

“NEW BAND PARENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS”

Unionville Marching Band Boosters - UMBB

BAND LEADERSHIP: Mr. Eddie Otto is our Band Director and Mr. Cody Stafford is our Assistant Band Director. Both are teachers at UHS. Other staff/techs, though paid a small fee, basically volunteer their time to teach the members. Alumni also return to give their time. Each section of the band has a Section Leader; an upperclassman who is in charge of bonding the section together through communication, social interaction and skill teaching. This is someone members can easily go to with questions or concerns.

STUDENT CONDUCT: Whether at rehearsals, home games, away games, competitions, or parades every member must abide by the UCFSD Student Code of Conduct and will be reprimanded accordingly. Members are expected to show excellent sportsmanship and respect each other, the staff, all family volunteers and competitors. All UHS Marching Programs have an excellent reputation for good character and supporting other bands.

PICKING UP STUDENTS FROM UHS:

**Promptness:* Members must be picked up promptly after events and rehearsal. A staff member or chaperone must stay with the students until they are all picked up.

**Drop Off & Parking:* Do not drop off/pick-up members or idle your vehicle on the driving ramp that passes by the band room and heads to the lower parking lot. This is a tremendous safety issue. Please use the access road that runs between UHS and Patton and parallel to Route 82 or the lower parking lot.

**After Away Events:* Do not park on the access road right next to the UHS Auditorium and lawn leading to the band room. The buses pull up to that curb area so the students can get out.

UNIFORMS: Each member is responsible for their uniform. Each is provided a garment bag. This is a group activity but each member must be responsible or it hurts the whole. All uniform items should be stored in the garment bag and kept in the UHS Uniform Room (down the hall from the Band Room). After events members can take home socks and compression gear for cleaning but must return them ASAP. The Uniform Room is also to be kept neat. If a member leaves their items laying around then they won't be in their bag when they need them. It is not the job of parent volunteers to clean up after members who aren't being responsible.

AWAY EVENTS:

**Transportation:* Band travels on two buses. Members are assigned to one bus which they use all season. Two chaperones travel on each bus. Members are checked onto the bus at UHS. Upon return, members are checked onto the bus and when they are 20 minutes from school chaperones will ask members to text/call parents with arrival time.

**Members Not Taking Bus Home:* Parent must email Mr. Otto at least a day before the event AND bring a signed note for the chaperones on the day of. Members may not leave the event without bringing their responsible adult to the chaperone to confirm they are leaving early.

CAVALCADE OF BANDS COMPETITIONS: Cavalcade of Bands is a non-profit organization bringing schools together to compete on the interscholastic level. From September through early November high schools host competitions (the UHS competition is called March On the Brandywine and will be held on Saturday, October 16th). November 13th or 14th Cavalcade will hold Championships.

**More Info:* Visit cavalcadeofbands.com to learn more. The marching band information is under “Marching”. By clicking on “2021 Marching Band Schedule” you can look up the competitions by date and get directions, schedules (who competes when) and scores.

STAYING AT UHS BETWEEN SCHOOL AND REHEARSAL/GAMES: Many students stay after school due to transportation issues, needed rehearsal time or academic work. This time is not monitored but there are teachers in the building. Most members stay in the Band Room or the Cyber Café. Study groups also form.

END OF SEASON BANQUET: UMBB will host the End of Season Banquet. Dinner will be served, there is a slideshow presentation and awards are given. Each member should attend and families are encouraged to attend.

THE BAND ROOM: It's crazy but it's the place to be! Feel free to come into the band room or uniform room to check it out. Waiting for your kid? Come on in to see what's up and meet people. The infamous "Band Box" is a black, locked mailbox posted on the wall to the right of the doors that exit to the hallway. UMBB checks this box. Members should put all forms, payments, etc. in this box unless instructed to do otherwise.

FOOD AND MORE FOOD: These are teenagers we're feeding! Any food brought in should be labeled. Members will eat any food that's in the room so put a label on it so it's used for the right event. If you bring a dish or utensil please put your name on it and pick it up after the event. If you forget please check the band room for a table next to the hallway doors. Most wayward dishes end up there – but don't stay there long!

RAIN: There will be practice in the rain. If there is any sign of lightning rehearsal will end. If rain is in the forecast members should bring a towel, change of clothes and shoes.

INDOOR PROGRAMS: You think Marching Band is fun? Then continue the fun through the school year:
Indoor Color Guard: Very artistic with a story or theme. Practices Nov – April and competes Jan – April.
Indoor Percussion Ensemble: Front Ensemble and Battery plus Cymbals and maybe a few dancers. Practices Nov – April and competes Feb – April. Some marching band members switch to different instruments to participate in IPE.
World Championships: Both groups have competed at World Championships in Dayton, Ohio in April.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT: These marching programs are a family affair. UCFSD gives minimal funding so the families make the program happen. UMBB encourages you to join in; sample different activities; find your niche. If you like to know all the kids your kid hangs out with then chaperone or feed the kids. If you are creative then try building/sewing the field show props, organizing the uniforms, utilizing social media or lending a hand to marketing our fundraisers. If you like to organize, get involved with the World Famous Band Fries, March on the Brandywine, Senior Recognition Night or setting up the End of Season Banquet. If you can't deal with being in charge of anything else in your life then help load/unload instruments and props, fry the band fries or sell some drinks. If you're busy Monday through Friday then help clean the fryers on Saturday morning or load equipment at Saturday's competitions. There is something for everyone. All family members are welcome. You'll make wonderful friends as you watch your child have the time of their life.

IF NOT VOLUNTEERING COME CHEER ON THE BAND:

At away football games, the band usually plays at halftime. At home games, the band usually plays pre-game unless there is a special circumstance. At games and competitions, crowd energy does affect the performance. Attend the games and competitions and let's sit together and yell like crazy!

Questions, please feel free to email me at: joedinatale44@gmail.com or call me at 573-999-1790.

Go Band!

Joe DiNatale, UMBB President