

May 20, 2009

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! Being a member of the Trojan Band will enhance the learning experience your student will have here at Smith through opportunities to make life-long friendships while at the same time learning to set and achieve both personal and collective goals. 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 go about getting 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 than what your student has likely experienced thus far. 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 'no pass, no play' 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.

Given all of this, it remains important that you monitor your student's academic performance. You will find that e-mail is an excellent way to stay in touch with your student's teachers. The Smith website is <http://cfbstaff.cfbisd.edu/smith> and from it, you may check for general school information and find e-mail addresses for faculty, staff, and counselors. Mr. Centera's e-mail address is [centerab@cfbisd.edu](mailto:centerab@cfbisd.edu) and the band's website is <http://www.nshsband.org>.

The band's website is one that you will want to save under 'favorites'. Our directors are committed to finding the most meaningful playing opportunities for our students. Trojan Band is a vital part of the culture at Newman Smith and it interacts with many organizations both in and outside of the school, so *changes will occur* to the calendar. Specific information about event dates and times is disseminated among students via directors and student leaders, and to you, via your student, newsletters, and the website. The website is also the primary place to find information about our concessions business at the district's stadium.

Please read the rest of this guide and keep it handy. Being knowledgeable and active in the band program is the best way to ensure that your student will be able to participate in a program that is at least as successful as the one that my son has been participating in. If you have a question that is not answered here, please do not' hesitate to call me, your section mentor or another board member so that we can help you and welcome you personally to the Newman Smith Trojan Band family.

Dawn Cloe  
2009-2010 President, Newman Smith Area Band Club

*Everything (we hope) that you want to know about the Trojan Band but haven't asked:  
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 camp, but all students perform on the field in the pre-game show, and the presence of all students is needed at 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. 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 auxiliary, drill team members who choose to try out each season for an opportunity to also perform with the band.

Concert bands include Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, 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 winter 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 and friends of the Trojan Band students which supports in several ways all aspects of the band program through activities including social events, uniform fittings and alterations, equipment transportation, newsletters, student directory, fund-raising, 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 \$1 each.

### **Thirdly, what about fundraising?**

Before we talk about fundraising, it is important to know that our district has been recognized nationally for its commitment to arts education. It provides top-notch rehearsal and performance spaces and directors who are accomplished and recognized members of their field. Most high schools do not offer a jazz program while our two bands are award winners. Many high schools do not offer an orchestra program while ours' offers not only a string program but a fall orchestra as well. We are grateful for the district's support, but we know that our students need additional funding in order to perform at the level to which they are capable.

Our major form of fundraising for the band is through our contract with the school district to act as the sole operator of the concessions stand at Standridge Stadium. Through the stewardship of our past and present members, the stand has become very profitable and we have been able to provide well for our band. In order that your student is able to participate in band at the level activities are offered, 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 UIL marching contest at Standridge, we share responsibility for hosting UIL Area marching contest switching off every two years with another band booster club. We also host Mr. Centera's Tournament of Champions marching contest. These are major events and we 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 marching camp that is followed by a refreshing pool party—parents not required for this fundraiser

Band is big in Texas and every band chooses how it will fund its needs. One in the area requires about \$1000 in registration fees then parents pay for any trips to contests the groups make throughout the year. Another nearby band charges a little more than ours does, but has seven or more fundraisers plus additional fees throughout the year that add up to nearly \$800. 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 and this can only strengthen the Trojan bands.

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 Council**

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

Officers are listed in the front of this handbook

### **Section Leaders**

Section leaders provide guidance, leadership, and to assist drum majors with inspections the marching band season.

Section leaders are listed in the front of this handbook.

### **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 available in April. Attire is semi-formal, and dates are optional. All parents are encouraged to attend, and so are brothers, sisters, grandparents... you get the idea. 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. The food is pretty good, but the company is even better!

### **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)**

We are an organization of parents and friends of the band, which support the program through many activities. Newman Smith Area Band Club is a 501(c) (3) 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.

### **Booster Board**

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

### **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 calendar will adjust as the year progresses. Your primary source for information should be your student, but the website and booster club officers are also always available. [www.nshsband.org](http://www.nshsband.org).

## **Checks**

Payment for fees, supplies, tickets, etc. are made by check payable to NSABC, and are given to Mr. Centera in an envelope addressed to the booster club unless announced otherwise. Trip payments are payable to NSHS and are also given to Mr. Centera.

## **Cleaners**

*Four Seasons Cleaners* is located in the Albertson's shopping center at Josey and Keller Springs. It faces the 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 [NSHSband.org](http://NSHSband.org) are helpful communication tools between parents. Don't hesitate to call the band hall, a mentor or any booster officer!

## **Concessions**

Our prior boosters were great stewards of the club and were wise to respond, years ago, to the district's call for bids to operate concessions 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. Truly, all at concessions has fun! Students sign up to work as many shifts as they can. Parents need to work a minimum of 4 shifts that range from about 2 1/2 to about 4 hours long for each child in band in order that regular football season is fully staffed. Post-season events, soccer, and track events are scheduled later and so are their shifts. If you are available during the afternoons, spring soccer and track events begin earlier than football does so let your caller know that you can help when other parents may not be able to. Working concessions shifts does not count toward fulfilling the obligation presented by our three contest dates, which require every family to volunteer. We give you plenty of opportunities to sign up, and provide training, food, and fun. Sign-ups will be available at the uniform fitting. Truly, it's much more fun and profitable to sell nachos to happy spectators than to try to sell expensive glow in the dark widgets 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 Mr. Centera usually makes information about these

events available on our website. Not only is it a fun evening, it's a great learning opportunity.

Our own Tournament of Champions kicks off the contest season. Band directors are invited to attend and most bands appear on a regular basis.

UIL Region and Area are contests between schools based on their sizes, not the sizes of the bands. We are a 4A band (new in 2008) and compete every year at Region, but the Area and State competitions are every other year. We are experienced and successful at running contests, so we host Region every year and alternate every two years as hosts for Area. The next year, Area will be at Pennington Field. Sign up opportunities for working TOC, UIL will take place during uniform fittings. We need all parents to volunteer for each of these events. Since NSABC hosts the two UILs and TOC, parents generally cannot watch the band compete. We urge you to attend football games and the BOA contests so that you can see the band in competition.

Bands of America are a private organization which hosts competitions throughout the country. The 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!**

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. 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 three excellent band directors who lead the program and encourage our students to excel both musically and academically. Bill Centera leads the program, and Andy Rein and Robert Parks join him. They are highly respected in their field by their peers and in classes by their students. We extend special thanks to Colleen Centera for her constant presence over the years.

### **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 that consists of tenor, snares, and basses. Pit includes non-marching percussion: keyboards, timpani, large drums and other percussion are not generally marched. These musicians work under the guidance of Mr. Parks and compete and perform as an ensemble in fall and spring. 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.

## **Eligibility**

"No Pass, No Play" applies. Besides being extremely disheartening for your student, ineligibility can create a disruption to the show, competitions, and concerts. If a student is ineligible, Mr. Centera has no choice but to not allow the student to participate. If your student is struggling, please contact your student's teacher or counselor for a list of honor students who volunteer as tutors. Many band students will be available on these lists.

## **Football Games**

These are a great excuse to see the band perform even if you're not a football fan. Parents usually sit together at games, close to the band, sporting favorite spirit wear items. Note that spectators pay an admission fee for all games.

At Home Games: Students furnish their own transportation to and from in-district games. 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 CFBISD and alternate the role of home and away teams.

Away Games Students meet at the band hall and travel as a group to and from games by bus. 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 concessions. You can find links to directions to stadiums on the website and in the directory.

## **Full Orchestra**

This orchestra is the NSHS symphonic orchestra with members of the wind symphony. It is formed specifically for competition at UIL. Like all UIL contests, parents are encouraged to attend the competition.

## **Fund Raising**

Concessions, Tournament of Champions, and UIL Contests are the primary means of creating funds that enrich students' band experiences. Parents and students are required, as the beneficiaries of these events, to support this collective effort. Without everyone's participation, our band cannot enjoy the benefits they have had thus far, and the cost of all activities, including the annual trip, will become extremely expensive for students. Note that the times listed for volunteering make for optimal staffing at concessions. If you are unavailable during those times, talk with your mentor or the president. There are other ways you can help.

Band students also enjoy participating in fundraising. You will work alongside students throughout the year at concessions—when their schedules permit. Also, the Practice-a-Thon is a completely student driven fundraiser where they solicit pledges for the number of hours practiced. Those who have raised funds above their goal participate in a drawing for great prizes awarded at banquet.

Note that we are a nonprofit 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. It's usually a personalized white binder.

### **Homecoming**

Check the school website for info on the formal dance. An astonishing array of mums and garters are usually exchanged among dates, and/or big and little brother/sisters, friends, and family 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 is a fun event—held at Standridge Stadium and is an exciting first look at what our students have worked on throughout summer band 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, experienced workers will attend a training session for stand managers, 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!

### **Inspection**

Inspections are held before marching performances and football games to insure that the uniform is complete and properly cared for, and that 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 either at their end of eighth grade audition, 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. Check the website for details and make plans to attend.

## **Loading Crew**

These are hard working Trojan Band students who volunteer to load and unload equipment and instruments throughout the year.

## **Meetings**

The board meets once per month and the entire booster club meets periodically throughout the year. Meetings are open to all band parents. Refer to the newsletter calendar for meeting dates.

## **Mums**

As described under 'homecoming', these are 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 at craft stores, florists or other home crafters. The Trojans sponsor classes and have an excellent selection of materials available for sale in the fall. 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 musical. Get your tickets early.

## **NSABC**

Newman Smith Area Band Club P.O. Box 112173, Carrollton TX 75011

[www.nshsband.org](http://www.nshsband.org)

## **Newsletter**

Published by boosters and includes information from the director and booster club. Copies are sent via e-mail and is available on the website. If you need a paper copy please contact the board or a mentor.

## **No Pass No Play**

This is a very specific regulation intended to encourage students to meet the academic challenges required to pass their classes. Directors have no choices regarding students' eligibility.

## **Pancake (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, join the booster club, 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.

## **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, and a trip patch from the directors. Students may purchase competition patches at our Tournament, BOA and UIL for approximately \$5 at those events.

### **Photos**

Throughout the year, our historians are able to snap photos at events from locations that the rest of us don't have access to. Parents and students may purchase photos for only \$1.00 each at meetings and concerts. 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**

Pit is an important part of percussion comprised of stationary instruments that is not marched with (i.e. 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 generally on Mon, Tue & Thurs 3:30 – 6 pm. During weeks when the game is held on Thursday, a Friday practice will be scheduled. Additionally, practices will sometimes be held at Standridge and practices before contests will be announced once those schedules have been made. These are scheduled within UIL regulations.

### **Private Lessons**

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

### **Region, Area and State Try-Outs**

Individuals work on perfecting assigned solo music with their private teachers and tryout in the fall. Freshman generally tryout for freshman region band, although some also tryout for region band with the older students. Students who qualify for region rehearse for one day and then perform a concert that is of amazing quality and creativity. Students who place high enough at Region qualify for Area, and have an opportunity to try out for State. Jazz band members also tryout for jazz region in the fall and Smith hosts the concert.

### **Rehearsals and sectionals**

Schedules are set based on the needs of the bands during concert season and will be available on the website; however, sometimes they are scheduled close to the events due to the needs of the band.

### **Section Leaders**

These are upper classmen selected by the directors to lead a section. These students are resources for other students, and assist the band council and drum majors. The list appears in the front of this handbook.

### **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.

### **Solo and Ensemble UIL**

Individual and small group performances take place during concert season. Students work with teachers to select music from prescribed music 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. Students who rehearse and compete together form ensembles.

### **Spirit Ads**

These ads are a fun way to honor your student in the Trojan Football Programs, which are sold at games. Arrangements are made through the football booster club.

### **Spirit Sales**

Spirit items are available at the Pancake Breakfast and the Ice Cream Social, as well as at some home games and concerts. This is your chance to buy Trojan Band spirit items that you didn't even know you needed! You will need a tee shirt to wear while volunteering at TOC, concessions and UIL. Also, parents wear Trojan Band tee shirts, jackets, etc. to football games and marching competitions so that the students can find us supporting them from the stands. Yard signs can be purchased and other items include stadium blankets, Reece jackets, caps, etc. Your student will receive one show shirt as part of the uniform, but you may purchase additional show shirts or other shirts for your student or yourself. Order forms are available on the website so that you can purchase items whenever you need them.

### **Standridge Stadium**

CFBISD provides a very nice stadium, shared by district schools. Located west of Hwy 35, at corner of Valwood Parkway and Hutton, one easy way to go is: west on Belt Line past Hwy 35, left on Hutton a few blocks. The stadium also is host to junior high school football, as well as high school 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 and to welcome fall season, held at Thomas Pool after the 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. The music produced by these groups is amazing!

### **Time (Early is on time!)**

As in 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 'what time do you have to be there' time.

### **Trip**

The directors arrange an annual trip to a music festival and competition. 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 (aka TOC)**

Mark your calendars! Each year we hold our annual marching contest in which approximately twenty-five 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 risk being assigned the worst job!

### **Uniforms and dress codes**

Marching Uniforms, issued in August, should be worn and maintained as stipulated in the Handbook. Marching uniforms 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 'Cleaners' for details. Uniforms are expensive and all components must be cared for properly. Depending on the weather, and event, directors may ask students to wear their own khaki shorts, band tee shirts and caps for some events.

Concert uniforms are issued 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 tux jacket is issued which they wear with their own dress pants. 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 also often wear suits and dress clothing for concerts. Dress clothes which usually consist of suits—or sport coats and slacks—and ties for boys, and dresses or skirts for girls, are traditionally worn on certain dates, such as before concert competitions, and for solo competitions.

### **Uniform Fittings**

Our band parents handle -uniform fittings. Each student will be issued a uniform and then it will be checked and altered on the spot by volunteers. Each student must bring a parent to be issued a uniform. Parents will be informed of the dates for concessions for that particular section and will have the opportunity to sign up for all contests and concessions. Board members and mentors will also be on hand to answer questions. Uniform fittings will be in the month of August and your student will receive that information.

**UIL**

The University Interscholastic League is an organization, which oversees all types of extracurricular activities. Our band performs at UIL Marching Competition every fall with the opportunity to compete for state championship every other year, and competes at UIL Concert and Sight Reading Competition in spring. Note that we will be hosting UIL district and area competitions at Standridge Stadium and these will be major fundraisers for our band with all parents participating.

**Web Site**

Refer often to our website [www.nshsband.org](http://www.nshsband.org) for schedules and other information.