



August 15, 2021

Hello!

We've arrived at our final week of summer band! Things have been going well and we are right on track as we head into the school year. Please read through the information below as this week looks a little different.

- **Schedule for the week of 8/16**
 - Monday 8/16
 - ALL members – 7:30am-11:30am AND 4pm-8:30pm
 - Tuesday 8/17
 - ALL members – 7:30am-11:30am AND 4pm-8:30pm
 - Wednesday 8/18
 - ALL members – 7:30am-11:30am
 - No evening rehearsal
 - Thursday 8/19
 - ALL members – 7:30am-12:45pm
 - During this time, we will perform at the Fish Camp pep rally at 8:15, then continue our normal rehearsal until noon. Then we will perform for the afternoon Fish Camp pep rally at 12:15 which is scheduled to end at 12:45.
 - Since the morning is a little longer due to the pep rallies, and the freshmen will be in Fish Camp the rest of the afternoon, we will not have our evening rehearsal.
 - Friday 8/20
 - ALL members – 7:30am-11:30am
 - No evening rehearsal
- As before, students who do not have available transportation to leave and return on days with two rehearsals may stay at the band hall during the afternoon break. Be sure to plan ahead. If you won't have transportation to return at 4pm, don't leave at noon. Make sure you bring lunch or have a way to go get food during the break. Our older students are usually willing to take younger students to lunch with parent permission.
- **What to wear and bring**
 - Except for a few non-white shirts, we've been doing a good job with wearing the appropriate attire and having needed supplies. Keep it up!
 - We could still do better with having hats and sunglasses. Again, you can't properly receive instruction or be adequately aware of your surroundings on the field if you are having to squint and look at the ground all the time.



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- Make sure you continue to bring water. (note: the ice machine is still not working while maintenance is waiting for a part, if you don't want lukewarm water, you should definitely fill your jugs at home).
 - **Physicals and Rank One forms** need to be completed. Everyone who has participated in rehearsal has completed the physical, but some are still missing forms in Rank One. If you will be at rehearsal for the first time this week, make sure you bring your physical if you haven't submitted it. You will not be allowed to participate in rehearsal without it.
 - It was brought to my attention that there were some questions about the **fundraiser and financial obligations**, so I'll review and attempt to clarify information that has been in previous updates:
 - The fundraiser closes at 11:59pm tonight.
 - I'll be sending statements this week reflecting any credit earned from the fundraiser and remaining financial obligations.
 - Every member is responsible for annual dues, which for this year is \$150 per student. There is an additional \$50 fee for those who use school-owned equipment as their primary instrument. So, the total financial obligation is \$150 for those who own their own instrument and \$200 for those who use school instruments/equipment.
 - This amount doesn't come anywhere near the actual amount we need per student to provide everything and do all the things we do. Therefore, to avoid charging higher dues, we must rely on fundraising and our boosters to make up the difference. This is the primary purpose of the student fundraisers we do and of the booster organization. Many of the schools in nearby districts have annual dues of \$500+ for their band students. Without fundraisers and our boosters, we would either need to raise dues to these amounts, or provide fewer opportunities and experiences for our students, neither of which is something we want to do!
 - To help the students, the money raised on the student fundraisers is split with them. As I explained to the students Friday, if I allocated all the money raised on fundraisers to their individual obligations, it would defeat the purpose of raising money to make up the difference between the dues we charge them and what we actually need. This is the reason the money from fundraisers is split. 50% is allocated to help reduce the individual obligations, while the other 50% helps offset the need to charge higher dues.
 - For example, a student who met the \$300 goal on the fundraiser does not owe any additional money toward their \$150 annual dues (but would still owe the \$50 instrument fee if they use a school instrument), a student who raised \$150 on the fundraiser would still owe \$75 toward their annual dues, and a student who went above and beyond by raising \$600 would have met their \$150 obligation and have an additional credit balance of \$150 to apply toward future dues, trips, etc. (speaking of trips, the large out-of-state trips we take at least



Waller High School Band

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once every 4 years usually cost between \$1000 and \$1500 per student, so taking advantage of each fundraiser could go a long way toward paying for the trip when the time comes).

- To clear up any confusion: The dues are based on total projected expenditures and aren't itemized by specific items. While some items are provided through these funds, we also must cover costs such as clinicians, designers, props, contest fees, and some travel expenses that aren't covered by the district. The minimum amounts I'm using as checkpoints to receive certain items are simply to help break the total amount into smaller payments for those who need to do so while providing incentive and checkpoints along the way to make sure obligations are being met. They are not the costs of those specific items. For example, you aren't paying \$20 for the water jug, the reality is that we need everyone to have paid at least \$20 toward their annual dues at this point and I'm holding the water jugs hostage in an effort to get there. (Another side note: the carrying pouches with shoulder straps should be in this week, at which point the expectation will be that everyone always has the new matching jugs/carriers, so if you haven't made at least a \$20 payment, please take care of that ASAP. The carriers have been updated, so everyone will get a new one.)
- Here's a breakdown of when we need certain amounts to be paid (and I'll start holding various things hostage to encourage payment):
 - \$20 should be paid now
 - An additional \$55, for a total of \$75, needs to be paid by the end of this week (8/20)
 - An additional \$50, for a total of \$125 needs to be paid by 9/3
 - The remaining balance of \$25 needs to be paid by 9/17
 - School equipment fees, where applicable, need to be paid by 10/1
- If you need additional time or need to make special arrangements, please contact me. I can and will work with you. MONEY IS NEVER A REASON NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN BAND IN WALLER ISD.
- Payments can be made at any time. Paying in full is certainly encouraged. You do not have to follow the schedule above.

As always, if you have any questions, please let me know. I'm looking forward to another great week!

Grant McWilliams
Director of Bands