

HELP! I'M A NEW BAND PARENT!!

We get them every year – the frantic “what am I supposed to be doing now??” e-mails, phone calls and visits. Trust us, you’re not the first parents to ask these questions, and you will definitely not be the last. Hopefully we can help with a few pointers:

1. Ask questions! You can email Mrs. Ronald, the band parent president (pres@hempfieldareaband.org) at any time. All other email contacts are on the website and in the handbooks.
2. Make sure we have your email address. If you haven’t been getting emails from us, chances are that we need an updated address for you. If that is the case, please send an email from any email address you wish to receive future communications to: pres@hempfieldareaband.org. Please include your first and last name as well as your student’s first and last name with their upcoming school year’s grade level.
3. Check our website - www.hempfieldareaband.org. We try to have as much information online as possible, including the band calendar (it’s a LIVE Google calendar, so you know it’s as accurate and up-to-date as possible). ***When in doubt – check the band calendar.*** It’s on the first page of the website. Other items that can be found on the web site are various forms, the student handbook, the parent handbook and music and sound files so your student can practice their marching music at home!
4. Go to the Band Parent meetings! They are held the fourth Tuesday of each month in the high school cafeteria at 7:00 PM. Go! Ask questions! Get involved!
5. Become a chaperone. When we ask veteran band parents what helped them the MOST, they always say “being a chaperone.” You will get to know the kids very quickly this way, and it is not difficult. You will have lots of other parents with you, and it’s a lot of fun!

Here are some FAQs we have gotten – and their answers.

Q: When are rehearsals scheduled?

A: Check the calendar. When school begins we practice after school until 5 PM Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. As the season progresses we gradually reduce rehearsals to just one day a week - Wednesdays.

Q: How do we know how much money we’ve raised and how much more do we need for the spring trip?

A: Once your student account is created, you will receive a link to the Google Sheet which will give you the updated information on the number of “credits” your student has in their account. These are updated after each sub sale or fundraiser. You can email treasurer 2 with questions - treasurer2@hempfieldareaband.org.

The Hempfield Band holds a sub sale once or twice a month. This is the trip fundraiser. You may pay for your entire trip by selling subs, partially pay or totally pay for the trip by writing a check to HBPA. But, half the monies are due by a certain date and the entire trip monies are due by a certain date. These dates will be published so everyone will have that information.

There are also other fundraising opportunities for the trip and the general fund.

Q: What items are the band students responsible for purchasing?

- All students must purchase their own shoes.
- All wind players need to purchase a lyre and flip folder (purchased from the band student treasurer)
- Black gloves (from the band parents).
- Color Guard and majorettes also have items they must purchase. Please email Ms. Troutman at alitrouman@gmail.com with any Band Front questions.

Q: My student will not be present at a rehearsal/performance, late or leaving early. Who do I tell?

A: Please complete the "Absentee Request Form" at least 48 hours before the date of the absence. These can be found on the band website, in the band student handbook and outside the band offices and on the band's Google Classroom. Return the completed form to the drawer marked "Completed Absentee Request Forms" found outside the band offices. There is a point system in place which is explained in the band handbook that if a student misses a certain number of rehearsals and/or performances, they may not go on the spring trip. Please keep this in mind.

Q: When are all the medical, informational, etc. forms due?

A: There are due dates on most forms. But the general rule is ASAP!

The Physician's school Medication Directive Form is on the band & district website and blank copies are located outside of the directors' offices. This form needs to be completed in order for any student to receive ANY and ALL medications. This applies to scheduled, prescribed, over the counter and as needed medications. We ask that this is completed prior to band camp so that we can adequately prepare but this form can be turned in any time throughout the school year. Common medications that are carried by our Nurse include Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Tums, Pepto Bismol, & Dramamine. Most parents call the pediatrician and request an order for common medications. The form must include a parent's signature (for consent to administer) and the order signed by the physician (yes, even over the counter medications like Tylenol). Med forms can be emailed to the nurse at nurse@hempfieldareaband.org or turned into the medical form folder outside of the director's office.

When a student may not be feeling well, they should report to the band nurse. **The student should not call home before they see the nurse.** The band nurse will call home to speak with the parent/guardian if needed.

Q: I am so excited to be a band parent! How can I help?

A: We are excited to have you join us! Contact the first vice president at vp1@hempfieldareaband.org and she will gladly put you in contact with someone who needs you! We always need everyone to help at our annual band festival. There are many ways to help from cooking food to being an ambassador for a visiting band.

Again, welcome to the band family! And yes, we are a family. We are very excited for a great season, and we want to help you as much as possible. Please just keep those questions coming!