

Dawson High School Band Boosters

Flight Guide

2023 - 2024

for Band & Guard Parents

Band Boosters guide to the
Dawson Marching Arts

DAWSON
EAGLE BAND



DAWSON
CATALYST GUARD



Dawson Band Boosters - Parent Flight Guide

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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](https://twitter.com/band_dawson)

Instagram — Dawson Eagle Band: [@dhseagleband](https://instagram.com/dhseagleband)

Instagram — Dawson Band Boosters: [@dawsonbandboosters](https://instagram.com/dawsonbandboosters)

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

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 CHARMS email system. That typically is out on Tuesdays once everything gets going.
2. Mr. Brown will occasionally send out other **emails** through CHARMS during the week, as necessary.
3. Mr. Brown uses 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 **CHARMS**. You **MUST** be signed up in CHARMS. We will go over this at Band Registration, but you can get a head start by having it completed early to save time later.



CHARMS website – www.charmsoffice.com
School Code: dawsonband

- After entering the website, go to LOGIN.
- There is a square in the middle of the page. Click on the PARENTS/STUDENTS/MEMBERS tab.
- It will ask you to enter our unique SCHOOL CODE. Enter: dawsonband.
- If you are new to CHARMS you will need to enter your student's school ID number for a password. You will be prompted to change it once in CHARMS.
- You can pay your BAND FEES, verify information, and view various things.
- Update personal contact information for you and your student each year.

CHARMS is an integral part of the communication process. If you aren't signed up with CHARMS 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, group texts, and SignUp Genius all in one place!

Band Boosters will send out chaperone/volunteer sign ups & reminders through the BAND app. Sign up for chaperone/volunteer slots in the **BAND app**.

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 was a finalist in last year's 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, the 2020 Valedictorian and several 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 always 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!!!

Danna Kutach

Dawson Band Boosters President, 2023-2024

dawsonbandboosterspresident@gmail.com

2023-2024 Dawson High School Band Boosters Elected Officers

President Danna Kutach

Vice Presidents Natalie Deligatti, *Marching*
Brian Earles, *Pit Crew Boss*
Amanda Marshall, *Catalyst Color Guard Representative*
Angie Shortt, *Fundraising*

Secretary Carrie Cummings

Treasurer Brooke McNeil

See page 7 for the full list of 2023-2024 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 after August 1

As required by Pearland ISD, a background check must be performed on every person that will be volunteering with the band. These are now taking approximately 3-4 weeks. So, do it early but not too early... Wait until after August 1 to apply for each upcoming school year at <https://www.pearlandisd.org/Page/261>. 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

Check out school owned instruments:
May 24 & 30, June 1

CATALYST GUARD CAMP:

May 30-June 2, July 20-21, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

PERCUSSION CAMP:

May 30-June 2, July 20-22, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

MARCHING BAND CAMP (Full Band):

July 25–August 4* 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

August 7–11 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 12 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

PARENT PERFORMANCE:

Friday, August 11 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

PARENT SHOW:

Saturday, October 28 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

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

Band Registration Day – Saturday, July 29 from 8:30am-12:00pm

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

Rock-A-Thon Fundraiser – Thursday, August 3 from 4:00-5:30pm

Rock-A-Thon Overnight Lock-in – Friday, August 4 from 8:00pm-6:00am

School Starts – Tuesday, August 15

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

Monday	Doctor/Dentist day, NO PRACTICE
Tuesday	3:30 – 6:30 p.m. (stay after school)
Wednesday	3:30 – 6:00 p.m. (stay after school)
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	5:00 – 7:30 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**)

September 30	Bands of America — Woodlands/North Houston
October 7	Bands of America — Katy/West Houston
October 14	UIL Region Marching Contest — Channelview
October 21	UIL Area Marching Contest
October 30	UIL State Marching Contest, Alamodome in San Antonio
November 4	Bands of America Super Regional, Alamodome in San Antonio

Other Performances & Event Dates

December 1-2	Region Band auditions
December 2	City of Pearland Hometown Christmas Parade
December 7	Winter Concert
January TBA	Area Auditions
January 27	Take Flight (Guard Competition, Dawson host/volunteering)
February 7-10	TMEA (All State)
February 24	Solo & Ensemble Contest
March TBA	Percussion Concert
March 21	Pre-UIL Concert
April 3-5	UIL Concert & Sight-reading @ Dobie HS
May 4, 10-11	Honor Band Recording Concerts
May 9	Spring Concerts
May 13-18	May Camp

Dawson Band Boosters Meetings

August 11 @ 6pm (before parent show), October, January, February, April TBA

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 26. 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

2023

Varsity



Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time	Event
Friday	18-Aug	Friendswood (S)	Home	6:30	
Saturday	26-Aug	Hightower	Hall Stadium	6:00	
Saturday	2-Sep	Klein Collins	Klein Memorial	6:00	
Saturday	9-Sep	Tomball	Pearland ISD Stadium	6:00	Senior Night
	15-Sep	Bye			
Friday	22-Sep	*Hastings	Pearland ISD Stadium	7:00	Homecoming
Thursday	28-Sep	*Taylor	Crump Stadium	6:00	
Friday	6-Oct	*Strake Jesuit	Pearland ISD Stadium	7:00	Jr. High/Youth Football
Friday	13-Oct	*Pearland	Pearland ISD Stadium	7:00	Red Out
Friday	20-Oct	*Shadow Creek	Pearland ISD Stadium	7:00	Pink Out
Friday	27-Oct	*Elsik	Crump Stadium	7:00	
Thursday	2-Nov	*Alvin	Pearland ISD Stadium	6:00	Military Night
		(S) - Scrimmage			
		* - District Game			
STATE PLAYOFFS					
Week of Nov 10	Bi-District	TBA	TBA		
Week of Nov 17	Area	TBA	TBA		
Week of Nov 24	Regional Semi-Final	TBA	TBA		Thanksgiving Week
Week of Dec 1	Regional Final	TBA	TBA		
Week of Dec 8	State Semi-Final	TBA	TBA		
Week of Dec 15	State Championship	TBA	TBA		

FAMILY

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 High School Band Boosters

DAWSON BAND BOOSTERS Elected Officers 2023-2024

President	Danna Kutach	832-372-0255, dawsonbandboosters president @gmail.com
Vice President — Marching Season (tailgating, food, & uniforms)	Natalie Deligatti	757-630-3501, dawsonbandboosters marching @gmail.com
Vice President — Pit Crew	Brian Earles	281-703-5619, brian.earles@att.net
Vice President — Catalyst Color Guard	Amanda Marshall	713-299-9842, dawsonbandboosters colorguard @gmail.com
Vice President — Fundraising	Angie Shortt	713-854-7215, dawsonbandboosters fundraising @gmail.com
Secretary/Membership	Carrie Cummings	936-520-6845, dawsonbandboosters secretary @gmail.com
Treasurer *CPA SHADOW NEEDED*	Brooke McNeil	713-725-3426, 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 (Lead Chaperone)	Elizabeth Elizalde Co-Chair/SHADOW NEEDED	832-540-0506, chow.elizalde@outlook.com
Competition Meals/Tailgate (Saturdays) & Competition Snacks	**URGENT**	
Game Day Meals/Tailgate – 3-5pm	Jennifer Stringfellow Nancy Gobran	713-417-9535, jenstring95@hotmail.com 281-536-6377, nancygobran@gmail.com
Plumes	Jill Laird	832-597-9285, lairdj@pearlandisd.org
Seat Covers (football games)	Rhiana Potase	281-433-7272, rlpotase@gmail.com
Uniforms - Marching Season	Toni Sherrill Shelley Waguespack	281-701-7600, million0402@yahoo.com 713-516-7285, sandswaguespack@yahoo.com
Uniforms - Concert Season	Toni Sherrill Anjili Sabharwal	281-701-7600, million0402@yahoo.com 281-687-7885, anjilis@hotmail.com

Events...

Rock-A-Thon (Aug. 3)	Danna Kutach Angie Shortt	832-372-0255, dawsonbandboosters president @gmail.com 713-854-7215, dawsonbandboosters fundraising @gmail.com
Take Flight (Jan. 27)	Amanda Marshall Melinda Mendoza-Scott	713-299-9842, dawsonbandboosters colorguard @gmail.com 832-496-6088 mcmendoza01@yahoo.com
Bingo Night (Feb. 16)	Terryl Winter	281-703-2496, twinter21@gmail.com
Solo/Ensemble Concessions (Feb. 24)	Open Position	
Band Banquet (April 19)	Julie Bradford	281-744-6126, jlb7380@aol.com
Car Wash (June 2024)	Mark & Danna Kutach	832-372-0255, dawsonbandboosters secretary @gmail.com

Programs & More...

Corporate Sponsorships *SHADOW NEEDED*	Marissa Tindall Nick Hughey	281-620-5636, DHSBBsponsors@gmail.com 281-301-4289, DHSBBsponsors@gmail.com
Membership	Carrie Cummings	936-520-6845, dawsonbandboosters secretary @gmail.com
Alumni Program	Open Position	
Spirit Nights (monthly)	Open Position	
Pit Crew	Brian Earles	281-703-5619, brian.earles@att.net
Senior Scholarships (Spring 2024)	Carrie Thomas Melissa Vera	713-540-9380, ttcthomas@att.net 832-314-9791, melissavera@hotmail.com
Spirit Wear	Terryl Winter	281-703-2496, twinter21@gmail.com
Yard Signs	Carrie Cummings	936-520-6845, dawsonbandboosters secretary @gmail.com

2023-2024 Dawson Band Boosters Committees

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

Bingo Night – This is a FUNdraiser event in 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 appreciate our Dawson Eagle Band 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 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!

Plumes – Hand out plumes (“feathers” for the top of their marching hats) to marchers prior to football halftime performances. You follow the band to warm up (mid 2nd quarter) and return after halftime. Collect plumes after performance and store them in cases. These volunteers (affectionately known also as “Mother Pluckers”, although it's not just moms who participate!) are also responsible for picking up music/lyres from the sidelines and sorting by instrument after the band plays for the Diamond Dancers at halftime.

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, their parent/guardian must be a paid Dawson Band Booster member 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 these 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 through CHARMS. 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 its newsletter, which will be published online several times during the year.

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 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.), and the summer Car Wash (June/July).

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.

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!

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

Auditions are held in the Spring for concert placements in the high school band. There are four bands at Dawson: 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.

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.

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, they put ice blocks in their water jugs. Freeze large heavy duty plastic cups (reusable or unbreakable plastic cereal bowls work great - the ice slides right out without the need to run it under water to release the ice.) 3/4 full of water. 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, and Cadet 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, don't drive on the practice field. 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 \$9 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 basic marching uniform. It consists of pants (bibs), jacket, and a shako (hat) with a plume (feather). Families provide the following items for each student. These items you order at registration: marching shoes, black gloves, show shirt. The student must provide these items on his/her own: TALL black crew length socks, red shirt and black athletic shorts with the Dawson Band logo (aka “reds and blacks”), and hair ties (all hair that hits the collar must be put up into a bun). See page 20 for the Helpful Purchasing Guide for New Band Parents.

Students are fitted for their marching uniforms during the first part of summer band camp. The bibs, jacket, and shako remain at school and the uniform committee helps distribute them before each event. **STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HANGING UP THEIR UNIFORMS.** Students must have their uniform “inspected” by a member of the uniform committee before they leave the band hall after a performance. Gloves are stored in their hat boxes. The uniform committee supplies new gloves before contests. Uniforms are cleaned regularly by the uniform committee. We need volunteers to wash these. A volunteer will typically take 10 uniforms with detailed instructions home to wash and then return to school.



Marching Uniforms: Marching uniforms are worn for all football games and contests during marching season. These are fitted during practice by Dawson Band Boosters volunteers and remain at the school. They are maintained and washed by the uniform committee. Watch CHARMS to sign up to help with uniforms! “Reds and blacks” are worn under the uniforms so that the students can easily change into and out of uniforms at the school. They are purchased from the Dawson Band Boosters. Students will also be fitted for MTX marching shoes at the school, and they must be purchased from the band. Lastly, everyone must wear tall plain black crew socks without logos. Be sure to get several pairs!

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

Polo Shirts: Band polos are optional this year, but can be purchased from a link on the band website.

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

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

Marching uniform tips:

- Many students order a band duffle bag to hold their uniform items. These duffels are available from the band store.
- 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), hair ties, bobby pins or gel, show shirt, band polo, marching shoes, jackets, practice wear, and hand warmers.
- Keep extra socks, hair ties, gloves, 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, 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

At registration, you have the opportunity to purchase a Dawson Eagle Band yard sign with your student's name, instrument, and/or leadership position.

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. All tickets will cost \$8 at the gate on game night. Student band members do not need a ticket. This year Dawson is the Visitor team for the Dawson-Pearland game. That means your season ticket will NOT get you in the gate; you will have to purchase separate tickets. Dawson will send numerous emails detailing how to do this!

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", attend a practice, put on their uniform bibs, eat their Game Day Meal (Tailgate) in the cafeteria, finish getting 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.

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”
 2. Long black knee socks (no skin showing when you sit down)
 3. MTX marching shoes
- Red one-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 Eagle 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/Page/261> — volunteers must re-apply each school year after August 1).

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 (the district gives away gift certificates to local restaurants to shuttle bus riders). 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. Away game tickets can be purchased at the games. Be sure to bring cash for concessions if that stadium doesn't accept credit/debit cards. 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 spiritwear, 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.

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.**

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 probably helping at all events we go to, so treat them as we would want to be treated.



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**

Competition Season

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.

Concert Season

Uniform Basics

Later in the fall, students are issued a concert uniform. Concert season begins when marching/football season ends. The school provides formal concert attire. For males, this is a pair of black tuxedo trousers and a black tuxedo jacket. Males are responsible for buying a white tuxedo shirt, black socks, and black dress shoes. Black bow tie and black cummerbund are provided by the school. Females are issued a long black dress. Females are responsible for buying black hose, stockings or tights, and black shoes, preferably low or no heels and closed toes. The concert uniforms stay at the school and are maintained by the Uniform Committee.

Performances

Several concerts are held during the season including a holiday concert in December, percussion concert, pre-UIL concert in April, spring concert in April, and parent preview concert at the end of May Camp with incoming freshmen. Performances will be held at Dawson High School. Some performances (e.g. Percussion and Wind Ensemble) may be all black attire, which is not provided by the 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, on non-state competition years. The band has previously gone 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. The band may explore going to New York. These optional trips usually have a payment plan available if you

TMEA All-State Bands

Just when marching season is winding down, 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. Spring semester is all about concert band. High school district and region band auditions are held in late November/early December. All-State Band auditions are held in January. Students selected for Region Band attend a clinic/rehearsal in December, which is followed by a concert. Area and All-State auditions are held in early January. Students selected for All-State Band attend TMEA Convention in February and will perform in concert at the convention.

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.



Award-Winning Catalyst 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, sabres, 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!

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 monthly. 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 CHARMS

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
- \$ 150 — BOA San Antonio Fee
- \$ 120 (*estimate*) — Marching show uniform/hat wrap
- \$ 10 — Ultimate Drill Book
- \$ 15 — 2023 Show Shirt
- \$ 10 — Uniform Cleaning Fee
- \$ 12 — Gloves (*brass & woodwind players*)
- \$ 15 — Region Band Entry Fee (*Wind Ensemble & Symphonic*)
- \$ 10 — Solo Contest Fee

Additional for Incoming Band Students...

- \$ 43 — MTX Marching Shoes
(*or those who need shoe upgrade*)
- \$ 15 — 9th grade Region Band Fee
(*Wind Ensemble, Symphonic & Concert 1*)

Additional for Percussion...

- \$ 40 — Percussion Supplies Fee
- \$ 50 — PISD Fall Instrument Repair Fee
- \$ 50 — PISD Spring Instrument Repair Fee

Additional for School-Owned Instruments...

- \$ 50 — PISD Fall Instrument Repair Fee
- \$ 50 — PISD Spring Instrument Repair Fee

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 dawsonband.com.

- \$ 220 — Tailgate Fee (*food for game & contest days*)
- \$ 23 — Water Jug Tote (*all incoming students or those needing a replacement*)

Reds & Blacks (recommend 2 sets for less washing on back-to-back game/contest weekends)

- \$ 10 — Reds (shirt)
- \$ 11.50 — Blacks (shorts)



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	Buy on Amazon or music store
Lyre (only woodwinds or if directed)	July Camp	Buy on Amazon or music store
Mouthpiece/Ligatures (if directed)	July Camp	For school owned instruments
1-gallon water jug (any color, any brand)	July Camp	https://www.amazon.com/Igloo-Legend-Jug-Gal-Lava/dp/B00G9AUHMQ
Neck strap (only for large woodwinds)	July Camp	Only if directed
Dawson Eagle Band red polo (optional)	July Camp	These will be sold through Band Boosters
Dawson Eagle Band water jug sling/tote	First football game	These will be sold through Band Boosters
Black socks (long)	First football game	Buy two pair – Academy, Dicks, Walmart, Target...
Under-uniform shirt/shorts (“Reds & Blacks”)	First football game	These will be sold through Band Boosters store
MTX marching shoes	First football game	These will be sized and sold through Charms
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 Charms
White collared tux shirt (BOYS)**	Thanksgiving	Buy at Al’s Formal Wear for around \$25
White undershirt (BOYS)	Thanksgiving	Worn under tuxedo shirt
Black dress pants (BOYS)	Thanksgiving	If they make Region Band
Black formal shoes (NOT marching shoes)	Thanksgiving	Girls have black flats – Boys have black dress shoes
Black dress or slacks/blouse (GIRLS)**	Thanksgiving	Worn during the Fall Semester for concerts
Optional Items...		
Yard sign	Fun to display in your yard for your student. Will be sold by DHS Band Boosters	
Duffle bag	Some students use these and some don’t. These can be purchased through the band store	
Section t-shirt	Organized, designed, and paid for through the individual section leaders	
DHS Band Spirit Shirts	Fun for students and parents to wear. Will be sold through the band store	
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

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Link your Kroger Shopper’s Card at [kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards](https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards) to “Dawson High School Band Boosters” for every purchase to support the Dawson Eagle Band!

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