

Freshman Parents "Things I Wish I'd Known" List

We were freshman parents not so long ago. Below is a list of some things we wish we'd known as we ventured into this adventure of being band parents. The list may include some items which are no longer relevant. Some of this information is at the discretion of the band director (s) and could be subject to change. We hope this will ease your transition....

- In most instances, band practice does not end at the scheduled time. And, many times, practice times and dates change at the last minute. (This is where cell phones come in handy.)
- Boys will need a tuxedo.
- Girls will need black slacks or a black skirt and white blouse.
- Volunteers check all students before each event/game to be sure he/she is dressed appropriately. (Buy several pairs of black socks...they tend to disappear.)
- Tutoring is available for your student if he/she is falling behind. Tutoring is provided by other band students (as well as selected teachers.)
- Working Ranger Games is a wonderful way to pay for band expenses such as band fees and the band trip (see web site.)
- The scrips program is available as a fund raiser for the band booster club. You may order gift cards directly from our representative (see web site). It usually takes about a week to receive the card after you've ordered. Example: if you are planning to do some home improvements, buy a gift card from Home Depot and use it to "pay" for your supplies. Look at the list on website. There are many, many choices. They make wonderful Christmas gifts!
- Parents are a very important factor in a successful band program...attend the booster club meetings!!!

- Volunteer (there are many opportunities). Get to know your child's fellow band friends. They are great kids. Chances are, your child's best friend will be another band student. You will want to know him or her. Chaperoning on field trips, to and from football games, and to other various competitions, etc. are great ways to lend a hand and meet students and staff members.
- Band students must ride buses to and from football games and other events. In order for your student to ride home with you from an event, you must complete a form and have your child give it to the chaperone before boarding the bus. These forms are available to print from the band website (see above.)
- Students are not allowed to have/eat food while sitting/playing in the stands at the football games. Snacks are provided after half-time. On that subject, you will be asked to provide cookies and drinks early in the school year for this purpose.
- A professional photographer will be available to take photos of your child in the spring.
- If you don't own a video camera, no worries. We have a professional videographer who tapes all concerts/events/band trips. DVDs are for sale at a very reasonable cost throughout the school year. Can't make it to a game? Go to the website and view up to date photos weekly.
- Encourage your child to practice (playing their instruments)!!! Yes, they spend a lot of time at school practicing, etc. However, practice makes perfect. Unless your child is a prodigy, he/she needs to practice regularly.
- **AND THE MOST IMPORTANT ADVICE WE EX-FRESHMEN PARENTS COULD GIVE:**

Our website... <http://shsraiderband.org>...contains up-to-date information for everything band related and will include month minutes from the booster club meetings.