

Frequently Asked Questions

What is “The Show”? The Show is the eight-minute musical marching performance. There is a new Show created every year by the band directors, with the assistance of professional show writers, musicians, choreographers, etc.

What is “Drill”? Drill is all of the marching positions laid out on a grid. Each student has their own drill and position.

What is Band Camp? Band Camp is a week of marching practice held for one week during late summer. Band Camp has mandatory attendance if one wishes to march during the fall. Students who miss part, or all, of Band Camp will probably begin the season as an alternate...especially if they are new to the school.

What should students bring and wear to Band Camp? WATER!!! Band Camp is very **HOT!** Students need to bring a large jug of water (marked with their name), light clothing, socks, athletic shoes, suntan lotion and a hat. They will also need their instrument, a pencil and DOT book (this will be explained to them).

Is the Show different every week? As the season progresses, you will see changes occur in the Show. As students learn new music and drill, a new section will be added to the Show. The Show is never considered complete until the last performance of the season!

Does the band march at every football game? They march at all, except the last football game of the season. During the last football game, they usually stand in place and play the music.

Can I give food and drink to my child at the game? NO!! They are not allowed to eat in uniform. The only drink they can have is water....which is provided by the band. It is very important for the kids to eat the dinner, at school, before the game.

What is a meal ticket? Your student will remain at school on game days. The meal ticket allows the booster club to provide a light meal for your student on game days. If your student does not purchase a meal ticket, he/she must bring a meal or have one delivered to them (they must eat). If they do not have food, HABF will provide a peanut butter sandwich for them. (It is preferable that they buy the meal ticket!) The meal ticket does not include meals for contests, trips, or special events. You will be notified of any additional costs for those days.

May I go visit, or have my child sit with me, during the game? NO!! The students are to stay with the band throughout the whole game. If you have a message for your child, speak with a sponsor or a drum major. They will get the message to your child. And yes, it is ok to go over and take your child's picture....or walk by and wave to them! (Just do not pull them out into the aisles to do so.) If at all possible, do not bother the band directors during a game.

Why does it take so long for my child to exit the school, after the buses drop them off? Believe it, or not, the students are not in the band hall visiting with their friends. All enter the band hall quietly. They must take off their uniforms, hang them up and wait for the band meeting with the directors. This could take from 30 minutes to an hour.

May parents come into the band hall? Preferably, parents should not be in the band hall before games and competitions. They are welcome to stand just inside the door after performances, quietly, until the students are released afterwards. Students are not allowed to talk until after the directors and drum majors speak with the group.

Who cleans the band uniforms? Students leave their band uniforms at school. The band boosters' uniform committee has volunteers who take the uniforms home periodically to wash. The cost of detergent is included in the band fees paid at the beginning of school.

Why do they have so many rehearsals? There is a lot of music and drill to learn. Once school begins, UIL limits rehearsal hours to 8 hours per week. It takes a great deal of time and commitment to be the caliber of band that the Pride of Haltom is.

What happens if it rains? If it rains during a practice, the band directors will continue unless lightening is in the area. Sometimes, then, they will move the rehearsal inside. On rare occasions, practice has been cancelled. If bad weather occurs at a football game, the band will be loaded on buses to "wait out" the weather.

Should my child practice outside of band rehearsals and class? Yes!! "Practice makes perfect"!!

Can I come watch rehearsals? Most certainly! Remember, the directors and students are there to work, so try not to interfere with what they are doing. They do like an audience, though.

Can I watch contests? Yes, they are for your enjoyment!! The students look for orange shirts as they take the field to perform. Come and yell to support the Pride of Haltom....

Where do I buy my orange shirt – or my show shirt? At all home games, and most away games. You may also purchase at the Fall Cluster Dinner/Rally and usually at Parent Night.

What is the UIL Competition? Bands perform and are ranked on a scale of "I to V" at the Regional Competition (I being the best). They must make a "I" (one) to advance to Area Competition. Depending on the number of schools in the area, two or more bands may advance to the State Marching Contest (held in San Antonio). State contests alternate every other year with Class 5A and 3A schools going in even-numbered years and Class 4A, 2A and 1A schools in odd years. Haltom is a 5A school.

How do contests work? Some contests such as Birdville, Duncanville, BOA and the State Marching Contest have preliminary and final rounds of competition. Usually the top 10 bands in the preliminary round advance to the final. Other competitions, such as Mesquite and UIL Region/Area only have one performance. Each competition has its own criteria and guidelines for judging the bands.

What is BOA? Bands of America is a national invitational competition with regional performances throughout the country. The San Antonio BOA is a Super-Regional, meaning there are more bands and a higher competition level. In November, BOA holds a National Competition in Indianapolis.

How long is a competition day? Starting time, for rehearsal, is usually determined by performance time in Prelims. The students will usually meet, for practice, early on Saturday morning. Haltom has a long-standing tradition of making it to finals, so the students usually leave the competition after the awards ceremony that could begin as late as 10 or 10:30 pm.

What are the responsibilities of a Bus Sponsor? Two sponsors are assigned to each bus, for the season, by the 1st Vice President. They must be district approved and band director approved. They are responsible for assisting the Directors if an emergency arises, such as a disciplinary problem, medical issue or accident. They carry small medical kits and emergency forms, on the bus and in the football stadium, should the students need anything. These bus sponsors also provide water, juice or Gatorade, along with a light snack, on the bus after the games and contests. At contests, they assist in getting water ready and chaperoning meals (on site or at the mall).

Who are the Haulers? The Haulers are the parents that organize, transport and set up band equipment for performances. They meet and load the trailers to take to the performance, unload at the performance, and reload after the performance.

Does the Band have a nurse? Yes, there is always at least one licensed nurse that travels with the band. The nurses we use are parent volunteers. If you are a nurse, or doctor, you are always welcome to volunteer!

What is the Spring Trip? The Spring Trip is usually taken in April. 1st and 2nd Period Concert Bands participate. The trip usually is to Corpus Christi, or somewhere on the Texas Coast. Many times there is a local contest that the bands may compete in. If not, the band directors use part of this time to practice UIL music.

Where do the kids stay? Most of the time, condominiums are reserved for the students. They stay 6 to a condo, and are able to stop by the grocery store to buy food for the weekend. The price of the condo is covered in their spring trip fee. Students need to bring extra money to buy their groceries.

How can I be a Spring Trip Sponsor? It is preferred that Marching Season Bus Sponsors serve as sponsors for the Spring Trip. They already know the kids, and the kids know them. If others are needed, Haulers, Board Members, and active Senior Parents are asked first. It is not vacation-time for sponsors! They are on duty 24/7. The kids are very well supervised. Sponsors are assigned shifts consisting of pool duty, ocean duty and nightly hall duty.