



2023-2024

Membership Information Packet

*CONCERT BANDS • SYMPHONIC BAND • WIND SYMPHONY
MARCHING BAND • COLORGUARD • JAZZ ENSEMBLE*

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WHAT IS HIGH SCHOOL BAND?

Students who join the Houston County High School Band program will be placed into one of four concert band classes that meet daily as part of the seven-period academic schedule. Percussionists and Colorguard members will be placed in their own class, as well. Unlike middle school band, each of the four band classes is ability-based, and therefore, has a mix of 9th-12th grade students. Most freshmen are placed into the Concert Band II, but some advanced players will be placed into the Concert Band I, Symphonic Band, or Wind Symphony. All students who sign up for band class will receive class placement materials and information in the spring. Band class placement auditions will take place in April. The class placement audition is nothing to worry about; we have a place for everyone, regardless of ability or experience. However, we want to ensure that everyone is placed into the correct class.



Above: The 2022-2023 HCHS Wind Symphony. All bands perform 3-4 concerts a year and regularly participate in GMEA events. Students enrolled in band classes also work with sectional coaches during their band class once a week.

THE HCHS BLACK AND SILVER BRIGADE



MARCHING BAND INFORMATION

All band students must sign up for band class to be eligible to participate in the extra-curricular Black and Silver Brigade. Marching band begins in July with practices at the school during our marching band camp. Once school begins, the marching band rehearses after school from August through the end of football season in early November. Each year, we will be fielding two marching bands: a football band, which performs at football games and pep rallies and is open to everyone; and an auditioned competitive marching band, which will perform with the football band but is a smaller group that also performs at area GMEA sanctioned competitions. All prospective members are required to attend a few practice sessions in the spring (spring training). The spring practice sessions are used to place each student on the appropriate instrument (for percussion), give the students an opportunity to practice with the high school band, and play a marching instrument (for brass players). For the Colorguard (flags), the auditions will be a time to become familiar with the flag equipment used. To be a Colorguard member, no experience or band class is required, so feel free to encourage your friends not currently in band to audition for this group.

We will have several spring training sessions to serve as an audition preparation for the competitive band, as well as to give new members a chance to find out what marching band is all about!

MARCHING BAND WOODWIND AND BRASS SECTIONS

Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax, Trumpet, French Horn (Mellophone), Trombone, Baritone, Tuba (Sousaphone). Mr. Davis will speak individually to oboe and bassoon players about other instruments they can play so they can be involved in marching band.



Students must attend spring training during the week of April 18th. Sign-ups for the marching band will be handled online through the band website (www.hocoband.org). All students, new and returning, will register for marching band this way. A **\$100.00 non-refundable deposit will be required in order to ensure a spot on the field in the fall.** This will be due on May 12th.

MARCHING BAND PERCUSSION SECTION
Snare Drum, Tenors, Bass Drum, Cymbals, Front Ensemble



To be a part of the marching band percussion section, students must attend the spring training practices. During these rehearsals, all returning and new members play on their choice of percussion instruments. Music and other materials will be distributed several weeks in advance. Drumline auditions will be during spring training, the week of April 17th. At the end of the spring training, a finalized list of participating students and their assigned instrument will be posted. Nobody will be “cut.” This audition is a way to make sure everyone is placed on the instrument to which they are best suited. Percussionists will then be assigned a spot in the front ensemble (mallet percussion, drum set, auxiliary percussion) or the marching battery (snare drum, bass drum, tenors, or cymbals). All percussionists will be assigned to the 4th period percussion class.

MARCHING BAND COLORGUARD

Flags, Weapons, Choreography



All band students and non-band students are eligible to participate in the Black and Silver Brigade Colorguard. Members of this group will enroll in the Colorguard class during Fall Semester (7th period). The guard performs with the marching band as an auxiliary unit utilizing flag, rifles, sabers, and dance. Members are required to attend all rehearsals and performances. To become a member of this group, students must attend auditions the week of April 17th. *No experience is required!* Colorguard members will perform with both football and comp bands. There is no separate guard for each group.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN OUR AWARD-WINNING BAND PROGRAM?

- ❖❖ 200+ instant friends, even before school begins
- ❖❖ Being surrounded by the brightest, friendliest, and best group of students at HCHS
- ❖❖ Gaining confidence in oneself and his/her abilities
- ❖❖ Learning the value of teamwork and discipline
- ❖❖ Establishing time management skills
- ❖❖ Developing leadership skills
- ❖❖ Being a part of a successful musical ensemble
- ❖❖ Enjoying great seats at all Houston County High School football games
- ❖❖ An exciting and wonderful high school experience
- ❖❖ Becoming a part of tradition, legacy, and history
- ❖❖ Band students have a GREAT time together!



Below: The Black and Silver Brigade spelling HCH during the 2018 pregame show.



CHARMS

The Houston County High School band program utilizes the CHARMS program for many things, including the band calendar, individual student fee accounts, and communication from the band directors and boosters to the band membership. **It is absolutely mandatory that each band member has a CHARMS account.** You will need your child's lunch number to register the account.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR JOINING THE 2023-2024 BLACK AND SILVER BRIGADE

The band's calendar, which includes all events, practices, concerts, and other activities, is posted to the band website www.hocoband.org. For the most up-to-date dates/times, check this calendar often. Also, do not forget to sign up for CHARMS.
Spring 2023 -- Sign up for band when you select your high school courses.

FOR STUDENTS WHO SIGN UP FOR BAND

April 18-2023-Band Booster Meeting at 7:00

April 17- 21, 2023- Spring Training from 3:30-5:30 pm at HCHS

April 21, 2023--Competition Band/ Colorguard/ Percussion Auditions 3:30-5:30 at HCHS

April 25, 2023-Class Placement Auditions, 3:00-6:00 @ HCHS

May 1, 2023-Marching Band Sign-up Due (this will be a Google Form on www.hocoband.org)

*May 12, 2023-Marching Band Deposit Due-THIS IS NON-REFUNDABLE AND MUST BE PAID TO HOLD SPOT ON FIELD!
This can be paid online through our band website, or payments can be dropped off in the HCHS Band Room.*

Tuesday's and Thursday's in June-Colorguard practice 9:00-12:00

July 10-14, 2023-Percussion and Guard Camp (Section Leaders will be required to attend as well); 8:00-5:00

July 10-14, 2023-New member camp from 8:00-12:00

July 13, 2023-Mandatory Marching Band Parent Meeting at 7:00 pm at HCHS

July 19-22, 2023--Marching Band Camp-- 8:00 am--8:00 pm (Competition Band ONLY) (NO FRIDAY!!!)

July 26-27, 2023-Comp Band Only, 8:00-4:00

July 28-30, 2023-Full Marching Band 4:30-9:00

July 30, 2023- Movie Night at Band Field! (After rehearsal!)

August 3, 2023-After school rehearsal schedule begins

August 10, 2023-Meet the Bears at Freedom Field

August 12, 2023--Super Saturday No. 1, 9:00-1:00 @ Freedom Field

August 18, 2023--First game @ Sumter (Home)

**BAND CAMP 2023 WILL START ON JULY 10 AND RUN THROUGH THE END OF THE
JULY. PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE VACATIONS DURING BAND CAMP!!**

JUNE IS A LOVELY MONTH FOR TRAVEL!



BLACK AND SILVER BRIGADE CLASS OF 2023

We are on several social media accounts! Join us on:

Facebook:

***Houston County Black and Silver Brigade
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hocoband>***

Instagram:

Hocobands

Twitter:

@Hocobands



How much are Marching Band Fees?

Estimated Fees for Houston County Black and Silver Brigade 2023-2024

These are participation fees only.

Other costs may be incurred depending on individual need. Those costs are outlined on the next page.

First and Second payments must be made before students will be allowed to be fitted for uniforms.

*******ALL BAND FEES MUST BE CURRENT BEFORE ANY STUDENT IS ALLOWED TO PERFORM AT FOOTBALL GAMES WITH THE BAND. PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE SHOULD THEY BE NEEDED.*******

Payment Schedule:

Football Band: \$375.00 *These can be paid all at once, or you may use the schedule below:*

May 12	\$100.00 NON-REFUNDABLE band deposit
June 9	\$100.00
July 7	\$100.00
Aug 4	\$75.00

Competition Band: \$400.00 *These can be paid all at once, or you may use the schedule below:*

Color Guard: \$450.00	
May 12	\$100.00 NON-REFUNDABLE band deposit
June 9	\$125.00
July 7	\$125.00
Aug 4	\$100.00

From one year to the next, it may be possible to obtain band accessories from graduating students or to re-use your own shoes, T-shirts, gloves, wristbands, etc. All accessory items will be available for purchase or pre-order during band camp uniform fittings.

Please remember that we have numerous fundraising opportunities to help offset the cost of participating in band. We also have a corporate sponsorship program that you benefit from each time a company donates in your student's name.



Additional Fees for Marching Band

The following charges will apply to **all new marching band members**. THESE ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE BAND FEES LISTED ABOVE. Returning members may incur **some** of these costs, depending on individual need. These charges will be posted to your CHARMS account in August. These are estimated prices-they may vary year to year.

UDB App: \$25.00

This will be used for rehearsals to learn drill and take attendance.

Bibbers:

Marchers: \$55.00

**All new members of the Black and Silver will be required to purchase bibbers. Bibbers that are issued to new seniors from the band will be returned after the Christmas Parade.*

Shoes:

Marchers: \$30.00

Guard: \$40.00

**Initial shoe purchases will be charged to your CHARMS account at the cost incurred by the boosters. Cost is approximate.*

**Replacement shoe orders may be subject to additional shipping charges.*

**Every effort will be made to avoid shipping charges.*

Dry-Fit Uniform T-shirts:

Marchers: \$15.00

Cymbals: \$15.00

Guard: \$15.00

**Dry-fit Uniform shirts are a part of our uniform and are not for sale to the general public. All members are required to have this shirt.*

Gloves:

Marchers: \$2.00

Guard: actual cost Wristbands:
\$3.00 (percussion only)

**Replacement gloves orders may be subject to additional shipping charges.*

**Every effort will be made to avoid shipping charges.*

Colorguard:

All Colorguard members will be required to purchase a wind suit for wearing when not performing. These will also be used in parades and other less formal events. Approximate cost will be under \$100.00. This will be in addition to other band fees.

Meals:

All members will have the option of ordering a meal for third quarter break on Friday nights, as students aren't allowed to visit the concession stands. These meals will be ordered during game weeks and the cost will vary depending on the meal ordered. Comp band members will also incur a meal charge on competition days. Meal costs will be approximately \$40.00 for football band members and \$60.00 for comp. band members.

Booster Items:

Show t-shirts, hoodies, band t-shirts, magnets, hats, etc. will be for sale. Be sure to stock up on Black and Silver Brigade stuff!!!