

Tips for 2017-2018 DVHS Band & Guard Parents

Welcome to the DVHS Band Family! You will spend a lot of time over the next year with the parents, students and directors who make up this award-winning program. If you are new to the Band program, we realize it can be a little overwhelming at times so here are some tips to let you know what to expect and have some fun along the way. And, even if you are a seasoned Band parent, there might be a few good reminders in here for you, too!

BAND CALENDAR

Go to the band calendar NOW and put all the important dates on your personal calendar:

www.charmsoffice.com Doing this now will save you a lot of time later!

Login: delvalleband Password: student ID

Or visit our website www.delvalleband.com (click on Calendar)

SOCIAL MEDIA

You can get updates about the band program as well as contest results and bus arrival times by liking/following the Band & Vision program on social media:

Facebook: Del Valle Band

Twitter: @delvalleband1

Instagram: delvalleband

STUDENT PICK-UP AFTER PRACTICES, GAMES and CONTESTS

Expect your student to be ready to go about 15 minutes after a practice ends. If your student is in the Percussion Front Ensemble, add a few more minutes to the pick-up time because they have a lot more equipment to move back to the band hall from the practice field. All practices run until the stated end time. Then students return to the band hall to put away instruments, get books/homework, and other items. After games and contests, students will need to enter the band hall to properly hang up their uniforms and put away instruments and equipment. *Everyone is expected to help with this.* Please don't encourage your student to skip out on their duties so you can leave early! When everyone helps out (and parent help is welcome!) we ALL get to go home sooner. **Please do not pull into the parking lot directly outside of the band hall doors to pick up your student when we have contests and away football games.** These are roadways and parking areas that will need to be used by the band trailer and truck to unload instruments and equipment. Blocking these access points will delay the unloading of the trailer and truck. Trust us, we will all get home faster if you park (and stand) away from the band hall entrance area!

CARPOOLING IS YOUR FRIEND

We can't stress enough how much carpooling will save your life and your sanity this year. Whenever possible, carpool for marching camp, after-school practices, early morning sectionals and any contests or events. The early and late drives to the band hall can spread you thin, so definitely make an effort to find parents/students who live near you and can share rides. It also keeps it less congested at the band hall with fewer cars.

VOLUNTEER

Running a competitive program takes an incredible amount of work and dedication from the Students, Staff, and Parent Volunteers. The Band & Guard Program could not do what it does without a large parent volunteer base. WE NEED YOU. WE WANT YOUR HELP. WE WELCOME PARENT INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT. THERE IS A ROLE FOR EVERYONE! Please sign up to help with chaperoning, meals, costumes & uniforms, Spirit Wear, fundraisers, etc. Not only will you help the band program continue at the high level of excellence it has maintained the past five years, but you'll also enjoy the experience a whole lot more. We promise! You will get out of it what you put in – if you don't ever spend time getting to know other parents and students you will miss out on some of the best experiences you can have as a member of the band family. Please sign up with Mr. and Mrs. Arias or any other board member.

LOG YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS

We need you to keep track of and report your monthly volunteer hours associated with our Parent Association. The Band & Guard program as well as DVHS and YISD all benefit from an accurate reporting of volunteer hours. The Band & Guard program is consistently one of the campus organizations putting in the most volunteer hours for the school. Volunteer hours include *anything* you do for the Band Parent Association, including phone calls, time at school, work done from home for the program, chaperoning, fundraising, attending booster meetings, etc. Please sign-in in the Parent/Booster room anytime you volunteer.

BOOSTER MEETINGS

A great way to know what is going on with the Band & Guard is to attend the Parent meetings. There are meetings throughout the year. We will send you a reminder when meetings are coming up.

GAMES, CONTESTS and CONCERTS

Come out and support the students at their games, contests, and concerts! It's a blast! It means a lot to the students when they can hear you cheering for them in the stands. At away football games, we walk over to the home side and sit in the band area so we can see our students perform. At contests, look for other DVHS Band & Guard parents and sit with them, even if you don't know them. There is solidarity in numbers and it makes it much more exciting to cheer for the band when we are in a group! The kids can see us from the field as well. Get into it. Make a spirit flag you can wave or make a sign. Wear the school colors. AND, please be a good supporter of all the other band programs you see. There is nothing worse than a group of loud, cheering band parents who only clap when their own band performs. Please "Define the Standard" by cheering on all the schools out on the field and being friendly towards parents from other band programs. We all share a unique bond and you'll find a fun camaraderie in it.

CHECK OUT AN AFTER-SCHOOL PRACTICE

The last 15-20 minutes of each after-school practice is typically when the band will do a full run through of their marching show. It is exciting to watch these and see the progression of the show over the season as they learn more of the parts. We encourage you to stop by early when you are picking up your student and watch the end of a practice. The band program has some of the hardest working kids on campus. You'll understand why after you watch a few practices.

FLEXIBILITY

No matter what we tell you and what the weekly announcement sheet may say, sometimes things change and are adjusted. Sometimes you won't know about the changes until the day they happen. Remaining flexible will preserve your sanity. Bring along snacks and water, keep a book or smart phone with you in case you need to wait a while, join a carpool and jump in to help where you can – it makes the time go by faster. ☺

We look forward to a fun and successful year with the DVHS Band & Guard. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact us.