



August 29, 2021

Hello!

We made it through the first week of school! We are looking forward to another great week as we prepare for our first game on Friday.

- **Schedule for the week of 8/30**
 - Monday 8/30
 - After school rehearsal for all members 3:30-5:45
 - Tuesday 8/31
 - Evening rehearsal at the stadium 5:30-8:30
 - Wednesday 9/1
 - No after school rehearsal
 - Thursday 9/2
 - After school rehearsal for all members 3:30-5:45
 - Friday 9/3
 - Home football game vs. Aldine HS (a detailed game day schedule will be sent early in the week; we are working through details with administration due to construction)
- Consistent **rehearsal attendance** is very important. As we experienced last week, we never know when weather may interrupt our plans. With Thursday's lightning situation, any students who were absent from rehearsal on Monday or Tuesday only had one chance to march all week. This highlights the importance of each rehearsal. Additionally, the drill requires every person to be in their spot to function correctly. When students are absent, not only are they not learning and improving, but it also makes it more difficult for those around them to learn as well. Unlike most teams, there are no backups that can just jump in and march the spot for the day. One of the many things that make band unique is that the success of the team is truly dependent upon every single individual doing their part. Remember that students who are absent from rehearsals may not be allowed to perform that week (if you weren't there to learn and practice what's being performed, you could be a safety hazard to others) and may be moved from primary to alternate status.
- **Reminders as you prepare for rehearsals**
 - Make sure you plan ahead and bring your rehearsal clothes, water cooler, and anything else you need for rehearsal with you when you come school.
 - Make sure you have a transportation plan. Rehearsal ends at 5:45 on Monday and Thursday. Students need to have rides arranged to pick them up promptly when rehearsal is over.



Waller High School Band

Grant McWilliams, Director of Bands
Richard Hanf, Associate Director
David Gatlin, Assistant Director
Jesse Sanchez, Assistant Director

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- Students should be picked up from the stadium when Tuesday evening rehearsal ends at 8:30. The band hall will be open if you need to stop by and drop anything off after leaving the stadium, but there is currently not a way to walk between the school and stadium due to construction.
 - Don't ride the bus home if you don't have a way to get back by 5:30 for rehearsal on Tuesday. The band hall will be open between school and rehearsal for those who need to stay and there will be a bus to transport those who need a ride to the stadium before rehearsal begins.
 - Parents are always welcome to watch rehearsals. The only thing we ask is that you don't post any recordings or videos you make in places the public could find them. This is because the copyright permissions we have to secure to use the music in the show have very strict guidelines about when and where videos and recordings can be made and shared.
 - All **Rank One forms** must be completed to participate at the game on Friday. As communicated in classes this week, a grade will also be given for having these forms completed.
 - By Friday, everyone needs to have paid a minimum of \$125 toward their annual dues. If you've already paid this amount, or raised over \$250 on the fundraiser, you are all caught up for now. If not, please try to get payments in this week. In addition to this update, detailed statements will be sent today. If you don't receive a statement, please check your SPAM and/or make sure that the email addresses we have in Presto are accurate.
 - Soon, you'll be able to make online payments in your Presto account. Until then, if you'd like to make payments online, you may do so by following this process:
 - Go to this link <https://buy.stripe.com/7sl7wz95n6TCaMUcMM>
 - Adjust the quantity so that the total reflects the amount you'd like to pay (it's in increments of \$10, so for example, you would adjust the quantity to 15 to make a payment of \$150)
 - On the payment screen, enter the same email address that's in Presto. This will help me make sure the payment gets credited to the correct student. If you accidentally put a different email, it'll be ok, but don't be offended if I have to ask who you are before crediting the payment in Presto.

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

Grant McWilliams
Director of Bands