



May 21, 2011

Dear Freshman Band Parents:

Welcome to the award-winning Newman Smith Trojan Band! Your student is joining one of the most accomplished organizations at Newman Smith High School and, by extension, so are you! But it won't only be your student who experiences band; your whole family will! This guide was written to help you to understand many of our traditions, and to help you and your student make the transition from middle school to high school band. It is the beginning of a relationship among parents where those of us who are experienced help those who are new to understand how to get the most from the fine programs at Smith.

We understand that freshman year can be overwhelming. The high school curriculum is more demanding and extra-curricular activities are more intense and time-consuming. Given the greater challenges, it is helpful to remember these points:

- The overall academic standing of band students is far higher than that of the student body as a whole.
- While students are subject to the *No Pass, No Play* rule, what is more important is that our band directors *want* students to be successful scholars. This is both the culture and the climate in our bands.
- Our students do acquire personal discipline and time-management skills. They learn when to be flexible and when to be rigid.
- The University Interscholastic League regulates the amount of time spent in rehearsal and performance; all 4A bands adhere to the same rules.

Specific information about event dates and times is disseminated among students via directors and student leaders, and to you, via your student, News Blasts, and the website -- www.nshsband.org. Changes will occur to the calendar so please check the website often. Also, the website is the primary place to find information about our concessions business at Standridge Stadium.

Please read the rest of this guide and keep it handy. If you have a question that is not answered here, please do not hesitate to call me or another board member so that we can help you. We welcome you to the Newman Smith Trojan Band family.

David Fedorko
2011-2012 President
Newman Smith Area Band Club

*Everything you want to know about the Trojan Band:
A Parents' Guide*

First, what is the Trojan Band?

As described fully in the handbook, the high school band program consists of several ensembles. From a parent's viewpoint, the year is divided into two parts: marching season in the fall and concert season in the winter/spring.

The Newman Smith Trojan Band is a show band. It includes brass, woodwind, and percussion, and works from July through November in perfecting the season's show, which includes both musical and visual components. All band students are involved either on or off the field. Positions "in the show" are awarded through tryouts during Summer Band Camp. All students perform on the field in the pre-game show; therefore, all students are required to be at all games and contests. The band performs the show at football game half times, and at numerous contests including UIL competitions and our very own Tournament of Champions (TOC). We'll talk more about TOC and UIL later in the guide. The band marches under the direction of drum majors and the musicians are joined on the field by Dance Guard members who choose to try out each season for an opportunity to also perform with the band.

Concert bands include Wind Symphony, Symphonic, Concert, two Jazz Ensembles, Percussion Ensemble, and chamber groups. The concert bands perform at NSHS concerts, and compete at contests beginning near the end of fall semester and through the end of the year. Students audition for placement in the bands and ensembles. Classes meet for each band and ensemble during the day and directors schedule rehearsals as appropriate.

Full and Pit Orchestras generally include members from the Wind Symphony. Students rehearse and perform under joint directorship of the orchestra and band directors, and compete at UIL as well as perform in the annual musical production. Additionally, choir directors sometimes invite band members to perform with the vocal groups.

As you can see, there are many elements of the Trojan Band, and each section is an integral part of the program.

Secondly, what is the Booster Club?

We are an organization made up of parents of the Trojan Band students which supports all aspects of the band program through activities including social events, uniform fittings, equipment transportation, newsletters, student directory, fundraising, and much more. We encourage all families to participate in the booster club to support their individual student and the band as a whole. Membership is included in band fees, all of which goes to support band activities. Being a member entitles you to receive one of our indispensable student directories. Each family receives one directory, but you can purchase more for one dollar each.

Thirdly, what about fundraising?

Our major form of fundraising for the band is through our contract with the school district to act as the sole operator of the concession stands at Standridge Stadium. Through the stewardship of our past and present members, the concession stands have become very profitable and we have been able to provide well for our band. Every family must volunteer at Standridge concessions. Truly, it's fun and easy – much more so than any other fundraising activity we know of!!

In addition to hosting the UIL Regional marching contest at Standridge, we share responsibility for hosting the UIL Area marching contest, on two years then off two years. We also host our own marching contest, Tournament of Champions. These are major events and the boosters bring our own skills and interests to running the events under the leadership of our club's vice president. These events require that families volunteer. The students are the beneficiaries of these contests and are very much involved, each signing up for jobs. They also raise money for their band through a Play-a-Thon held each year at the end of Summer Band Camp that is followed by a refreshing pool party.

Band is big in Texas and every band chooses how it will fund its needs. We choose to fund our band with a nominal registration fee, and then we all work together so that what we give is time and skill, not money. Working alongside other parents and students is a great way to meet the people our kids are spending so much time with. It also fosters responsibility and ownership in the programs. And best of all, every student who wants to participate in band is able to do so.

Now that we've given you this brief introduction to band, on the following pages you will find descriptions and information about the most commonly asked about subjects. If you do not find what you are looking for, please call us.

Band Booster Breakfast

The officers of the booster club sponsor this annual event in the Smith cafeteria. Breakfast foods, fruit, coffee and juice are served. Come to the school cafeteria to eat breakfast, hear music, order spirit wear, and sign up to work concessions and the tournaments. This is a great way to meet and visit with fellow band parents.

Band Council (Students)

The band council works with the directors in providing leadership, to plan events and promote participation in band activities.

Band Hall

This is where your students spend a lot of time – before, during and after school—as much a clubhouse as it is a classroom. Phone number is (972) 968-5327.

Banquet

This is our much-anticipated celebration of the year's accomplishments and tribute to graduating seniors. Awards and scholarships are presented, and the next year's junior drum major, band council and officers are announced. The boosters underwrite part of the cost and tickets are necessary to attend. Attire is semi-formal. All parents are encouraged to attend, along with brothers, sisters, and grandparents. It is a great way to see off our graduating seniors and they take advantage of the opportunity to pass the torch to their younger band mates.

Big & Little Sisters/Brothers

Each new student will be assigned a big brother or sister for friendship, support and mentoring throughout the year. Small token gifts and cards are traditionally exchanged periodically with emphasis during home football games. The tradition also includes exchange of mums for Homecoming. It's very informal and your student will learn about the traditions from his big sister or brother. See “Mums” for more information.

Boosters (NSABC)

Newman Smith Area Band Club is a 501(c) (3) organization and is also subject to UIL and school district policies regarding booster clubs. Membership is included in band fees and includes one copy of the indispensable band directory. Additional directories may be purchased.

We are an organization of parents, which supports the program through many activities. Over the last few years, the boosters have given gifts to the band that include impressive new percussion instruments that support the entire band's sound and new tuxedo concert uniforms.

Booster Board

A list of the current board members is printed in the directory and on the website. If you are interested in becoming a board member, please let us know. It is our function to help you help your student.

Calendar

Students are given instructions, dates, and times for events so you will want to encourage your student to share his notes from class and rehearsals with you. Schools, teams, and contest sponsors are constantly working on calendars in an effort to accommodate as many groups as possible, and our directors are constantly seeking out opportunities for students to play. This means that the band calendar will constantly be adjusted as the year progresses. Your primary source for information should be your student, but the website www.nshsband.org and booster club officers are always available.

Checks

Payment for band fees, supplies, tickets, etc... are made by check, payable to NSABC, and are given to the NSABC Treasurer. He/she will establish times when they can be dropped off or they can be mailed to NSABC (see address under NSABC section of this handbook) as booster club monies cannot be handled by C-FB ISD employees. Trip payments, however, are payable to NSHS and are given to the band director.

Cleaners

Four Seasons Cleaners is located in the Albertson's shopping center at Josey and Keller Springs. It faces the Carrollton Post Office and Home Depot. It's the place to have your uniform cleaned each week during football season. The cost for cleanings is included in your band fees. Be sure to drop off the jacket and pants on Saturday or Monday morning and pick it up before games on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning. Check the number of the uniform on the inside tag upon pick up to ensure that the correct uniform is returned. During contest weeks, pay attention to dates so that the uniform is always ready.

Communication

Directors are very clear in their instructions to students, but questions will arise. Encourage your student to make use of the website and to ask their section leader or big sister/brother questions. The directors and the boosters welcome the chance to meet parents. Newsletters, e-mail, and the band's website www.nshsband.org are helpful communication tools between parents. Don't hesitate to call the band hall or any booster officer!

Concessions

Our prior boosters were great stewards of the club and years ago were wise to respond to CFB-ISD's call for bids to operate the concession stands at Standridge Stadium. Each year, the District is happy to renew our contract because they have confidence that we will continue to operate the stands successfully. We are fortunate to be able to focus all of our attention on this **ONE** fundraiser and to be able to have our students, the beneficiaries of this contract, working alongside us—when their schedules permit.

Students sign up and work as many shifts as they can. Parents need to sign up and work a **minimum of eight (8) shifts** approximately four hours long **for each child in band** in order that both the fall football season and spring soccer/track season are fully staffed.

**Working concession shifts does not count toward fulfilling the obligation presented by our three October contest dates, which require every family to volunteer.

The times listed for concession shifts make for optimal staffing. If you are unavailable during those times, talk with the Concession Scheduler or the VP-Concessions. There are other ways you can help. If you are available during mornings or afternoons, let the Concession Scheduler know since several of the contests start early and you can help when other parents may not be able to.

There are opportunities to sign up at the uniform fitting and the Ice Cream Social. Volunteers can also sign up using the online scheduling tool at:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/concessions148>

Truly, it's much more fun and profitable to sell nachos to happy spectators than to try to sell candles or cookie dough to unwilling neighbors and co-workers!

Contests:

- Drum Corps International (DCI) is a competition which features bands, made up of students of high school age through twenty-one, that travel the country performing in competitions throughout summer. Some of our students have participated in various corps. The sound and marching skill is spectacular. Lake Highlands High School hosts one of the competitions each July and our band director usually makes information about these events available on our website. Not only is it a fun evening, it's a great learning opportunity.
- Bands of America (BOA) is a private organization which hosts competitions throughout the country. Our band will compete at the Arlington BOA this year. There is a fee to attend this event as a spectator. Watch the website for info on ordering tickets. Competition is stiff so parents all sit together and cheer on our fabulous band as well as enjoy the spectacle of all of the shows put on by other bands. You will need your green Trojan Band shirt for each of these events. You also need to know the chant:
NSHS Pride -- With Pride -- With Pride -- With Pride -- Smiith!
- Our own Tournament of Champions (TOC) kicks off the contest season at Standridge Stadium. Bands are invited to attend and most appear on a regular basis. Tickets are required for spectators.
- UIL Region and UIL Area contests are between schools based on their school sizes, not the sizes of the bands. We are a 4A band and compete every year at Region, but the Area and State competitions are every other year. We are experienced and successful at running contests at Standridge Stadium, so we host Region every year and alternate every two years as hosts for Area. On alternate years, Area is held at Pennington Field. No tickets are required for UIL Region spectators. Tickets are required for UIL Area spectators.

Sign up opportunities for working TOC and UIL Region (and UIL Area) will take place during uniform fittings and at the Ice Cream Social. We need all parents to volunteer for each of these events. Since NSABC hosts the two UILs and TOC, booster parents generally cannot watch our band compete. We urge you to attend football games and the BOA contests so that you can see the band in competition.

Often it is thought that the band's off-season is in spring but this could not be further from the truth. Wind Symphony, Symphonic, Concert, the Jazz Bands, and Percussion all participate in various competitions from February through April. Times are scheduled closer to the events, so watch the website for details. UIL Concert and Sight Reading contests are held at area schools and parents are encouraged to attend. The judging criterion is very strict and the sight-reading portion is particularly exciting to witness.

Directors

Newman Smith High School is fortunate in having excellent band directors who lead the program and encourage our students to excel both musically and academically. They are highly respected in their field by their peers and in classes by their students.

Drum Majors

The drum majors assist the directors with rehearsing the band and will direct the marching band on the field. They normally serve for two years, first as a junior drum major, then as a senior. Members of last year's sophomore class attended clinics in May held by the exiting drum majors. Junior drum majors are chosen through a final competition. This spring the tradition will be repeated in selecting next year's junior drum major, who will be announced at banquet.

Drumline

Drumline is the marching percussion: tenor, snares, and basses. Pit includes non-marching percussion: keyboards, timpani, and large drums. These musicians work under the guidance of Dr. Parks and compete and perform as an ensemble in fall and spring.

Eligibility

The "No Pass, No Play" rule applies to band. Besides being extremely disheartening for your student, ineligibility can create a disruption to the show, competitions and concerts. If a student is ineligible, the band director has no choice but to not allow the student to participate.

Football Games

These are a great opportunity to see the band perform even if you're not a football fan. Parents usually sit together at games, close to the band, wearing green Trojan Band shirts. Spectators must purchase a ticket for games.

Home Games: Students furnish their own transportation to and from in-district games at Standridge Stadium. Carpooling is encouraged as students arrive earlier than spectators. We also encourage you to avoid Interstate 35 due to traffic. Be sure to check the schedule when the Trojans play against other CFB-ISD schools to determine the role of our team. (Home or Visitor)

Away Games: Students meet at the band hall and travel as a group to and from games by air-conditioned charter buses. Departure time depends on location and is announced to students by the directors. Return is to NSHS and the arrival times depend on location and duration of the game. We encourage you to attend away games, but many parents use these times to work concession shifts. You can find links for directions to stadiums on the website and in the directory.

Full Orchestra

This orchestra is the NSHS Symphonic Orchestra which includes members of the Wind Symphony. It is formed specifically for competition at UIL. Like all UIL contests, parents are encouraged to attend the competition.

Fundraising

Practice-a-Thon, Concessions, Tournament of Champions, and both UIL contests are the primary means of earning funds that enrich our students' band experiences. Parents and students are required to support this collective effort. With everyone's participation, our band can continue to enjoy the benefits we have had thus far.

We are a 501nonprofit corporation and all of our proceeds are required to, and do, directly benefit our students. If you have any questions about how funds are spent, please contact the booster club president.

Handbook

The official source of information on the program, rules, and guidelines published by the directors and received by students in Summer Band Camp. It's usually a personalized white binder. Please check this binder for forms which need to be signed and returned to the band director.

Homecoming

Check the school website for info on the formal dance. An astonishing array of mums and garters are usually exchanged among dates, big and little brother/sisters, and friends during school on Friday. Students wear their mums and garters at school and to the football game. See "Mums" for more information.

Ice Cream Social

This fun event held at Standridge Stadium is an exciting first look at what our students have worked on throughout Summer Band Camp and is a chance for you to learn what it is like to be part of a marching band. You are encouraged to bring water, an umbrella for shade, and to dress comfortably. Parents will tour the concessions stand, pick up directories and order spirit wear. All of the officers will be in attendance so you can ask questions and get to know them. Ice cream and enjoyment is the officers' gift to you! Look for fall concession and contest sign-up sheets at this event. Bring your calendar so you will know when you are available to work.

Inspection

Inspections are held before marching performances and football games to ensure that the uniform is complete, properly cared for, and students have their materials and supplies available in their bags. These are carried out by section leaders and are reported to the drum majors.

Jackets

The directors award letter jackets to students for specific achievements. These are distinct from all other NSHS organizations' jackets and are fun to personalize with Show and achievement patches.

Jazz Bands

The Trojan Band has two very successful jazz ensembles that perform and compete throughout the year. Students audition at the end of eighth grade or during Summer Band Camp to become members. It's an excellent and unique opportunity for musical development. Everyone is welcome at contests and concerts.

Loading Crew

These are hard working Trojan Band students who volunteer to load and unload the band equipment trucks that carry percussion and other large instruments throughout the year.

Meetings

The board meets the second Monday of every month and the entire booster club meets periodically throughout the year. Meetings are open to all band parents.

Mums

As described under "Homecoming," this is a school tradition in which girls wear pin-on mums, and boys wear garters for the left arm, that are personalized. Most craft stores have a large inventory to make your own mum or you may purchase them already made. The Trojans sponsor classes and have an excellent selection of materials available for sale in the fall. This is a fundraiser for their organization. Traditional colors are as follows:

- Freshmen: Kelly green and yellow
- Sophomores: Kelly green and metallic gold
- Juniors: Forest green and metallic gold
- Seniors: White and metallic gold

Musical

A pit orchestra made of orchestra and band students provides music for the annual musical theater show. Get your tickets early.

NSABC – This is the club's formal address for correspondence. Checks can be mailed here.
Newman Smith Area Band Club
P.O. Box 112173
Carrollton, TX 75011

Patches

Souvenirs of competitions, shows and festivals are perfect for putting on letter jackets or to keep for mementos. Each band member receives a patch to commemorate the season's show. Students may purchase competition patches at TOC, BOA and UIL for approximately \$5 at those events.

Photos

Throughout the year, our historians are able to take photos at events from locations that the rest of us don't have access to. Parents and students may purchase photos or digital downloads for only \$1.00 each via the Pictures link on the band website. These photographs are intended for personal use only. The images are the private property of each student and the band, and the photographs are the copyrighted work of the NSABC. The photographs may not be reproduced in any form for commercial purposes without written permission of NSABC.

Pit

The pit is an important part of percussion comprised of stationary instruments that are not marched, for example, the marimba and timpani. Pit performs on the sidelines during the show. The pit is made up of students who play percussion and instruments like oboe and bassoon that don't normally appear in a marching band program.

Practices

These are held on the school parking lot outside the band hall. Please see the band calendar for days & time each week during the marching season. During weeks when the game is held on Thursday, a Friday practice will be scheduled. Additionally, practices will sometimes be held at Standridge Stadium. Practices before contests will be announced once those schedules have been made. All practices are scheduled to be within UIL regulations.

Practice-a-Thon

Practice-a-Thon is a completely student-driven fundraiser where they solicit pledges for the number of hours practiced. This event is held on a Friday during Summer Band Camp and is followed in the evening with the Swim Party.

Private Lessons

The directors strongly encourage students to take private lessons and work with students on scheduling. See handbook for details.

Rehearsals and sectionals

Schedules are set based on the needs of the bands during marching and concert seasons.

Section Leaders (Students)

These are upper classmen selected by the directors to lead an instrument section. These students are resources for other students. They provide guidance and leadership, help the band council, and assist the drum majors with uniform inspections during the marching band season.

Show

Students work on a complex musical and marching presentation throughout marching season at football games and contests. The show evolves throughout the season and you are encouraged to attend football games and competitions to witness the band's progress.

Spirit Ads

Ads are a fun way to honor your student in the Trojan Football Program booklet, which is sold at football games. Arrangements are made through the football booster club. See attached form for information on placing an ad and deadlines.

Spirit Sales

Spirit items are available at the Ice Cream Social, as well as at some home games and concerts. This is your chance to buy Trojan Band spirit items. You will want a tee shirt to wear while volunteering at the concession stand, TOC and UIL competitions. Also, parents wear Trojan Band tee shirts and sweatshirts to football games and marching competitions. Yard signs can be purchased along with stadium blankets, flannel PJ bottoms, and "Parent Line" shirts. Check the website and click the "Spiritwear" link for a complete display of items available. All proceeds benefit the students.

Standridge Stadium

CFB-ISD provides a very nice stadium, shared by District middle schools and high schools. Located west of I-35, at the corner of Valwood Parkway and Hutton, the stadium is host to football, soccer, and track and field events. We have a contract with the District to be the sole provider of concessions at the stadium.

Swim Party

This is a fun night for band members to celebrate the end of Summer Band Camp and to welcome the fall season. It is held at Don Showman Pool in Farmers Branch after the all-day Play-a-Thon.

TMEA

Texas Music Educators Association works in conjunction with UIL for band contests. In February, all types of music educators at all levels of instruction attend the TMEA convention. CFBISD sends All-State students to the convention where they audition for seating and attend rehearsals with clinicians.

Time – Early is On Time! On time is LATE!

What time do you need to be at school, at the stadium, etc? Times given to the students are the time that they need to be **in place ready** to perform or leave or whatever they are doing. Plan to drop off your student fifteen minutes before the designated time -- **15 minutes EARLY is On Time!**

Trip

An annual trip serves to reward students for hard work. It is not mandatory but nearly all members go. It is held in spring and is considered an excused absence from school. Traditionally, destinations alternate between Corpus Christie and Breckenridge, Co. Students pay for the trip in installments. See the website for details.

Tournament of Champions (TOC)

Mark your calendars! Each year we hold our annual marching contest in which approximately 25 bands will compete. The Trojan Band performs in exhibition. This contest has grown through the years to be a premier marching competition and is a major fundraiser for the band. Students are required to work and all parents are needed! Sign up for shifts for your favorite job at uniform fitting or the Ice Cream Social.

Uniforms and dress codes

Marching uniforms are issued to each student at the beginning of the school year. They consist of a hat and plume, a band tee shirt, a jacket, gauntlets and gloves, suspender pants, and marching shoes. Students wear their own black socks. We recommend fairly thick socks and having several pair on hand. The jacket and pants must be cleaned weekly. See the section on “Cleaners” for details. Uniforms are expensive and all components must be cared for properly. Depending on the weather and event, the director may ask students to wear their own khaki shorts and band tee shirts for some events.

Your student will receive one **Show shirt** as part of their uniform. You may purchase additional Show shirts or other shirts for your student.

Concert uniforms are issued in the spring when concert season approaches. For girls, the uniform consists of a dress, which is to be worn with their own hosiery and dress shoes. For boys, a tuxedo is issued. Boys will need to purchase their own black dress socks and shoes.

Ensemble uniforms (jazz and percussion) usually consist of black slacks and an ensemble tee shirt issued by the directors. Jazz students wear suits and dress clothing for concerts. Dress clothes are traditionally worn on certain dates, such as before important marching contests and concert and solo competitions.

Uniform Fittings

Our band parents handle uniform fittings. Each student will be issued a uniform which is checked and altered on the spot by volunteers. ***Parents must be present for the student to be issued a uniform.*** On that day, parents will have the opportunity to sign up for all contests and concession shifts. A photo will be taken of each student in his/her uniform for the directory and address/contact information will be verified. Board members will also be on hand to answer questions. Uniform fittings will be on Saturdays in the month of August (or as otherwise specified) and your student will receive more information at Summer Band Camp.

UIL

The University Interscholastic League is an organization, which oversees all types of extracurricular activities, sporting, fine arts and others.

UIL Marching and Concert Contests

Our band performs at the UIL Regional Marching Competition every fall with the opportunity to compete in the State Marching Championship every other year. We also compete at the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Competition in the spring. (Note: We host the UIL Regional and Area Marching Competitions at Standridge Stadium. These are major fundraisers for our band and all parents participate.)

UIL Individual and Ensemble

Individuals and ensembles (small groups) work on perfecting assigned music with their private teachers. This music has been selected from prescribed lists that are evaluated for difficulty. Students perform for a judge and are given individual evaluations and comment sheets. Students can be awarded a letter jacket based on their performance.

Freshmen generally try out for the Freshmen Region band, although some also try out for Region band alongside the older students. Students who qualify for Region rehearse for one day and then perform a concert. Students who place high enough at Region qualify for Area and have an opportunity to try out for State. Jazz band members also try out for the Jazz Region in the fall and NSHS hosts the concert.

Website www.nshsband.org

It is important to check the band website weekly for schedule changes and important information and announcements. This is also where you go to check the need for concession help at the upcoming games and events,