Being a band student and a band parent is a big commitment, but being a part of this program will bring your child an interesting and fulfilling educational experience.

Please feel free to contact the Pride of Hancock staff or a member of the Band Boosters if you ever have questions, concerns, or comments!

Thank you!

Pride of Hancock Band Boosters

 The Pride of Hancock Staff

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We use an online system called Charms Office Assistant ([www.charmsofficeassistant.com](http://www.charmsofficeassistant.com)) to organize everything from schedules for practices, football games, contests, basketball games, concerts, and any other activities that come up during the school year. Your student will be given a log in name and password to access this information. Group emails are sent out from this web site to all parents regarding any activities throughout the year. It is VITAL that you keep an up-to-date email address on file with us, as this is the primary way we communicate. The “Charms” web site is user friendly, and really just requires you getting online and playing around to learn how to use it. Log in name and passwords will be distributed during the “new band parent”. If you have any questions regarding use of Charms, ask one of your Band Directors or Booster officers.

Mr. McLain and the boosters also use remind 101(it is 2 separate accounts) one for marching band and one for boosters. You can either have it set up to receive reminders through text message or you can download the free app.

**Band Booster Meetings**

Our band booster meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Band Hall at 6pm. You might ask – what is a band booster? Simply put, it’s you – the parent/guardian or any family member who wishes to see your band student and our band program succeed and be the BEST it can be. Our band DEPENDS on our boosters’ help. And by “help”, I mean everything from chaperoning out of town ball games and contests, working the concession stand at the home football games, helping get equipment on and off the football field during halftime, helping with 3rd quarter snack (this will be discussed later), and working the “home side” during football games making sure our kids are HYDRATED! (this will also be discussed later). We also help with fund raising and MANY other special events (to be announced) during the school year.

**Parent Involvement**

Our band directors can’t do everything and can’t be everywhere – the band needs our parents in order to function! When your child is in band, YOU are in band too! Our kids work hard and having parents around insures things run smoothly. It’s as simple as that! Getting involved in the band program will give you the opportunity to share these last few years of your child’s education. The years go by FAST! Your child might say they’d rather not have you around, but most parents learn that in reality, they appreciate your involvement. Our band students are very grateful for all that we do - and when you hear that “thank you”, it’s SO worth it! Your help is voluntary, of course – if you can help a little, great! If you can help a LOT, even better! We work hard, but we do have fun, and it’s a great way to get to know other parents. If all of our parents would pick a few activities per year (and there’s plenty!) in which to help, it would be very beneficial! We don’t want just a handful of parents doing all the work - there is something for everyone! Please fill out the Parent Information sheet and let us know what areas interest you!

**Time Management**

This will be the most important tool that your band student will acquire now that they are members of The Pride. School all day, after school practices, football games on Friday nights, contests every weekend in October, and the list goes on – your student will learn that they must use every minute of their day wisely. Time not spent in practice needs to be spent doing homework and studying for other classes. Your student will learn to keep a schedule, to set priorities, and above ALL, be PUNCTUAL. They will learn the meaning of the phrase…

*If you’re early, you’re on time, If you’re on time, you’re LATE”*

**Summer Band Camp**

*“This one time..at band camp”*

Some families may not realize that there is a summer rehearsal schedule, aka “BAND CAMP” and it is REQUIRED. Band camp is held at the high school during the last two weeks of July. It is mandatory that all students attend and we ask that you schedule family vacations, doctor’s appointments, and summer jobs around these weeks. Band is a GROUP activity and if one member is missing, it has an effect on the entire group. The band camp schedule will be distributed during the new band parent meeting. PLEASE put this is a safe place! The front of your refrigerator is probably the best spot! Students will need to bring their lunch each day, along with a water cooler. NO soft drinks or energy drinks – ALL band students should be drinking water or sport drinks (i.e., Gatorade/Powerade). Other
“must have” items will be discussed during the new band parent/student meeting.

The Band Boosters will provide supper during the 2nd week of band camp, as the schedule is more strenuous that week. In the past we have had different menus (hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza) each night. Students may be charged a nominal fee to help cover the costs of meals each night. Parents are needed to help serve our students (this is usually done “buffet style”) – if you are available, we’d LOVE to have you! More information to come in the future!

**Football/Marching Season**

Marching season is a BUSY time for our band AND our band parents. After school practices, Friday night games, pick up, drop off, and the cycle starts over.

The game schedule will be available on Charms and the Hancock High School web site. Each week there will be a set time for band members to be dressed in uniform, ready for roll call, and warm up. A lot of students stay after school on game days – you may want to bring your child something for supper (if possible) or have them pack a snack/extra meal to eat prior to the game. For home games, parents will be needed to help get water coolers, snacks, first aid kit, and other supplies to the football stadium. We like to do this early (i.e., before the band marches in.) If you plan to help during the ballgame, we will provide you with a “chaperone” badge. This will keep you from having to pay an entrance fee into the game. HOWEVER, please do not take the badge (and free entry) and then go sit in the stands and NOT help. There is always something to do! The Band Boosters run the concession stand on the *visitor’s side* during home games – please sign up to work! It’s a great way to get to know other parents! It’s also air conditioned (an awesome perk for those first couple of games when it’s so HOT outside!)

Your band student will play music and cheer in the band stands during first and second quarter, and then perform the halftime show. Parents are ALWAYS needed to help get equipment on and off the football field during halftime. Please ask “how can I help?” and we’ll point where it needs to go! Band members have the third quarter “off”. The Band Boosters provide water/soft drinks and a snack to all band members during 3rd quarter. They can also purchase food from the concession stand if they wish. Band members will be required to be back in the stands before third quarter ends – the time will be set by the Band Director. They will again play and cheer during fourth quarter and once the game is over, they will march out of the stadium. This is standard practice for all games! During home games, the band will march to the band hall. Mr. McLain will take a few minutes to address the band once they are back in the band hall. This is his time to go over the events of the night and parents are requested to remain outside the band hall.

For out of town games, the band will march to the buses and be dismissed to load equipment, get out of their uniforms, and load buses for the ride home. We try to give an accurate return time for out of town games, but please keep in mind that things happen (e.g., game goes into overtime, heavy traffic, etc). Your student will be instructed to call you when we are close to the school so that you can be on your way and/or know our location if you’re already waiting. We also post updates on our Facebook Band Parent page (to be discussed later)

Please be prompt in picking up your child – our Band Director CANNOT leave until all students are picked up (and he wants to go home to his family too!)

**Uniforms**

If you have been to any high school games during August and the first part of September, you will notice that the band students (including ours!) wear a “show t-shirt” and khaki shorts due to the heat. Information about the “Pride” uniform fittings will be discussed during the new parent meeting, as well as information about uniform accessories such as gloves and band shoes. The uniform assignment process can be tedious and patience from your band student is very important. After uniforms are issued, students MUST report any problems (current or future) as soon as possible so that repairs can be made! This can include a button that comes off, or a zipper that breaks, etc.

**Band Contests**

During marching season, our band members perform at numerous contests (locations to be announced). Contests are held are each Saturday of October (and possibly the 1st Saturday of November), so CLEAR your calendars. Band contests are scheduled on Saturdays and they are an ALL day (and into the night!) affair. More information will be distributed in the coming months. We always need parents to chaperone the band to these contests and help with meals/snacks. It’s a long day/evening for everyone, but it is so rewarding watching our kids perform, in addition to watching other schools perform!

**Hydration, Hydration, Hydration!**

We cannot stress this enough! Your band student will be strongly encouraged to stay hydrated during practices, games, and contests. Y’all know MS weather and it’s HOT down here! Marching band is an OUTSIDE activity. The directors allow time for water breaks during band camp and after school practices. During all football games, band parents are needed to distribute wate to the band at certain intervals. During those first few games, we watch our students closely for signs of overheating. If there are any medical professionals (doctors, nurses, EMT’s/Paramedics) among our band parents, your assistance is always welcome!

**Band Fees**

While the middle school program does not traditionally have “band fees”, the high school band program is very different. The Pride of Hancock band fees vary according to what section of the band (i.e., “Hornline”, “Percussion”, or “Color Guard”) your child is in. Our band fees cover everything from equipment, props, food/snacks (it’s ALL about feeding these kids), dry cleaning fees for uniforms, contest fees, transportation costs, and a multitude of other things! The fee schedule will be discussed at the new parent meeting. Due dates are not flexible, however, unique circumstances can be discussed with the Band Director or Band Booster Treasurer. *We do not want economic factors to keep any student from participating in band*. Throughout the year, there are many fundraising opportunities available to assist with band fees. The best way to learn about fundraising is to attend the Band Booster monthly meetings. If you can’t attend, the meeting “minutes” will be distributed via facebook within a week of each meeting.

**Networking**

If you like Facebook, I would love to have you join our band parent page. Just search “Hancock Bank Parents” and send a request to join the group (it’s just like sending a “friend request”). You must search from the full site online – the mobile Facebook application does not allow you to get to the band parent group page, however once you are a member, you can post and receive notifications from the mobile site. In addition to group emails we send out, a LOT of information is put on the Facebook parent page. Many parents also post pictures of the games, contests, and other activities throughout the year. It’s also a good place to chat, post comments, concerns, or questions.

**Helpful Hints!**

* Make your band student responsible for being prepared! The first time they forget something will be their last!
* Listen up during announcements made after practices, competitions, ballgames, etc. This is a great opportunity to find out who, what, when, and where
* Network! Introduce yourself to other parents, offer to carpool for after school practices or out of town games/competitions. This is the best way to get to know one another.
* Be prepared to cheer for our band!
* Make sure you keep an ACCURATE e-mail address on file with the Band Boosters and join our FACEBOOK band parent page
* Don’t be afraid to ask questions!

**Just a little humor to leave you with..**

You know you’re a band parent at Hancock High School if:

* You have to plan your vacations around band camp
* You can "hum" the whole show
* You know the meaning of "early is on time, on time is late!"
* All your "Speed Dial" numbers are band people
* You can spot your child on the football field during their show
* You don’t leave home without cash for the concession stand, seat cushions, and a camera

 You know you’re a band student if:

* You can scale the stadium seats with ease, but trip on the stairs at home
* You see your fellow band members more than your siblings, and your director more than your parents
* You care more if your instrument is hurt than if you are
* You say “it’s a band thing”…A LOT!
* You call it “marching season”, not “football season”
* You don’t argue Saints vs Packers..you argue brass vs woodwinds

Once again, WELCOME to THE PRIDE!! Please call or email if you have any questions!