

# How To Be a Band Parent 101

## NOW

Plan to attend as many boosters meetings as possible. It's a good way to meet other parents and find out more details about what's happening. They're the first Tuesday of each month (except for December and this July 2018 is an exception with the holiday) at 7:00pm in the Band Hall. Mark them on your calendar now. Booster meeting minutes are not published afterwards so if you do have to miss a meeting, get with your buddy afterwards to see what you missed. There are many ways that parents can volunteer and get more involved with the band program. Volunteer opportunities are always discussed at the booster meetings so come to learn more about how you can help out!

Bookmark the **Band** website ([www.cedarparkbands.org](http://www.cedarparkbands.org)) as you'll often find the information you are seeking there. Under the **Booster Organization** tab is the **Executive Board & Committees** contact list. Be sure to direct queries to the person listed in charge of each thing. If you're unsure who to ask, reach out to the Vice-President or President.

CPHS Band uses all **social media** so consider joining us at:

- **Facebook** - Cedar Park Timberwolf Band Boosters- (only for band parents) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CPHSBandBoosters/>
- **Facebook** – Cedar Park Timberwolf Public Page - <https://www.facebook.com/cphsband/>
- **Facebook** – There are many individual instrument pages for CPHS parents – check yours out!
- **Twitter** – @cphsband
- **Instagram** – <https://www.instagram.com/cedarparkhsband/>

Be sure to subscribe to the band calendar, which really helps as it puts the band events directly on your calendar and makes it easier to keep track of them all – and there are a lot in October. Rehearsal times change frequently and having these auto-update to your phone calendar is so helpful. Go to the **Charms** calendar (<https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/calendar.asp>), enter **CedarParkHSBand** for your password and click on the Calendar- **SYNC** link for instructions. When setting up your calendars, do NOT plan any family trips or appointments during marching season. Students cannot miss rehearsals, games or competitions for any reason other than illness.

## SUMMERTIME

Now is the time to get your student **outdoors** and ready for marching season! Have them spend time outside during the heat of the day. Getting them outside and out of the a/c will acclimate them and prepare them for working on the asphalt in the August sun. This is also the time to buy the needed band supplies – dry fit clothing, a large brimmed hat, good sneakers, healthy snacks, sunscreen, sunglasses, etc. Also, now would be a good time for your student to start avoiding dairy for breakfast and lunch. The band directors have found that dairy, heat and marching are not a good combination!

**Smart Music** – Mr. Yee has already sent out the information regarding setting up your wind student with the Smart Music program on his/her computer. (This does not pertain to percussion) You'll want to consider purchasing a quality microphone (such as a 'Blue Snowball' brand on Amazon) to work with Smart Music as it makes it much easier!

Two super-fun events are planned to kick off the marching band season. First up is the **Freshmen Pool Party** on 7/28 and then the **All-Band Pool Party** on 8/3. These are student-only events (sorry parents!) and they are a perfect way for your student to get to know the 200+ other students that are in their band. Do encourage them to go, even if they don't want to swim. Details will be coming on Charms.

## AUGUST

Check with your band student about what they need for each game and be sure they have it all. Some parents have found that creating a **checklist** is helpful. It can be a bit overwhelming at first to be sure they have everything, so a little bit of help is good. There is a fantastic giant poster hanging in the band hall that you should reference for the checklist.

Helpful tip! Your student needs to bring in their **blue water jug** already filled and iced every day of marching season. Parents have shared that freezing water overnight in larger Tupperware-type containers to make larger ice blocks works awesome with the blue jugs! Then the ice will melt during the day and keep their water jugs colder for longer.

Be sure to consider ordering **photo buttons** when you order your band pictures. Many of the band parents wear them at the games and other events to help identify who belongs to whom.

Check **SmugMug** often! Our talented band booster photographers upload photos regularly after band events. Videos of our performances can be found here too. Bookmark the **SmugMug** page - <https://cphsband.smugmug.com/> - this year's folder will be set up soon. You'll be amazed at all of the photos and videos that our Historian and her team will be taking all year long and placing on SmugMug. Be sure to download your favorite photos on your own computer (for free!) to make it easier when you're creating your **Band Memorybook** later in the spring.

Time for the **March-a-thon**! Grab your family and neighbors and set-up along one of the two March-a-thon routes. (\$\$ donations always appreciated as the band passes by!) Private concerts can be purchased in advanced through our Activities Chair. The band splits into two routes to perform through a couple of neighborhoods and then comes back together to perform as one ensemble at CPHS. Then it's time for Smoky Mo's BBQ – be sure to purchase your tickets!

Plan on attending the **Band Parent 101 Night** on 8/14! We will have several returning parents on a panel to give you their advice on what to expect and what to look forward to. We will also open it up for Q&A before going outside to watch the end of the practice rehearsal.

Consider coming early to band rehearsals! Pull up a chair on the side of the band field and watch as the show comes together. Parents are always welcome to come watch the outside practices.

Directors will set up **Remind101 texts** for the students. Parents are welcome to join them as well so they can stay up to date. These will usually be announced at Booster meetings.

**Schedule changes** - Be aware of early rehearsals, sectionals and/or hearing times that can happen before or after school all year long. The instrument sections also have a rotating schedule to clean up the Band Hall after marching band practice: you'll want to pick-up your student 20-30 minutes later on those days.

Plan to attend football games and watch your student shine!

## SEPTEMBER

Keep supporting your student, keep an eye on grades, make sure they get enough sleep and keep watching them improve week by week at the games as they are learning the full show. Competitions start!! All rehearsals are SO VERY important. Please believe your child when they say they can't miss. Do not schedule any

appointments or trips that might conflict with rehearsals. Knowing their dots is vital to not only the performance but the safety of all our children.

Plan on attending the always entertaining **Parent Marching Night**, which is usually the night of the September Booster Meeting. Your student will get to show you how to hold his/her instrument and move on the marching field. It's always so fun to experience!

## **OCTOBER**

Get ready for the full speed ride - the rest was just warm up!

Double check the list of what your band student needs for the contests. And anything extra that makes those bus rides more comfortable is appreciated (like those neck pillows to help with all of those bus naps ... your teen will be taking lots and lots of those).

Keep an eye on the email list, Facebook postings, notes coming home with your student, etc. as lots of fun stuff will be happening this month. Watch those grades, be extra certain your student is sleeping and studying when they can and enjoy as they show off what they've been learning.

## **NOVEMBER**

**BOA San Antonio** is the final big competition! More details to come later about it. Many parents plan to take off of work to see the prelims on Friday, and then go back again on Saturday to see the finals (assuming we qualify). This will be your last opportunity to see the marching show before it's retired!

More football, but after BOA SA, no more marching practice or marching at the games. The band will continue to show their spirit and play the school song, fight song and all of the stand favorites all the way until the end. If you plan any travel over Thanksgiving holiday, be sure to check out the band attendance requirements.

It's time to focus on concert season! Information about region auditions will come from the directors.

## **DECEMBER**

Winter concert reminds us that we're in concert season.

Playoffs!! Hopefully we make it all the way to State! And the band will be playing on. Band students will be required to be at the games all the way until the end.

## **JANUARY**

Whew! You made it thru your first marching season! Jazz band gets rocking! And Color Guard season continues. Volunteers are needed to support our wonderfully growing color guard. Please watch your email for needs for color guard competitions.

## **FEBRUARY-APRIL**

Cedar Park Winter Classic Guard Contest and UIL time! Be sure to support our color guard. Also support your student as they prepare to compete in UIL. They also are preparing for the **Cedar Park Young Artist Festival**, which is an individual competition.

Spring trip – this year the Timberwolf Band is heading to Orlando! See information from Mr. Wessels regarding the details of this exciting trip.

## **MAY**

Time for that last concert of the year and our silent auction. This is a fun evening for all! We also have our **band banquet** in May. For seniors this is their last hurrah and they will be doing it up big. Bring extra tissues for their parents when you come.

And time to sign up to be a band buddy for an incoming parent and reflect on how much you've done and learned this past year! 😊