



Members of the Spirit of Saginaw Band are a part of one of Saginaw High School's most respected school organizations. The success of the Band will depend on the Loyalty, Cooperation, and Dedication of each and every member. Parents play a big role, believe it or not, in the success of our band program.

As a parent, your role is as big as you want it to be in your student's high school "life". One of the best ways to be active in this stage of their lives is by being active in the band program with your student. It is a way to be able to get to know their friends, be there to support them in a more active role, perhaps, than you have during the middle school years, or possibly in their elementary school years. Being active during this phase of their life can make a big difference in these last years of influence you have on them, before they graduate high school and move on to college and the rest of their lives. There are many areas in which you can be active, without appearing to be "hovering". There is a LOT of activity that goes on behind the scenes for parents, especially during marching season and the competitions during October, and during state years, in November.

Most of the band members are also some of the high school's best students. The band program produces more disciplined students, as a general rule, in any school. It seems though, that the students bond more and learn more "life lessons" than a lot of the other extra curricular programs that high school offers. Each member has their role/position. There is not a place for one student to be the big star, or "stand out" because the show is a group effort.

Marching "Spots"

During band camp, students are taught marching skills and practice their music daily. Once the show begins to be taught, students will be placed in different "spots" in the show. Some spots are more demanding than others, i.e., faster moving, different techniques, etc. Depending on the level of skill, drive and motivation each student has determines which parts they are assigned. There will be practice "homework" assigned during band camp which also should be worked on at home. Students are able to "challenge" for different parts for a limited period of time. Not all students will get a spot. There will be alternates for students that may fall ill, have to sit out due to low grades, etc. Alternates are also used for loading crew, other responsibilities, etc. on the sidelines. Every student will have a

role. Alternates are also able to challenge for positions. Many percussionists may be chosen to perform in the front ensemble instead of in a marching spot. There can be as many as 15 - 30 alternates depending on the show that is being performed each year and the number of students that enroll. It is not uncommon for freshman students to be alternates.

A typical day during band camp for students

- **Show up at least 15 minutes early** to be ready to play and march on the grid by the assigned time
- Bring water jug and wear light colored clothing to reflect the sun's rays
- Stretch, learn and run drills, practice marching style and techniques, lunch is provided, music practice in afternoons, fun games and contests, daily awards for all sorts of silly things

A typical Friday during marching season

- Wear show shirt to school with Khaki shorts
- It's a regular morning practice day, just like every other day during the week
- Students are dismissed close to the end of the school day for the pep rally
- After the pep rally, meet in the band hall again, then run through the show
- Eat dinner (provided) and if it's an away game, eat on the busses
- Dress in uniform and get ready to load the truck or march to the field
- Play during the game, Perform at Half-Time, 3rd Quarter Break
- At the end of the game, when dismissed, load the truck, or take instruments back to the band hall
- All instruments and equipment put away, change clothes, put uniforms away, then meet back in the band hall for dismissal

Competition Season (usually every Saturday in October)

Lots of people don't realize that the band performs one show each school year. The football game is where they can display what they have learned and the show actually builds each week as the students progress. The goal of learning the show and performing it better and better is so that when it is time for competitions, they will do their best and feel a real sense of accomplishment.

- There are still games on Friday nights
- The itinerary for that week (emailed by band director) will tell students when to meet at the band hall for Saturday departure
- During State years, competitions will run into November with Area and State

contests

Since we have amazing directors in our middle schools and high school, we should make area and state each year. Our geographic area is well known for having talented musicians and marching bands, so you will frequently see the local school districts at Area and State.

Many parents go to the all day competitions and away trips (Note: Since the students are fed meals for away trips and all day competitions, you may also purchase a meal ticket for the season for convenience. These meal tickets cover competitions and all day trips and are available at registration. Should you decide to purchase later, please email the treasurer, or purchase at the concession stand during our home games). The kids love it when we are able to grill on the parking lot at a couple of the competitions.

Uniforms

Fridays - Pep Rally and Competition Day attire is typically khaki shorts, show shirt and band cap (T-shirt and cap issued by band boosters, included in your band fees).

Games - Black socks that go up high on the calf, compression shorts, all items issued to you at the beginning of the season: gloves, Under Armor, bibs, jacket, Shako (marching hat), gauntlets and marching shoes. Replacement items are available for a fee if lost or left at home.

Please make sure your student comes prepared on Fridays. They will need to wear their Pep Rally attire every Friday that there is a game, and bring black socks for the game that night. Please help your student get in this habit.

Website and E-Mail

The following websites communicate information to students and parents in a timely and accurate manner. Students and parents are encouraged to visit these websites often to gather information about upcoming events and possible schedule changes. Music will also be posted on these sites. The Spirit of Saginaw Band site is maintained by the band booster organization. Music from this site is password protected. A username and password will be given to each student by the band director.

Spirit of Saginaw Band Website: www.spiritofsaginawband.org or www.spiritofsaginawband.com

To receive informative newsletters, please click on the "Sign up for Emails" area on the lower right corner of our home page. Please enter the required information. Every student and parent may also receive e-mails from the band director by

simply signing up to be on his e-mail list by requesting to be added to Mr. Canfield at jcanfield@ems-isd.net.

Mr. Canfield's website:

<http://www.emsisd.com/10452066152429250/site/default.asp>

Mr. Pearson's website:

<http://www.emsisd.com/1045206615269827/site/default.asp>

Mr. Doyle's website:

<http://www.emsisd.com/104520830155657513/site/default.asp>

We will keep you informed via email/newsletters on a regular basis. Please remember the web site also keeps a calendar and lots of information for you and your band kids. Mr. Canfield gives our web master timely information, so it is extremely important to check it often.

We utilize Twitter for fast and important messages, especially during day competitions and trips. Information on our website and at registration.

Concert Season

There are many opportunities for your student to compete beginning as early as January, including All Region Band Tryouts, Solo and Ensemble Contests shortly afterward. It would be prudent for your student to plan their solo and/or ensembles before Christmas break or immediately following, and to purchase their Solo and Ensemble music so they can begin practicing. Region music is available from the directors and posted on the website. There are also All Region Jazz Band Tryouts. The band as a whole will also have Concert Band contests. See the calendar for details on all these competitions, including dates and locations. The students will ride busses to some, but for some of the contests, they will need to ride with parent or another student. All the contests that the entire band attends will be by bus, but the all region and solo and ensemble contests are by volunteer only, and those are the ones you will need to provide transportation for your student.

The Saginaw Band Boosters

Main goals

- Help the band directors with any activities that will help them to help our kids be more successful
- Help take stress off of our students by being there to help them with their

uniforms, instruments, anything they may need, especially during competition season

• Raise money to help with scholarships, private lessons and help on deferring costs of band trips, etc. We also include the middle schools and support them financially for private lessons help, etc.

Our mission statement:

The mission of the Saginaw Band Boosters is to achieve and maintain a level of excellence as a community in order to ensure the success of every band student. We are committed to supporting the bands and their directors, as well as promoting interest in the activities of the bands. Ultimately, our mission is to prepare students to become productive, thinking members of society.

We need help on several committees. If you can help or have more questions on what is needed on these committees, please feel free to contact Jane Lyon or any of our officers - go to the web site and email them or the committee chair listed on the band boosters' link: www.spiritofsaginawband.org

Your officers really work hard to keep together a professional, dedicated organization to help our kids as much as we can for a wonderful start and a great year. We can't do it alone and some of you have already asked where you can help.

Committees for Marching Season:

Uniforms - Our biggest right now - especially for the uniform preparing and fitting.

Concessions - help with concession stands during sporting events, snacks provided during band camp, competitions, events hosted at our schools, etc.

Loading Crew - when the band travels for activities, events, etc., these volunteers will help load and unload the instruments

Transportation - Carpool - Parents that can help younger students and students that don't have a way to drive to school or from school, during band camp and then later during the school year on different contests, etc. We are looking for people that can help drive and people that need help getting their kids to or from camp, etc.

Meals - during band camp this summer and on Friday afternoons before each game. During band camp, we try to get food donated or discounted to provide lunch and snacks for them each day. Any help or ideas will be greatly appreciated. We usually contact area restaurants, etc.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

If your company, or a company you know, would be interested in a Corporate Sponsorship, please either give one of the officers their contact information, or go to our website and print a contract out for them. We put Rough Rider and Spirit Sponsor names/logos on the trailer, and others are also included on concert programs, website, etc. If you know of companies in the area that can give us support in different areas, please let the booster officers know.

Also, if you have relatives, grandparents, aunts, uncles that are interested in keeping up with the activities of your kids, please email me their email address and I will be glad to include them on the emails.

We are so excited to be getting off to a great start and look forward to an awesome year!

FUNDRAISING

Fund raising is a part of our band program that allows you to raise funds needed for band trips and other band related activities. Your participation in fund raising activities is regulated by the following guidelines:

- All funds are the property of the band or band boosters
- All funds must be used on band activities

Philosophy

- To teach an appreciation and understanding of the performing arts and how music influences and reflects history and culture
- To teach the importance of self-discipline, cooperation, loyalty, and respect for others, as well as the importance of responsibility
- To create in students a desire and appreciation for excellence in performance of any endeavor
- To teach students how to set individual goals in life, and how to accomplish those goals
- To teach students the skills and tools needed to perform to the best of their ability

Rehearsal and Performance Schedules

- Participation at sectionals, rehearsals, and performances is required.
- A schedule of activities and events will be provided to students and parents in May. Supplemental schedules are provided as needed to students and parents allowing a minimum of one week's notice of a new or updated activity

or event.

- Regularly scheduled sectionals, rehearsals, and concerts are curricular and have no academic eligibility requirements.
- In addition to local performances, special performance ensembles make numerous other appearances during the year.
- Performance courses in Band involve outside of school rehearsals and performances. Students who are members of principal performing groups are expected to fully participate in all performance activities including approved travel.
- A complete schedule for summer marching band (the first two weeks of August) will be given to student at the end May.
- These rehearsals are necessary to prepare the band for performances early in the school year.
- During the school year, the following schedules will be observed: M - F, 6:30 AM - 8 AM

Band Creed

We the Members of the Spirit of Saginaw High School Band, In order to become a more successful organization, shall strive to our very best to become a group that will not settle for second best.

We are a group with honesty, dignity, strength, and pride. Only through hard work shall we achieve our dreams!

Voluntary Music Enrichment Program

Private lessons are provided for interested students as an enrichment program in band.

- The Director of Bands coordinates the private lesson program at Saginaw High School in collaboration with the Director of Fine Arts.
- While private study is not a requirement for participation in any of the music organizations, students are encouraged to participate.

Auditions

- Students are required to audition for select performance ensembles.
- The Director of Bands determines audition requirements.
- Directors will notify students of audition dates, requirements, and results in a timely fashion.
- Directors will serve as an evaluator during auditions.
- Students will be re-evaluated periodically for participation in select performance

ensembles.

- Auditions may be live or taped at the director's discretion.
- Audition material will reflect the director's anticipated performance level for the students and will be based on prior learning.

Saginaw Band Specifics

- There will be two major auditions each year to place students in band classes.
- Students will audition in May for the following fall semester and in November for the following spring semester.
- Audition material for the November audition will be available the first week of school.
- Audition material for the May audition will be available one month before the audition.
- Students will be evaluated by the directors at these auditions.
- Student chair placement within a band may change during the semester at the director's discretion based on performance.
- Auditions for marching band auxiliary groups will be announced and held during the spring. These include drum majors, color guard officers and members, band officers and members, and squad leaders.
- Audition dates are posted in the band calendar.
- Directors will evaluate these auditions.

Band Travel

Full instruction will be given before leaving for the destination. All band members will travel to performances, destinations, etc., on school approved transportation. Students may ride back from a performance with a parent or guardian if signed out on location.

No student is allowed to leave with anyone but their own parent or guardian unless arrangements are made prior to the trip, with approval from the principal and the band director. Only personal audio devices with headphones will be allowed on buses.

Leadership Groups

The SHS Band hierarchy is set up to encourage student input in decision making and implementation of policy. The leadership begins with the highest level being Drum Major, followed by Drill Instructors, Section Leader and Band Librarians, ending with Squad Leaders.

Drum Majors are responsible for all aspects of the program throughout the school

year and must implement those duties deemed necessary by the Director of Bands and/or Assistant Directors. All students must answer to the Drum Majors.

Drill Instructors serve to assist the band in learning and cleaning drill. Each drill instructor will be responsible for a part of the band assigned by the Director of Bands.

Band Librarians serve to organize, maintain, and distribute all teaching materials, manuscript, scores, and tryout materials. Band Librarians, Drum Majors, and/or Directors are the only ones allowed to access the Band Library.

Section Leaders are those students who through playing skills and seniority will lead their "like instrument" sections on music mastery, memorization, and musicality. Those students are responsible for their section and the quality of what those sections produce musically.

Squad Leaders are responsible for 4 to 5 man groups of students of like instruments. Squad leaders are responsible for the integrity of each student within the group in terms of attitude, performance and practice etiquette, personal responsibility, loyalty and dedication to the SHS Band, grades, and general guidance.

It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of the SHS Band Leadership. Any student who diminishes this responsibility becomes a liability to the program as a whole and subject to disciplinary action.

Frequently Asked Questions

Am I allowed to visit with my child or get him/her something to drink or eat at football games?

No food or drinks, other than water, are allowed to be consumed while the students are wearing their uniforms in the stands. The chaperones are great at keeping the students well stocked with water. The band is given the third quarter as a break. As for visiting with your student during the game...watch the first game and note how the band directors expect the students to give their undivided attention to the game, the directors, and the marching show. Interaction between parents and students is discouraged during this time. It is best to contact them during the third quarter or after the game.

Can I talk to the Band Director(s) at the games about my student?

No. The Band Directors' primary focus is the band during the games. There are multiple activities in preparation for the Show and it is not an opportunity to

discuss concerns or issues regarding your student. It is better to make an appointment to talk with any of the directors.

When is the best time to talk to a band director about my child? If you have questions about your child progress within the band program, treat it like any other student teacher conference and call a band director at the band hall. He\She will be happy to discuss your student's progress.

Do I need to pick-up my child from band practice if it is raining?

During times of inclement weather, the students will go indoors, or when practicing at the stadium, the students will move under the stands. If the bad weather continues, they will keep practicing indoors for the duration of the session.

How can I become more involved with the band?

There are many ways to become involved based upon your desire and time. You may volunteer to be a chaperone, distribute water at games, wash uniforms, help at the Marching Contests. Regularly check the website for updates/upcoming activities and attend board meetings the first Tuesday of each month.

Freshman parents are the future leaders of the organization and your involvement is welcomed and encouraged!

What happens if my child has special medical needs or is injured during a trip?

Make sure the band directors are aware of any special needs. There are EMS personnel at all band competitions and all football games. We have a couple of parents who are medical professionals who usually accompany the band.

Can I chaperone a trip?

You may contact our trip coordinator to be a chaperone. Look on the website under [officers](#).

How do I know the stadium locations for away games and other special events?

Mr. Canfield emails the weekly Itinerary, which contains the students' schedule and the location of the game or event, usually with a maps or driving directions attached. We also try to put directions on the band website at

www.spiritofsaginawband.org

How do I know if my student made the marching show or not?

If your child wants to march and be in band, then the band directors will try very

hard for that to happen. They try to work every student in to the show if he works hard and really wants to be in it. Sometimes for different reasons, it is not possible. If your child has been told that he won't be marching, then they are an alternate. The students are also allowed to challenge other students for positions up to a certain date, where changes will no longer be allowed due to the length of the show and how close we are approaching the competitive part of the season.

How many hours a week can the Band students Practice?

University Interscholastic League Guidelines

Marching Band Eight-Hour Rule - "Since 1997 the UIL has limited practice outside the academic school day for marching band and auxiliary components to eight hours per calendar week. The Student/Parent Acknowledgement Form came from a recommendation made by the UIL/TMEA Marching Band Study Committee after many months of research and deliberation. The form was created to enlighten students and parents regarding the specifics of the 8-hour rule as it applies to marching band." Please go to

http://www.uil.utexas.edu/music/eight_hour_qa.html for more information.

How many hours a week can the ColorGuard/WinterGuard practice?

WinterGuard is not restricted with a maximum hours of practice as it is not part of the UIL.

I parked in the parking lot to watch my child during practice and someone told me to move. Why?

The practice marching field is the west parking lot next to the band hall. The students need this entire area to practice marching their show. Even the edges of the parking lot are utilized for different sections of the band to practice away from the main practice area.

It seems like there are a lot of band expenses. Why?

There are many costs associated with supporting a band and color guard of over 200 students. Uniform cleanings, private lessons, entrance fees, transportation costs, music, etc are necessary costs. To defray some of the costs, students will have the opportunity to participate in fundraising activities. The boosters and school district pay a large portion of the expense. For Woodwinds, half, or more than half of the fee is for meals alone. Percussion tends to cost a little more due to the extra equipment and techs that are utilized.

My child said that he had to take his uniform off in the band hall in front of the other kids. Why?

The students have to put their uniforms back on the racks in the band hall before they go home. Students are required to wear Under Armor and Compression shorts under their uniforms so they will be modest.

When is the best time to talk to a band director about my child?

If you have questions about your child progress within the band program, treat it like any other student teacher conference and call a band director at the band hall. He\She will be happy to discuss your student's progress.

When the kids get back to the band hall, why does it take them so long to get out of the band hall?

The students may be: (1) getting out of their uniforms and hanging them up (a teenage anomaly); (2) putting their instruments away; (3) discussing the stand, or halftime, performance with a band director; (4) meeting with band officers or with their section; (5) visiting with other students.

Why can't I take my student home after the game? Why do they need to ride the bus back to the school?

School district requirements indicate that all students traveling to school sanctioned activities return on the school bus. This policy ensures that everyone that came on the bus is returning on the bus and that no one is left behind. Outside of the school requirements, the bus ride provides an opportunity for the students to talk about the performance. Back at the band hall, a band director may talk with the students. It also ensures that the entire uniform is returned to the school. There are several things that happen after the students return from a game. The truck containing the instruments and show and sound equipment must also be unloaded. Once everything is unloaded, uniforms put away, etc., the students are dismissed. It's like watching a small army move from one location to another.

Why is the area where the band sits taped off at football games?

It is taped off so people will not go into that area. During the marching show, cases, purses, and other equipment and items are left in this area. Please assist the chaperones in preventing traffic from passing through. FYI - many of the SHS Band fans sit in the general admission section next to the band at the football games.

What Do the Saginaw Band Boosters Do?

A successful band program is comprised of five key components - students, band staff, school administration, parents and alumni. The Saginaw Band Boosters Inc, organization coordinates parent and volunteer activities in support of the band program. The areas of support range from completing the uniform fitting for the students, transportation of equipment for practices and events, chaperoning, fundraising, scholarships for private lessons, college scholarships, etc. The SBB organization contributes thousand of volunteer hours in support of the band.