

Crimson Band Booster Club

A Band Parent's Survival Guide



Welcome

Crimson Band Booster Club

**The family support organization of the
Fontainebleau High School Crimson Band from Bulldog Land!
The Pride of West St. Tammany!!**

The Crimson Band Booster Club is a non-profit 501c3 organization that provides support to the Fontainebleau High School Band Program. The mission of our organization is to promote excellence in education by supporting all of the students and directors of this outstanding instrumental music program. We believe that a great band program develops the musical, mental, and physical abilities of all of our students. The discipline learned and the work habits rehearsed serve the band members throughout their life.

The Booster Club works year around supporting Marching Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Symphony, Jazz Ensembles, Percussion, and Colorguard . We conduct various fundraising activities and provide numerous support services for the band. Throughout the year we need volunteer assistance with all band activities including volunteering to work at marching band camp, working the concession stand at football games, March-A-Thon, uniforms, show props, band banquet, working on the show crew for marching band shows, and more!

ALL parents and families become members of the Crimson Band Booster Club when their students become a member of the band program at Fontainebleau High School. We truly look forward to having your student as a member of our program and to getting to know our incoming parents and families.

This guide has been assembled by band parents over the years to help you and your band students learn as much information as possible on what to expect this year as a Crimson Band Program Member. If you have any questions not answered in this guide please feel free to email the band booster club board members or ask some of the band parents who have experienced all this amazing program has to offer our kids. We know this program will make a difference in your students' lives for many years to come.

We are here to ensure that!

WELCOME!!!!

MyMusicOffice (replacing CHARMS)

MyMusicOffice (MMO) is an online program the band and booster club uses for communication of all information. We will be using this site for the band calendar, communications, finances, etc. You will receive an email with your login information to sign into your students account where we ask that you update your students information and each parents contact information. If you haven't received an email please let us know by emailing the booster club or directors so we can get the information to you. Once you're signed up and signed in you will be able to update your contact information, access the public calendar, check finances, view handouts, and more. If a joint custody situation is involved, please complete the information for both parents so everyone receives all information.

SUMMER TUESDAY NIGHT REHEARSALS

Music practice will be held on Tuesday nights in June in the FHS band room. Please check the Band Calendar on MMO for these dates. 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. Students should try to attend all Tuesday night rehearsals, but are required to attend at least two (2).

FORMS

All necessary forms needed to be a member of the band are available on the band website, www.fhscrimsonband.com. ALL FORMS MUST BE TURNED IN NO LATER THAN THE FIRST DAY OF BAND CAMP.

PHYSICAL

As required by St. Tammany Parish School board policy, all students involved in band, color guard, athletics and JROTC must have a physical on file at their school. You must take a copy of the LHSA Physical form with you to your doctor. The form can be found on the band website, www.fhscrimsonband.com, or you can pick one up from the front office at FHS. 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 NO LATER THAN THE FIRST DAY OF BAND CAMP.

FLIP FOLDERS AND LYRES

A flip folder will be provided for each student and this folder must be checked out from the band library for each use. The folder is to be returned after each football game or marching band event. If there is damage or the folder is lost a replacement folder will cost \$10.00. 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 taking care of their uniform while it is in their possession. The uniforms will always be returned to the uniform portable after each performance.

AFTER SCHOOL PRACTICES

After school practices will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:55 pm to 5:30 pm from the day school starts until after Showcase. 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. Sectionals will also be held on days when the entire band is not practicing. The percussion section and the color guard will also rehearse on Wednesday's after school. Students should ALWAYS bring their water jug to practice. 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 5:45pm to 6:00pm.

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 \$1,000 for the band to go anywhere. Students are not allowed to drive themselves to and from performances.

BAND CAMP

A two (2) week long band camp will be held in July each year. Band Camp is from 9:00am until 9:00pm. Both weeks of band camp will be held at FHS and FJH. ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. Please schedule your vacations accordingly. During band camp, students will learn music, marching fundamentals, develop physical stamina, and work with their peers to begin to develop our show music and drill as we head towards our marching season.

During the first week of band camp students will be fitted for band uniforms and marching band shoes. Students will need to purchase their own pair of marching band shoes, (approximately \$40 per pair) and 2 pair of gloves (approximately \$5.00 per pair). Orders for these items will be done during band camp. Payment must be received with the order. Shoes will not be ordered until payment is received. 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, lightweight t-shirts and shorts, a towel, water jug, 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 water jug WITH THEIR NAME ON IT, filled with ice and water. Refills will be available throughout the day. 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 (orange flavor) 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 the concession stand is locked, leave items in the FHS band room.

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 FJH from 9am until 9pm. marching practice will begin at 9am outside. A lunch break will be given typically from 12noon-1:00pm and dinner break typically from 5:00pm-6:00pm.

DCI Performance – 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 to learn more about this phenomenal program. More information will come at a later date. If we are able to do this, it is an additional cost and usually ends up around \$50 per person which will include the cost of the ticket into the event and the bus for the ride there. We will probably stop to eat (*mall food court or some other quick way to feed 180 people*) on the way so you will need to send money for dinner.

Band Staff – includes the directors and several extra personnel are 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. 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.

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.

MARCH-A-THON

One of our fundraisers is an all-night or "into the night" march-a-thon. This event will be held at Fontainebleau High School (some 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 at the end of September or early October. The kids are on the field for an extended timeframe with dinner breaks, breaks for fun games, and several free time breaks. This is a critical event, as they continue to fine tune their performance for the Showcase performance. Money is earned by soliciting blanket donations or getting pledges for marching per hour. This is a great opportunity to earn money for the band program and towards your students' band booster club account. Volunteers are needed for this event and sign-up will be available.

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. Please know that times, students will be responsible for cleaning the cafeteria after football games. 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.

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, color guard and dance team 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 band managers and the supervising volunteer band parents are allowed in the band stands. Volunteer sign-up for “feed the kids” will be available. Students will be given water throughout the game and a 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. Volunteers are needed to go with the band to help with the trailers and equipment.

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.

TRAILERS

We have an 18 wheel trailer and two (2) enclosed trailers (requiring a $\frac{3}{4}$ + ton pickup) and several flatbed trailers that are used to carry equipment wherever 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 lots of hours of volunteer time to help 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 lots of hours of volunteer time to make the Crimson Band successful.

VOLUNTEERS

Please be sure to check CHARMS for volunteer opportunities.

CONCESSION STAND

The Crimson Band Booster Club operates 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 bottled water** (a product of Coca Cola) to be sold in the concession stand; we are only allowed to sell Coke products based on a contractual arrangement between Coca Cola and Fontainebleau High School. You can typically purchase these cases for under \$5.00. Each bottle is then sold for \$2.00 for a pure profit of \$48 for a 24-bottle case. If every band student donates one case each, we can make over \$7,000!! Please send in your case prior to band camp marked with your students’ name so that we can keep track of all of the donations (otherwise, 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 and early November.

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 south shore 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.

LOUISIANA SHOWCASE OF MARCHING 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. Over the past 15 years the Crimson Band has placed in the Top 5 each year of the 15 years including 2nd place Overall/Reserve Grand Champions in 2008, 2010, and 2011. 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.

--- FHS Show t-shirts will be ordered and must be paid for BEFORE the event occurs. Approximate cost for the t-shirts is \$20.

--- Lafayette Music will be selling Showcase t-shirts and they can be paid for and/or picked up the same day. Videos of the performances will be recorded by a professional video company and will be available for purchase at the event.

--- 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. Again, this is optional.

--- Sweatshirts and long sleeve t-shirts will be available to order **IF** the band places in the top 10 during the competition. The sweatshirts are hooded and approximately \$30 and the long-sleeve t-shirts are approximately \$25. 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, and 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 concerts from any and all parents willing to donate.

WINTER GUARD

There will be auditions to join Winter Guard in early to mid-November. This group competes in the Louisiana Mississippi Color Guard Percussion Circuit and travels to competitions in Louisiana and throughout the Gulf South. There are additional costs for this group depending on show costumes, transportation, etc. It is usually around \$550 plus an additional regional trip fee. Cost will cover instruction, props, costumes and competition fees. The groups compete from January to April, usually on Saturdays and practice is held 2 or 3 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 rounds for band and one round 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 recorded a couple of weeks later. All State Jazz auditions are recorded after school in September. Audition fees are required to audition (around \$12) and there are additional fees if the student is selected to one of the groups. The rehearsals and concert for this event is held on the weekend before Thanksgiving in Baton Rouge. The students will stay two (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. An audition fee is required.

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>. An audition fee is required and there's a fee if a student is selected to the group. The rehearsals and concert are typically held at SLU.

MARDI GRAS PARADES

The Crimson Band typically marches in several Mardi Gras Parades on the Northshore and 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 Greater New Orleans Drum Corps Association 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 \$10,000 for this activity. Volunteer sign-up for this activity will start in January and will wrap up the month before Jazz Fest. Volunteers are given a free parking pass to park in New Orleans 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. Each participant is expected to work two (2) shifts (not back to back) at 1.5 to 2 hours each. Participants may or may not be able to see the artist of their choice, but you should identify any specific artist you would like to see.

BAND BANQUET

Each year we hold a Spring Band Banquet to honor all of the accomplishments of the bands and the students throughout the year. The band students tickets are approximately \$10 each and tickets for family and friends are approximately \$20 each. Those who would like to attend, but not participate in dinner, should purchase a \$10 ticket. This will assist in covering the cost of hosting this event. Tables and chairs will only be provided for those that purchase tickets. These 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. 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.

PEP RALLIES

Pep rallies are generally held during school hours. If the band is performing, students need to wear their black band polo shirts which will be included in the FHS school band fee.

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 (meaning all fees to FHS and CBBC must be paid in full). Students will be measured at the end of the school year of their second year. The cost of the jacket is approximately \$200 and the money is due prior to the order being placed. Each jacket is manufactured and customized for your student, this process takes 3-4 months.

BAND TRIPS

Some years, the band may travel on a band trip to a fun and exciting place such as Orlando, Florida for Disney World or Universal Studios, or to a major city such as New York, 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. There will be several fundraising opportunities throughout the year for students to earn money towards their trip.

SCRIP 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 1.25% 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 (1st and 3rd Monday of each month.) 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 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.

Some families who participate in SCRIP have been able to pay for all fees, trips, jackets, equipment, etc.... entirely through the SCRIP fundraising program. Once you get used to doing it, you can take care of all of these financial issues without spending anything more than you already spend.

Scrip is year round (and doesn't require selling anything). There will be ample opportunities to fundraise the money to cover most of the CBBC dues if you participate in the fundraisers. Some fundraisers will be designated BAND PROGRAM fundraisers, or 50/50 fundraisers, or STUDENT ONLY fundraisers, etc.

CRIMSON BAND BOOSTER CLUB DUES

Part of being in any great organization requires a financial commitment. Compared to other band programs across the state and country, our dues are some of the lowest around. Booster dues are evaluated each year. Students will be expected to participate in fundraisers throughout the school year. This covers a 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: (make checks payable to: **CBBC** ((Crimson Band Booster Club))

June 1 st	First Payment	i.e., \$100
July 1 st	Second Payment	i.e., \$100
<u>August 1st</u>	<u>Final Payment</u>	<u>i.e., \$100</u>
CBBC Total		i.e., \$300

FHS SCHOOL BAND FEE

There will also be a \$150 School Band fee that is paid directly to the school by sending a check to the directors (made out to FHS) or it can be paid online through MyPaymentsPlus.com. This fee helps with the purchase of music, instrument repairs, equipment, practice field management and maintenance, and much more.

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 Program. Our students find it a truly rewarding experience where they will make memories and friendships that last a lifetime.