

Adjudicator – Another term for “judge”. The adjudicator’s job is to provide evaluation and feedback for a specific performance at a specific event. In a competition setting, the adjudicator may also be tasked to rank groups and help determine awards based on scores they provide.

Band booster – Club for all the band and guard families to join. Membership is included for all JHS band and guard families. This club’s function is to support the band by providing funds (by doing fundraisers) and provide volunteers to assist with different needs the band students and directors need help with.

Band parents (aka “band moms” and “band dads”) – Proud title of any parents of a band kid. Other band parents are rich sources of information on band aspects, academics, the college application process, driver’s ed, and Volunteer Opportunities. Pretty much everything.

Bands of America – Several contests held in the fall in different regions of the US. These contests are categorized as Regionals, Super Regionals or Grand Nationals. There is a Regional held in Katy (BOA Houston). There is a Super Regional held at the AlamoDome in San Antonio, and Grand Nationals is always held at Lucas Field in Indianapolis. Bands don’t have to qualify to participate in any BOA contests. Any band can register for one, but because of the fees involved, only bands that have a competitive show usually do.

Bandtober – The other name for the month of October. It is intense in football games and contests, thus being called bandtober. You will eat, sleep and dream band in October.

Battery – Marching Band percussion section that carries drums and marches; is comprised of snare drums, bass drums, and quads or tenors (see Quads).

Bibbers – Marching Band pants; part of the standard uniform; provided by the band.

Booster meeting – Meeting open to all booster members (automatic with fair share cost) during which updates on current events and activities are given. One of your best occasion to learn what’s going on in band.

Brass – Trumpets, mellophones, horns, euphoniums, baritones, trombones, sousaphones and tubas.

Caption awards – Various awards a marching band can win at competitions, such as “Best Visual” and “Best Music.”

Case – (to case) Means putting instruments in their case.

Chaperones – The wonderful parents who are willing to ride on a school bus all day with 75 high school kids; a lot of fun – a good way to meet other parents, be indirectly involved in your kid’s life, and watch the work, determination and heart of the Marching Band. The role parents play in the band is not one of babysitting or discipline, our student leadership sets high expectations for behavior and manages the band. However, with a group this large, we always need to be prepared for things that require an adult to help make something happen or provide guidance. We ensure that a chaperone is present when traveling and available to ensure the kids always have an adult they can turn to. In the unlikely event that a problem occurs, we inform the student leadership and/or director and they will correct it. Any time we travel, whether to a local competition, game or our annual trip, we need a few chaperones for each trip. Sometimes we have gotten requests from a kid to put their parent on the other bus, but your support is really appreciated by the kids.

Charms - Website/app used by band programs. Here you will find an up-to-date calendar that you can sync to your outlook or phone calendar.

Clinicians - Specialists that come and supplement the instruction the students receive from the band directors.

Color Guard – a group of students who add color and style to marching-band performances with flags and other props.

Competitions – Saturday (sometimes Friday) events involving several marching bands performing and competing in a stadium. Bands generally compete against other bands in their “class” or conference – a distinction which is made based on the number of students enrolled at the school, not the size of the marching band. Parents and family members can go and watch the performances. You’ll see bands ranging in size from a few dozen to more than 250. And performance themes that encompass everything imaginable – from the Muppets, to Star Wars, to Aaron Copeland.

Commons – Open area in the school, also often use as cafeteria.

Concert band – The part of band that usually takes place after the marching band season. The kids have auditioned and have been placed in a concert band according to their level. Concert bands have several concerts throughout the winter and spring season. They also have their own contests.

Conferences – Category assigned to a school by UIL based on the school enrollment (not the size of the marching band). Categories are from 1A to 6A. JHS is a 5A school for the 20-21 and 21-22 school years. BOA (Bands of America) categorizes the bands differently. They only go from A to AAAA.

DCI – Stands for Drum Corps International. A group of various professional-level bands, including Color Guards, made up of (mostly) college age students (a few high school) that perform and compete nationally each summer. They march in formations and positions that are amazing. Each summer, a few of the drum corps stop by Katy, reside in high school gyms and rehearse on high school turf fields. Some even offer a one-day clinic (for a fee).

Dot books: (See **Drill** for description of dots.) A book that your child will be carrying at all times during marching season and bring to rehearsals. Each child's book is unique and is marked (by the child) with the positions he/she is supposed to be in at each relevant point in the show. An example of a dot description would be "Two steps to the right of the 50-yard line and three steps behind the flute player in front of me."

Drill – Is the actual choreography of the show. It involves development of the patterns in which the band will march while playing the show music. The drill is written with each band member represented by a specific dot. If a band member is not available for a show, it creates a hole where the dot is and affects the visual aspect of the performance. Each dot is essential to each performance!

Drum major(s) – Student conductor(s) who direct the marching band as it plays.

Drumline – All percussion instruments. It has two components. The *battery* consists of the kids who actually march, with various types of drums strapped to them. The *Front line (front ensemble)* is set up on the sidelines and its members do not march, but rather play non-marching instruments such as Marimbas, Chimes, and Vibes.

Fair Share – The money each student is asked to pay to offset band operating costs. For the classroom bands, this includes music, and outside clinicians and for marching band includes uniforms, music, contest registration, etc.

Flags – flags used by the Guard during a Marching Band show.

Fundraising – Activities sponsored by the band to earn money to contribute to the general band fund. Examples include selling mulch, selling mums and garters for homecoming, using grocery cards, using Amazon Smile and a variety of other activities that provide money to the band's General Fund. Some involve active selling; others can be earned simply by getting and using a grocery gift card for your grocery shopping – and asking other family member to do so.

Garter – Arrangement of silk flower, ribbons and trinkets in the school colors. The male equivalent of the mum. Exchanged by dates before homecoming and worn on a specific day during homecoming week and at the football game. Boy buys and gives girl a mum; girl buys and gives boys a garter.

Gauntlets – wrist and lower-arm covering; part of Marching Band uniform.

Grocery Card – Available for Kroger shopper card. Adding the band account number to your card will give a percentage of your purchases back to the band. It doesn't cost you anything, doesn't take away any of your rewards, but you must make sure the band number is linked to your Kroger shopper card and that you remember to use your card. It is also valid for gas purchases.

Harsh marks – Markings on a football field to which marching shows will make reference to to tell the kids where their marching positions are.

High Brass – A band section consisting of the trumpets and the mellophones (marching French Horns).

Homecoming/newcoming – Week during the football season when special activities are organized to show spirit and culminates in a football game where crowning of a king and queen happens and followed by a dance. Boys and girls who will attend the dance together exchange a mum and garter, made and sold by band volunteers. One day during the week is selected when kids wear their mum and garter

Instructor – Personnel hired to help out with various sections of the band, as in clarinet instructor or drumline instructor.

Leadership – The students responsible for all (Drum Major) or parts (Section Leaders) of the band. There may also be positions involving activities such as communications and logistics. The role of all the parent volunteers is to support the band leadership and make them successful by handling the logistics while they handle the music.

Letterman points – In order to earn a letterman jacket, band students must earn a certain number of points. Points can be earned by participating in extra activities such as region/jazz band tryouts, solo and ensemble and general participation. Once the required points have been accumulated, the student will be given the option to purchase a jacket.

Speaker System – This is the battery powered PA system to which the metronome is connected that is loud enough to cover the field of practice, even while playing. It includes a headset that allows the instructors to communicate with the band during rehearsals.

Low Brass – The section of the band that contains the trombones, the euphoniums, the baritones and the sousaphones.

Marching Band Season – An important part of the year that starts in early August and runs through mid-November. It peaks in October, which is when most competitions occur. October is often dubbed Bandtober by band families.

Marching Pad – The concrete football-sized marked section in the parking lot that is only used by the marching band and color guard for rehearsals.

Marimba – Percussion instrument; a type of xylophone.

Mellophone – Marching French horn.

Metronome – The amplified metronome that is used during practices to ensure that students are keeping proper time in their marching and playing.

Mum – Arrangement of silk flower, ribbons and trinkets in the school colors. The female equivalent of the garter. Exchanged by dates before homecoming and worn on a specific day during homecoming week and at the football game. Boy buys and gives girl a mum; girl buys and gives boys a garter.

Patches – Patches are available for purchase at the various marching festivals. These patches are usually sewn onto the letterman jacket.

Pit Crew – This is a group of dedicated parents (mostly dads) who load the percussion equipment onto a large truck, unload at game/contest location, move on and off the field for performance and do the loading and unloading all over again to get back to school. This is an activity that builds muscle – and camaraderie. Pit crew also helps with the moving of show props and more at all marching events.

Pit – Marching Band percussion section that does not march (plays on the sidelines), comprised of instruments such as marimbas, xylophones, gongs, etc. Also known as front ensemble.

Plumes – the feathered portion of the Marching Band hats (very fragile); provided by band. Between performances, they are carefully stored by band parents. The plumes are very soft, and very susceptible to destruction by water and sweat. Thus they are applied at the last possible moment before performances and removed as quickly as possible after performances. Helping to apply and “pluck” the plumes is a volunteer opportunity like no other. Volunteers often wear gloves to help maintain the quality of the plumes.

Podium – This is the large folding platform that the drum majors stand on to conduct the band. Assemble carefully and make sure all latches are locked before use. Also known as tower.

Quads – Set of 4 to 6 connected tenor drums carried by member of the battery. There used to be only 4 thus their name.

Region Jazz – Students have the opportunity to try out for a spot in the Region Jazz Band. There is a fee for the tryout which occurs in the fall and the actual band performs/competes in the spring. Auditions are usually at the end of September/beginning of October.

Regionals – The competition that determines which marching bands will compete in the state finals.

Rifles – Fake rifles the Guard uses in a Marching Band show. (They're heavy!)

Run-through – Practicing the Marching Band show.

Sabers – Fake swords the Guard using in a Marching Band show.

Section leader – Band student who oversees a Marching Band instrument section; such as “alto sax section leader.”

Sections/Sectionals – The band is made up of sections by instrument. The day to day direction for most band activities will come from the section leaders and the kids will frequently warm-up or rehearse with their just section (Sectionals). When a kid is unsure about anything, the first call or text should always be to their section leaders.

Set a movement of the show – If a movement is set, it means that the students have learned the marching moves (See **Drill**) and the music for that particular movement and are able to march it with few difficulties, other than the occasional missed turn that results in a collision. When the whole show is set, it means the students have learned everything they need to know to perform the entirety of that year's show.

Shako – Marching Band hat.

Show – This is the performance piece that the band starts learning during the summer and performs and refines throughout the marching season. Each year's show has a specific name and a specific theme, with music and choreography chosen to reflect that theme.

Show shirt – T-shirt with the show name, the year, and related artwork on it. These are worn at contests to show pride, and to help parents keep track of students after performances. Most parents elect to order extras to avoid doing laundry at 11pm after a Friday night football game when there is a contest on Saturday.

Side 1/Side 2 – Refers to each halves of the football field. When facing the field from the home side, side 1 is the right half from end zone to 0-yard line and side 2 is from 0-yard line to end zone on the left.

Stadium Seats – Folding seats (with backs) that can be purchased at a sporting goods store and then brought to games or competitions and attached to the bleachers. They make sitting in the stands for long period of times much easier for your body. Highly recommended.

Stand tunes – Songs played by the marching band while in the stands during football games. Some are just a few measures and quickly played, some are longer.

State – Competition for state championship (held at the Alamodome in San Antonio).

Summer band – Period of intense daily Marching Band practice; Monday-Friday. SEND WATER with your students and try to get them to slather on the sunscreen.

TCGC – Texas Color Guard Circuit. Color Guard contests usually in the winter/spring season.

Tenors – Set of 5-6 connected drums carried by members of the battery

Tower – Raised platform upon which conductors stand. Also refers to the tall structure in front of the marching pad where the directors stand to analyze and observe the rehearsals.

Trailer – The back half of a semi-trailer truck; holds Marching Band large instruments, including, but not limited to percussions and sousaphones.

UIL – University interscholastic league – Regulating body for a lot of high school competitions, including, but not limited to marching band, football, debate, etc. A lot of the rehearsal limitations and pre-contest schedules are guided by UIL rules and regulations.

Ultimate drill book (UDB) - App that each student will need to download to successfully learn and master their drill. UDB offers the possibility of following each marcher with the music, with visual, to help clearly understand their movement.

Unloading the Truck - This must be done when the band returns from competitions and football games. All instruments and other band gear must be taken off the truck that is driven to events. This task is expedited by having pit/loading crew help. Lugging Bari Saxes and heavy pit equipment can make for wonderfully sculpted biceps if you do it enough.

Dinkles (marching shoes) - Issued to first year marchers at the beginning of the season when uniforms are fitted. The black soft-soled marching shoes that your child will wear for performances. Designed to facilitate marching footwork. They are shiny patent leather that look great under the lights.

Volunteer opportunities - This is your chance to say "I'm with the band." Countless opportunities exist and come in all different shapes and sizes. Without parent volunteers the band wouldn't be able to function. You can chaperone football games or competition. You can distribute meals before games and at contests. You can help with the end of the season banquet and awards. All of these opportunities allow you to see how hard your child works, to get to know other parents, and to make your own friends while also offering an invaluable contribution. There are opportunities that fit all kinds of work schedules. And some companies "pay" for your volunteer work since the band is a non-profit entity. On top of all that, the value of being able to say to your child "I know Grant's mother and no, she doesn't let him do that so this discussion is over" can never be underestimated.

WGI - Winter Guard International. Guard contests normally in winter/spring seasons.

Weather - Safety is always first and many of the instruments can be damaged if they get too wet. We can usually throw a tarp over the pit and "case" our sensitive instruments to make it through a brief shower, practice time is valuable. We also move (or stay) indoors and work on music if the weather is not cooperating for long periods.

Web Site - This is the place to find forms, the all-important calendar, lots of information on volunteer roles, fundraising. If you can't find something you need as a parent, hit the feedback button on the website so we can add it for you and all parents to come.

Winds - The non-percussion part of the band; any instrument that is played by blowing air.

Woodwinds - A band section comprised of clarinets, saxophones and flutes - plus a piccolo or two.