

ANDERSON BAND SUMMER 2009 NEWSLETTER

Welcome from the Director...

Greetings Anderson Band Family-

I hope everyone is enjoying the end of another great school year. I'd first like to welcome all of the new members in our program. It's going to be a great experience for you over the next four years, both students and parents. The years seem to be going by faster and faster. The start of the 2009 marching season is already right around the corner! We had a very successful year in 2008 and we've been busy planning out our upcoming fall program. It's going to be something like you've never seen. Here are a few helpful hints that will aid you in your preparation for the new season:

- Please be sure to check out our website throughout the summer for updated information on summer camp and any other information you might need to know. www.andersontrojanband.com
- If you haven't already, please email Terri Panico, our ABBA president, and make sure that you're on our email list. This includes parents AND students. This will be sent out a few times over the summer and will contain a wealth of information to help you prepare for band camp. This email will be sent out weekly once school begins and will provide you with all the information that you need for the upcoming week(s).
- Make sure that you're practicing over the summer. There will be a playing audition the first week of band camp that will determine who earns a primary spot in our 2009 marching show. You should receive the correct music with this mail out. Be ready to pass off your show music and fight song, **by memory**, during the first week. All eligible students will march during football games, but only primary marchers will perform at marching contests. A solid music audition will greatly improve your chances of securing one of these spots.
- Please make sure that you mail back the white stapled forms in this packet as soon as you can. The deadline for these forms is August 1st. Please note that only checks for food, band spirit items and buttons should be made out to ABBA. All other checks should be made out to ANDERSON BAND. It takes a lot of organizing and is costly to put together a program of this size. If you need financial assistance, please contact me directly.
- Please try and attend both of our summer practice sessions. They are not required, but will help you get an edge in preparing for your audition.

This is going to be an amazing year. Construction on our new band hall will begin in the fall, great music, and the best kids we could possibly ask for! Please get outside this summer and enjoy Austin and especially the Texas heat. We will be spending a lot of time outside and you need to start early to get your body acclimated to the weather. The more time you spend outside early on, the less likely you'll feel the effects of the heat. We are outside for around 4 hours a day once we get going! Email me if you have any questions. I can't wait to get the 2009-2010 year started. See you at our practice sessions this summer!

Ryan Zysk
Director of Bands
Anderson High School

Director Contact Information

Ryan Zysk	rzysk@austinisd.org	414-7957
Jesus Torres (music)	jesus.torres@austinisd.org	414-7957
Shannon Gill (percussion)	sgill@austinisd.org	414-7957
Corey Bergdorf (instruments/equipment)	cbergdor@austinisd.org	414-7957
Erin Winter (Trojan Belles / Dance Guard)	ewinter@austinisd.org	414-6321

Summer Band Camp

As usual, it is going to be HOT...spend time each day outdoors so that you are acclimated to the heat!!! (these June and July dates are a great time to learn music, meet band members, learn & practice marching fundamentals)

June 9 practice rehearsal section leaders time 4-7 pm, others optional time 5-7 pm place TBA - see website

July 14 practice rehearsal section leaders time 4-7 pm, others optional time 5-7 pm place TBA - see website

July 20 - 23 Band Leadership Retreat (section leaders and drum majors)

Summer Band Camp is July 29 - Aug 21, for everyone ...8am-5pm

Bring: hat, marching instrument, music in flip folder, pencil, sunscreen, water bottle...wear light colored clothing, socks and tennis shoes. First day: Meet in the Theater!

Instruments - if you need a summer horn - contact Mr Bergdorf via e-mail by mid June. Music SHOULD be practiced all summer long....it needs to be memorized for marching season! We will hold playing auditions, from memory, for field placement during the first week of camp.

Uniform Fitting Dates - Uniform fitting dates for marchers and guard will be announced at summer band camp. Your band student will be fit for a marching band uniform and a concert season uniform. A tailor will be on hand at this time to measure for any necessary alterations. During first two days of band camp students will try on hats, marching band shoes and gloves so they can be ordered. We will also take photos for brag buttons at this time. Uniforms will be fit on the last week of camp after the student's Trojan Charge. Since so much happens, AND we rely on volunteer manpower and the much-reduced services of a local tailor, it is difficult to offer extra times if you don't come to your scheduled time. The tailor will likely charge YOU full price if fittings are not done during these days.

FALL DATES that we know of...

for football games/times - see website

Trojan Spirit Fest - September 12 at Anderson 5pm - 8:30pm

AISD Band Jamboree - September 29

USSBA Central Texas Preview - September 26 at Hendrickson HS (times not yet available)

Capital City Marching Contest - Oct. 3 at Burger Stadium, (times not yet available)

Westlake Marching Festival - Oct 10 at Westlake Stadium, (times not yet available)

UIL Marching Contest - Oct 19 - at Burger Center (times not yet available)

Chuy's Parade - the Saturday morning after Thanksgiving, Nov 29 - required for those in town.

Concerts, UT concessions and additional Marching Contests/Parades may be announced, stay tuned

Summer Social Calendar

New Band Parent meeting Jul 31, 6 pm, Anderson Band Hall - find answers to your questions, meet other parents, ABBA officers and the Directors.... help your student have a great band career at AHS Please come for a brief orientation, followed by a Q & A session with the directors and ABBA officers. It's the best way to find out about what your Band kiddo will be doing, what is expected of them, and to learn all you need to know about Flamingo-ing!

Flamingoing - August 3-16...our largest Fun(d)raiser of the year and a really fun team-building event!questions? See the website and come to the New Parent meeting_It starts on the evening of the Band Picnic. (Aug 3 this year, goes til the 16th) Each band section has 8 pink plastic birds called a flock. Each evening during Flamingo-ing, sections head out and go to people's houses and place the flock, leaving a notice that for payment, the flock will be removed and released to fly on to another victim, pretty much immediately. The goal is to move the flock quickly from house to house. Victims have a chance to send the flock to other people as well. Most kids are home by 11-12 pm, but parents CAN and DO set individual curfews. The idea here is that the kids work together, get to know one another and raise money for the band's activities. Flamingo-ing provides the bulk of ABBA's yearly operating fund. While it is scary to send off your kiddo with a teen driver, know that we've got eyes and ears all over, and we've never had a dangerous incident. The kids KNOW that if there is a major problem...Flamingo-ing STOPS immediately! Parents CAN drive and it is becoming more necessary when sections have a limited number of drivers. Know also that on the other end...the parents of the teen drivers are trying to make sure that things are safe for *their* kids to be transporting a number of teens. Our Flamingo Captains (adults) take up money EACH night and they know more than they let on about the evening's activities. IF there is a problem, they let the Directors know and things are ironed out pretty quickly! This is an activity for ALL Marching Band members.

Band Family Picnic - Aug 3rd, at the Quarries - 6 PM... a BAND & FAMILY event. Family members are encouraged to come, meet, eat and socialize. It is the BEST time to get to know the section leaders and other section members that your Band student will spend so much time with. (and their parents) Each family will be asked to bring a dish to share. Bring lawn chairs and plenty to drink. The date this year is August 3 early evening...watch the website and Yahoo newsletter.

Swim Party - tentatively, Aug 16th, Westover Club near AHS, 8-10 pm - A social event for band students... It's from 8-10 pm after the club closes to its members. All are asked to donate a dollar towards paying for lifeguards and are usually asked to bring some sort of snack as well. Some parents do attend...to keep things flowing at the snack table, etc.

See the BAND's website for more details and happenings as they are planned and become available...

COMMUNICATIONS

Anderson Band Website <http://www.andersontrojanband.com>

Anderson Band Yahoo Newsletter (for parents AND students) - We also offer a weekly newsletter of updates and upcoming info through our Yahoo newsletter. **Both parents and students should join!** It is by invitation only; email tspanico@yahoo.com to be invited. Info will come infrequently throughout the summer, then daily during Band Camp and then once a week once Band Camp is over. We also send out emergency updates as needed. For safety reasons we need to know YOUR name, YOUR Band Student's name and section, and any e-mail addresses that you would like to have subscribed to the Yahoo Newsletter. Once you receive your e-mailed invitation, you **MUST** respond to join the newsletter...it is then e-mailed directly to you (easiest way) or you have the option of having to log on to website to check for news.

Other Important Communication Info :

Anderson PTSA website <http://www.andersonptsa.com/>

Trojan Times Sponsored by the Anderson Athletic Foundation, it has news from all areas of Anderson High School...How to subscribe to the Trojan Times: Using the email account at which you wish to receive the newsletter Create a new email and in the Send to box type: TrojanTimes-subscribe@yahoo.com Do not put anything in the Subject box OR the text box. Hit send. You will receive a confirmation email from Yahoo Groups.

ABBA * Anderson Band Booster Association

Our group actively supports the Anderson Band program (marching, jazz, guard, concert season...etc), the band students, the directors and all sanctioned band activities. You don't need to have a student in the band to belong to ABBA.

We sponsor the summer picnic and swim party. We help plan fun activities during summer band. During the school year, we provide refreshments at concerts. We chaperone buses to and from competitions and football games and transport instruments. We print the band student directory. We sit together at football games and contests to cheer for the band. We sponsor a web site and a Yahoo news group. We raise money for new instruments, music, contest fees, tuners, yard signs, letter jackets, color guard flags and the marching show. We fit and mend uniforms and arrange for tailoring. We assist students with contest and game day preparation and meals. In addition, we help fund supplemental summer band instruction, as well as drum line/front line and color guard instructors. The Anderson Band Booster Association provides all of these services to benefit all band and color guard students.

WE NEED YOU! More importantly, your student needs you (even if they say it would be embarrassing to have you around). By being an Anderson Band parent you are already a **BOOSTER**...so please, volunteer for a committee...we'd love to have you! (see the website for committee chairs, descriptions and contact info) Volunteering is the **BEST** way to keep up with your kiddo, no matter how much they say they don't need you...they **DO**, and **WE** do!!! ...and no matter how grown up and independent they are...

Our monthly meetings are at the Band Hall, and all interested parents are invited to attend. Dates and times are announced on the website calendar (<http://www.andersontrojanband.com>) and are sent out on updates from the Yahoo news group. To get an invitation to the news group...please email Terri Panico (ABBA President for 2008-2009) at tspanico@yahoo.com.

ABBA Committee Descriptions

Membership: create and distribute the Band Directory and Brag Buttons for all parents! Contacts: Debra & Marc Erck (Brag Buttons) and Jayne Walters (Directory)

Pit Crew: We move the band! Contact: Bob Purdy

Social: Music is not the only interest of band members. This committee is responsible for planning, organizing, and producing a number of social events throughout the year starting with the Back-to-School picnic, refreshments at camp and at concerts, and the Awards Banquet at the close of the school year. Contact: Jami Hatch

Spirit: create and maintain yard signs and band hall decorations prior to contests... Contact: Keenan & Lorie Franz

Fundraising: flamingo-ing and fun(d) raising ... this committee needs many volunteers! Contact: Cam & Karlan Witt

Uniform: We clothe the band in various uniforms...marching and concert...we maintain, inventory and arrange for fitting and altering.. It's a great way to meet the students! Contacts: Kirsten Jonez

Chaperone: bus trips with the band! Contact: Anne Syvarth

Student Catering: FOOD! Meals need to be provided to our hungry band members at many events, mainly before football games. This committee arranges for food delivery and distribution to our students. Contacts: Mary Afflerbach

Dance Guard: assists the instructors with all aspects of the Dance Guard squad including flag and uniform selection, purchasing and maintenance, plus game preparation and fundraising. Contacts: Donna Barras

Percussion: helps with details during marching season and Indoor competition season. Contact: Ronda Roach

FAQ

Is summer band important? YES, it is THE time for learning all marching fundamentals and the band begins to learn halftime drills, stands music and the marching contest show and music. Marching Spots on the field are maintained by knowing your music and drill.

Are Contests and Concerts required? YES, these are the 'exams' for the Marching Band and the Concert Bands.

When will we know the dates and times for contests and concerts? As soon as the contest personnel set them and make them available to the directors.

What if I have a conflict/soccer game/grandma visit/SAT test....? Band is a TEAM ACTIVITY. Participation during rehearsals AND contests and concerts is vital to the success of the band. If you miss a practice or performance, there is a hole in the group. We know that Band Students are involved in a variety of activities (both in and out of school) and some conflicts will arise. The BEST THING to do is to TALK to the DIRECTOR AS SOON AS YOU ARE AWARE OF A CONFLICT or potential conflict. The Directors can help students solve conflicts given time to do so.... sometimes a compromise can be made, but understand that sometimes another band member will need to take over your spot.

Why is there a summer uniform? It is HOT during much of our outdoor season, and we want the students to be more comfortable and safe, while maintaining a 'uniform appearance'. We usually begin to wear our full marching uniform on or about October 1st.

Is participation in both concert bands and marching band required? YES, while we have different seasons and functions, we often work on marching music during the school day. It is also important that a music student's skills continue to be practiced and developed during the spring semester. This is also the reason that we have our new 'dance/guard class' during the school day.

WHO is a member of the marching band? Those marching on the field, including dance guard, percussion and pit.

UNIFORMS

Summer Marching Uniform:

polo shirt (provided by band)

shorts

brown belt

white shoes

*white 'no show' socks

there are VERY DETAILED guidelines for shorts on the band's website. Please look at that before you buy...there are stores listed where the shorts have been sighted. YOU MUST HAVE THESE BY AUG 1.

Dance Guard Uniforms:

Summer TBA

Formal TBA

Marching Uniform:

(distributed with hanging bag on a hanger, small parts in a black mesh bag)

bib pants

jacket

blue jacket overlay

gauntlets

black gloves (1 pr provided)

hat in protective case

black marching shoes (ordered on form)

*black tall socks-purchased on your own

show shirt (provided by band)

Concert Uniform:

Boys wear black tuxes (provided by band)

Tux coat

tux pants

white tux shirt

bow tie

cummerbund

black dress shoes (MTX marching shoes OK)

tall black socks

Girls wear black dresses (provided by band)

Dress (sleeveless)

black hosiery

black, closed-toe dress shoes

black undergarments/camisole

Indoor Drumline, Jazz Band and Winter Guard uniforms:
to be determined at a later date

*Please, consider buying extra black and white socks for the band...we sell them on game days to those who forget theirs ...STUDENTS may buy additional black socks for \$2 /pair and gloves for \$4 /pair from the uniform staff. Leave them in a sack on the door of the uniform room!

Also -black/brown bobby pins, brown or black hair rubber band ties or a wide black hair band are useful to keep hair up inside of the band hats....boys'/girls' hair may not hang below collars during contests...also consider buying extras for the band ...we go though a LOT of these on game/contest days...leave with socks!

PLEASE note that any uniform part that is not returned must be paid for by students. Also - it is the student's responsibility to return their uniforms properly cleaned, on the hanger in the bag in which it was checked out. All uniform part numbers are noted on the bag tag for each student, and students should return their own uniform parts.