

Band Frequently Asked Questions (revised 8//5/14) :

1. When is Band Camp and why is it important?

Band Camp is usually held the end of July/beginning of August and lasts 2 weeks. (No weekends). It typically begins at 8 am. Students need to be at the **middle** school band room by and ready to practice at 8 am, so they need to be at school in enough time to prepared instruments etc. Band ends at 3 pm daily. Students should bring a sack lunch or money to buy lunch at one of the local restaurants downtown. Students should also wear sunscreen, bug spray and have a refillable water bottle. Instruments should be in good working order. Students should wear tennis shoes.

Camp is a time to learn the music for upcoming marching season as well as the March routine. It provides a time for band members to get to know each other, with the older kids welcoming the new students into the band family.

1a. So, Should my student arrive early to events to get their instrument ready?

Yes, if Mr. MARJAMAA states an event/practice starts at 7:00 am. He wants your student ready to start right at 7:00 am. Plan accordingly.

2. When and What is the ice cream social?

The ice cream social is held towards the beginning of each school year. It provides parents an opportunity to see the half time show that will be performed at football games and competitions. After the performance, everyone is invited to the commons for ice cream. Information about Band Boosters, Band events, Sign-up sheets for volunteers for various events and fundraising efforts for Chicago will be available. Join us on the field for the performance and Ice Cream immediately following in the Commons. After the ice cream social there is a free pool party to kick off the school year. All family members of band students are welcome to attend.

3. What are band Dues and why are they needed?

Band dues are \$70 and are due the end of August. Band dues covers the cost of student T-shirts, food at competitions, dry cleaning uniforms and other band related costs. Additional T-shirts may be ordered at the ice cream social for an additional \$10.

4. Where can I get information on important band dates like competitions, performances etc?

A calendar on the Band's website lists all band events. Information may be found at:

<http://sbcband.weebly.com/calendar.html>

5. Where can I network with other parents regarding band happenings, ideas etc?

The band facebook page is a great place to connect online with other band parents. The link to the page is: <https://www.facebook.com/SoBoCoBand?ref=stream>

Another important way to stay connected is to attend band booster meetings. Meetings are held the third Thursday of every month in the MS band room at 6:30 pm. We discuss upcoming events, financial matters, needs of the students etc.

6. What is a band booster?

The Band Boosters is an organization comprised of parents of band students. The boosters support the kids in many ways: moving instruments on and off the field during football games and competition, providing supervision at out of town events, maintaining and altering band uniforms and providing food at competitions. They are there so the kids know their parents support their band activities and to be role models to band members.

7. How do I contact the Band Boosters?

The band booster email account is: Sobocobandbooster@gmail.com

8. How can I help with booster activities?

- Attend football games and assist with uniforms, moving instruments and cheering on your child.
- Volunteer to help organize and alter uniforms.
- Volunteer at competitions.
- Encourage and support fundraising.

9. How do uniforms get issued and does my child need anything extra?

Uniform fittings happen in the second week of band camp. Students will be assigned a bag with all their uniform pieces which they are responsible to return to their bag after each performance. Their uniforms will stay at school. Each student needs a pair of black socks.

10. How can I help?

Give of your time: Parents are needed to assist at band competitions (moving and loading instruments, supervising students and preparing/serving food.) Volunteers at football games assist with supervision and moving instruments too. We always need a few parents to help with uniform alterations and repair, taking them to the cleaners and organization. There are many other "Band Booster" tasks too. Just ask or watch for requests via email and at the ice cream social.

Give Encouragement: and is a big time commitment for your child. Encourage them by attending events, encouraging practice and volunteering.

Pay dues on time. Let us know if this is a problem for you. A limited number of scholarships are available.