



Glenda Dawson High School
Band Boosters *presents the*

2025-2026 Parent Resource

Flight Guide

DAWSON
EAGLE BAND



DAWSON
CATALYST GUARD



DAWSON BAND BOOSTERS *Parent Flight Guide*

Congratulations! You are a Band Parent!

Congratulations! You're a BAND PARENT (and that includes Catalyst Guard parents in this big happy band collective family)! It may just end up being the best job you never applied for! Your student is in for a great, challenging, and rewarding experience as a member of the amazing Dawson Eagle Band. You are too! It's going to be a busy time for your student, but you have a few job requirements that will help your student shine.

Your job: Band Parent

Description: Number one fan and support system for an awesome Dawson Eagle Band & Catalyst Guard member!

Dawson High School Band Boosters

P.O. Box 84134, Pearland, Texas 77584

Website: dawsoneagleband.com



Facebook *public page* — Dawson Eagle Band: facebook.com/dawsonhsband



Facebook *private group (parents only)* — Dawson Band Boosters: facebook.com/groups/dawsonbandboosters



Twitter — Dawson Eagle Band: @band_dawson

Instagram — Dawson Eagle Band: @dhseagleband

Instagram — Dawson Band Boosters: @dawsonbandboosters

Dawson High School Band Boosters, Inc. is registered as a 501 (c) (3) organization. Tax ID 208914457

DAWSON EAGLE BAND & CATALYST COLOR GUARD



The Dawson Eagle Band is a 7-time Bands of America Regional Finalist



The Dawson Eagle Band advanced to the UIL State Marching Contest 10-out-of-11 years



During concert season, all 4 Dawson bands earn UIL Sweepstakes Awards, with the Cadet Band earning Sweepstakes 3 of the last 4 years it has ever competed.



The award-winning Dawson Percussion was selected to perform at the 2022 Texas Music Educators Association Convention and the prestigious 2022 Chicago Midwest Clinic



In the last 7 years, Dawson had...
228 in Freshman Region Band
479 in Region Band
64 in Region Orchestra
41 in Region Jazz Band
24 in Area Jazz Band
279 in Area Band
53 in All-State



The Dawson Eagle Band consistently places in the Top 10% of all marching bands in Texas



The Catalyst Color Guard has competed on the national stage and has been ranked as high as #5 in the nation



Dawson Eagle Band



Catalyst Color Guard



The Catalyst Color Guard Varsity & JV were 2024 state finalists, with JV placing 3rd in state. Catalyst was a finalist in the 2021 Winter Guard International World Championships



The Dawson Wind Ensemble was named the TMEA 2025 6A Honor Band AND was selected to perform at the 2024 Chicago Midwest Clinic. The Dawson Wind Ensemble was also named a National Winner for the 2022 Mark of Excellence/National Wind Band Honors program.



The Dawson Concert Band was named a 2024 Commended Winner in the Citation of Excellence, Foundation for Music Education.



The Dawson Symphonic Band was named a 2023 Winner & 2022 Commended Winner in the Citation of Excellence.



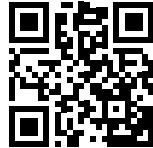
Communication

COMMUNICATION is key!!!

We will use various forms of communications. Marching band season has a lot of moving parts, therefore parents will need to stay informed in these ways:

1. Mr. Brown sends out a “**Weekly Snapshot**” (agenda) for the following week through CutTime email system. That typically is out on Tuesdays once everything gets going.
2. Mr. Brown will occasionally send out other **emails** through CutTime during the week, as necessary.
3. Mr. Brown and the directors use the **BAND app** to send quick, concise text messages to the entire band family (students & parents). Some students have their own groups within the BAND app with their director.

The most important part of this is **CutTime**. The directors will send a signup to CutTime (please contact Mr. McCray if you have NOT received an invite to this).



CutTime website – <https://gocuttime.com>



Photo by
Camryn
Hughey

- You will receive an invite from the directors to join.
- LOGIN as a GUARDIAN with your phone number.
- You can pay your BAND FEES, verify information, and view various things.
- Update personal contact information for you and your student each year.

CutTime is an integral part of the communication process. If you aren't signed up with CutTime you will most likely miss some sort of communication.



BAND APP

This is a free app found in the iTunes App Store and Google Play Store. Please download and set up an account. You will receive an invitation and/or a link to join the various groups — they'll include specific ones for chaperones/volunteer signups. Think of the BAND app as Remind and group texts all in one place! Note that we've grown so big that a NEW Band app group has been set up that your student needs to join to stay up-to-date with news.

Band Boosters will send out chaperone/volunteer sign ups & reminders through the BAND app. Make sure to join the “Dawson Band & CG Parents” where anything parents need to know will be posted, like updates on when buses will arrive back at the school for parent pickup and other important last minute communications. Also parents can join the “Dawson Eagle Band” group that students **MUST** join. There's also a “Dawson Band 9th Grade Parents” group for answering new parent questions that come up during their student's first year in the program.

Dawson Eagle Band & Catalyst Guard Fun Fact

What a SHINING history... Established in 2007, the Dawson Eagle Marching Band and Catalyst Guard has achieved state and national acclaim, including qualifying to compete in the UIL State Marching Band Competition almost every eligible year since its inception. For the first time in the history of our program, The Dawson Eagle Marching Band and Catalyst Guard made finals at TWO Bands of America Regional Contests. Dawson regularly performs in the Top 10% of all 6A marching bands in the state of Texas. We'll compete for the coveted State UIL spot again this fall!

The Dawson Eagle Band and Catalyst Guard is comprised of over 300 dedicated students. This year, the band will be performing a spectacular halftime presentation. In addition to halftime appearances, the band competes in several marching competitions throughout the year. The Catalyst Guard is a regular contender in the Winter Guard International World Championships and has ranked as high as #5 in the nation in 2017! Not only do students log countless practice hours, they excel in the classroom as well. In fact, many of Dawson's Top 20 graduates are Dawson Eagle Band members who prioritized band for ALL four years. Also, a sizable portion of the National Honor Society consisted of Dawson Eagle Band students. Our Dawson Eagle Band students consistently soar above the rest!

Welcome



Welcome to the whirlwind of being a part of the Dawson Eagle Band and Catalyst Guard! Your enthusiastic support and active participation is wanted, expected, and very much appreciated — especially by your own student! There's a lot to know about marching season. In this Parent Flight Guide some "seasoned" parents (aka Band Booster officers) have attempted to highlight what we think will help you, as a parent, have a fun-filled, rather than stressful, band experience. Band is much more than just a class elective for your student... with over 300 members, the Dawson Eagle Band is THE largest student organization at Glenda Dawson High School and is filled with the best Eagle spirit and pride.

Band is about learning, teamwork, commitment, time management, forging friendships, and fun. Take pride in the effort your student will be expending to be a part of their Dawson Band family. Respect and encourage your student and other students by taking an active role in supporting the organization. Every family should commit to this support by: Volunteering at games and fundraising activities. Volunteering to assist in a support role that interests you. Being there at performance time whether it's in our beautiful Dawson auditorium concert hall or at a football game on a hot, humid OR cold, drizzly OR perfect fall temp Friday night — our Dawson Band Booster parents are ALWAYS there together and having the best time! Our Dawson Eagle Band Parent Flight Guide may not have all the answers you seek, so be sure that you familiarize yourself with the Official Band Handbook issued by the Directors. Consider ours a serious yet lighthearted attempt to make your family's Dawson Eagle Band & Catalyst Guard experience more enjoyable.

Go BAND and go CATALYST!!!

Terryl Winter

Dawson Band Boosters President, 2025-2026

dawsonbandboosterspresident@gmail.com

2025-2026 Dawson High School Band Boosters Elected Officers

President Terryl Winter

Vice Presidents Spencer Chambers, *Fundraising*
Melinda Mendoza-Scott, *Catalyst Color Guard Representative*
Binita Patel, *Procurement*
Michael Potase, *Prop Crew*
Anjili Sabharwal, *Marching*
Angie Shortt, *Marketing*
Robert Wagner, *Pit Crew*

Secretary Kristen Gates

Treasurer Holly Tatuaca

See page 7 for the full list of 2025-2026 Dawson Band Boosters board AND current chair openings — YES, there's LOTS of opportunities to get involved, even stepping in to chair or co-chair a committee!

Volunteer Requirements

Complete Annual PISD Background Check starting in mid-July

As required by Pearland ISD, a background check must be performed on every person that will be volunteering and chaperoning with the band. These are now taking approximately 3-4 weeks. Watch the Band app in July for a reminder on when to apply for each upcoming school year and here's where to apply:

<https://www.pearlandisd.org/departments/hrs/volunteers-chaperones>. Even if you are unsure if you will volunteer, go ahead and submit a background check. We would hate to turn down your willingness to volunteer.



Dawson Eagle Band Calendar

If you do not already have a Family Calendar, designate one. It will make life much easier, we promise! Dates to put in your calendar... *NOTE: Dates are subject to change, please use the online calendar at dawsoneagleband.com for the latest!*

Summer Band & Parent Performances

CATALYST GUARD CAMP:

July 21-22, July 24-25, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

CATALYST GUARD PRACTICES

June 16, 18, 30, July 2, 14, 16, 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

PERCUSSION CAMP:

May 27-30, July 23-25, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

MARCHING BAND CAMP (Full Band):

July 28-29, Aug. 11* 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

July 30-31, Aug. 1* 7:30 a.m. – 8:15 p.m.

August 4-8 4:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

PARENT PERFORMANCE:

Friday, August 8 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

PARENT SHOW:

Saturday, Nov. 1 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

NEW MEMBER MARCHING:

July 23, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

** Uniform Fittings will take place the first week of Band Camp — watch for volunteer signups to help with this*

PHYSICALS DUE: July 21

Band Registration Day – Saturday, August 9 from 9:00am-12noon

- Pay band fees on CutTime
- Background check if going to volunteer
- Complete and turn in any forms
- Join Dawson Band Boosters
- Chaperone/Volunteer sign up
- Pick up ordered Band Booster items (yard signs, reds & blacks, black tank, decals, etc.)

Rock-A-Thon Fundraiser – Friday, August 1 from 4:00-5:30pm

Rock-A-Thon Overnight Lock-in – Saturday, August 2 from 7:30pm-3:30am

School Starts – Wednesday, August 13... note the three Saturday rehearsals below

WINDS/PERCUSSION After School Practice Schedule (**Dates/time may change depending on weather, etc.**)

Monday	Doctor/Dentist day, NO PRACTICE	
Tuesday	3:15 – 6:15 p.m. (stay after school)	Saturday Rehearsal: August 16, 8 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Wednesday	3:30 – 6:00 p.m. (stay after school)	Saturday Rehearsals @ PISD Stadium: August 23, Sept. 27
Thursday	3:30 – 6:00 p.m. (stay after school)	
Friday	GAME DAY (stay after school, dinner, bused to/from game)	

*** Watch for Weekly Snapshots for adjustments to the weekly schedules when GAME DAY is on Thursday or Saturday ***

CATALYST GUARD After School Practice Schedule (**Dates/time may change depending on weather, etc.**)

Monday	3:15 – 6:15 p.m. (stay after school)
Tuesday	No Rehearsal
Wednesday	4:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	3:15 – 5:45 p.m. (stay after school)
Friday	GAME DAY (stay after school, dinner, bused to/from game)

Marching Contests (**Dates are subject to change**)

October 4	Bands of America — Iowa Colony
October 11	Lone Star Preview — Woodforest Stadium
October 18	UIL Region Marching Contest — Channelview
October 25	UIL Area Marching Contest*
November 1	Community Showcase Performance (parent show & State Sendoff*)
November 3-4	UIL State Marching Contest*, Alamodome in San Antonio
November 8-9	Bands of America Super Regional, Alamodome in San Antonio

**must qualify*

Other Performances & Event Dates

December 5-6	Region Band auditions
December 6	City of Pearland Hometown Christmas Parade
December 11	Winter Concert
January 10	Area Auditions
January TBA	Take Flight (Guard Competition, Dawson host/volunteering)
February 11-14	TMEA (All State)
February 21	Solo & Ensemble Contest
Feb/March TBA	Bingo Night
March TBA	Percussion Concert
March 5-9	Band Disney Trip (optional)
March 20-21	Pre-UIL Clinic
March 25	Pre-UIL Concert
April 1-2, 9-10	UIL Concert & Sight-reading @ Dobie HS (Non Varsity April 1-2, Varsity/Wind Ensemble April 9-10)
April 25	Shadow Creek Music Festival (Symphonic Band & Concert Band)
April TBA	Band Banquet
May TBA	May Camp
May TBA	Spring Concerts

TIP: Install Google Calendar on your device to stay on top of the latest!

Dawson Eagle Football Schedule

The Dawson Eagle Band performs at all varsity games starting August 30. Our football team usually makes it at least a round or two more into playoff games — we think our super Dawson Eagle Band spirit and music skills help motivate the team with that extra fan support! In fact, Dawson Eagle Band and our football team have a great relationship, and you'll see the football team reciprocate by cheering in the stands and supporting the band before a major competition.



Dawson Eagle Football Schedule

2025

Varsity



Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time	Event
Friday	15-Aug	Clear Springs (S)	Challenger	TBD	
Friday	22-Aug	Friendswood (S)	The NEST	TBD	
Thursday	28-Aug	Bridgeland	Cy Fair	6:30	
Friday	5-Sep	Elkins	The NEST	7:00	Senior Night (all except Band)
Friday	12-Sep	*Dobie	Pas ISD Memorial	7:00	
Friday	19-Sep	*Pasadena Memorial	The NEST	7:00	Homecoming
Friday	26-Sep	*Shadow Creek	Freedom Field	7:00	
Friday	3-Oct	*Pearland	The NEST (Home)	7:00	Red Out
Friday	10-Oct	*South Houston	Pas ISD Memorial	7:00	
Friday	17-Oct	*Pasadena Rayburn	The NEST	7:00	Band 8th Grade Night/Pink Out
Friday	24-Oct	*Alvin	Alvin Memorial	7:00	
Friday	31-Oct	*Manvel	The NEST	7:00	Band Senior Night/Military
	7-Nov	BYE WEEK			
		(S) - Scrimmage			
		* - District Game			
STATE PLAYOFFS					
Week of Nov 14	Bi-District	TBA	TBA		
Week of Nov 21	Area	TBA	TBA		
Week of Nov 28	Regional Semi-Final	TBA	TBA		Thanksgiving Week
Week of Dec 5	Regional Final	TBA	TBA		
Week of Dec 12	State Semi-Final	TBA	TBA		
Week of Dec 20	State Championship	TBA	TBA		



Dawson High School Band Boosters

Become a member of the Dawson High School Band Boosters and volunteer to help! The band could not have the success that it does without the volunteers and financial support of its parents. If your student is a freshman, you have just four very short years before they move on to their next adventure. Make those four years better by helping out with the program, getting to know their band friends, and showing your student what's important to them is important to you. Even if you work full time, you can volunteer on weekends, cheer them on at contests, and contribute! THIS is your Dawson Eagle Band family!



DAWSON BAND BOOSTERS Elected Officers 2025-2026

President	Terryl Winter	281-703-2496, dawsonbandboosters president @gmail.com
Vice President — Marching Season (tailgating, chaperones, & uniforms)	Anjili Sabharwal	281-687-7885, dawsonbandboosters marching @gmail.com
Vice President — Pit Crew	Robert Wagner	281-620-3660, dawsonband pitcrew @gmail.com
Vice President — Props Crew	Michael Potase	713-598-2245, mpotase@yahoo.com
Vice President — Catalyst Color Guard	Melinda Mendoza-Scott	832-496-6088, dawsonbandboosters colorguard @gmail.com
Vice President — Marketing	Angie Shortt	713-854-7215, dawsonband marketing @gmail.com
Vice President — Fundraising	Spencer Chambers	713-876-8227, dawsonbandboosters fundraising @gmail.com
Vice President — Procurement	Binita Patel	262-391-9415, dhsbb procurement @gmail.com
Secretary	Kristen Gates	281-450-9617, dawsonbandboosters secretary @gmail.com
Treasurer	Holly Tatuaca	dawsonbandbooster treasurer @gmail.com

HELP! We need your help in filling the vacancies for chair AND people to help with these committees...

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE	CHAIR	CONTACT
Marching Season Volunteers...		
Chaperones	Elizabeth Elizalde Fred Kho	832-540-0506, dhsbb chaperone @gmail.com 713-231-7649, dhsbb chaperone @gmail.com
Competition Meals/Tailgate (Saturdays) & Competition Snacks	Meredith Chambers Becca King	713-876-7556, merechambers818@gmail.com 713-829-6340, rmking27@gmail.com
Game Day Meals/Tailgate – 3-5pm	Trey & Maritelle Gounah	281-222-2320, dhsbbtailgate@gmail.com
Seat Covers (football games)	Claire Bassir	832-716-2609, clairbasir@gmail.com
Uniforms - Marching Season	Toni Sherrill Rhiana Potase	281-701-7600, dawsonband uniform @gmail.com 281-433-7272, dawsonband uniform @gmail.com
Uniforms - Concert Season	Toni Sherrill Anjili Sabharwal	281-701-7600, dawsonband uniform @gmail.com 281-687-7885, dawsonband uniform @gmail.com
Events...		
Rock-A-Thon (Aug. TBA)	Terryl Winter	281-703-2496, dawsonbandboosters president @gmail.com
Take Flight (Jan. TBA)	Melinda Mendoza-Scott Treysi Isabel	832-496-6088, dawsonbandboosters colorguard @gmail.com 281-221-4036, tracyjulissa@yahoo.com
Bingo Night (Spring TBA)	Open Position	
Solo/Ensemble Concessions (Feb. 21)	Kaki York-Ward	281-299-4536, kyorkward@outlook.com
Band Banquet (Spring TBA)	Trey & Maritelle Gounah	281-222-2320, dhsbbtailgate@gmail.com
Car Wash (August TBA)	Open Position	
Programs & More...		
Corporate Sponsorships	Grant King	DHSBBsponsors@gmail.com
Membership	Meghan Minard	DHSBBmembership@gmail.com
Alumni Program	Toni Sherrill	281-701-7600, million0402@yahoo.com
Media/Photography	Kila Savoy	281-455-5192, kilasavoy@gmail.com
Spirit Nights (monthly)	Open Position	
Snack Bags	Meghan Minard	DHSBBsnacks@gmail.com
Senior Scholarships (Spring 2026)	Marian Gilbert	713-412-9879, mlgilbert@live.com
Spirit Wear	Terryl Winter	281-703-2496, twinter21@gmail.com
Yard Signs	Carrie Cummings	936-520-6845, cbcummings76@gmail.com

2024-2025 Dawson Band Boosters Committees

Band Banquet – Held in late April, volunteers help plan an event our band students will always remember... help choose a theme, book a venue, arrange for food, organize table decoration signups, check in students at the door, serve food and drinks, and clean up, etc.

Bingo Night – This is a FUNdraiser event in February/March. Students will sell Bingo cards online for this community-wide event.

Car Wash – Typically in early June, students sell tickets and wash cars for this band fundraiser.

Chaperones – Travel with and care for all band and color guard students during football games, UIL performances, marching contests and trips. Chaperones must be available to ride student buses and be with the students at all times during the event, including supervising students in the stands at both home and away games. Times and duties will vary according to each event, but plan on Game Day arrival time to be by 4:45 p.m. You do not need to commit to all events! Only Pearland ISD approved volunteer chaperones may ride buses (other students not allowed). **Must attend chaperone training.** Winter Guard Chaperones will ride the bus and supervise the Catalyst Guard at the Winter Guard competitions.

Competition Water & Snacks – Keep students energized and hydrated by preparing and distributing snacks and water for them during marching contests.

Corporate Sponsorships – June through August, help the chair acquire new sponsors and renew current ones. Sponsors — depending on levels — get their logo on the back of the band's 18-wheeler, on the website, a shout-out in the football guide, and get their names announced before the halftime show. We love our sponsors!!!!

Membership – The primary goal of this committee is increasing band parent involvement. Membership dues are paid annually; various levels of support are available beginning at \$50. Details are at our online store at dawsoneagleband.com. For a senior to be eligible for the Senior Scholarships, their parent/guardian must be a paid Dawson Band Booster member for all 4 years by December 31 of their student's senior year.



Pit Crew — Loads/unloads equipment, percussion instruments, props, and other band equipment before and after all football games and contests. You do not need to commit to all events!

Rock-A-Thon – Party with the band at this “all-nighter” student fundraiser/all night event held during August camp. Plan the event, prepare/serve food, chaperone, and enjoy watching the student antics throughout the night.

Scholarships – Each year the Dawson Band Boosters award several scholarships to eligible seniors. A percentage of annual membership dues are allocated to the scholarship account as well as all of the proceeds from Spirit Nights.

For a senior to be eligible for the Senior Scholarships, parent/guardian must be a paid Dawson Band Booster member for 4 years by December 31.

Seat Covers – Arrive at the stadium approximately one hour before the band and set up vinyl stadium seat covers at home and away games. This helps prolong the life of our band uniforms from year to year. Wipe down to clean, then remove and repack the seat covers after the band leaves the stands. Volunteers need to arrive at the stadium prior to the band's arrival and stay a little late for removal. There is no work to be done during the game itself.

Spirit Gear – This committee designs, purchases, sells and distributes band spirit items. Items include; polo shirts, yard signs, bling shirts, decals, etc.

Spirit Nights – Works with local restaurants to arrange monthly Spirit Nights. All proceeds from Spirit Nights go to the Dawson Band Boosters Scholarship Fund.

Take Flight Color Guard Competition – Be on one of several teams that serve food, sell tickets, staff warm-up rooms, and help make this popular regional Color Guard competition a successful fundraiser. Also, all band students are required to volunteer to work a four-hour shift to support this big event in late January/early February.

Tailgate Game Day/Contest Meals – Feed the students! Assist in setup, serving, and clean up. Siblings are welcome to help! Before football games, meals are served to band and color guard members and band faculty. Volunteers need to arrive at Dawson around 3:00 p.m. on game days and should be finished by 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Contests are held on weekends, so this is a great opportunity for you to help if you work Monday through Friday. Serving time varies depending on performance times. At contests we also feed the chaperones and bus drivers.



Uniforms – Put the clothes on their backs! Help with distribution, fitting, and maintenance of the uniforms. Take home band uniforms (12-15 per volunteer) throughout the marching season for laundering. The band uniforms are machine washable and dryable, and detailed instructions on laundering and hanging are provided. This is a great way to volunteer from home! If you can sew, we could use your skills for minor repairs and/or alterations.



Who? What? When? Where? Dawson Band Boosters!

Communications – Dawson Eagle Band Style

The **Weekly Snapshot** is emailed out by Mr. Brown to the students and parents and posted in the Band app. These will keep you up to date on rehearsal times, call times, etc. Take note of ALL the important information! Also check the Dawson Band Boosters Facebook page or email if you have questions: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dawsonbandboosters>

You can really stay on top of what's happening by attending announced parent meetings, attending the Dawson Band Booster general membership meetings and reading boosters updates in the Weekly Snapshot.

Be assured that your student is not the only student who doesn't communicate with his/her parents. Don't hesitate to pick up the phone or email/text another band parent. We think it was Einstein, or maybe it was a senior parent, who has been quoted as saying, "The only dumb question is the one that wasn't asked."

What is Band Boosters?

Dawson High School Band Boosters is a non-profit organization providing support for the Dawson Eagle Band through volunteer service and financial assistance. Dawson High School Band Boosters, Inc. is registered as a 501 (c) (3) organization. Tax ID 208914457.

What does Dawson Band Boosters do?

Running a high-quality, competitive band program is expensive. We raise monies to fund services and educational opportunities that are not provided through Pearland ISD. We provide the volunteer manpower that it takes to support the band program and maintain a communications network for parents.

Dawson Band Boosters also supply support for the band program through volunteerism. Imagine trying to get your student up, dressed and out the door with everything he or she needs for the day. Now imagine trying to get over 300 teenagers ready. Band parents help the directors with this task — readying uniforms, feeding students before games and events, chaperoning, driving, maintaining equipment, sewing, building props, and on and on.

Through our fundraising events, Dawson Band Boosters covers items not typically included in the Pearland ISD budget. Each year (usually in May), the Dawson Band Boosters approves a budget which helps support important items such as:

- Clinicians who train the students in the finer details of using their instrument and assist in improving the Band's marching and concert skills
- Fees associated with the drill writing
- Entry fees to contests
- Transportation to contests
- Purchase of special music
- Purchase of color guard equipment and supplies
- Maintenance of equipment
- Purchase of new equipment
- Competition Day snacks and water
- Senior scholarship program
- Band Banquet



How Does Dawson Band Boosters Raise Money?

Most of the money raised by Dawson Band Boosters comes from revenue sources from membership dues and donations from parents and corporations. Donors are recognized — depending on levels — in the football program, concert programs, on our 18-wheeler, and more. In kind donations are also welcome! During the course of the year, Dawson Band Boosters organize other fundraising events, including Rock-A-Thon (Aug.), Take Flight Color Guard Competition (Jan.), a community-wide Bingo Night (Feb./March), and the summer Car Wash (June/July).

Dawson Band Boosters Membership & Upgraded Friends & Family Levels

Besides being a Dawson Band Boosters member, you can gain more perks by upgrading your membership by being a First, Second, or Third Chair member. Make sure to join by August 1 to reap all the benefits as the banners, football guide, and show shirt ordering happens early! Also, make sure to join the Band Boosters every year starting your student's freshman year to be eligible for the senior scholarships.



Dawson Band Boosters FRIENDS & FAMILY Comparisons

Membership Year 2025-2026 ending May 31, 2026

	ANNUAL MEMBER \$50	THIRD CHAIR \$100 + \$50	SECOND CHAIR \$250 + \$50	FIRST CHAIR \$500 + \$50
Invitation to all Dawson High School Band Boosters meetings	•	•	•	•
Dawson High School Band Boosters voting privileges	•	•	•	•
Student(s) is eligible to apply for the Boosters' senior scholarship program	•	•	•	•
Listed in Dawson band concert programs		•	•	•
Listed on the Dawson Eagle Band website and social media		•	•	•
Invitation to hospitality reception at public Send-off Performance		•	•	•
Listed on Dawson Eagle Band Sponsor banner*		•	•	•
Dawson Band Boosters Friends & Family Member window decal		•	•	•
8x10 photo of Dawson Eagle Band & Catalyst Guard		•	•	framed
Preferred seating at Dawson Eagle Band fall concerts and events		•	•	•
Name announced at least once before a home game halftime show			•	every game
Listed in the DHS Football Media Guide (<i>Deadline: August 1, 2025</i>)			•	•
Dawson Eagle Band 2025 show shirt (<i>Deadline: August 1, 2025</i>)			1 show shirt	2 show shirts

* Band Sponsor sign to be displayed at a minimum at the following events: All home and away football games, Parent Preview (Aug.), and Public Send-Off Performance (Oct.).

MATCHING GIFTS – Employer Donation Matching

1 you
donate

Did you know many employers will match your donation of an organization you support?

2 they
match

The Dawson High School Band Boosters, Inc. meets the requirement of most employers to match donations because we are a charitable 501(c)(3) organization. This means that the power of your donation can be doubled!

3 double
the impact

Please contact your human resources department or employee benefits department to learn how to have them match your donation. Your donation will go a long way in assisting our students and benefiting our band program.

How does corporate matching work? It's simple!

1. You submit a membership donation.
2. You determine eligibility of corporate matching with your company and submit your company's necessary forms and/or documentation of your donation. Let us know at DHSBBsponsors@gmail.com if you need a pdf receipt emailed to you.
3. Your company makes a donation to match yours (sometimes more!).

I've Heard That Band is Very Expensive

Band fees and expenses at Dawson are at or below the costs of participating in band at any other state-ranked high school in Texas and our fee schedule is considerably LOWER than fees at other non-PISD high schools in the area. And, comparing fees for other Dawson activities (like football, cheerleading, dance, swim, baseball, volleyball) our fee schedule is still much lower than most of these other organizations. Our program is extremely budget conscious and fiscally responsible. Like no other, our district funds new marching uniforms for band every 7-10 years and we just got new uniforms in 2020! We make uniforms last longer with seat covers in the stands.

Band fees include the Bands of America Super Regional/state competition stay in San Antonio when UIL State is held the same weekend.

I've Heard That Band is Very Time Consuming for Students

Yes, students do spend a lot of time in rehearsal. Summer band usually starts the last week of July. The first football game of the season is usually the second week of school, so the band needs to have a halftime show and stand tunes ready BEFORE the first week of school. Students need to have time to rehearse the show, adjust to playing their instrument in “marching style” rather than “concert style” and have time to come together as a band. But think about it this way, your student spends a LOT of time with other band students and a LOT of time at the school. So before the first day of school, your student has already made over 300 friends and has become very familiar with the layout of the school — or at least the band hall, band rooms, cafeteria, rehearsal fields, restrooms, fine arts halls, and practice rooms.

Students receive a fine arts and PE credit for marching band and concert season. Colleges LOVE to see band listed on student transcripts — it shows dedication and commitment — and there are MANY chances to excel at a personal level (region/area band and orchestra, solo and ensemble) and to show leadership (officers, section leaders, quartermasters, librarians, drum majors) in band. Students not only learn how to play their instrument and how to perform in front of an audience, but they learn responsibility, time management, leadership skills, and team building. Band teaches students to look out for others and to do their fair share, and gives them a sense of camaraderie and community.

Rehearsal times “normalize” during the school year. UIL mandates that for any given extracurricular activity, students are limited to no more than eight (8) hours of practice and rehearsal outside the school day per school week per activity. Our band directors are adamant about this rule. Study time is often given between the end of school and the start of rehearsals so students can stay current on homework. Our band students have access to the computer labs nearest the band hall and many study in clusters.

I've Heard That Band is Very Time Consuming for Parents

You will probably spend a lot of time getting your student to and from rehearsals and dropping off very early and picking up late after games and competitions. You may want to join in a carpool with other parents from your neighborhood. Be sure to know the call times and watch the BAND app for updates on bus arrivals back to campus. Remember “on time” for band is 15 minutes early so they have time to get ready.

And, yes, it is hoped that parents WILL volunteer time to help out the band and our students. There are many ways that parents can help with the band. There are “one time” volunteer opportunities throughout the year, and many opportunities to chaperone. Your student appreciates your attendance at performances and competitions, too... even if they don't admit it.

But again, think about the return you get when you spend time with amazing, dedicated, and POLITE teenagers. You get



to meet and know the other band students — and your band student spends more time with these other band students than they do with YOU. You get to meet and network with other band parents. And if your student objects to you being around, you can always say “Yes, but band parents are EXPECTED to help out. I can't let the band down.”

TIP: Immersion works best! The more people you volunteer alongside, the more you'll get to know. Our band program is a community that parents can also become a part of too!

Photo by
Alicia Marchand

Summer Band

Fun in the Sun... or what to expect during Summer Band

Auditions are held in late Spring for concert placements in the high school band, with another round in late Fall for an opportunity to move up. There are now FIVE bands at Dawson: Prep, Cadet, Concert, Symphonic, and Wind Ensemble. It is EXTREMELY rare for a freshman to be placed in Wind Ensemble. Incoming freshmen are competing against upperclassmen students who have been playing their instrument for twice as long as the freshmen. No matter how talented the freshman is, it is very difficult to compete against that kind of experience.

For incoming freshmen, a marching fundamentals camp takes place in May. Students will be coached in basic marching steps, playing their instrument while standing or moving and get to know how things are done the Dawson way. This is their chance to get to know older students within their section. It also gives students the tools they need to practice over the summer break.

*** Students should GET OUTSIDE a couple weeks BEFORE summer band starts to get acclimated to the heat! ***

Summer band camp starts the last week of July. Attendance is mandatory. Some sections (color guard, percussion, leaders) also hold weeklong camps in July. Some sections may also hold sectionals throughout the summer to get a jump on the show music. Uniform fittings are held during the first week of camp. Individual portraits in the band uniforms are also taken.

Camp schedules may vary from day to day, but count on them being all day long with a break for lunch. Students need to stay on campus and bring a lunch from home. Students are asked to dress for the weather (HOT! It is Texas after all) and wear comfortable tennis shoes. A hat and sunglasses are suggested. Sunscreen is a VERY good idea. Students are required to bring a FULL gallon jug to practice each day. Brief water breaks are held often. Midday, students head indoors for sectionals or to work on music performance.

Surviving Summer Marching Band 101

Here are some things found to be helpful in the hot, Pearland, Texas heat! These are for your safety and comfort first.

Sunscreen

- Sunscreen is highly recommended and should be reapplied, when needed.
- A lip balm with sunscreen is highly recommended as well.

Clothing

- An athletic or non-cotton short is recommended. This will keep the perspiration away. Please keep it clean, no "booty" shorts.
- Tank tops are ok, just remember to use sunscreen.
- A cooling towel is a great idea. These can be put around your neck while outside. They can be purchased at any sporting goods store and are relatively inexpensive.
- For long hair, it might help to put hair in a pony tail or ballet/man bun.
- Comfortable tennis shoes or sneakers to march in. Shoes need to have good support, nothing flat.

Sustainability

- WATER is the most important part of your sustainability for marching season. Bring your water jug filled with ice water only. Write your name or initials on the bottom. Most of them will look alike. It will be important for your students to keep cold water in their water jugs. A tip from one of our veteran parents: Rather than using ice cubes which melt quickly, use ice blocks in their water jugs. Freeze large heavy duty plastic cups (or plastic or aluminum Solo cups. Remove the ice blocks and store them in a ziploc bag in the freezer for your students to reduce their prep time in the mornings.
- Please keep in mind you will be outside in the morning for 3-4 hours. A breakfast is suggested. Just watch what you eat. Milk and dairy products do not mix well with outside heat. A big, heavy, greasy meal is probably not a good idea either. Think high protein, a fruit, and a carb.
- Bring your own lunch. One will not be provided for you. Make sure it is enough to refuel you from your morning workout. The vending machine is not an ideal lunch.
- Bring snacks. Fruit and/or granola bars are great. A favorite healthy snack hydrator are COLD grapes!

The directors and section leaders, are very good about taking frequent "water breaks". The last thing they want is for one of the students to get sick from the heat. Please advise your student to take full advantage of each one of these water breaks. Safety is the #1 priority.



Marching Season

During the football season, the marching band is composed of the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Cadet Band, and Prep Band.

Percussion students are separated into Front Ensemble and Battery/drumline during marching season to focus on percussion specific techniques and music. The bands meet daily as separate classes during school hours. They come together after the school day during football season to form the marching band. The marching band provides halftime shows and spirited music in the stands during all varsity football games. The band also performs at several marching competitions each year, usually on Saturdays during the month of October (you'll sometimes hear this busy competition month referred to as "Band-tober"). Two years of band satisfies both PE and fine arts graduation requirements. Students who continue in band their third and fourth year will receive elective credits toward their graduation requirements. Students also have the opportunity to do a GPA waiver to take band as a pass/fail grade. Four years in band also satisfies a Fine Arts endorsement, which can be their primary or additional endorsements.

Marching practice takes place in the parking lot on the north side of the school. Football yard lines are painted on the field for the students to learn their drill. Drill is the series of coordinates specific to each student that form a marching show (this definition was provided by a band student. In parent speak, drill is where the students go on the field during the show.).

When you pick up and drop off your student, do NOT drive on the practice field (football lines in the band lot). Pull into the Cullen entrance of Dawson High School and turn to the right. Drop off and pick up should happen in front of the auditorium on the northeast corner of the school.

Why is My Student Not Marching?

Just like a sports team with a fixed number of players in a game, the marching drills are designed with a fixed instrumentation and number of spots on the field. These spots are called varsity or marching spots. Dawson "trains" additional students to march parts of the show by having a pair of students trade out on a spot to decide the better marcher. These spots are called shadowing or junior varsity. If a spot opens up in the show due to injury or academic ineligibility, the varsity spots can easily be filled by junior varsity members who have been working on the music and drill all season. Auditions for the varsity spots are held in early August and are based on marching and playing tests and "pass offs." **Unlike many other band programs, EVERY band member at Dawson has a role.** Junior varsity students are often needed to help with sideline crew, pit crew, and to perform with props and electronic equipment. **Even though junior varsity students may not perform on the field during competitions, all students perform during the halftime shows at football games and in the stands.**

What is a "Pass Off"?

A pass off is a test. Students are sometimes required to play (pass off) music for a grade or seating assignment. The directors or section leaders may provide feedback on any deficiencies. No more practice records (Yay!), but they will still have pass offs and the directors will know if they aren't practicing.

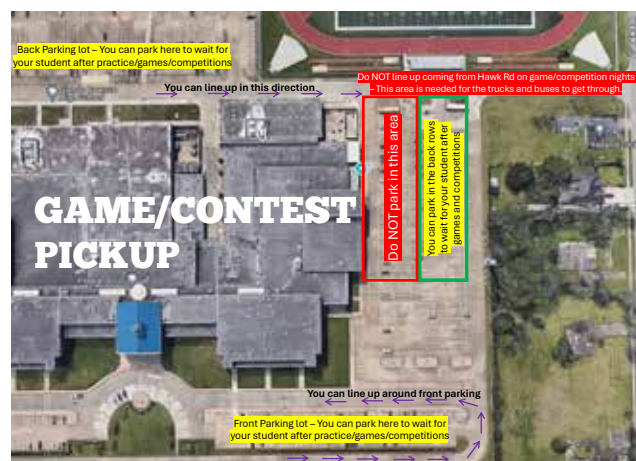
What is Call Time?

Call time means the band student is ready in the appropriate attire, with the appropriate equipment, and in the appointed place. A call time of 7:00 am means you are ready to begin rehearsal at 7:00. It does not mean that you arrive at 7:00 a.m. A good rule of thumb is to arrive no later than 15 minutes before call time.

Tailgate (Game Day and Contest Meals)

The time between the end of the school day and call time is SHORT. To ensure that students have time to eat before the game, Dawson Band Boosters offers Game Day Meals ("Tailgate") as a service to our band students and directors. Dawson Band Boosters contract with various restaurants to provide a healthy, wholesome, and cost-effective complete meal. These are served in the cafeteria before every game and during every contest by the boosters. These meals are paid for at registration or on the Dawson Eagle Band website (dawsoneagleband.com) and come out to around \$10 per meal. A typical Game Day Meal is an entrée, side, and drink. Dietary restriction options are available. We are also able to accommodate food allergies, but please let us know at registration so we can advance plan for those accommodations.

You can volunteer with the Tailgate Committee to help feed the students — it's a lot of fun!



Marching Uniforms

The school furnishes the marching uniform, which consists of bibs (pants), shirt, jacket, and a hat. In addition to this uniform, there may be additional uniform pieces that are specific to the season's marching show (fees for these will be in Cut Time).

Additional needed items are purchased by the student: marching shoes, marching gloves, show shirt, **all black** crew length (or taller) socks without logos, "reds and blacks" (red shirt and black athletic shorts with the band logo), black tank required this year for the sleeveless show top, and any needed hair accessories/products (all hair that hits the collar must be put up into a show bun). See page 20 for the Helpful Purchasing Guide for New Band Parents as some of these items are purchased through the band, some are purchased through the Boosters, and some (socks and hair supplies) are purchased on your own. Be sure to get several pairs of black socks and two pairs of reds and blacks!

Students are fitted for their Show uniforms during May Camp and for their uniforms and marching shoes during the first part of summer band camp. The uniforms remain at school, and the uniform committee maintains and makes them available for each event. There are several steps in preparing the uniforms before they can be worn and in maintaining them throughout the marching season. Volunteers are needed to help with fittings, prepping and washing the uniforms, and helping dress the students. Watch the Band app to sign up to help.

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HANGING UP THEIR UNIFORMS AND RETURNING THEIR HATBOXES. After a performance, section leaders inspect the uniforms before students leave.

Marching uniforms are worn for all football games and contests during the marching season. Reds and blacks (purchased from the Dawson Band Boosters), plus the new black tank (when they wear this year's sleeveless show uniform), are worn under the uniform so that the students can easily change in and out of the uniform at school and at marching competition sites. Purchasing two pairs is highly recommended.

While in uniform, students are not allowed to wear jewelry (even earrings) or fingernail polish. Long hair must be pulled up in a ballet/man bun.

Red Shirts: Red shirts are worn to practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Any school appropriate red t-shirt will do!

Show Shirts: Show t-shirts are purchased each year and show off the name and theme of our marching show. These are worn at contests and other times.

Marching uniform tips:

- Many students order a band duffel bag to hold their uniform items.
- Keep a bag stocked with everything they regularly need and be sure to have them put things back in the bag after washing. Keep a running list of what should be there: socks, "reds and blacks" (see uniforms above), black tank (for when wearing the sleeveless show shirts), hair ties, bobby pins or gel, show shirt, marching shoes, jackets, practice wear, including tennis shoes/sneakers to rehearse in, and hand warmers.
- Keep extra socks, hair ties, and other supplies with you at all times.
- Buy multiples of Reds & Blacks and other things that need to be washed. Sometimes the band has a football game on Friday and a contest on Saturday. The uniforms are not washed that often, so having extras of clean undergarments and basics helps!
- Consider keeping a smaller bag (think drawstring backpack) with just practice gear: water jug, tennis shoes/sneakers for rehearsals, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, red shirt, music, fanny pack, chalk, cooling bandana, or whatever your student needs to survive the heat. This bag can be thrown in the bigger bag as needed.
- Be sure your student has deodorant and extra black socks in his/her band bag on games or competition days. Lots of students forget their black socks.
- The band is only allowed to wear black jackets or Dawson HS letterman jackets in the stands. When it's cold, they'll be happy to have hand warmers! Also, when it starts to get chilly at games, they may want cold-weather compression wear and a black beanie cap.



Show Your Spirit

Spirit Wear

Parents and family members may elect to buy a band show shirt — it's easy to spot other Dawson parents in the stands at competitions! Other band shirt options are also available through the website. Parents wear these shirts to games and competitions. Chaperones need to wear a Dawson Band shirt such as the red polo shirt or other red shirt to be easily identifiable by students and staff, so it is a good idea to purchase a couple if you plan on chaperoning.

Don't feel self conscious. You won't be the only one wearing a Dawson Band Crew or show shirt. Glance around at the football games and you will see LOTS of proud parents sporting the images of their band student, cheerleader, dancer, or athlete.

Yard Signs

During Band Registration and a couple of other times per year, you have the opportunity to purchase a Dawson Eagle Band yard sign with your student's name, instrument, and/or leadership position. Order at dawsoneagleband.com.

Tickets to the Football Game

The marching band performs at all regular and playoff season varsity high school football games. They perform their halftime show towards the home stands for all regular season games. During playoff games, bands perform their halftime show facing their fans. Dawson shares a stadium with Pearland High School. The Pearland ISD Stadium — called "The Nest" on Dawson game days and "The Rig" on Pearland game days — is located at 3775 S. Main St, Pearland, Texas 77581. The band travels by school bus to and from all games.

Band parents tend to sit high in the bleachers at the games in order to see the marching formations and close to the band in order to hear and participate in the band experience. Season tickets are available through the Dawson Athletic office. Tickets to individual games are now online and are cheaper if you buy them before game day. Student band members do not need a ticket. This year Dawson is the HOME team for the Dawson-Pearland game. That means your season ticket will get you in the gate; you will NOT have to purchase separate tickets.

The best deal is to chaperone! Chaperones ride the buses to/from the games with the band and sit with the band — chaperones attend the games they chaperone for free. Plus, it's also the best seat in the house for music and to see them.

Game Day Plans

Student Game Day Plans

A call time is announced the week of each performance. Students change into their "reds and blacks" and/or black tank, attend a practice, eat their Game Day Meal (Tailgate) in the cafeteria, put on their uniforms, and then listen to speeches by drum majors and band officers before loading buses. Their dress will consist of tall black socks, marching shoes, and reds. Alternate travel forms may be filled out in cases where students have extenuating circumstances and need to travel separately from the band. These need to be filled out, signed and returned to a band director as early as possible prior to the event.

They will have everything they need to perform their part in the show (water jugs, instrument, props, all proper uniform pieces). Usually the student leadership gives a motivational speech, weekly awards are announced, and last minute instructions are given. Students are dismissed to board their bus and are usually seated by section (all trumpets on one bus, all flutes on another, etc.). All students must ride the bus to and from the games. Two adult chaperones and/or a band director ride each bus to and from the game or competition.

AFTER the event, all students return to the band hall to return uniforms, instruments, and other equipment to storage. Students usually return to Dawson around 10:30-11 p.m., though return times depends on the length of the game and the distance traveled. Chaperones usually post the bus arrival ETA, but students are urged to text parents for pick up as they approach Dawson. Students must unload the buses and equipment trucks, put away instruments, and hang up their uniform before they are allowed to leave. Note that percussion and large instruments unload the truck, so they along with quartermasters and other student leaders will be the last to leave.

Parents should park in the Dawson front parking lot, which is the school entrance off Cullen. Leave the side driveway CLEAR for the buses to unload. Drive CAREFULLY around the school. Remember, it has been a long day for everyone. Be patient.



Photo by
Kila Savoy



Game Day Schedule

These may change due to travel restrictions.

Schedule for HOME GAME DAY – (subject to change, dependent on game start times)

- 2:50 p.m. — Rehearsal
- 3:50 p.m. — Load, eat game day meal (tailgate), dress (change into uniforms)
- 5:00 p.m. — Inspection/meeting
- 5:15 p.m. — Load buses, then head to The Nest
- 6:00 p.m. — Arrive at The Nest
- 7:00 p.m. — Game Kick-off

Schedule for AWAY GAME DAY – (subject to change or vary by game location)

- 2:50 p.m. — Rehearsal
- 3:35 p.m. — Load, eat game day meal, (tailgate) dress (change into uniforms)
- 4:45 p.m. — Inspection/meeting
- 5:00 p.m. — Load buses, then head to the away stadium
- 6:00 p.m. — Arrive at away stadium
- 7:00 p.m. — Game Kick-off

Game Day Must Haves:

- Duffle bag filled with:
 1. “Reds and blacks” and black tank when wearing show uniform
 2. Long black knee socks (no skin showing when you sit down)
 3. Marching shoes
- Gallon water jug and tote. Can fill with ice from the band ice machine and water before leaving.
The ice machine cannot fill all 300+ jugs, so be sure your jug is full of ice in the morning
- Flip folder and all of your music, hat box with gloves
- Lyre (woodwinds only), marching instrument, and mouthpiece/reeds (must purchase your own, even for school-owned instruments)
- If it's cold, only black jackets with no logos are allowed (unless it's a Dawson Band jacket or Dawson letterman jacket)

Uniform Etiquette

- No chewing gum or eating
- No jewelry, even earrings
- No fingernail polish
- Hair pulled back in pony tail or ballet/man bun

No Pass/No Play and Starting School

No Pass/No Play

The Texas Education Agency defines band as a performing art. Concert and marching performances are an extension of class time. Attendance at rehearsals and performances is required and is a part of the band grade. A student will be suspended from participating in any extracurricular activity (marching band activities, pep rallies, parades, UIL solo and ensemble and other competitions) after a six week grading period in which a student receives a grade below a 70. The student will remain eligible and responsible for band and technique class requirements including sectionals and performances. Interim progress reports are issued in the middle of each six week period to students who are borderline or failing a class. Students can “regain” eligibility at this time if he/she is passing. If you ever have questions regarding your student's eligibility, please contact Mr. Brown.

Starting School

The first day of school is TOUGH for a band student. They endure all the first day lectures and rules for each teacher then rush to band practice that lasts late until early evening. When they get home, they will be overwhelmed, starving, and exhausted! Speaking of long school days... have them pack a hardy snack for after school to refuel. Fridays will be very long days for your band student!!! Their day starts at 7:15am and ends after the football game that night. With away games, that could be after midnight.



Parent Game Day Plans

It takes a village to get over 300 students ready to perform. Help is needed to serve Game Day Meals (Tailgate), distribute and return uniforms, chaperone buses, pack, and drive equipment trucks. Signups to help in these areas are usually available during registration. You do not have to volunteer EVERY week, but all parents are encouraged to volunteer in some way. All volunteers must have an up-to-date background check on file with Pearland ISD (complete the volunteer application at <https://www.pearlandisd.org/departments/hrs/volunteers-chaperones> — volunteers must re-apply each school year at the start of summer band).

Home games are played at what's referred to as the "The Nest" on Dawson game days, which is Pearland ISD's stadium that is located next to Pearland High School on 35/Main St. The home side of the stadium is the west side (the taller side). Free parking is available at the stadium. There is also a free shuttle from the parking lot of Pearland Junior High South. Using the shuttle is especially advised for the Dawson-Pearland game!

Most games begin at 7:00 p.m. and are over at 10:30 p.m. or so. Band parents tend to sit in the section near the band. School colors are red, navy, and white.

Given how early the students eat dinner, they will be very hungry after football games. The line for McDonald's gets very long, but other places like Raisin' Canes, IHOP, Whataburger, etc. are also open late. Many students like to gather with friends after the football games.

Dawson Eagle Football games are fun! The students stay at Dawson after school. They have a short practice on the football field behind Dawson. Then, they get dressed, have dinner, and ride buses to the game. If you want a reserved seat for every home game, you will need to buy season tickets from Dawson Eagle Football. Tickets to the home games must be purchased in advance through the Athletic Ticket Office at <https://www.pearlandisd.org/departments/athletics/online-tickets>.

Away game tickets can be purchased online through the opponent's website and best prices are available usually up to the day before (game day is typically a little more). Many of the concessions run cashless, accepting credit/debit cards and sometimes Apple Pay. Also, some stadiums have a clear bag policy. The band performs music in the stands throughout the game and performs their marching show at halftime. They will perform however much of the show they have learned, so at the beginning of the season it might only be one part.

Wear shirts with the band logo, your student's instrument, band spirit wear, or "Band Parent" on them to every activity!

Obviously one of the most fun things to do as a band parent is to watch your student perform as part of the band! You will quickly learn where your student starts the marching show and try to follow along as they move about the field. There are guidelines we must follow as spectators, so we don't take away from the fun for our students.

Cheering for other bands is also great. Bands visiting at football games and at competitions have worked just as hard as our students and letting them know you've enjoyed their performance is being a good sport.

Please be considerate of other spectators, other band parents, and the facilities where we visit. Volunteers like us are helping at all events we go to, so treat them as we would want to be treated. Also, the football and other spirit group parents watch the halftime show, so please be considerate of them if you can't stay for the whole game by not standing and blocking other fans in the stands. It's fun to stay for the whole game as its great watching and hearing the band perform as they always have THE most fun after halftime!

Food or drinks CANNOT be given to students in the stands. It WILL be taken away. The band and color guard are in uniform and in performance mode while in the stands. Rest assured that they are fed dinner right before changing into uniforms. They have their gallon water jugs.



NEVER post videos of our band performing on ANY social media sites, even your own.

Why? The band does not have rights to distribute recordings of the performance.

ONLY exceptions...

- 1. Our PRIVATE Band app group**
- 2. Our PRIVATE Facebook Band Boosters page**

You may take personal videos of the band's performance at football games and parent performances only, but **NEVER post videos of our band performing on ANY social media sites, even your own.** The band does not have the rights to distribute recordings of the performance and doing so could get the band in trouble. **Do not take videos at any contests.** If you are working on the field as a volunteer, you are not allowed to have a camera out at contests, either. **17**

Competition Season

Photo by
Kila Savoy

The marching band will participate in several marching festivals and competitions. Traditionally, October is the season for festivals and competitions, so prepare for every weekend in October to be scheduled with a competition as well as a football game.

At the Competition

Marching contests have preliminaries and finals, so the band may have two performances if they make it to finals. These are very long days for students and parents.

Students have to stay with the band at all times while at the competition. Once at the host school, students will change into their full uniform and gather for a series of warm-up exercises. When it is time to perform, the band will march onto the field, often in a “block” formation. They will then arrange themselves to prepare for the start of the show. An announcer will state that the “judges are ready!” This will be followed by the announcer asking the drum majors if their band is ready. Bands have different traditions about exactly what happens next.

The band then performs its show, and when it ends, the head drum major salutes the judges. Some of these final salutes can be exhaustively intricate, but they’re fun to watch. After the salute, the head drum major will signal someone in the battery to start tapping out a steady cadence, and the band marches off the field.

The band will gather near their buses for a final word from the band director and a final series of cheers to mark the day. Band members are then permitted to dress down to half uniforms (in show shirts) to eat and relax. Dawson Band Boosters feeds the band on competition days, including meals and snacks.

After all the bands have competed and the judges have handed in their scores, all the drum majors of the bands assemble on the field to hear their scores and receive their awards. Once awards are given, students return to their buses and travel back to Dawson. After all the equipment has been returned to the band rooms, students are sent home.

Etiquette

Band parents represent the band and the school as much as the students who are performing. Whenever another band is performing, it is important to show respect and not talk or move around the stands.

Umbrellas are great for blocking out the hot Texas sun, but they should not be used when any band is performing as it blocks others’ views. Any large signs or fat heads should be put down once a show begins.

Never “trash talk” or point out shortcomings in a band’s performance. These students are trying their best and we all make mistakes. You’d feel awful if you overheard someone talking about your students that way, and besides, their mom or dad may be sitting right behind you!

Of course, when Dawson performs, be as enthusiastic (loud) as possible! Let your students know that you are there and that you love what they’re doing. It will reassure and inspire them, and it will impress the judges (believe me, they’re paying attention).

Cheering for the Band:

- Cheering, yelling, and clapping at marching events are great, especially before and after the performance. Be sure to sit down during the performance so everyone can see. Airhorns and other noisemakers are NOT appropriate at contests.
- **Do NOT take videos of our band performing at ANY contests.** The band does not have the rights to distribute recordings of the performance and doing so could get the band in trouble. If you are working on the field as a volunteer, you are not allowed to have a camera out at contests either.
- Be sure to arrive early to watch the band at contests. Do not enter or leave the stands during any band performance.
- This goes without saying, but be considerate of other spectators, other band parents, and the facilities where we visit. Volunteers like us are probably helping at all events we go to, so treat them as we would want to be treated.



No time for visits

IMPORTANT NOTE TO PARENTS

While your student is with the band or guard at games, performances, contests, competitions, and rehearsals, they are there to be a part of the team. Visits from parents in the stands, on the buses, etc. are prohibited. They are in performance mode and are following what the directors have told them to do, so please be respectful of this.

If an emergency message needs to get to your student, then please do this through the directors. There will be appropriate times for parent visits at many of our events, but not at all of them. You and your student will be advised in advance of these opportunities. Please do not put your student in an uncomfortable situation by approaching them when they know you should not.

Furthermore, public events and competitions are NOT the time to have a private discussion with any director.



Photos by Angie Shortt



Photo by Camryn Hughey



Award-Winning Catalyst Color Guard Program

Catalyst Guard

Color Guard is a truly unique and enriching activity coined as “The Sport of the Arts” by Winter Guard International.

It consists of demanding athletic skills like sports but also pageantry and theatrics like the arts. The Catalyst Guard is the biggest visual component of the marching band program at Dawson. They utilize flags, rifles, sabers, dance, performance and theatrics to help convey the emotion of the music while visually representing what the audience is hearing.

The Catalyst Guard has their own competitive season (Winter Guard) during the spring where they compete indoors against the most competitive groups around the country. Catalyst competes in the Texas Colorguard Circuit (TCGC) and Winter Guard International (WGI). The Catalyst Guard is an award-winning organization. They currently have five TCGC State Championships titles, are three-time TCGC State Championship medalists, and are 3-time WGI World Championships Semi-Finalists.

The Catalyst team consists of 50 members who, like our percussion section, have their own Color Guard Camp before Summer Band begins. The Catalyst Color Guard is an integral, visual component of the Dawson Eagle Band. Their programs and equipment are one of the many important things that the Dawson Band Boosters fund. Catalyst parents chaperone the color guard buses for games and competitions, including spring competitions. See the Catalyst Guard Handbook for more!



Photo by
Kila Savoy

Concert Season

Uniform Basics

Concert season begins when marching/football season ends. Later in the fall, each student is issued a formal concert uniform. The school provides formal concert attire. For males, this includes black tuxedo trousers, a black tuxedo jacket, black bow tie, and black cummerbund. Students are responsible for furnishing a solid white TUXEDO shirt with either wing tips or classic turndown collars, long black trouser stocks, and black dress shoes. NO banded collars and NO regular white dress shirts. Starting fall 2025, tuxedo shirts will be ordered for 9th graders and new students. A fee will be placed in CutTime. Females will be fitted for long dresses and are responsible for buying solid black hose and black closed-toe dress shoes with low or no heels. NO sports bras, due to the wide width of the dress neckline. It is recommended that all non-issued items be purchased early in the school year.

Concert uniforms are worn at the following concerts: winter/spring, pre-UIL, UIL Concert & Sight Reading, Freshmen/Region Bands (Dec.), Region Orchestra (Jan.), and All-State (Feb.). Concert uniforms stay at the school and are maintained by the Uniform Committee. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HANGING UP THEIR UNIFORMS PROPERLY.

At the discretion of the band directors, some performances (e.g. Percussion, Wind Ensemble, All-Region Jazz Band) may require all black professional attire, which is not provided by the school. Students may also wear professional attire during Individual/Group performances & competitions.

Performances: Several concerts are held during the season including a holiday concert in December, percussion concert, pre-UIL concert in April, spring concert in May, and parent preview concert at the end of May Camp with incoming freshmen. Performances will be held at Dawson High School.

Concert Season Competitions: The University Interscholastic League (UIL) sponsors both individual and group music competitions. Competitions may be in solos, small ensembles, or large ensembles (whole band).

Band Events

Band Banquet

Traditionally, band students have celebrated a fun-filled, successful musical year with a banquet planned cooperatively by student leadership and the Dawson Band Boosters. Although the theme, location, menu and cost vary, its purpose is to honor the seniors and bestow awards. Each year, Dawson Band Boosters awards scholarships to seniors who apply for and are chosen by a Scholarship Committee. Students reminisce about the year gone by and give a send-off to the graduating seniors.

The Social Side of Band

Corral a group of teenagers into an organization and its social side will soon appear. You'll find your student asking to do things and go places that are not school, band, or Dawson Band Boosters sanctioned or related. Many sections have mascots, section jokes, section t-shirts, traditions, and other bonding experiences. Participation in these activities is optional, but you will feel more comfortable when your student participates in them if you know the other students. Get to know your student's new friends and their parents. Volunteer. Go to games. Go to competitions.

Band Trips

The Dawson Eagle Band usually goes on an extended trip every other year. This year the band will go on an optional trip to Orlando, Florida right before Spring Break for a Disney band clinic and several days of fun in the Disney and Universal Studios parks. Two years ago, the band went to New York and did a clinic with a conductor from Broadway's Wicked, performing one of the songs and then among all the sightseeing, attended the Broadway performance. These optional trips, typically through Perform America, will have a payment plan available if you choose to go.

TMEA All-Region/All-State

All-Region Band tryouts creep up quickly! Have your band student practice whenever they have time throughout the fall. The Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) sponsors a series of individual auditions. Region Jazz auditions are held Sept./Oct., Freshman and High School region band auditions are held in late Nov./early Dec. Some may qualify for Region Orchestra and/or proceed to Area. Area and All-State auditions are held in early January. Students selected for All-State Band/Orchestra will attend and perform during the TMEA Convention held in February in San Antonio.

City of Pearland's Hometown Christmas Parade

In December, the Dawson Eagle Band & Catalyst Color Guard march in the City of Pearland's Hometown Christmas Parade.



Parent Involvement = Successful Band Program

Easy Ways for a Parent to Help the Band Program:

Give your student support and encouragement for being in band! Tell him/her how proud you are of what they are learning and how they are changing as part of the band!

When picking up your student from band, leave your car and get to know the other parents! Please park in the front parking lot off Cullen. Better yet, come early to watch the students' progress and socialize with other band parents. The last 15 minutes of practice are open for parents to view our progress. Building relationships with other adults in the program will benefit both you and your student!

Come to the Dawson Band Booster Meetings! Booster Meetings will be scheduled quarterly. You'll always walk away with information your student forgot to tell you.

Donate if you can — \$\$, time and talent. We know it's not easy, but it is important to the existence of the band program.

Join the **Tailgate Committee** and help with the care and feeding of students.

Help build stuff. Every year, something besides musical instruments needs to be repaired or built. This can be anything from repairing the drum major podium to rewiring the band's equipment trailer to prop design and storage needs.

Attend football games and competitions to cheer for them! The band ALWAYS performs better with a large cheering block behind them.

Volunteer to help. After all, you're coming to the game/competition anyway!

Join our Pit Crew. Not everything is heavy, and much of it is on wheels. Pit Crew welcomes both moms and dads!

Not able to attend? **Lend a hand at the school** when you drop-off or pick-up your student... **BUT don't do it for your student!** Thinking you'll help your student get home faster after a performance by stepping in to do some of their work? Nope - don't do it! Your student's management of their equipment and its use, is how they are developing as all around better stewards and students.

Help with FUNdraisers! The more hands, the easier the work!

You Are More Talented Than You Realize! Please share your talents with us!

Fees/Purchases

Fees/Purchases on CutTime

Fees will be added to accounts in June and can be paid between June through Band Registration in August. Any issues should be addressed to the Band Director.

All Band Students...

- \$ 200 — PISD Band Fee
- \$ TBD — BOA San Antonio Fee
- \$ TBD — Marching show uniform/hat wrap
- \$ 20 — Ultimate Drill Book
- \$ 18 — 2025 Show Shirt
- \$ TBD — Gloves (*brass & woodwind players*)
- \$ 20 — Region Band Entry Fee (*Wind Ensemble & Symphonic*)
- \$ 10 — Solo Contest Fee

Additional for Incoming Band Students...

- \$ TBD — Marching Shoes
(*or those who need shoe upgrade*)
- \$ 20 — 9th grade Region Band Fee
(*Wind Ensemble, Symphonic & Concert*)

Additional for Percussion...

- \$ 40 — Percussion Supplies Fee
- \$ 60 — PISD Fall Instrument Repair Fee
- \$ 60 — PISD Spring Instrument Repair Fee

Additional for School-Owned Instruments...

- \$ 60 — PISD Fall Instrument Repair Fee
- \$ 60 — PISD Spring Instrument Repair Fee

Additional for Catalyst Guard... see Guard Handbook

Fees/Purchases on Band Website through DAWSON BAND BOOSTERS

These fees cover meals on game days and contest days (Tailgate) as well as the water jug tote and Reds and Blacks as these items are ordered and paid for better pricing through the Dawson Band Boosters through [dawsband.com](https://dhsband2025.itemorder.com/shop/home/).

- \$ 265 — Tailgate Fee (*food for game & contest days*)
- \$ 11 — Band Uniform Cleaning Fee (*instrument players only, not color guard*)
- \$ 23 — Water Jug Tote (*all incoming students or those needing a replacement*)

Reds & Blacks + Tanks (recommend 2 sets for less washing on back-to-back game/contest weekends) — order at <https://dhsband2025.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

- \$ 10.25 — Reds (shirt)
- \$ 12.75 — Black tank top to wear under show uniform
- \$ 11.75 — Blacks (shorts)
- + \$2 fee per order for the packing and sending to the school for distribution



Helpful Purchasing Guide for New Band Parents

Below is a guide for incoming band parents to determine what, when, and how to purchase the items needed for a student to start their first year in band. The Dawson Band directors may add or subtract items from this list according to the needs of a particular year, but this guide can be used to plan for expenses throughout the first year.

ITEMS	WHEN NEEDED BY	NOTES/TIPS
Required Items...		
Flip folder/extra pages	July Camp	Available at Music Factory in Pearland or Amazon
Lyre (only woodwinds or if directed)	July Camp	Available at Music Factory in Pearland or Amazon
Mouthpiece/Ligatures (if directed)	July Camp	For school owned instruments
1-gallon water jug (any color, any brand)	July Camp	https://www.walmart.com/ip/Igloo-1-Gallon-Sports-Polypropylene-Beverage-Jug-with-Hooks-Red/925167316?from=search
Neck strap (only for large woodwinds)	July Camp	Only if directed
Dawson Eagle Band water jug sling/tote	First football game	Purchase at dawsoneagleband.com
Black socks (long)	First football game	Buy two pair – Academy, Dicks, Walmart, Target...
Under-uniform shirt/shorts (“Reds & Blacks”, tank)	First football game	Purchase at https://dhsband2025.itemorder.com/shop/home/
Marching shoes	First football game	Shoe fee is in CutTime
All black warm coat/jacket	First football game	Must be all black and can be worn in the stands
Dawson Eagle Band show shirt	Given in class	Paid as part of Band Fees through CutTime
White collared tux shirt (BOYS)**	Thanksgiving	Available at Al's Formal Wear
Black trouser socks (BOYS)	Thanksgiving	Worn during Concert Season
Black formal shoes (NOT marching shoes)	Thanksgiving	Girls have black flats – Boys have black dress shoes
Black hose (GIRLS)	Thanksgiving	Worn during Concert Season
Optional Items...		
Yard sign	Fun to display in your yard (samples at Band Registration) — order at dawsoneagleband.com	
Duffel bag	Some students use these and some don't. These can be purchased at dawsoneagleband.com	
Section t-shirt	Organized, designed, and paid for through the individual section leaders	
DHS Band & Guard Spiritwear & Swag	Fun for students and parents to wear. Purchase at dawsoneagleband.com	
Hand warmers	Good for the cold football games and competitions – Academy, Dicks, Walmart, Target	
Portable power bank/extra cord	Long bus rides and rehearsals mean low batteries on phones	
Neck pillow	Great for getting some sleep on the bus. No blankets are allowed.	

*** Percussion may have different dress requirements*

Dawson Eagle Band Directors



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Shop Kroger for Dawson!

Link your Kroger Shopper's Card at
kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards
to “Dawson High School Band” for every
purchase to support the Dawson Eagle Band!

Purchase Your Gift Cards Here!



Download the Raise Right App and help the band raise money with your purchase of gift cards. Hundreds of different brands! Everything from retail, gas, travel, and groceries. A donation for the band with your purchase!
<https://www.raiseright.com/enroll?enrollCode=ETGJQM7GK2PX>

Dawson High School Band Boosters

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facebook.com/groups/dawsonbandboosters

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