

SEVEN LAKES HIGH SCHOOL

2011 NEW BAND PARENT INFORMATION

“I GET BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS”

When your child joins marching band they automatically have 300 friends, who are good friends, and those friends will encourage them on to academic greatness.

The friendships will last forever. Having a group of close friends in a school the size of SLHS is very important.

Band is a great way to meet great kids from all grades (9-12) as a freshman. They get a chance to interact with kids who will become positive mentors for them starting in early August even before they start classes on such a huge campus.

“WE ARE FAMILY”

In my 6 years as a band parent, I have learned to not fret over the time your child spends at school for band! Your child is spending time with smart kids who have direction and terrific time management skills. They are guided by some of the most incredible individuals I have had the pleasure to meet and associate with. Band kids look out for one another, have a terrific time together, and do amazing things on and off the football field.

Band is a **great** way for your child to belong at SLHS.

The Seven Lakes Band is not only your child learning and playing an instrument, it's family. The bond these kids and directors form through the course of the year is incredible. There are great times, good times and sometimes very rough times ... and they are always there for each other.

“THE ANTS GO MARCHING 2 BY 2 (HURRAH, HURRAH)”

When Mr. Archer says that marching practice ends at 6:07pm, that means your student will leave the practice field somewhere around that time. They still need to put away equipment, get a popsicle, chat with friends, fetch their backpack, etc. If you are picking up your child, don't even leave your house until 6:07pm!

Summer marching = Monday – Friday every week in August, roughly 8-5:30
Fall marching = after school three days a week usually til 6, plus Friday football games, and a few all-day Saturday competitions

There are 2 halftime marching shows, performed alternately during football season:

1. "Regular" half time show -- ALL students march
2. "Competition show" -- students will have tryouts during summer band to march in this show.

NOTE: If a student doesn't earn a spot on the competition band, s/he is still required to attend all rehearsals and contests. There are opportunities for students to “challenge” their way into a completion marching spot.

Stock your house with extra food – marching makes them HUNGRY!

BAND-TOBER ... ER ... “OCTOBER (BUT YOU GO ON AND ON)”

We have re-named the month of October to "Band-tober."

It is a VERY busy month. With all of the football games, marching contests, practice, homework, projects and tests, you and your student will be overwhelmed. By the end of the month, you will be thinking "WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO?!"

Then, very suddenly, it's all over. This happens every year. Please be assured, it will pass and it will all be worth it!

October is a “lost” month!

“COME ON AND BE MY LITTLE GOOD LUCK CHARM”(S)

CHARMS CHARMS CHARMS!!!! Use it, make it a habit to check it often. It will save your sanity.

Be Proactive – learn to use the Charms calendar. Consult it early and often. Don't expect to hear everything you need to know from the band. There's just too much going on and you need to know what's coming on your own.

You can view the "public calendar" without a password. However, you can get more detailed information using your child's ID password (their school ID number minus the letter at the beginning)

“HOT FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME”

Summer marching begins August 1
Monday – Friday
8:00-5:30
Until school starts

Summer marching practices can, and often do run late. So when you think it's time to go pick up your child, wait an extra 30 minutes to leave the house, or be prepared to read *War and Peace* in your car!

Sun protection is a must!

“IF I COULD SAVE TIME IN A BOTTLE”

The time involved after school for practice greatly impacts study time, and they must manage their time more than they ever have.

Our band kids are among the brightest, most motivated on campus. Each year our kids are graduating with the top of their class. They get into the top colleges. Don't think that the time commitment will negatively impact their grades. Just the opposite. They get to be better time managers AND they are surrounded by positive role models.

I learned that our family needed more hours a day and more "time management" during marching season!

“HELP, I NEED SOMEBODY”

Music programs today involve a commitment not just by a student, but by the parents as well. And it goes beyond coming out to the football games and cheering. Without the efforts of the boosters, it would be impossible to run a modern high-school music program. The band needs chaperones, fundraisers, uniform crew, load crew, and a host of other parents, to work with the boosters. Otherwise, literally, the show would not go on. So please be willing to make this type of commitment, not just to your child, but to every child in the music program.

Get involved! These kids are so great to be around. You will really enjoy getting to know your fellow band parents. There is something for everyone. You only have a few more years with your kids at home - don't miss a minute!

Get involved in various activities so you can meet other band parents who can answer many questions.

"MONEY, MONEY, MONEY" DAY

"Money Day" will be a Saturday in August.
This is the day parents order & pay for all items needed for marching band. It is worth your time to make it on that day!
Lots of paperwork to turn in and it easy for things to get misplaced if turned in later.

Buy extra gloves and socks. They always go missing.

Be prepared for the **shock** on money day.

That money day would cost me \$600.

“EVERYBODY NEEDS AN EDUCATION”

Course credit -- If your student is in band for all 4 years, they will receive 2 hours of PE credit (.5 each fall semester) and 2 hours Fine Arts credit (.5 each spring semester)

Marching band is extremely competitive, time consuming and physically and mentally draining. It was very difficult for my child to manage all pre-AP classes, private lessons, and club and school soccer.

The excessive time commitment really is in the fall. Freshman should have a study hall, but even this doesn't help at times. Academically, fall is very tough on freshmen especially those that are in all Pre-AP classes.

Grades will suffer the fall semester because of time commitments. Take a study hall, if possible. It's worth it!! Your child will have a place to belong in such a large high school.