

Hebron High Band

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ

Hebron High School
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Mascot - Hawk

Directors:

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Is there a band website?

The Hebron Band has its own website! Keep up to date with the most recent information by looking up www.hebronthighband.org

Is the band on Twitter?

The Hebron Band Tweets! Twitter is used to get important information out quickly to band members and parents. It is most often used to announce contest results as soon as they are known, inform parents when buses have left a site, and when they have arrived at a site. You can sign up from a link on our website or by going to twitter.com/HebronHighBand.

How can I keep up with my student's financial account?

We use Charms as a data management tool for the band. You can log onto Charms at any time to see the most current status of your student's financial account.

www.charmsoffice.com

parent/student login = HebronBBC

Student's password = student's ID #

Add charmsoffice.com to your contact list so that you will receive these e-mails.

What is the Hebron Band Booster Club (HBBC)?

The Hebron Band Booster Club (HBBC) is the parent and community support organization for the band. The main purpose of this organization is to help the band directors and band members achieve their goals as a performance group.

What is the structure of the band?

There are 5 parts to the Hebron Band

- Wind Symphony
- Symphonic Band
- Concert Band
- Percussion
- Color Guard

A student's placement is determined by tryouts in the spring and fall.

During the fall semester all of these parts meet together for early and late rehearsals. During the school day each member will rehearse with their assigned group during their assigned class period.

In the spring each group will meet during their assigned class time the difference being that percussion students will now meet with their assigned band instead of as a percussion class.

What is Color Guard?

The Color Guard is an integral part of the visual performance of the marching band. Selection is based on tryouts in the spring. The group is under the direction of the Color Guard Director. The guard may work on dance, rifles, sabers, as well as flags.

What is the 3-day camp in May?

This camp is only for incoming freshmen. It is designed to teach the fundamentals of marching. It is held for three days usually in May after school at Hebron. Band leadership candidates also attend this camp to aid in the instruction.

What is Percussion Summer Camp?

This is an additional camp for the percussion group. It is held for one week in mid July from 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.

What is the Music Mini-Camp in June?

This camp is for the full band and is all about the music. The music for the new show is introduced and the stand tunes are taught to the incoming freshmen. The older members are a tremendous help with the teaching process while building camaraderie with the new band members. This camp is held the first Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday following the last day of school. The Wednesday rehearsal is shortened and followed by a picnic for the entire band.

What is summer band camp?

The Beginning of August marks the beginning of the very busy Marching Season. It is all about “The Show”. UIL rules dictate that a high school program cannot begin marching drill until August 1 so summer camp will begin very close to this date. Attendance at this camp is **mandatory**. Speak to the directors about any concerns.

Generally, the rehearsal schedule is:

First 2 weeks - 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. with a lunch break from 11:30 – 1:00.

Third week – 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (Color Guard schedule may vary)

Things to know:

The kids must wear a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen.

They also must bring a water jug.

Closed toe shoes are required

Light colored clothes are encouraged

Lunch is from 11:30-1:00 daily. Students may bring their lunch or leave campus with parent permission.

The kids will be learning show music and drill.

Is attending the Band Fair important?

YES. The Band Fair is held on a Saturday in August each year. It is a chance for the **parents** to get all of the information they will need to navigate through the band year. This is when all paperwork must be filled out, signed, and turned in. You will have the opportunity to meet your section parents face to face. Stations will be set up so you can learn about fundraising opportunities, hear about Friday Night Dinners and sign your student up if you wish, sign up to chaperone, order formal wear for the spring concert season, purchase spirit wear and so much more. You will make a payment toward fees.

What is the End of Band Camp Parent Performance?

The end of camp performance is a concert for parents that is held at the end of the summer band camp. It is the only time you will see the entire Hebron band on one stage. The concert will be held in the auditorium at Hebron.

What is Parent Preview?

Parent Preview is a special showing of the marching show. It is held in Hawk Stadium on an evening sometime before our first contest. The directors use this opportunity to talk about the contest environment and to fill the parents in on information about our show. The show will be partially complete.

What is a section parent?

The band as a whole is divided by instrument type. Each of these divisions is called a section i.e. French horn section, flute section, percussion section etc. Each section has a parent who has agreed to be a contact point for that group. This parent is someone you can go to with questions, or concerns. They will help you the best they can or point you in the right direction. These are parents who have been around at least one year and understand how confusing or intimidating things can appear especially to a first time band parent. These parents will also organize special snack bags for their sections for the long trips our kids make like BOA San Antonio.

When are rehearsals once school starts?

Once school starts the practice schedule during marching season can be rather hectic. Early morning practices are held five mornings a week beginning at 6:30 a.m. On Tuesday there is an additional late practice held from 5:00 – 6:45 (Tuesday Night Rehearsal). If there is a holiday on Monday the Tuesday Night Rehearsal will usually be extended. Check calendar on the band website.

Will the band know the entire show by the first football game?

No. Our shows are very intricate with many parts. Each week of the marching season you will notice new parts and/or additional choreography. After the first three or four games the basic outline of the show will be complete but they will continue “fill in” and add choreography and more interest. It is a fun and intriguing thing to witness.

Does the band perform at pep rallies?

Yes, pep rallies are held every other Friday during football season except for homecoming week. For Homecoming, the pep rally begins with a parade through the streets around the school, and ends with a pep rally in the stadium. This takes place in the evening and the band is required to march and perform. You can call the school office for the exact start time of the pep rallies.

Does every band member march in the show?

The marching shows are designed for a specific number of band members and color guard members. This number is somewhat less than the number of members in the band. The marching spots will be assigned by the directors during summer band camp after they have had the opportunity to watch the students march and listen to them play. The members who are not assigned a marching spot will be alternates. Alternates are very important to the band program. Many will be utilized to handle props on the field when props are part of the show. The others will be expected to know all of the music or guard work for the show and will be assigned a position on the field they will be expected learn. When a band member can't march because he/she is ill, he/she becomes ineligible because of low grades, or for any other reason, a director may use an alternate to replace him/her on the field. At the directors' discretion, an alternate may challenge another band member for a spot on the field.

Alternates are expected to be at every rehearsal and band function.

Did I see the band perform in shorts at a football game?

Yes. The band members usually wear uniform shorts, band polos, black belt, and marching shoes to the first few games of the season. The temperatures are usually so hot that this is more comfortable for the students. Many of the other bands also follow this policy.

What do we need to know about caring for the marching uniforms?

Please read the “uniform care and cleaning” handout your student will receive (it will also be on the website). Weekly, professional cleaning of the uniform is included in your band fees.

FYI the marching uniform pieces are:

- Jacket – self explanatory
- Bibbers – the overall style pants that are worn under the jacket
- Plaque – a removable, decorative strip that goes on the front of the jacket – there are 2 styles one is a shiny silver and one is adorned with rhinestones. The directors dictate which one is to be worn.
- Gauntlets – Removable cuffs that are worn over the jacket
- Gloves – black gloves to be worn when playing the instruments. For some instruments these must be worn during practices also
- Shoes – must be purchased through the band booster club to insure uniformity
- Socks – must be black and be at least calf high
- Hat – self explanatory
- Plume – tall black feathery adornment that is attached to the hats just before performances
- Show shirt - black t-shirt with a logo representing the year’s show theme. This shirt was included in your fees and belongs to the band member. It is worn under the bibbers and jacket. *Note: the show shirt is the recommended shirt to wear under the uniform but a black t-shirt is acceptable.*

*Gauntlets, plaques, hats, and plumes will never come home

Do not cut any portion of the school owned uniform.

How do we care for the Color Guard costume?

Instructions for the care of the Color Guard costume will be provided by the director.

Tell us about the Friday night football games.

On most Fridays from the end of August until the beginning of November there will be a football game. The students will be given a set time to meet in the band hall. There will be inspections of uniforms, costumes, and equipment before the buses are boarded for away games and before walking in formation to the stadium for home games. The meeting time is usually very soon after school ends and the students should have already eaten dinner. (see Friday Night Dinners).

The end of the football game does not mean the band is released. If we are at home the band waits until the stands are almost empty before they walk in formation back to the band hall. If we are at an away game all members must board the buses and return to Hebron. Once in the band hall, there is a meeting where the directors give critiques, half time show film is reviewed, and

instructions are given. If you are picking up your band student please be very patient. This is one of the hardest things for the new band parents to understand. We recommend having your student call you when they are released or check Twitter.

What if the football team makes playoffs?

If the football team makes the playoffs the band is expected to play at the games. This usually includes a game during Thanksgiving break so you need to plan accordingly. The schedule for these games will be different from the regular season so watch for directions to come from the band directors.

What is “Friday Night Dinners” (FND) ?

As we mentioned, there is not much time between the end of the school day and the time the band members are to report back to school for inspections etc. on the night of a football game. The band boosters offer the service of serving dinner so the kids can eat at school and not rush back and forth to home or to a restaurant. This meal is optional and is an additional fee. There will be an opportunity to sign up for this meal and pay for it at the parent band fair and by Wednesday of each week.

What if it rains at a football game? – Raingear is provided for the band members during a game or competition. The band is expected to attend the game even if it is raining. The district safety regulations are in effect so if there is lightning detected the game will be delayed, paused, rescheduled, or called complete.

What is Winter Guard?

Winter Guard refers to the competition season for the Color Guard that follows the Marching season. These contests are held indoors and separate routines for groups as well as individuals are learned and performed.

What are Marching Contests?

Besides football games, the fall is all about the marching competitions for the Hebron Band. These competitions are held on Saturdays. They are comprised of UIL, BOA, and other marching competitions. Most of the competitions are in the DFW area with the notable exception of BOA San Antonio, and the UIL state competition that is held every other year in San Antonio if we are selected.

For the local contests the students will meet at the band hall at an instructed time, they will rehearse, and then load the buses to travel to the competition site. Many competitions have a preliminary contest; they announce winners; and then have a finals competition for those bands that qualify. After the final awards are announced the band will reload the buses and return to the Hebron band hall. Once again we recommend that you wait for a phone call from your student telling you that they have been released before you go to the school to pick them up or watch for a message on Twitter.

This all means very long days for our band kids. Hydration and nutrition are always a top consideration. You will be notified when a sack meal needs to be sent and when a meal is being

provided. We highly recommend that you volunteer to chaperone one or more of these trips. It is truly amazing to see what it takes to put on one of these shows and to see how amazing our students are. You will have a newfound respect for your student and how hard he/she works.

What is Bands of America (BOA)?

Bands of America--BOA-- is one of the largest and most influential national music education organizations in support of active music-making. BOA hosts many excellent contests and symposiums and is probably best known for organizing many marching band competitions for high school students, including regional and national events. Its largest event is the Grand National Championships, an annual competition currently held in the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis with 80 to 90 high school marching bands from around the country. The Hebron band most often competes at the Dallas (held at UTA) and San Antonio locations, but will undoubtedly be heading to Grand National Championships some time in the future.

The BOA web site, www.musicforall.org, is full of information that will help you keep up-to-date on scores, news, etc.

What is UIL – and the State Marching Competition?

The University Interscholastic League--UIL--governs the state marching contests. The UIL has strict rules concerning the conduct and procedures to advance to the state competitions. The schools in the state of Texas are divided into classes based on student population. Hebron High is “class 5A”, the class for the largest schools. In order to make the state competition more manageable, class 3A and 5A schools have their marching competitions in even numbered years, i.e., 2008, 2010, and 2012. The 2A and 4A schools hold their marching competitions in odd numbered years.

Every year the UIL contest begins with the regional marching competition. Hebron is in region 24. The bands are given a rating of Division I, II, III, IV, or V. These are not 1st, 2nd, 3rd place awards. All bands receiving a Division I rating proceed to the Area competition.

Division I bands from 3-4 regions gather at the area competition. It is during this competition that the bands advancing to state will be decided. All bands perform one time and a select number of bands will perform again in finals. In a state year a predetermined number of bands (based on a ratio of bands receiving Division I ratings in the Regional Marching Contest, and the number of bands competing at the Area Marching Contest) will get to make the coveted trip to State. The State contest is usually held in San Antonio and is held on a Tuesday for class 5A. The district excuses the absence of our students from class and pays many of the expenses for this trip.

You can find more information on the UIL web site. The address is www.uil.utexas.edu.

Do the band members who play percussion have extra competitions?

Yes. The Hebron percussion also competes in percussion competitions. These are in addition to the full marching band competitions. You are encouraged to attend these contests and cheer on our great percussion group. Each group is also ranked against other groups in their division and trophies are awarded at the end of the night.

What is the March-a-thon?

The march-a-thon is one of our major fundraisers each year. Band members sign up friends and family to sponsor them for the march, and the money they raise helps pay for competition expenses, instruments, clinicians and much more. A neighborhood is selected and the band marches through the streets and performs a mini concert. We also use this opportunity to give back to the community in some way. Most years we collect items for Metrocrest Social Services' food pantry.

What is the Concert Season?

Concert season takes place mostly in the spring semester but begins immediately following marching season. Concert season is the time when most musical training takes place and each band's performance rating during the UIL concert contest is the basis for evaluating the entire band program.

Band members will be placed in one of three bands based on the number of students and their playing abilities. Tryouts are held in late fall.

Concerts and contests are held throughout the spring semester.

Are private lessons necessary?

Private lessons are strongly recommended. They are offered on every instrument, pending instructor availability and are conducted at Hebron. Our instructors are professional players or advanced-level university students who are contracted through LISD. The lessons are under \$20 per session. Students with the benefits of private lessons not only elevate their own play but the musicality of the band as a whole.

What are sectionals?

Sectionals are held during concert season. This is an extra rehearsal each week for the students and is assigned by instrument. It is very helpful for the directors and clinicians to have the opportunity to work on music with one section at a time. Sectionals are scheduled by the directors and are mandatory.

What are All-Region, Area, & State try-outs?

This is an individual contest. Individual band members of the Wind Symphony and the Symphonic bands are required to tryout and members of the concert band are strongly encouraged to tryout. Pre-selected tryout music is available to all students beginning in July. Region Concert Band tryouts are held in early December in two phases. The students passing the first round (consisting of two phases) of tryouts will perform with the all-region band. If a student passes the second round they attain area status and therefore are eligible to compete for the All-State band. This competition is usually held in early January.

Band members who become All-State musicians assemble in San Antonio in February to perform at the Texas Music Educators Association convention. The bands and orchestras made up of these wonderful musicians represent the top ½ of 1% of the high school band members in the state of Texas. Advancing to All-State is the highest individual honor a high school musician can achieve.

What is the LISD Solo and Ensemble Festival?

Participation in this event is mandatory for all band members. The contest is usually held in February. Each member chooses a piece of music with his/her lesson teacher that is appropriate to their level of play. Ensembles are organized by the students and directors. The students are given a rating of I – V. I being the highest level.

What are UIL Solo Contests?

This contest gives the band students another opportunity to progress musically. Participation in this event is not mandatory for any band member but it is highly encouraged. The contest is usually held in February. Each member chooses a piece of music with his/her lesson teacher that is appropriate to their level of play. The students are given a rating of I-V, I being the highest level. If a student chooses a piece of music from an approved list, performs that piece from memory, and receives a rating of I, that student will have the option of progressing to the state UIL solo competition usually held in late May.

What is UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest?

The UIL concert contests are held in April. The concert bands travel to local high schools where they perform and are critiqued and graded by UIL judges. Each band performs their concert music followed by the sight-reading portion of the contest. If you have never been to the contest, you will be amazed during sight-reading. The band is given music that neither they nor their directors seen or heard and have approximately 8 – 10 minutes to talk their way through the piece. They then receive a “one-time-shot” at their performance. These contests are open to the public and are fascinating to watch.

What is the Spring Trip?

Each year the Hebron band offers its members the chance to travel on a spring trip. The trip is always in conjunction with a performance of some kind but has many added features such as a trip to the beach, Disney World, sites around Chicago, etc. This trip has an additional fee and is not mandatory but is encouraged. On even years the trip is in state, on odd years the trip is out of state.

What is the Band Banquet?

A band banquet is held each spring near the end of the school year. It is a time to gather and celebrate the year, but more importantly to thank the senior members for the time they spent with the band and wish them good luck in their future endeavors. Tickets are sold to the band members and their parents and siblings. Seniors are special guests and do not need to purchase tickets. The attire for this event is dressy but not formal.

Does the band perform at graduation?

The Wind Symphony is expected to perform for this ceremony. Transportation is provided.

What are spring try-outs for?

Late April and early May are very busy times for all band members. Try outs for fall band placement, drum majors, band officers, and color guard all take place at this time. Results are given before the end of the school year.

Is spirit wear available?

Yes, Spirit wear is available for parents and other fans. We have shirts, caps, sunglasses, tote bags, and much more. These items will be for sale at most parent meetings and during the first half of all home football games. It is a great way to show your support for the band.

What do I need to purchase on my own?

You will be responsible for purchasing the following items on your own:

- Flip folder and refill pages
- Black belt for uniform shorts
- Black socks for marching uniform
(at least calf high)
- Valve oil, slide grease, reeds
- Cleaning supplies for instruments
- Burp and lyre if applicable
- Metronome
- Tuner and pick-up

Where can I find more information?

More information about the band, including policies on grading and attendance, is in the Hebron High Band Handbook. This can be found online at www.hebronhighband.org.