

Welcome to

# ***Fontainebleau High School Crimson Band***

## **A Band Parent's Survival Guide**



### **Band Directors:**

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### **Band Room Phone:**

**985-892-7112 ext. 246**

<http://www.fhscrimsonband.com>

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Section Buddy is: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Sectionals are scheduled for : \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Buddy is: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Welcome to the Fontainebleau High School Crimson Band from Bulldog Land - The pride of West St. Tammany!!

This guide has been assembled to help you and your band student have as much information as possible on what to expect this year as a Crimson Band Member. Being a member of the Crimson Band is a year long commitment. Attendance to all practices, competitions and concerts is MANDATORY; each student plays an important role in the band as a whole.

Please know that times, dates and amounts are all an approximation at this point. When we are having practice and/or go away for a game or other function, all equipment, instruments and uniforms must be put away before the students are allowed to leave. Students will be responsible for cleaning the cafeteria after football games. Marching practice is usually conducted on the back practice field at FHS or the parking lot. When rehearsal ends at 5:30 pm, EVERY STUDENT must help to bring in all the equipment, scaffolding, cone markers, etc. Sometimes individual sections may run a few laps or have a group meeting on the field. Please be patient when picking up your student as any and all of these things could take 15 – 20 minutes. A carpool might be a good idea.

### **FRESHMAN BAND CAMP**

Freshman band camp will be held June 6 - 9 from 8:30 am to 3 pm at FHS. Marching fundamentals will be taught at that time. It is mandatory that all freshmen attend. Camp will be taught by student leaders and the band directors.

### **LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS**

Leaders will be selected before the school year ends. A freshman representative will be appointed at the end of band camp.

### **SUMMER TUESDAY NIGHT REHEARSALS**

Music practice will be held on Tuesday nights during the summer on June 7, June 14, June 21 and July 12 in the FHS band room. This is a great way to get a head start on the music to be played in the fall as well as to get acquainted with fellow students in the individual sections. Although attendance is not mandatory, it is highly recommended.

### **BAND SECTIONALS**

Band sectionals will be held July 13 – 17. Students will be contacted with specific times and locations.

### **PERCUSSION AND COLOR GUARD CAMPS**

Percussion and color guard camp week #1 – June 20 thru 24<sup>th</sup> from 8 am – 5 pm  
Percussion and color guard camp week #2 – July 11 thru 15<sup>th</sup> from 8 am – 5 pm

### **FORMS**

All necessary forms needed to be a member of the band are attached. Please complete all forms. ALL FORMS MUST BE TURNED IN ON THE FIRST DAY OF BAND CAMP. Failure to turn in these forms can result in the loss of a position on the field.

## **PHYSICAL**

As required by St. Tammany Parish School board policy, all students involved in band, athletics and JROTC must have a physical on file at their school. We recommend that families take advantage of the FREE physicals offered to our students. We will get the dates for the FREE physicals as soon as they become available. Once a physical is on file, it is valid for one calendar year from the date of the physical.

THE PHYSICAL FORM MUST BE TURNED IN ON THE FIRST DAY OF BAND CAMP. Failure to turn in this form can result in the loss of a position on the field.

## **BAND CAMP**

A two week long band camp will be held from July 18 – 29. ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. Please schedule your vacations accordingly. During band camp, students will learning marching fundamentals, develop physical stamina, learn the show music and steps on the field.

Students will be fitted for band uniforms and marching band shoes during the first week of band camp. Students will need to purchase the MTX band shoes for \$35 and 2 pair of gloves at \$3.00/pair. Orders for these items will be done during the first week of band camp. Payment must be received with the order. A black t-shirt, black shorts and full length black socks will also be needed as this will ALWAYS be worn under the uniform.

Items needed for both weeks of band camp are comfortable athletic shoes – no sandals or flat tennis shoes, comfortable socks, light colored , light weight t-shirt and shorts, a towel, camelback for water, change of clothes, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, mosquito repellent. Students should drink lots of water before they arrive at camp each day. Each student should bring their own camelback (can be purchased at Academy / Wal-Mart for \$30 to \$40) WITH THEIR NAME ON IT, filled with ice and water. Refills will be available throughout the day. Camelbacks will allow the students to always have access to water during practice without having to wait for break time. Please avoid dairy products during band camp. Dairy products do not mix well with physical activity outside and will cause stomach problems.

Donations – We do ask for snack donations for both weeks of band camp. Fruit (oranges, grapes, bananas, watermelon, blueberries, strawberries, etc.), crackers, animal cookies, goldfish, pretzels, banana bread or muffins and Gatorade powder are very much appreciated by the students during their breaks. These snacks can be brought to the concession stand on Monday morning of each week, or anytime that is convenient during band camp (when fresh fruit and homemade items run low). If concession stand is locked, leave items in band office.

Volunteers – we do need volunteers for both weeks of band camp. There will be a volunteer sign-up available on CHARMS. Shifts are broken down to morning, afternoon and evening.

Band camp will be held at FHS from 8 am until 8 pm. Marching practice will begin at 8 am outside. A 2 hour lunch break will be given from approximately 12 – 2 pm. Students can bring their lunch everyday and eat in the cafeteria and relax or they can leave for lunch. Lots of kids go in groups to fellow students' houses to eat, relax or maybe swim during this time. When students return from lunch – music practice will be held inside until 5 pm. At 5 pm, students will break for a 45 minute dinner break and come back ready to march again outside from 6 - 8 pm.

DCI Trip – DCI stands for Drum Corps International and they are Marching Music's Major League. The annual DCI Tour is made up of more than 100 events throughout North America. Please visit

[www.dci.org](http://www.dci.org) to learn more about this phenomenal program. There will be a DCI competition in Hattiesburg, Mississippi at Southern Miss on Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> during band camp and there is a POSSIBILITY that the FHS band will go to USM to watch the competition. There will be more information on this to follow.

Band Staff – several extra personnel will be brought in to help the students with marching, percussion and guard. These people can be part of the DCI tour or alumni that have gone on to be part of a college marching band, or music personnel from local universities.

Pictures – A formal group picture of the entire band in uniform will be taken during band camp by a local photographer. Optional individual pictures can be taken. The photographer will offer several different packages if you would like to purchase anything. They also offer individual buttons with your band student's picture on it that parents can wear to games and/or competitions. We will let you know the date that the pictures will be taken.

Band camp will end with a "Family Picnic" to be held on Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. The band will perform what they have learned during the 2 weeks of camp. Everyone is invited to attend this event, family, friends, alumni, etc. The performance will probably begin at 6 pm and following the performance we will have a picnic. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided, but we will ask for donations from individual sections for items such as potato salad, baked beans, 2-liter drinks and desserts.

### **FLIP FOLDERS AND LYRES**

A flip folder will be provided for each student and this folder must be checked out from the library for each use. The first folder is free, however a replacement folder will cost \$5.00.

All students must supply their own lyre to hold the flip folder. This can be purchased at any music store. Bring your instrument to the store for a proper lyre fitting.

### **UNIFORMS**

Each student will be fitted and assigned a uniform during band camp. The student is responsible for keeping up with all parts of the uniform. The uniform is always to be returned to the uniform room after each performance. A red polo shirt will be ordered for all new students during band camp. This shirt is to be worn during the first few football games with a pair of black slacks (not jeans). We do this to keep the students cooler during the first part of football season when it is still extremely hot.

### **AFTER SCHOOL PRACTICES**

After school practices will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 3 pm to 5:30 pm from the day school starts until after Showcase (November 5<sup>th</sup>). Attendance is MANDATORY. Please do not schedule any types of appointments during these times. Practices may also be held during school holidays and practice will be Monday through Friday the 2 weeks before Showcase (November 5<sup>th</sup>). Sectionals will also be held on days when the entire band is not practicing. The drum line will also rehearse on Wednesdays after school and the Color guard will also have practice on Wednesdays. Students should bring their camelback to practice. Water and snacks will be provided. Volunteers will be needed for all practices. Please remember that even though practice ends at 5:30, your student will not be ready to leave for at least an additional 15-20 minutes, making your student's pickup time more like 5:45 to 6 pm.

## **PEP RALLIES**

Pep rallies are generally held during school hours. If the band is performing, students need to wear their band polo shirts.

## **BAKE SALES**

The band will hold a bake sale once a month during the lunch periods at school. Donations are asked for from the entire band, but the different sections will be in charge of each sale, working the tables, selling the goods. A volunteer parent also needs to be there to help out. Baked goods should come to the band room on the day of the bake sale, individually wrapped and ready to sell for 50 cents each. We can make \$300 to \$400 from each bake sale if we have a lot to sell. Top sellers are cupcakes, brownies, banana bread, and ramen noodles (package in individual Ziploc bags please).

## **SENIOR NIGHT**

Senior night is held to recognize the parents of seniors for the football team, cheerleaders and band. This ceremony could be held during a night time pep rally or at the halftime of a home football game. We will let you know as soon as a date and time are set.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

As a band, we will always travel on school buses with the exception of band trips where we will travel on charter buses (for an additional cost included in the band trip fee). The band is responsible for paying for all transportation on school buses and it costs approximately \$1000 for the band to go anywhere.

## **FOOTBALL GAMES**

All students will stay at school on Fridays for all football games. **NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO LEAVE.** Practice will be held from 3 – 4:30 pm. A meal will be provided for all students before they get their uniforms and then assemble in the cafeteria.

Home games – the band will march out at approximately 6:30 pm through the home gate. Tradition is for parents, family and friends to line-up inside the entrance to cheer the band on and to take pictures. This is a “goosebump” experience the first time your student marches into the stadium. The band sits in the end zone bleachers. Due to space constraints, only the volunteer band parents on the water crew are allowed in the stands. Volunteer sign-up to water and feed the kids will be available. Students will be given water throughout the game and a clear drink (Sprite) and snack during the third quarter. Students are not allowed to eat from the concession stand while in uniform. It costs extra money at the dry cleaners to get nacho cheese out of the band uniform ☺.

Away games – after dressing in uniform and assembling in the cafeteria, the students will depart on school buses. Chaperones are not needed to ride the buses, but parents are encouraged to attend the games to show their support. The band directors and staff are a sufficient number of adults to cover all of the buses. Volunteers are needed to go with the band to help with the trailers, equipment and to feed and water the kids at the game. Volunteer sign-up will be available.

## **VIDEO TAPING**

We ask that there be no posting on the internet of any videos taken by family and friends of any practices, halftime shows or competitions until after the Showcase Competition. The Crimson Band is known for our element of surprise and we like to keep things under wraps for as long as possible.

## **MARCH-A-THON**

Our largest fundraiser the past 3 years has been our all night march-a-thon. The last 2 years we have held this event at Lakeshore High School on the Friday night that the kids are off of school for the parish fair in October. The kids are on the field from 7 pm until 7 am with a dinner break and several free time breaks as well as a breakfast break. Money is earned by soliciting blanket donations or getting pledges for marching per hour. This is a great opportunity to earn money towards your students' band account. Volunteers are needed for this event and sign-up will be available.

## **TRAILERS**

We have 2 enclosed trailers (requiring a ¾+ ton pickup) and several flatbed trailers that are used to carry equipment everywhere we go. We do need volunteer drivers to pull those trailers. It is quite a production for the Crimson Band to go anywhere. There is a student loading crew that is responsible for loading and unloading the trailers every time they are used.

## **DAD'S CLUB**

Please volunteer for this group if you will be able to help with prop design and assembly and/or various building projects that are necessary for the band. This group puts in hundreds of hours of volunteer time to make the Crimson Band successful.

## **SEWING CLUB**

Please volunteer for this group if you are able to help with costumes. Material cut-out, simple sewing, and assembly are just a few of the skills needed. This group puts in hundreds of hours of volunteer time to make the Crimson Band successful.

## **VOLUNTEER TIME**

Please be sure to always sign in every time you volunteer. Volunteer sign-in sheets should always be available. Ask the volunteer in charge where to sign-in.

## **CONCESSION STAND**

The Crimson Band Booster Club has full operation of the concession stand during home football games. This is where we have the opportunity to make money to support the band. At least 20 volunteers are needed to help run our concession stand for home games. Volunteers are needed for set-up, clean-up, grilling hamburgers and hotdogs and to assemble and sell the food in the concession stand. Please sign-up to volunteer.

## **DONATION OF DASANI WATER**

We ask that all students donate one (1) case of Dasani (a product of Coca Cola) bottled water to be sold in the concession stand; we are only allowed to sell Coke products due to their arrangement with

the high school. You can purchase these cases for under \$5.00. Each bottle is then sold for \$2.00 for a pure profit of \$48 per case. If all 140 band students donate one case each, we can make \$6,720.00 !! Please send in your case asap marked with your students' name so that we can keep track of all of the donations (place in band office, or concession stand during band camp/football games).

## **MARCHING FESTIVALS**

Marching festivals throughout the region are held during the month of October. ATTENDANCE / PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS. Please do not schedule any testing during this time. These festivals are typically held on Saturdays and students should be at school at the specified time for rehearsal, then dress in uniform and travel to the festival location. We encourage the students to bring a bag lunch for the day. Snacks and water will also be provided. We will also participate in a week night festival held at East Jefferson High School in Metairie typically the first week of November. We encourage parents to invite all their friends and family on the Southshore to come to this event. There is always an admission fee at all festivals and it typically ranges between \$5 and \$10 dollars per person.

## **SHOWCASE OF BANDS – LAFAYETTE, LA**

All of our hard work will be displayed when we participate in this competition. This is THE festival to be invited to. Approximately 34 bands from throughout the state will be invited to participate. Last year, the Crimson Band placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the competition, earning the title of RESERVE GRAND CHAMPIONS. This is a phenomenal experience for both the students and the parents. It is an all day/night event. Admission price for the stadium is approximately \$15/person.

Showcase t-shirts will be ordered and must be paid for BEFORE the event occurs. Approximate cost for the t-shirts is \$12. Videos of the performances will be recorded by a Lafayette company and DVDs will be available to buy. Orders can be taken before the performance, at the performance or via internet up until the end of December. Typically, the DVDs are \$40 each and each additional one is \$10. The cheapest way to get a DVD is to get a group together to combine the price and split the amount.

Group pictures will be taken at this event after the band's performance. You will have the option of purchasing these through Jolesch Photography if you would like. These pictures are typically \$20 each and they are a panoramic 10" x 20" photo. A serious group pose is taken as well as a silly pose. Jolesch also takes action shots while the band is performing and those can be viewed / purchased through their website, [www.joleschphotography.com](http://www.joleschphotography.com). Again, this is optional.

Sweatshirts and long sleeve t-shirts will be available to order IF the band places in the top 5 during the competition. The sweatshirts are hooded and approximately \$27 and the long-sleeve t-shirts are approximately \$20. Orders and money are due for these items typically the WEDNESDAY AFTER Showcase. Again, this is optional.

## **CONCERT SEASON**

Concerts are held throughout the year, Christmas concert, Spring concert, District Festival Concert. Concert attire is all black. Black pants, long-sleeve black shirt, or black dress and black shoes. We will ask for a donation of refreshments for the Christmas and Spring concerts. Admission to concerts is typically \$3.00.

## **WINTER GUARD AND INDOOR PERCUSSION**

There will be auditions to join these groups in the middle of November. These groups go to competitions in the Southeast Louisiana region as well as regional competition out of state. The guard is broken into 2 groups – junior varsity and varsity. Approximate cost for junior varsity is \$350, varsity is \$400 and percussion is \$300. Cost will cover instruction, props, costumes and competition fees. If the groups travel out of state for competition, there will be an additional trip fee. The groups compete from January to April, usually on Saturdays and practice is held 2 days per week and a few Saturdays.

## **ALL STATE BAND AUDITIONS**

Auditions to be part of the Louisiana All State Band are held in two parts for band and one part for Jazz Band. Audition requirements can be found at <http://www.district9.info>. Round one auditions for band are held at SLU on a Saturday in September. If the student makes it during round one, round two auditions will be held typically the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in October in a centrally located place like Lafayette or Alexandria. Jazz students only have to audition during the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. Audition fees are approximately \$10 for round one, \$12 for round two and there is an additional fee for their participation if they make the event. The rehearsals and concert for this event is held on the weekend before Thanksgiving in Baton Rouge. The students will stay 2 nights in a hotel at their expense in Baton Rouge.

## **ALL PARISH HONOR BAND AUDITIONS**

Auditions to be part of the St. Tammany Parish All Parish Honor Band are typically held in the middle of November on a week night. Audition requirements can be found at <http://www.district9.info>. Rehearsals and the concert are typically held the following week at a local high school. Audition fee is typically \$5.

## **ALL DISTRICT HONOR BAND AUDITIONS**

Auditions to be part of the District 9 Honor Band are typically held in the middle of January. Audition requirements can be found at <http://www.district9.info>. Audition fee is typically \$12 and there is an additional \$20 fee if they make the band. Rehearsals and concert are typically held at SLU.

## **MARDI GRAS PARADES**

The Crimson band typically marches in the Olympia Parade in Covington and the Tucks Parade in New Orleans. Volunteers are needed to march alongside the band. Practice for these parades is typically held 2-3 times after school the week before the first parade. Water and snacks will be provided for the students.

## **NEW ORLEANS JAZZ FEST**

Adult volunteers are invited to work at a beer booth sponsored by the Drum Corps International at the Jazz Festival held in New Orleans. This is a fundraising opportunity for the band where we earn tips. We can make an average of \$8,000 for this activity. Volunteer sign-up for this activity will be held the month before jazz fest. Volunteers are given a free parking pass to park by City Park and ride a shuttle to the back gate of the Fairgrounds. Volunteers are also given a free pass to enter the festival for that day.

## **BAND BANQUET**

The band banquet is typically held during the first week of May. The band student gets in free and tickets for family and friends are approximately \$12.00 each. Food, drink and dessert will be served in a banquet setting.

In any group there will be outstanding members. The awards program is designed to recognize those individuals for their accomplishments. There are several awards including a Citizenship Award and Service Awards. Other awards are Outstanding Improvement, Outstanding Section, Outstanding Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior and Senior. All Senior students will also be recognized. A few weeks before the banquet, senior parents will be asked to provide several photographs of their senior to be displayed on a senior wall. Volunteers will be needed for planning, set-up, serving and clean-up.

## **LETTER JACKET**

Students will be eligible for a letter jacket after two full years of band service. Students must be in good standing with the band program. Students will receive a certificate to purchase a letter and a jacket at the end of their two years. The cost of the jacket is approximately \$200 and the money is due when the order is placed.

## **BAND TRIP**

Our year will end with a band trip to a fun and exciting place such as Orlando or maybe even Chicago or Washington, D.C. Cost for a band trip per student can be anywhere from \$400 - \$800 depending on the place and/or activities. The band will usually perform somewhere during this trip. There will be several fundraising opportunities throughout the year for students to earn money to go in their band account for this trip.

## **CHARMS**

CHARMS is an online program that the band uses for communication of all information. Please go to [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com) and locate "Parent/Student Login" section of the web page. Please use **FHSCrimsonBand** as the login. This will bring up the main parent page. This will allow you to look at the public calendar, event list, handouts, etc. When you enter your student's school ID number (same as used for STI) another more detailed screen will appear. We ask that you complete the student information form with all contact information. If a joint custody situation is involved, please complete the information for both parents that way everyone receives all information.

## **SCRIPS PROGRAM**

"SCRIP" is a term that means "substitute money". Buying a scrip card is the same as buying a gift certificate except that a portion (discount) of the purchase amount is returned to the organization purchasing the scrip card. The amount of the discount ranges from 2% to 15%, depending on the retailer.

All Crimson Band Booster Club members, family and friends are eligible to participate. Family and friends can direct the discount to a specific student.

There are literally thousands of local, national, and on-line retailers that participate in the scrip program. You can see a complete list of participating retailers at: <http://www.glscrip.com/retailerlist/index.aspx>. Orders are placed every two weeks. Please send your

completed [Scrip Order Form](#) and check made payable to "CBBC" to school with your student and drop it off in the band room mailbox. By going to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) each family can log onto this website and set up a Family Account. This program will keep track of your orders and will allow you to pay for your order with your checking account with PrestoPay. You will need an enrollment number which is : 6A3ALE6A13274 (letters are case sensitive). By having a Family Account set up you will be able to reload cards that you have registered and that are reloadable. Contact [Lisa Bowers](#) at 985-875-7503 if you have any questions.

We hope that this guide has given you an idea of what to expect during your first year as a member of the FHS Crimson Band. Most students find it a truly rewarding experience and make friendships that last because they must work together to be the great band that they are.

## **CRIMSON BAND BOOSTER CLUB DUES**

Part of being in any great organization requires a financial commitment. Compared to many other band programs across the state and country, our dues are some of the lowest around. It is our philosophy that every student who wants to be in the band has the opportunity regardless of their family's personal financial situation. The first step to help can be accomplished at band registration. There, you may opt to set up a payment plan with our Treasurer to stagger payments over the space of the first few months of school. If these expenses are still a problem regardless of a payment plan, please call Mr. Hicks at and we will try to help. We want every student to have a chance to participate.

Booster dues are \$300 per year. This covers a band shirt, football game meals and snacks, drill, music, choreography, camp staff, instructors, transportation, festival entry fees, props, costumes, uniform cleanings and maintenance. Dues can be paid in full or broken down as follows:

May	\$100.00
June	\$100.00
July (1 <sup>st</sup> day of band camp)	\$100.00

During the course of the year, there will be fundraising opportunities; [Scrip](#) is year round (and doesn't require selling anything). [Volunteer](#) hours will also be tracked. Between fundraising moneys and credits for volunteering, each family will be responsible for an additional \$400. The option is available to pay outright rather than participate in fundraising. \$100 will be discounted if paid by first day of band camp. Siblings automatically receive a \$100 discount.

## **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Please contact the [treasurer](#) for appropriate form regarding payment plans and requests for scholarship funds. Only Mr. Hicks will review the information therein.

## **PERCUSSION FEES**

There will be some additional expenses for percussionists. Frequency and amount is dependent on the instrument played, and the student's infliction of wear and tear on drum heads, sticks and mallets. Marching drum sticks run \$9; mallets can cost as much as \$35.

## **COLOR GUARD COSTS**

The following items are necessary for all members:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>SUPPLIER</u>
Guard Jacket	\$35	GTM Sportswear
Practice Uniforms	\$50	GTM Sportswear
Guard Gloves (Nude)	\$15	Band Shoppe
Guard Shoes (Black)	\$25	Band Shoppe
Jazz Pants (Black)	\$25	Band Shoppe
Biketard (Black)	\$25	Go Girl Dancewear
Pep Top	\$25	Impact Visual Design
TOTAL		\$200

Returning members should have these items but may choose to order new ones. These expenses are NOT included in booster dues. That money will cover the cost of color guard equipment, field costumes, travel expenses, instructor fees, and much more!

## **INSTRUMENT RENTAL**

The high school owns an inventory of instruments. They are available for rent at \$75 per school year upon signing a rental agreement. If the instrument loaned to the student was at the band director's request, no rental fees will be assessed. Any repairs necessary will be the responsibility of the student, and should be performed in a timely manner; Mr. Hicks can provide recommendations.