

**THE
UNOFFICIAL
HANDBOOK
FOR
NEW BAND PARENTS**

OR

**“What ‘They’ Never Told ‘Us’
When Our Kids Were Freshmen!”**

By
Nedra J. Gusenburg, Mike Forte, Bill Sherman, Ken Baranoski

Fourteenth Edition
Summer 2011

Section 1: **Introduction**

Each year every Band Parent receives an official ***Band Handbook*** which describes a myriad of items regarding the Band, the Band Parents' Association, etc. **READ IT!!!** Do not put it in the “someday I will get to it” pile on the kitchen counter. Whenever you or someone near you is tempted to say “Nobody told **ME** that!!!!” or “How was **I** supposed to know **THAT!!!**”. Chances are the answer lies within the ***Band Handbook***.

Be that as it may, there are always things that slip through the cracks because the veteran Band Parents assume that “Everybody knows that!” Unfortunately, nobody (kids and parents alike) automatically knows how to prepare for **PRESEASON REHEARSALS (a.k.a. BAND CAMP) or Competitions**.

Several years ago, Nedra Gusenburg (one of our more active and dedicated parents) took it upon herself to write the original edition of this ***Unofficial Handbook*** in order to address many of those little issues such as food, water, clothing, homework and how to get ready for Preseason Rehearsals that are often overlooked. Clearly, most of these are things that mothers worry about and fathers assume are being taken care of automatically! After one season, however, both mothers and fathers were extremely grateful that Nedra took on this task. Mike Forte, then I, made revisions to keep the ***Unofficial Handbook*** current and relevant.

In a nutshell, read the ***Band Handbook***, read this ***Unofficial Handbook***, get involved; stay involved, and enjoy yourselves. Marching Band is a great experience for both students and parents.

William Sherman

June 2005

Tweaked by:

Ken Baranoski: 2006, 2008

Bill Peinhardt: 2010, 2011



Section 2: Timing Is Everything!

Preseason Rehearsal (formerly known as BAND CAMP), All Band Practices & Events

- ♪ If the schedule notes a starting time of 11:00, it *really* means: they must be there at 10:45, instrument tuned and in marching formation. The same is true for evening practices that begin at 5:30 p.m.; they must be there at 5:15 p.m. for warm-ups!
- ♪ **REMEMBER: IF THEY ARE EARLY, THEY ARE “ON-TIME”; IF THEY ARE ON-TIME, THEY ARE “LATE”!**
- ♪ Parents are welcome at practices!
- ♪ Please observe **QUIETLY** from a distance!
- ♪ The band director and his staff are the experts; let them do their jobs!

Section 3: Summer Pre-season Rehearsals

Supplies

- ♪ 2 x 4 inch spiral note pad [called a “Set Pad” or “Dot Book”] to record sets for marching.
- ♪ 45” long shoelace in any color from which the Set Pad will be hung to make recording easier while carrying an instrument at the same time.
- ♪ #2 pencil to record sets in the Set Pad which hangs from the shoelace!
- ♪ **SUNSCREEN** and **INSECT REPELLANT**.
- ♪ **LARGE** water cooler; it sometimes gets *very hot*; they will *become very thirsty!*
- ♪ Snacks or lunch or dinner depending on time of practice. Pack carefully in cooler to keep food fresh. Label all coolers with student’s name.
- ♪ Good sneakers; they will be on their feet *all day!*

In addition, they will need:

- **An Enthusiastic Attitude** • **A Dedicated Commitment**
- **Respect For The Instructors** • **A Sense Of Humor**

Section 4: Guidelines For Competitions

♪ **Purchase a garment bag.** Band uniform pants, which will be supplied during summer band camp, will be carried to each competition on a hanger in a garment bag. Label the bag carefully with your child's name. We also put the band shoes, gloves and black socks in the bag. Uniform jackets and hats (shakos) are handed out at the competition by the Band Parent Chaperones.

NOTHING is to be put in the shako boxes except the shako! No gloves, no snacks for later, no drinks. **No exceptions.**

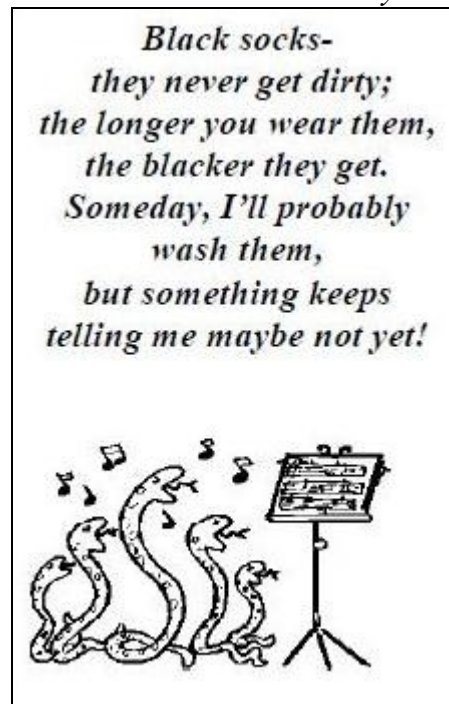
♪ **T-Shirt** - Students will purchase an Official CHSMRB T-SHIRT which will be worn on the day of competition under the uniform.

♪ **All clothing changes are made on the bus.** Bicycle shorts or mesh pants are the only shorts that will not be visible under the uniform pants. Wear these to practice to facilitate changing en masse.

♪ **BAND JACKETS** – There is only one, repeat **one**, and once more for emphasis, **ONE, official and acceptable, band** jacket that may be worn by the students at competitions. It is the red jacket that has the CHSBPA Ram Head on the back. While most of the students have one, it is not mandatory to buy one (i.e., “plain” jackets may be worn, no school or sports insignia).

♪ ♪ ***2011/2012 Addendum*** - *During the 2010-2011 school year it became apparent that we could no longer get the traditional wool “Varsity” style band jacket, that had been in use prior to that point, at a reasonable cost. The BPA and the Band Director decided to replace this jacket with the current Band Jacket. For the two years remaining, until the students with the old style jackets graduate, (2011-12 & 2012-13), both the new jacket style, and the old “Varsity” band jacket will be allowed. After that point, only the new jacket will be allowed!* ♪ ♪ From time to time, however, various groups in the band have purchased their own style windbreaker denoting the CHS Band and/or their section of the Band. These other jackets **may not** be worn at competitions.

♪ **Food.** On Saturdays, they will need both a lunch and dinner. Food sits around most of the day so be selective and pack carefully. A backpack is helpful to organize their stuff! Near the beginning of the fall season the BPA will take a pre-paid standing order for a Subway sandwich for delivery on Saturday. Alternatively, on



Thursday night after practice, the BPA will take orders for a Subway sandwich for delivery on Saturday; so have them bring money to practice.

- ♪ **Money.** Have them bring some money to buy a snack or drink during the evening.
- ♪ **Pocket Change.** Sometimes the drink machines outside the Band Room will not accept paper currency. They should have some quarters on them.
- ♪ **PARENTS:** After a competition, **BE ON TIME** to pick-up your child. Chaperones are tired; they have been watching your child for many hours; they have been unloading trucks and moving props; they want to go to bed. **SO PLEASE BE ON TIME!**
- ♪ **Competition Etiquette:** There are customs and protocols that apply to spectators at marching band shows just as they do at school concerts and school athletic events. See the Handbook for a list of the do's and don'ts.
- ♪ **Chaperones are people too:** Although the Chaperones give their time gladly, there are many other places they could be and many other things they could be doing with their time. They do it for the love of the band and to watch these young people grow into mature adults. **Please** teach your children to **respect** the parents that are there giving of themselves to help the band be the best they can be.

Section 5: Inclement Weather Tips

Our season runs from very hot weather to very cold weather and, just to rub it in, sometimes it rains. **BE PREPARED!!!**

- ♪ Have them bring long underwear to practice and change before boarding the bus.
- ♪ Sock liners and glove liners are especially helpful as the weather changes suddenly. These may be purchased at most sporting goods stores.
- ♪ Investigate buying the red band jacket [see the previous page] during the summer family picnic at band camp. They're warm, look great and, again, it is the **ONLY** acceptable **Band Jacket** that may be worn to a competition!
- ♪ At competitions, rain ponchos are passed out by the band parents if required.

Section 6: March The Success Trail - Planning For Study Time

♪ Tuesdays and Thursdays:

Avoid scheduling additional after school activities. They should use this time for homework; eat a good dinner before practice. Finish studying after practice. Many teachers hand out homework assignments for the week. Plan ahead to complete work due on Wednesdays and Fridays to avoid staying up late.

♪ Saturdays:

Practices begin early and competitions end late! Clearly, there is little time for studying on this day. Reserve SUNDAY for homework and studying.

♪ Special Note:

Band students perform extremely well academically during the season because they are forced to budget their time carefully and use every spare minute for studying. The same study habits should carry over during the rest of the school year.

Section 7: How To Stay Informed and Up To Date

(besides reading this and the Band Handbook)

BULLETIN BOARD IN THE CHS BAND ROOM

- ♪ Encourage your child to read the bulletin board in the Band Room. Dates, times, special activities and bus sign-ups are all there. Stop in the Band Room when picking up your child and read it yourself; you'll find a wealth of information!

WEB PAGE

- ♪ Our web site can be found at www.ramband.com. It contains a wealth of information particularly the CHS Music Department calendar.

READ YOUR EMAIL

- ♪ Send your email address to secretary@ramband.com to gain access to information as soon as it becomes available. Check your email daily. During band camp you may want to check it more frequently. You will receive a confirmation email from the secretary when your address is added to the group. If you do not receive a confirmation within a day or two of submitting your address, please send it again indicating that a confirmation was not received. We can overcome many antivirus problems but only if we know that you have one!

CHARMS

- ♪ The CHS Music Department maintains a web site called the “Charms” account. Each band & guard student has access to this site. Many of the BPA forms, the students sheet music, their set patterns, and other information can be found on this site. Additionally, you can use this site to update and maintain your contact information. To access Charms, go to <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/login.asp>.

There are two levels of access:

- Generic access:
Enter the Parents/Students/Members section using the school code: **CheshireMusic**.
- Personal Access:
Follow the instructions for Generic Access, and then enter in your student’s Student Id and password. These will be provided to your student.

The General access is adequate for accessing most forms. Student access is required to access student specific information such as outstanding school forms, bills, etc.

Have your kid show you how to access this section!

ASK A BOARD MEMBER OR ANOTHER BAND PARENT!

- ♪ Contrary to what Casey Stengel once said, you can’t always “look it up”. So when all else fails, just ask. You will find that Band Parents enjoy talking about their Children and the Band. It’s called Pride. Here’s how to get in touch with the BPA Board Members.

Who’s Who on the Board (2011 – 2012)

President:	Bill Peinhardt	president@ramband.com
Co-Internal V.P.:	Dennis Qunit	internal_vp@ramband.com
Co-Internal V.P.:	Cliff Perdion	co_internal_vp@ramband.com
Co-Financial V.P.:	Travon Zumback	financial_vp@ramband.com
Co-Financial V.P.:	Karen Andes	co_financial_vp@ramband.com
Treasurer:	Mike Lonergan	treasurer@ramband.com
Secretary:	Raechel Byrne-Grabarz	secretary@ramband.com



Section 8: General Comments

- ♪ Band students develop a sense of respect for each other. It takes the entire group to make the program a success.
- ♪ Band students are on time for everything; they learn punctuality is a sign of respect as well as a necessity when competitions and practices require everyone's attention on schedule.
- ♪ Band students build lifelong friendships that last long after the last horn has been blown or flag has been tossed.
- ♪ Band students recognize that instruction, encouragement, praise and a sense of humor all contribute to their success, confidence, and mutual respect for everyone involved in this spectacular organization.
- ♪ Band parents develop a sense of camaraderie for each other. It takes the entire BPA to make the program a success!

