

FRESHMAN/NEW PARENT GUIDE TO THE REBEL BAND Hays Band Boosters, 2018-2019

*Because we were all new parents at one time,
but sometimes forget that "common knowledge" isn't all that common!*

Mission Statement: The Hays Band Boosters organization is dedicated to support the students, directors, and the mission of the band program as they strive towards the highest level of curricular and artistic goals in music education and performance.

- President: HaysBandBoostersPresident@gmail.com
- Vice President: HaysBandBoostersVicePresident@gmail.com
- Secretary: HaysBandBoostersSecretary@gmail.com
- Treasurer: HaysBandBoostersTreasurer@gmail.com

Welcome to the fun and fast-paced world of the Rebel Band! The Hays Band Booster Organization provides the following explanations so that you can be in-the-know and keep up with life in the Rebel Band. Some of the duties of the Boosters include the following:

*Financial support through fundraising

*Assisting band directors as requested

*Chaperoning trips

*Spirit items for sale

*Uniform assistance

*Helping with loading/unloading of equipment

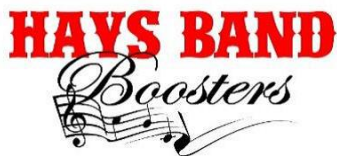
*Organizing and hosting band activities

*Communicating Booster activities

*Spirit activities

*Marching season and summer meal plans

*Marching prop construction and/or assembly



BOOSTER MEETINGS

Beginning in Fall 2018, the Booster meetings will be held at 6:30 PM on the first Tuesday of each month from September-May (except December). Meetings are generally held in the HHS band hall, and are approximately one hour, except the September meeting, which runs closer to two hours. We are all band parents, so everyone is invited and encouraged to attend meetings. Input, suggestions, and ideas are always welcome! Attending Booster meetings is the best way to stay informed and contribute to band activities. At the September meeting, you will:

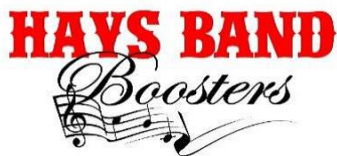
- Be introduced to and hear reports from band directors and Booster officers
- Sign up for volunteer opportunities
- Sign up to become a (voting) member of the Boosters
- Receive answers to your questions
- Meet other band parents and start to form new friendships

BAND YEAR AT A GLANCE

Late Spring and Summer begins marching band season. At the end of July, the students report for registration, then marching band camp begins in August. The Boosters provide some special treats and activities over the next few weeks before school starts. Some parents (Pit Crew) are hard at work building show props or working on our trailer. Other parents are busy organizing and fitting uniforms. Boosters also offers a summer meal plan for the students to purchase, if desired.

Fall sees the band in full swing marching mode! Fridays (and occasional Thursdays), are football game days! The Boosters organize and serve game day and competition meals for the band students that have purchased the meal plan, assist as needed with equipment, help with uniform management, and chaperone on bus trips away from home. Several weekends in the fall the Rebel Band will be attending marching competitions. The Boosters organize spirit send-offs and cheer for our kids on the competition field.

Late Fall, Winter, and early Spring, we shift gears to concert season. The Boosters support the band program at TMEA All-Region and All-Area Band, Winter Follies, UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest, UIL Concert & Sight Reading Contest, Percussion Concert, the Spring Concerts, and Winter Guard events and contests. Finally, in May, the Boosters host the End-of-Year activity and Senior Recognition event.



COMMUNICATION

The website for the band is www.haysbands.org. Information on the site is updated regularly. Please make sure that you book mark the site and look there for answers to questions. Information on the site includes:

- | | |
|---|---|
| *Student and parent Information | *Link to Charms |
| *Activities information | *Pictures |
| *Calendar | *Director/Staff contact list |
| *Booster information | *Booster Officers contact list |
| *Fundraising information | *Booster store
(meal plans, merchandise, etc.) |
| *Link to Hays Rebel Band Boosters facebook page | *Link to Twitter account @HaysRebelBand |

Our kids are now in high school and the band directors will share information with the students daily during class or practices; they don't often send written information home. There are several ways parents can confirm or follow-up on the information given to your student:

- Check the website www.haysbands.org.
- Sign up for Charms – Directors and Boosters email parents directly from Charms, also you can sync the band calendar to your phone.
- Sign up for Remind – Text the message @haysband to the number 81010 to receive messages from the directors.
- 'Like' Hays Rebel Band Boosters on facebook.
- 'Follow' @HaysRebelBand on Twitter.
- Discuss with your student the importance of keeping you informed.

To register for CHARMS:

1. Visit www.charmsoffice.com. Click LOGIN in the top right corner.
2. Enter the school code (JCHaysHSBand) in the PARENT/STUDENT/MEMBERS field.
3. Enter your student's school ID number. Create a new password.
4. In the group of icons, click on UPDATE INFO and make sure everything is completed.
5. Important: Be sure you add adult information with your email. All emails entered will receive information. Explore the site!



MARCHING SEASON

Spring Band Camp is when new, incoming freshmen join the current high schoolers after school and begin learning marching fundamentals. Students should bring instruments, water, a snack, and other items as directed by band staff. This is a fun but demanding activity that gives the newbies a good introduction as to what to expect during marching season. Boosters host a “New and Refresher Parent Orientation” in conjunction with Spring Camp.

Summer Band is mandatory and begins three to four weeks prior to the start of school. Practice times may vary, depending upon teacher in-service schedules. Practice times may also be a bit different for drum-line, color guard, etc. so check with your student regularly. Summer Band is to review marching fundamentals and really get to work on the marching show. Be sure that your student has eaten well before practice. It’s a great idea for them to bring a substantial snack, as well. Boosters will offer a fast-food type lunch for pre-order purchase (see below). Otherwise, students are responsible for their own lunch. Students will also need to make sure that they have their water jugs filled with ice and water at all times! They should wear sunscreen and dress in comfortable attire that meets the school dress code. Hats and sunglasses are a great idea, and comfortable shoes are a must! The directors do their best to have outside marching practice at the coolest parts of the day and indoor music rehearsal when it’s the hottest. The band and Boosters host a few fun events during summer band which could include: an ice cream party, hot dog/hamburger picnic, etc. **Volunteers are needed for these events!**

Summer Meal Plan is offered by the Boosters to provide lunches during Summer Band. Cost per meal is \$7 and can be paid for as a package at registration. Students also have the option to bring their \$7 every morning before band starts to order a meal. These meals are fast-food. The schedule and package price are TBD.

Spirit Items are created, ordered, sold, and distributed by the Boosters. Items include car decals, yard signs, duffle bags, t-shirts, and more. Please support the program and show your Rebel Band spirit by ordering. All orders will be taken on the band web site www.haysbands.org with online payment.

Before- and After-School Marching Rehearsals are held daily during marching season. Times will vary but your student will receive specific report times from the directors. Sectionals may be called last minute by section leaders or directors. These rehearsals ARE REQUIRED! It is extremely important that all band members attend each rehearsal. Every single person counts! Make sure that your student has comfortable clothing and their water jug.



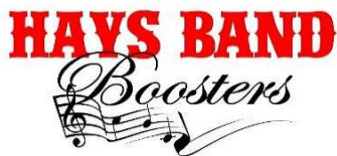
Marching Band Meal Plan is offered by the Boosters for all band students. The meal plan is a fundraiser but was specifically created to help keep game-day craziness to a minimum. Traffic, parking, and timing can all be rough on game days. The meal plan takes care of all football game day and competition day meals. The football game day meals are high-quality food catered by Hays CISD. On football game days, meals are delivered to the HHS cafeteria. Parent volunteers will supervise and assist as needed. Students will receive their meals and have time to eat before going to the band hall to change into uniforms. If early departure is necessary for an away game, students will receive a catered boxed meal to eat on the bus. Students are not allowed to purchase food at the game concession stands. They are not allowed to bring food into the game or receive food from someone while at the game. On competition days, we will provide one or two fast food meals, depending on the competition times. Game and competition days can be hectic, which is why we strongly encourage you to participate in the meal plan! You are welcome to bring food to your student before they get into uniform to eat at school, or provide meals on your own at competitions, but they run on a tight and variable schedule, so it can be difficult!

Volunteers are needed to assist with meal plan service.

The Marching Uniform consists of dark grey pants (bibbers), a jacket, gauntlets, gloves, dark socks, black shoes, and a shako hat with plume and decorative piece. Students will need to wear an underlayer, typically consisting of their band shirt and black compression shorts. Uniforms are stored at the band hall and **SHOULD NOT** be taken home! Students will be given detailed instructions explaining how to check-out and check-in their uniform. Students will also be taught how to properly hang up the uniform. Please be patient after late games or competitions; sometimes it takes a while to get uniforms put away properly. **It should be noted that uniforms are checked every time that they are turned in. If your student tries to turn in a poorly hung uniform or one with missing parts, they will have to go back to the end of the line and fix the problem.**

Football Games are usually on Friday night, and occasionally on Thursday. During football season, the band attends all games to play stand tunes and perform their show at halftime. The games are a fantastic experience and the directors try to make it as fun for the kids as possible. Rebel Band students learn dances and cheers that go with the drum-line cadences, create their own traditions, and have a fun time getting to know each other and cheering on the football team. Home games are hosted at Bob Shelton Stadium. Parents must purchase tickets to attend the home or away games. You don't have to attend the games, you can pick up your student afterward. For home games this pickup time is generally between 10:30-11:00 PM. Away game pick up times depend on where the game was played and how long it takes the bus to return to school. Students should bring their water jugs with them into the stands and they can refill as needed. Football games are mandatory performances.

It is important to note that students are expected to remain at all football games for the entire game! In the case of away games, students are expected to ride the bus to and from the game. Parents must email Ms. Condor (bonnie.condor@hayscisd.net) the day prior to the game if they need to pick their student up from the game.



Band-O-Rama is when middle school students from all three feeder schools (Barton, Dahlstrom, and McCormick) join the Rebel Band for a pre-game performance at Shelton Stadium.

Marching Competitions are typically held during the month of October on Saturdays. The Rebel Band will usually attend 4-5 marching competitions during the season. After a late football game on Friday, Saturdays come early... Hang in there!!! Parents, family, and friends are welcomed and encouraged to attend the competitions and cheer on the Rebel Band. The bands are judged on music and marching skills and are given artistic and accuracy points. The drum-line and color guard are awarded points as well. We'd LOVE to see our Rebel Band Parents sit together in the stands so that we can cheer for our kids with one LOUD voice!

Color Guard is an integral part of the Rebel Band marching show. This talented group of performers add so much to the over-all show and help to tell the story of the marching show. The guard utilizes costuming, flags, rifles, sabers, and other props while they perform a choreographed routine.

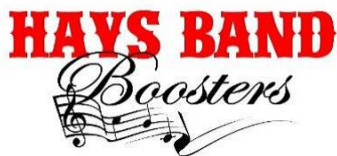
Pit Crew is comprised of hard working, amazing parents who help at EVERY football game and competition to get equipment on and off the field. Traditionally, the stationary percussion equipment on the side lines, in front of the band, has been called the pit. The Rebel Band calls this group of percussionists the front ensemble.

Volunteers are always needed to help with the pit crew.

Spirit Send-Off happens in front of the PAC on competition days. We get together to cheer and wave signs and pompoms as the kids pass by on the buses. Feel free to get creative with your sign making. The kids LOVE this show of support on competition days!

Socials, Parties, and Traditions are part of The Pride of Rebel Country's rich history, as you will soon find out. Each instrumental section has different things that they do, and each class tends to add a little bit of something to the program!

Big Brother/Big Sister Program is a band run program that partners incoming freshmen with an upperclassman in the band program. The older student offers encouragement and advice on how to best navigate membership in the Rebel Band. Usually, on game days or other special occasions, the "biggs" and "littles" exchange some type of small gift like an ice-cold drink, favorite candy, or other goody.



BEYOND MARCHING SEASON

Hays High School Concert Season Bands include Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Symphonic I, Symphonic II, and Concert Band. Additionally, smaller ensembles such as Jazz Band and Trombone Choir are active. Each band and ensemble will have different out of school rehearsal hours as scheduled by the director.

Winter Guard members actively rehearse their competition routine and attend multiple competitions during the late fall and winter. Guard is now a year-long class and we are excited to support them during their many competitions.

Winter Follies Concerts occur in December. Middle and high school bands all perform in a festive holiday concert at the PAC. The Boosters sell tamales at this event as a fundraiser to specifically support the scholarship fund.

Pre-UIL Concerts give the bands the opportunity to perform their UIL program for a panel and receive feedback. This concert helps prepare the bands for their UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest. Families are invited to attend these concerts.

UIL Concert and Sight Reading is usually held in April. Bands perform their UIL program for three judges who will give them a ranking. They will also attend a sight-reading session and perform a song they have never played, again for three judges who will rank their performance. This is a very significant competition!

Solo & Ensemble Contest and Concession Sales are held at Hays High School. Students perform their solos and/or ensembles for judged rankings. The Boosters host a concession stand as a major fundraiser and provide lunch for the judges. **Volunteers needed!**

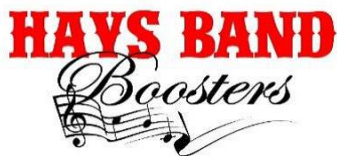
End-of-Year Banquet and Senior Recognition is in May, at the end of the school year. The Boosters and student leadership team plan and host a big party! Senior students' meals are paid for by Boosters. All others must purchase a ticket to cover the cost of their meal. Seniors are recognized, and the annual senior slide show is presented. **Volunteers are needed for this event!**

Graduation music is performed by the Wind Symphony and/or Wind Ensemble at the HHS Graduation Ceremonies.

Concert Attire is required for all concerts. Wind Ensemble wears assigned tuxedos and dresses. All other bands are required to wear concert black consisting of black slacks, black shirt, black tie for men, black socks and black dress shoes.

Additional activities and fundraisers occur frequently.

Please stay informed by checking the website, facebook, Twitter, and by receiving Charms emails.



SAFETY NOTICE – STUDENT LOADING AND UNLOADING:

Student drop off/pick up zone is the parking lot between the football stadium and the classroom buildings, **NOT behind the band hall**. In addition, it is encouraged that you park in a marked parking spot and wait for your student instead of forming a line of cars that extends into the main street. Please drive carefully and watch for students in the parking lot!

FUNDRAISING AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

A very important aspect of the Hays Band Booster Organization is to fundraise for the band programs.

- Membership drive – \$25 individual membership / \$40 family membership
- Marching season meal plan
- Summer band meals
- Spirit item sales – available online
- Rebels & Rides Car Show – in the fall.
- Rebel Run 5K – in the spring
- Concession sales – at Solo & Ensemble

We are always exploring more opportunities... feel free to give us new fundraising ideas!

In order to support and continue the Hays Rebel Band's history of excellence, the Boosters need as many people to participate as possible. If you can only volunteer one time – Great! If you can volunteer regularly – Great! If you can share event information with friends and family via word of mouth or social media – Fantastic! Support the kids! Support the program! Please don't hesitate to contact any Booster officer for more information, to share ideas or suggestions, or anything else that you can think of!

The Band Booster organization is run entirely by volunteers that give their time and energy for ALL of our kids. We exist to support the band program and try very hard to always do what is best for the students, directors, and future of this amazing organization!

WE LOVE YOU REBEL BAND and REBEL BAND FAMILIES!!!