

2011 Hilliard Davidson Marching Band Chaperone Instructions and Guidelines for Band Trips

Anytime the band travels, we use several parents to assist with the trip. When the students are in “performance mode”, they are direct responsibility of the directors. When we are in “travel mode”, the students are under the care of our chaperones.

Volunteer Badges: All parents who volunteer with the band will need to get a volunteer badge from the Hilliard City Schools. Badges may be secured by visiting Central Office (Cemetery Rd) on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 9 – 11 or 1 – 3. There is a small fee to cover the cost of the background check.

Chaperones are arranged through Mrs. Mills via phone contact or email. On the day of the trip, chaperones usually meet outside the band room or in the uniform room for final instructions.

Before departure: When the buses arrive, be the first on the bus and establish your seats. Space the adults throughout the bus. **Take roll call** before we depart Davidson HS. If you have students on your bus roster that are not present, see Mr. Handshue or Mrs. Mills before we depart.

Dinner stops/Rest area stops. Take a roll call every time the students have the opportunity to exit the bus.

Arriving at a destination: Keep the students on the bus until the directors have assessed the situation and given instructions. Instructions may include “dress times”, “circle times”, “return time” (if at a food stop), etc.

Away Football Games: Once the students have exited the bus, you will have down time until we move into the stadium. Once in the stadium, sit with the band (usually off to one side) and enjoy the game. When a student leaves the stands during 1st, 2nd and 4th quarter to go to the rest room, they are to go with an adult. We trust the band members to do the right thing, but band uniforms make easy targets for the opposing student body.

Away Football Games – 3rd quarter: During the first half, boundaries will be determined for the band members. Mrs. Mills will communicate the boundaries and ask you to spread out to supervise the students. Again, we trust the band members to do the right thing; we worry about the other “non-band” students. If you see a situation developing, your presence will diffuse the problem.

Contests: Once the students have started their warm up, most parents are free to make their way to the stadium and find a seat. Your job is to cheer and start the applause at the appropriate times!!! (No air horns please)

Upon our return to Davidson: Assign a group of students to clean the bus. Be the last off the bus checking for lost items and cleanliness. You are not expected to clean, but make sure the students have adequately cleaned the bus. Bring non-uniform lost and found to the bandroom. Uniform items go to Mrs. Jakes.

Checking out after a trip: At the conclusion of a trip, please check out with Mrs. Mills. Let us know of any problems and also any pleasures. When the students do something well, I like to let them know our adults appreciate them. Recognizing students for good deeds will reinforce good behavior with the entire group.

Student Conduct: Students are told that you represent the directors. Please respectfully address any student that is not acting appropriately. If they do not respond to you, leave the situation be and find a director.

Food for thought:

- I am “old school”. I have survived the past 27 years of teaching by being very conservative. As students mature earlier and are given more parental freedom at a younger age, more conflicts arise during band time. When students are on band time, my rules are the first rules. “My mom lets me...” can be responded to with “right now, Mr. Handshue is your mom”.
- Mrs. Mills is the chaperone chair and rides the first bus. If there are questions, she should know the answer. If she does not know the answer, she can get it quickly. When in doubt, say no (see next).
- If you are pressed into an answer by a student – just say no. No can be easily changed to yes and you are a “good guy”. Changing yes to no makes us the “bad guys” who took something away from the students.
- Be Flexible. Allow the students freedom as long as they are safe. (see above)
- Trust the students to do the right thing. The directors work with the students to think before they act. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn’t. It’s part of the teaching process.
- I am particular about the uniform. If it is not being worn properly (hats on backwards, gauntlets as hats, etc), address the situation. It is rare that the students will be allowed to be in partial uniform (in public).
- You are an extension of the directors. Please see Mr. Handshue if a student is not treating you with respect.
- Students will be dressed appropriately on the bus – no boxer shorts.
- If a couple is getting “too involved”, address it and don’t be afraid to move them if it continues.
- While traveling and we make a food stop, chaperones need to split up between the food establishments available to the students. Do not have students exit the bus until instructions have been given and chaperones determine where they are going to eat. I need to quickly assess the situation when we arrive and determine safe conditions. I try to avoid crossing streets if at all possible.
- Be careful not to extend your child special favors. Example: we eat as a group at specific times. (during 3rd quarter at football games) Don’t make a food stop especially for your band member unless the band is on “free time”.
- Quite often, parents not chaperoning will come along to watch the group. Take the opportunity to greet educate the young parents. Tell them what we are doing and of your role in helping the band. Making contact with them will help them feel involved and they become a potential volunteer!

Remember, I trust the students to do the right thing. It is others that I do not trust. Always keep an open eye to potentially hazardous situations. Be diligent about the individual student. Never let a single student wonder aimlessly. Find a squad leader and pass the student off to other band members. Keeping the students safe is everyone’s primary responsibility.