High School Band Department

Parent/Student Handbook
2014-2015
Jay Webb, Director
jmwebb@avon-schools.org
Matt Harloff, Assistant Director
mhharloff@avon-schools.org
Robert Burns, Assistant Director
rjburns@avon-schools.org
Dean Westman, Department Chairman
dwestman@avon-schools.org
Daniel Wiles, Guard Director
drwiles00@aol.com
Barbara Doll, Performing Arts Secretary
bjdoll@avon-schools.org

7575 E. County Rd. 150 South
Avon, IN 46123
(317) 544-5093
www.avonband.com

Sponsored by
Avon Marching Black & Gold Band Boosters
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charms</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important forms to be read/signed</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructions for the online signature page</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FYI</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takin’ Care of Business</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rules, Guidelines and Policies for the Avon Band</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Fun In The Summer Time: Summer Practice Begins!</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Real Costs of Marching Band</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competitions</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education Credit</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guard Specific Information</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Language of the Avon Marching Black &amp; Gold (Glossary)</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copy of the forms for your Reference</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band Code of Conduct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug &amp; Alcohol Testing Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent/Guardian and Member Contract</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avon Band Medical Acknowledgement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hendricks Regional Health Parental Consent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heads up Concussion fact sheet for Parents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance Letter from Corporation for School Owned Instruments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Schedule of Events

Band Booster Officers
Charms Directions

Charms Defined: A comprehensive web based database for all band students. Modules include student information, account information, uniform information, instrument information and mass e-mail capabilities. Each student has an information page established that each parent needs to access and update. The instruction to access the information page is:

WWW.CHARMSOFFICE.COM

You may use the direct link to this page also:

When you go to Charms, this is the screen you will see. Click on Enter and then on Parents

Your school code is Avonmbg.

Click on Enter Charms

You will enter your student’s ID number as the password and press enter. Please ask your student for their ID number.

You are now at your student / parent page.

The first thing you need to do is to go to Update Info. This is the orange box in the bottom left corner. Click on that box.
On this screen you will update the information on your student. At this time you should find their name, address and parent’s information. We would ask you to please check all this information to make sure it is correct as shown.

Correct it if it is not correct!

Then please click on Add a New Adult which will take you to this screen:

It is very important that you take a minute and enter all the information on any family members. The e-mail addresses entered on this file will now be the email address that will be used for all email communication. You may enter any number of family members.

Once you have entered this information you may click on the tabs at the top of the screen to go to Home, Students, their account, etc...

Clicking on Home will take you back to this screen. You can see all the choices you have from here. Take some time to explore. Not all information will be available to you or will be something we will use at this time.

Thank you for updating your child’s records. You will now be able to see their accounts, update records, and receive e-mails from the music department.
Fees

Marching Band

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Band Student (without Shoes)</th>
<th>New Band Student (Including Shoes)</th>
<th>Guard Student (Including Jacket)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Band Camp</td>
<td>$280.00</td>
<td>$280.00</td>
<td>$280.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation to Band Camp</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-Shirt</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform Rental/Expenses</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Clothing Expenses (socks and gloves)</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Show Writing &amp; Design</td>
<td>$130.00</td>
<td>$130.00</td>
<td>$130.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry Fees</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Staff</td>
<td>$230.00</td>
<td>$230.00</td>
<td>$230.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment/Props/Flags</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music / Recording Fee</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Transportation</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Insurance</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$900.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$900.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$900.00</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shoes</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacket Rental</td>
<td></td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL DUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$900.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$935.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$925.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In order for your student to attend band camp, payment for band camp must be paid prior to June 17, 2014 at the latest.**

You may also pay the full fee any time prior to June 18th, 2014. Please be aware there may be some incidental charges. We will make every effort to keep these nominal. If you have more than one student participating in the band program, there is a discount on fees. As band camp is a hard cost to the band, there is no discount for multiple students on the first payment. However, after the first student, there will be a 15% discount per student on the remaining balance. Please contact the band department to set up your payment schedule. Checks should be made payable to the Avon Marching Black & Gold (AMB&G) and may be mailed to:

Avon Marching Black & Gold
7575 E County Road 150S
Avon, IN 46123

If you wish to pay by Visa or MasterCard, please stop by the band office. If you choose to pay with PayPal through Charms or Credit Card, please note there will be a 3% handling fee.

**Winter Season**

If your student participates in Winter Guard, Winter Drumline or Avon Indoor, there will be an additional fee charged at that time. **Please note - your marching band fee must be paid in full by December 5th, 2014, for your student to be able to participate in either guard or drumline.** The fee will vary from year to year depending on the group you are in and the amount of travelling that group does for competition. World Guard paid $1,350.00 in 2014 when they participated in WGI. A Guard was $450.00. The World Drumline was $950.00 and the A Drumline was $450.00. These figures are to give you an idea of expected costs and are not necessarily the costs of these groups for the upcoming year.
Solo & Ensemble | Amount | Due Date  
---|---|---  
Solo (per student) | $12.00 | 11/21/2014  
Ensemble (per student) | $6.00 | 11/21/2014  

State Solo & Ensemble  
Solo (per student) | $12.00 | **1/31/2015**  
Ensemble (per student) | $6.00 | **1/31/2015**  

**In order for your student to go to State Solo & Ensemble – they must pay at Solo & Ensemble on Jan. 31. This is each student’s responsibility and not that of the Band Boosters.**

Additional Band Expenses during the Year -Please note the date these are due  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jazz Band</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These costs are for transportation, festival registrations and guest clinicians.

For the following costs, please write the check to **Avon High School** and send it with your student to Band Office, so this payment will be recorded before giving it to the school treasurer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avon Indoor</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind Symphony (Advanced Band)</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symphonic Band (Intermediate Band)</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concert Band (Intermediate Band)</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshman Black &amp; Gold Bands (Beginning Band)</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These costs are for festival registrations, guest clinicians and music.

If a student decides not to continue with marching band, no refund of fees paid will be made after band camp. Prior to band camp, a full refund of fees will be made upon written request.

As the booster organization is a non-profit organization, we must pay our bills in a professional and timely manner. It is important you pay your fees by the dates listed to provide the needed cash flow necessary for us to conduct our affairs. If at any time you experience difficulty meeting the payment schedule please contact one of the Booster Co-Presidents, or the Band Secretary at 544-5093. It is very important to have communication between the parent and the band boosters regarding payment. We will work with you on a payment schedule other than listed above if that would make it easier. If we have done everything we can and have trouble collecting fees, we use a collection agency to help with delinquent fees.
ONLINE SIGNATURE PAGE IS LOCATED AT
http://www.avon-schools.org/Page/7278

The following forms are located there. You must go and sign off on all of these forms prior to June 17th, 2014. (see back pages of this book for a hard copy of these required forms)

- Band Code of Conduct
- Drug Program Policy
- Parent/Guardian and Member Contract
- Hendricks Regional Health Consent and Release
- Heads-up Concussion - Parents
- Heads-up Concussion - Athletes

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM

My child and I have accessed and carefully read the Avon Community School Corporation Random Drug and Alcohol Testing Program found online.(LINK TO DOCUMENT). My child and I agree to abide by the rules set forth in said program.

EXTRA CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT & PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

My child and I have accessed online and carefully read the code of conduct and participation guidelines for all of the activities that s/he will be participating.

BAND CODE OF CONDUCT (LINK TO DOCUMENT)

PARENT/GUARDIAN AND MEMBER CONTRACT (LINK TO DOCUMENT)

HENDRICKS REGIONAL HEALTH PARENTAL CONSENT, RELEASE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As the parent/legal guardian of the student named above I have accessed and read carefully the Hendricks Regional Health Parental Consent, Release and Acknowledgement form located online (LINK TO DOCUMENT). I understand it contains a release provision.

CONCUSSION EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Avon Community School Board Policy states that a student-athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game, shall be removed from play at the time of injury and may not return to activity until the student athlete has received a written clearance from a physician (MD or DO) trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and head injuries. Once a written clearance has been received a step-wise return to activity progression will be initiated by the Avon Community School Corporation Sports Medicine Staff.

I have accessed and read “Heads up Concussion: A Fact Sheet for Parents” found online (LINK TO DOCUMENT). My child has accessed and read “Heads up Concussion: A Fact Sheet for Athletes” found online (LINK TO DOCUMENT). We both understand the nature and risk of concussion and head injury to student athletes, including the risks of continuing to play after concussion or head injury.
Welcome to Avon High School Band Department  
Home of the Avon Marching Black and Gold

We are very excited that your family has chosen to participate with one of the most successful band programs in the United States. The Avon Marching Black and Gold has a successful tradition of excellence spanning over 40 years. This will be a unique and rewarding experience for both you and your student.

This handbook has been put together to assist both the student and parent. The band and guard programs provide many great opportunities for your student. As with all great programs, there is a lot of preparation and support required to make everything work. We know each year many questions will arise. This handbook has been designed to help answer those. If you are unable to find the answer to your question, please contact one of the Band Booster Presidents listed on the back of this handbook. Have a great year!

**BAND CAMP – A Hard Day’s Night**

You must have your paperwork in (physicals and permissions) before camp – no exceptions

**July 14-18, 2014**

Camp is held at Taylor University in Upland, IN. Students will depart for camp Monday afternoon by school buses. They will need to bring money for fast food for dinner, on the way to Upland, IN. Students will be housed in dorms. Students will return to Avon late in the afternoon on Friday July 18, 2014. It is hard work and the kids are tired and hot. Don’t be surprised to get texts or calls that they are homesick or want to come home. Be supportive, encourage them to persevere. If there is a serious problem, contact the co-Presidents that will be onsite. Cathy Klemmensen at 317-502-5845 or Pam Jones at 317-446-7137.

Days start out early and are followed by practice. Water breaks are followed by practice. Snack is followed by practice. Lunch is followed by practice. Break and dinner are followed by (you guessed it) practice. There is free time. There is a ‘talent contest’ for freshman band members and upper classmen. There are also dress-up days (have your student check with a drum major or section leader) and some time to play games and hang out. Parents are there to provide snacks, encouragement, and supervision.

Hints: Even though it is summer, bring a light jacket or sweatshirt, as the nights can get cool. While hazing is not permitted, some pranks do pop up. The band is heavily supervised. The things that happen are good natured and done in fun. Information specific to band camp is given to the student during June.

- All freshmen/new marchers are expected to participate in the Talent Show.
- There are medical personnel on site.
- Personal items should be marked for identification.
- Suggested items for camp are instrument, water jug, music folder, towels, washcloths, 2 pairs of tennis shoes, 2 pairs of socks per day, light jacket or sweatshirt, flashlight, bed roll, toiletries, loose fitting clothing, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and suntan lotion, rainwear, long pants, dot book, pencils, binder with strap, gloves for brass players, camera, insect repellent, stamps, money for drinks from the vending machine if they wish.
- Each room has 2 beds, a dresser and a desk. Students will sign up for their roommates on the signup sheets on the bulletin board at the back of the band room. If they have not signed up by **June 17**, they will be assigned a room.
- There will be dress-up/spirit days. These will be advised by the Drum Majors.
In case of an emergency, the camp telephone number is 765-998-2751. You can also call Booster Co-President Cathy Klemmensen at 317-502-5845 or Pam Jones at 317-446-7137.

Dress
Band camp will not require any nice clothes. Shorts, jeans and t-shirts will be ideal dress for the week. Students may wear tank tops for practice, but all students (boys & girls) are required to wear a T-shirt with sleeves to go to the café. No spaghetti straps or sleeveless tops are allowed in the café. Note - Socks and good sneakers must be worn at all rehearsals. No Sandals! A hat or sun-visor is recommended for morning practices.

Food Services
On Monday students will purchase their dinner during a stop on the way to band camp. At camp, three meals a day (Tuesday - Thursday) will be provided by the dining service. On Friday, students will have breakfast and lunch at Taylor prior to returning home.

Health Services
All students are required to have a doctor’s physical, a Medical Acknowledgement Form and a Concussion & Release Certificate, on file with the high school/band department. This must be on file no later than June 17, 2014. The physical packet may be picked up in the Secretary's office or found at www.charmsoffice.com. We require these forms before we are able to administer any drugs to your student. In case of emergency, these forms greatly assist the Nurse/Doctor in making the correct diagnosis or in administering effective medication. There are medical personnel with the band at all times during band camp.
Note: Medical services will be provided by our medical personnel and on emergency basis, at a local hospital while at band camp. Parents will be notified immediately of any major injury or illness sustained by their child.

A word about sunburn, our biggest and most troublesome problem at band camp can be sunburn. Some students could even develop second-degree burns from being out in the sun with little to no protection. We would suggest a sunblock of SPF 15-30. Any lower number, you are at your own risk!

Parent Chaperones
We require a minimum of 20 chaperones for the week of band camp. They MUST be available to ride the bus to and from band camp. While at band camp they supervise the students when they are not practicing.

Staff
A complete staff of qualified musicians and drill instructors have been contracted for band camp. They are experienced band personnel, who will assist in field and music instruction.

** ALL SCHOOL RULES and BAND CODE OF CONDUCT APPLY
*** NO HAZING!!! You could be banned by the program or Arrested by the Authorities
The Top 13 Things You Should Know as a Student
BAND MEMBERS SHARE WISDOM AND SURVIVAL TIPS.
1. ALWAYS be on time, which really means 10-15 minutes early.
2. When in doubt, stop talking.
3. Show respect to everyone and listen to what ‘veterans’ have to say. They’re probably right.
4. Don’t expect to know everything the first day. Even people who have marched before still have things to learn.
5. Take things seriously, but not TOO seriously. In the end, as Mr. Webb would say, “It is only high school marching band.”
6. We are very good at what we do because we can focus when we need to.
7. Stay well rested, fed, and hydrated.
8. Always have all your materials on you or close enough that you can get them quickly.
9. Know how to work, but also know how to relax. Know that the two NEVER occur at the same time, EVER.
10. Keep up on your schoolwork. Take every opportunity to do your homework. On the bus, extra time in class, at appointments — do whatever it takes. Be as productive as possible.
11. You will be called out eventually. Don’t be afraid. When it happens, just speak up and don’t worry about being wrong.
12. Always trust the instructors. Especially when you think they aren’t right. They are rarely wrong.
13. You may want to quit. But DON’T!

The Top Nine Things You Should Know as a Band Parent
9. Your student is probably more capable than you realize.
   Even if you have all the time in the world, you will start to feel like a personal servant if you don’t ask your kids to take some responsibility for their own stuff. Water jugs, lunches, props, laundry -- it never ends. Your student can make a sandwich, fill up a water jug, and set out their ‘stuff’. If you are inclined, help them create checklists so that they remember everything they need to bring. It will be a lot of stuff, so be ready.
8. Get out of the car and come join us.
   Adults can enter the band room without ill effect! Be respectful of practices going on, but come on in and see what is happening. Frequently, there are parents working on projects or hanging around. It is a great time to make introductions and let people know you are new to the band program and would like to get involved.
   Park the car and come down to the field. The last 15-20 minutes of practice will be a run through of what the kids have learned so far. Thursday nights are the traditional nights to view, but you will find parents in the stands most nights. Watching the evolution of the band and the kids is really inspiring.
   Speaking of parking: DO NOT PARK IN THE FIRELANE. You may have become accustomed to dropping off your student in front of the band room but for all of the students safety, do not park along the curb. When the kids come off of the practice field, many of them have instruments they have to push up to the band room through the parking lots. Also, when the buses leave for competitions and return, they need to park by the curb. Leave that space free to make the process run smoothly. Join the welcoming crowd outside and come on in to see what all the excitement is about! The kids love the encouragement.
7. Learn to manage your time and teach your student how to manage theirs.
   You WILL be busy -- especially from August until the middle of November. You will receive calendars in emails, but you MUST find a way to keep track of everything. More importantly, your student will have to balance band and school work. Many of the band kids are honor students, and the time management skills they learn will help them throughout their life.
6. **Bring cash, warm clothes and something to sit on.**
Most school functions require that you bring cash. Invitationals (defined later on) charge admission, anywhere from $5 to $10 per person. Children under 5 are usually admitted free. You MUST bring cash. Concessions are cash only, as are some souvenir vendors.

5. **Take care of your Box Mom/Dad.**
If you would make a drawing of the perfect Box Mom (It is usually a MOM but it doesn’t have to be), she/he would have six arms, three heads, and a heart of pure gold. Remarkably, Box Moms accomplish amazing things without the extra appendages. These are the people who dress your student, fix their hair, and wash their socks. They dispense wisdom, encouragement and snacks with laughter and generosity. They are the people on the front lines who make sure your student is ready to go on the field. This is a job that deserves far more recognition than most understand, so please ask how you can assist.

4. **Band Directors are people, too.**
But they are BUSY people. They work long hours and their main focus is the kids. If you have a specific concern about your child and the band program, set up a time to discuss it. If you need general information, directors are probably not your best resource. Try a fellow parent first, another Band Booster. The real source of wisdom is Barb Doll, the performing arts secretary. She is always busy and she works all year long to put out as much good information as humanly (in some cases Super Humanly) possible. Most of us are in awe of Barb, and rightly so. In other words, SHE ROCKS!

On another note: Marching band requires dedication and discipline from your student. The job of the directors is to help your student excel in band. Directors speak loudly, pointedly and sometimes without pleasantries. When mistakes are made, especially due to inattention or lack of effort, there are consequences. Try to relax and allow the process to work. Encourage your student to do their best, listen, and work hard. Everyone wants your child to be successful. You will learn this as you move through the season.

3. **We can’t do it without you—volunteer and come to the booster meetings.**
You will be asked to commit time, energy, donations and the band fees to the band program. Unlike many sports programs, the Avon MB&G must have parent volunteers for the programs to run smoothly, and it is the best way to get to know others. Plan to attend as many Booster meetings as you can. They are only once a month for about an hour. Mr. Webb usually addresses the parents with updates on the show and will answer parent questions. It is time well spent.

About volunteering … no experience necessary. No, REALLY! There are tasks that require specific skills, but most opportunities do not. If you can pull a soda from a cooler, take tickets at a gate, use scissors, sew or build props - you have all the skills you need. Better yet, there is so much to do, you are bound to find something you actually enjoy doing. You will be helping keep YOUR band fees down and have fun doing it. Trust us, we’ve been there.

2. **Join CHARMS and READ YOUR EMAIL.**
This could be said a thousand times and still not be said enough. As the season progresses, you will get multiple messages each day. READ THEM. CHECK YOUR EMAIL DAILY. You may not always completely understand the emails, but READ THEM. If you are completely lost, you can ask Barb Doll or Booster Presidents for more info.

1. **Yes, it’s worth it!**
All of the rides, time, and effort that as a parent, you put into getting your child to practices are worth every second. You may not be able to appreciate that in the beginning. Your student may get discouraged at first. There is a lot of repetition, hot sweaty days, failures, and disappointments. Then the show starts to come together and everything changes. There is a new energy, a new excitement. This is the point where they will either LOVE band, or plan a different activity next year. Most of the kids LOVE band by the end of the season, so make them tough it out for the whole season. It will be worth it.
BAND FEES AND FUNDRAISING OR “TAKIN CARE OF BUSINESS”

Fundraising: Fundraising is a combination of things. Some activities raise money for your student’s account. Some raise money for the General Fund. Some activities involve selling product to your neighbors, family, and friends. Other activities require you to complete a task in order to enjoy the benefit. How you participate is based on your needs and your comfort zone. It is important to remember that funds that go to the General Fund also benefit your student’s account by reducing the overall band fees.

These activities go the General Fund (Reducing band fees for ALL)

Concessions: We staff concessions year round for the various athletic events. We make hot dogs, popcorn, nachos, and serve up cold drinks and candy. You will be asked to work a few hours with some very nice people. No experience necessary and someone will happily show you what needs to be done. Working concessions is FUN! The jobs are pretty basic, the company is exceptional and the shift goes by quickly. You will be working with band parents and parents from other sports. If you have an older child, bring them along to help out, they will probably enjoy themselves too! The fact is the proceeds from concessions reduce YOUR band fees by several hundred dollars per student. You will be expected to help out to keep the band fees down.

Avon Invitational: We sponsor an Invitational in September. We need people for the Hospitality Rooms, to work at the gate, to act as guides, and so many other tasks. It is a long day for everyone, but a huge moneymaker for the program. This event requires all parents to ensure success.

Indiana Percussion Association (IPA) event: This is the state preliminary drumline contest, and is held at Avon every year in March. Drumlines from across Indiana compete at Avon H.S. to qualify for the state championship competition. This event requires all parents to ensure success.

MEIJER Community Awards -Organization Code: 166818
We need you, our supporter, to join Meijer Community Rewards. It’s free and can be done online at Meijer.com/rewards. If you already have a Meijer Credit Card, just call 1-800-962-7011 to join. Then, simply swipe your card at the register whenever you shop at Meijer. Use it for food, clothing, toys, home accessories and more! We will automatically receive a check every month for a percentage of your purchase totals.
You do not need a Meijer credit card. If you wish to apply for a Meijer Rewards card, you may do this also on line at Meijer.com/rewards. Please take a few minutes to apply for your rewards card. The sooner you join Meijer Community Rewards, the sooner we will begin to receive the rewards!

GFS Marketplace® Organization Code 2324209 - By participating, you’ll turn your family’s food purchases into cash for Avon Marching Black & Gold!
• Avon Marching Black & Gold can earn as much as a 10% rebate based on your qualified purchases at GFS Marketplace.
• Receive BONUS opportunities to earn more contributions for Avon Marching Black & Gold.
• Rebates go directly to Avon Marching Black & Gold every three months.
• Every item purchased qualifies for a rebate. Over 1,000 items earn up to a 10% rebate.

Smile.Amazon.com
Probably a lot of you have shopped Amazon.com. If you go to www.smile.amazon.com and search for Marching Black & Gold Inc and then place your order, the band will receive .05% of the purchase price of eligible products.

SCRIP Order Information
All you have to do is purchase gift cards for places you plan to shop and use those cards instead of cash or credit. You earn a percentage of the card’s value. You can order these cards as often as you need by signing up for Shop with Scrip and having your order deducted from your checking or savings account. Once there are a sufficient number of orders, the order will be released for shipping. We pay $12.00 for shipping/handling for each order. This charge will be
spread equally to the families receiving the cards. If you do Presto Pay and/or Scripnow there will not be a shipping charge associated with those. We will place an order twice a month: on the 15th and 30th so you won’t run out of cards. It’s easy to do, just follow the instructions below and let me know if you have any questions or problems.

Go to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com), click on “Create Account” in the green box labeled “Family Sign Up.”

*It is important you indicate your student’s name, when creating your account, in order for you to receive credit for these purchases to your individual student account.*

Fill in the required information – the enrollment code is L6C4272E22794

Click on “I Accept” if you wish to pay for your cards directly from your bank account please the instructions below. You may still pay for scrip with a check when you pick up your cards.

**HOWEVER, YOU MUST ORDER ONLINE FOR THE CREDIT TO GO TO YOUR STUDENT’S ACCOUNT.**

*IF YOU PURCHASE CARDS THROUGH THE BAND DEPARTMENT THE PROFIT WILL NOT BE APPLIED TO YOUR STUDENT’S ACCOUNT.*

When finished go to “My Account” on the top toolbar, Click on Presto-Pay on the left toolbar, Fill in the required information, Click on “Next”

Within 2 days there will be 2 random deposits in your savings/checking account. Make a note of the amounts then sign back in to the Presto-Pay page. Enter the amounts that were deposited. You will be emailed a 4 digit number that you need to forward to Deb Claus (there is a 15¢ convenience fee each time you use PrestoPay). The Scrip center also has a program called ScripNow! You can order, pay for, and print the card and use it within minutes. **YOU MUST BE SIGNED UP FOR PRESTOPAY TO USE SCRIPNOW!**

There are also a number of cards that can be reloaded. Just look for the “recycle” icon next to the brand. If you have any questions please contact Deb Claus, dleeclaus@indy.rr.com, cell: 317-431-7460.
COMMUNICATIONS: How Do I Find Out What is Going On?

New Marcher Parent Meeting June 5, 2014 – 6:00pm in Avon High School Band Room

The first Booster meeting is June 17, 2014 - 7:00pm Avon High School Cafe

Booster Meetings are held once a month, usually the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7PM in the High School Cafeteria. The best way for you to be informed is to attend the booster meetings regularly. The band also has a website where current information is posted along with pictures and other fun stuff. The site is www.avonband.com. Please also make sure to follow the enclosed instructions to sign up for Charms so you receive e-mails and can check the calendar. Weekly updates and other important information are sent out via e-mail as needed. Another place that you will find important information is the racks located in the band room and outside the secretary’s office.

The Schedule of Booster Meetings - 7:00pm - usually in the AHS cafe

June 17, 2014 (First Booster Meeting/Band Camp Information)
July 8, 2014 (Band Camp Information)
August 26, 2014
September 23, 2014
October 28, 2014
November 25, 2014 - Fall Awards and Senior Recognition evening - No Meeting
December 2013 - No Meeting
January 27, 2015
February 24, 2015
March 17, 2015 - preparing for upcoming IPA State Prelims
April 28, 2015 – elections for the coming year

Booster Membership Fees - The boosters support the program by providing a $25.00 fee. These funds are used to purchase pizza, lemonade, paper supplies to feed the kids before the football games.

Communications: Websites & Social Media

Charms: www.Charmsoffice.com
Follow us on Facebook: Avon Marching Black & Gold (Official)
Twitter Account: www.twitter.com/avonbandtweets
Search Engine: www.goodsearch.com
Avon Band: www.avonband.com
Shop Amazon: www.smile.amazon.com
Shop with Scrip: www.shopwithscrip.com
Indiana Percussion Association: www.indianapercussion.org
Indiana High School Color Guard Association: www.ihscga.org
Bands of America: www.musicforall.org
Winter Guard International: www.wgi.org
Indiana Marching: www.indianamarching.com
RULES, GUIDELINES AND POLICIES FOR THE AVON BAND

Attendance Policy
Attendance is mandatory at all band performances! Any problems will be dealt with on an individual basis. Any absences from all or part of a rehearsal, summer, fall or winter, spring will require a written excuse from parents or a doctor giving an explanation or reason for the absence. Vacation absences should be turned in as soon as dates are available. Notes must be placed in the appropriate drop box outside the Mr. Webb’s office door or reported to Daniel if your student is in the Guard. Excuses should be turned in, in advance of the absence when possible. Students with jobs will be expected to be at all rehearsals, inform your employer accordingly. If the student has one unexcused or two excused absences from rehearsal within a one week period, they will not be allowed to march that weekend.

Bus Carry-On Policy
NO GLASS CONTAINERS! NO SNACKS OR DRINKS! You can have:
1. Bottled water
2. Jacket or sweatshirt and pants for cool late nights
3. Necessary band items and personal items
4. Pillow and/or blanket
5. HOWEVER - NO BAGS ALLOWED IN FRONT OF EMERGENCY DOORS OR IN THE AISLE OF THE BUS.

Please Note: Often the band performs twice in the same day at two different locations. This means that students must have enough food for more than one meal and may not have the opportunity to purchase food. Please make sure your child is prepared to make their day a success.

Financial Policy
Individual accounts are set up for each student. These accounts may be used by the student for band fees, instrument needs, uniform needs and any travel related expenses. The accounts are funded by payments into the account and/or money earned by the student by participating in fundraisers. During the year, fundraising opportunities are provided for the student to earn money for his/her account. Each student’s account is credited upon receipt for the total amount earned. Once registered at www.charmsoffice.com, you will have the ability to view your student’s account at any time.

Grading Policy
All grades will be based on the following criteria; periodic playing tests, Smart music assignments, quizzes, homework including counting charts and other assignments announced by the director, attitude in rehearsals and at performances, attendance at all band functions.

Instrument Rentals and Insurance Policy
Students are expected to provide their own instruments, except for the larger or more exotic instruments such as percussion, tuba, baritones, bassoons, oboes, bass clarinets, etc. The School Corporation will be charging the students a $50.00 per semester Maintenance fee for the use of a school instrument. Please make sure this fee is on a separate check and payable to Avon High School. Students & parents are required to sign a liability form for the school instrument they have been assigned. Loss or damage of school property will be at the student’s expense. (see letter from Corporation at end of handbook)

Parents please make sure your homeowners insurance covers your student’s musical instrument. Unfortunately with the large number of students involved in this type of activity, accidents can happen. Carrying insurance on your student’s instrument may help if an accident occurs.

Locker Lock Policy
Every student will be assigned a locker. Each locker will have a combination lock assigned to it. Should this be lost, there will be a $5.50 charge to replace it.
Parent Releases Policy – Picking up your student after a performance.
Occasionally parents may need to take their child directly following the contest. This must be taken care of in writing. When picking up a student at the contest site, student or parent must give their bus chaperone a written note, signed by their parent or guardian, before the student may be released. No student will be allowed to leave a contest site with anyone other than his or her parent or another adult, without written permission from their parent or guardian. Parents may be asked for identification if chaperone is not familiar with the parent. These requirements are in place to protect you and your student. The student is also responsible for having someone else unload their instrument and anything else they are responsible for when returning to the school.

Performance Guidelines for Students:
1. Make sure all of your uniform parts are clean and fitted properly. Improper uniform care will not be tolerated.
2. You MUST wear a t-shirt with short sleeves under your jacket.
3. You will be required to wear shorts or a spandex short, such as a biker short, under the uniform pants.
4. Make sure your instrument is in good repair so that you can perform to the best of your ability.
5. All students are to report to the band room one hour before a scheduled concert or at the time specified by the director.
6. When in uniform: No PDA, No eating, No smoking, No swearing, No running (unless told to do so by a Director or staff member).
7. Everyone should be professional while in a performance setting. Unprofessional behavior could be cause for dismissal from the band program.
8. The Guard will wear black nylon/polyester pants in conjunction with the rental Guard jacket as part of the “uniform” during the season. The guard will wear the pants/jacket to and from competitions.

Physical Guidelines Policy
The Avon Band department and its competitive ensembles require a high degree of physical training and conditioning. It is part of the curriculum of each ensemble to develop and maintain a certain level of athletic coordination and conditioning that in turn is part of the program for competitions. With this understood there are several guidelines the staff and students need to be aware of and follow.

- All students that participate in extra-curricular or co-curricular activities will need to have a current physical on file dated after April 1st 2014.
- All students and parents are aware that physical conditioning, training and endurance are an integral part of the skill sets required for any type of success of the extra-curricular or co-curricular activities
- All of these ensembles will require a certain level of physical ability to participate and thrive in the extra-curricular or co-curricular ensemble. Inability in certain areas of physical training or conditioning could jeopardize the student’s ability to actively participate in one of the extra-curricular or co-curricular activities. These issues could be because physical skill sets or medical reasons.
- Students who have medical issues should have their doctor’s permission to participate in any of these extra-curricular or co-curricular activities. In addition the student and or parent should discuss the situation with the director of the activity prior to any rehearsals or practices. It will be at the discretion of the Unit Director to proceed or disallow the student’s participation in any situation that might put the director, the band department, or the Avon Community Schools at risk or liability for any injuries or medical situations.
- If an emergency does occur the band boosters will have a designated adult to provide support to student and/or staff to make the appropriate decisions regarding what is best for the student. There will be an established Procedure for this person to administer the
appropriate steps to alleviate the emergency and then to contact the appropriate authorities and/or parents, and/or director.

**Use of Physical Skills as Reinforcement or Punishments.**

- It is the tradition of the Avon Band department to use physical skill sets as a way to reinforce positive and negative aspects of any of its extra-curricular or co-curricular activities. Students may give themselves one of these skill sets as a way to reinforce concentration and excellence. However that should not take away from, or disrupt the rehearsal. A standard reinforcement would be 10 pushups.
- Student leaders may deem it necessary to give reinforcement information at times, but should always do so with careful consideration. Under no circumstances should any student run more than 1 lap or be given 10 pushups as a result of this reinforcement.
- Staff members may deem it necessary to give reinforcement information at times, but do so with careful consideration. It is considered acceptable to give 1 lap, or a set of 10 pushups, or a set of 25 sit-ups, or a set of 50 jumping jacks as a result of this reinforcement.
- Students are not to be pushed beyond what would be considered a normal scope either for conditioning or reinforcements.
- Students who feel they are being pushed beyond their ability to maintain a personal safety level of physical exercise should stop immediately. They will not be punished for being unable to complete the physical skill set that is being required of them. Alternative reinforcements can and will be found to alleviate the unsafe situation.

**Rehearsal Clothing Guidelines**

Students should wear comfortable clothing to all rehearsals. Shirts (required for all rehearsals and band camp), shorts, sweat, loose fitting pants, socks and good tennis shoes are the most acceptable attire. The Guard is required to wear sports bras as well as spandex shorts under practice shorts. Please listen to weather reports in the morning or evening and plan your attire accordingly. When after school rehearsals begin, you must bring proper attire to change into if your school clothes for the day do not fill the requirements for rehearsal. Students in the color guard should check with their director for the appropriate dress style.

**Rehearsal Guidelines For Students:**

1. Each student is expected to be on time, if not early, to all rehearsal/performance functions, with instruments and ready to begin. If you are on time, you are late!
2. The student is expected to have both their instrument and music ready prior to starting for all rehearsals and performances.
3. Students should have a pencil ready to mark rehearsal suggestions (No ink pens!).
4. Students should behave considerately to whomever is on the podium, whether it be the director, drum major or a guest of the band.
5. Students should treat school owned instruments like their own. Any loss or damage of the instrument will be the student’s liability and will be assessed accordingly.
6. There are four (4) places your instrument should be (school owned or privately owned)
   - In your hands
   - Lined up in a section
   - Lined up in the cases
   - In your band locker
7. Cell phones are NOT ALLOWED during rehearsal. They may be in your car, locker, backpack or purse. If you need to contact your child for an emergency, you may call Cathy or Pam (numbers on back of handbook)
Uniform Guidelines

Band Members
In June, uniforms will be fitted and assigned. Each member will be given a pair of black gloves and a pair of black socks (included in your band fee). Each member will be fitted for shoes. There is an additional charge of $35.00 for any child requiring shoes, either for the first time or due to growth. Band members are encouraged to wear band show t-shirts and dark colored bike type shorts under their uniforms, and wear their black socks for ALL performances.

Guard
See Guard Specific information later in the handbook

Uniform/Guard Costume Care Procedures
The following procedures are to be followed by each band/guard member.
1. All uniforms/costumes are kept in the uniform or guard rooms at the school.
2. All pieces of each uniform are numbered and assigned to a student.
3. Along with the issued uniform, the band student is to wear uniform shoes, uniform socks, black gloves, dark colored spandex type shorts and a short sleeve T-shirt at each performance.
4. Each student is responsible for hanging his/her own uniform/costume back on the hanger properly and returning it to the Box Mom/Dad responsible for their assigned box.
5. Students are not permitted to eat while in uniform, unless otherwise instructed by the directors.
6. The proper way to wear the uniform is with the jacket all the way on (hooked and zipped), or with the jacket off and carried, folded over the arm. When wearing the uniform, please look before you sit (even on the bus) to be sure you do not sit in something that will stain the uniform. Guard will wear their warmup jackets and pants over their costumes when travelling.
7. Normal wear is to be expected, but if there is a problem with the uniform, please bring it to the attention of the Box Moms/Dads so that it might be corrected.

HOT FUN IN THE SUMMER TIME: SUMMER PRACTICE BEGINS!

Your child will need a one-gallon thermos, sunscreen, GOOD tennis shoes for marching, and gloves if they play a brass instrument. Make sure the shoes have good support and are in good repair. Consider a hat and maybe sunglasses to protect them from the sun. They need to be prepared for all types of weather. We do practice in the rain, snow and sleet!

Most kids are required to have a notebook with page protectors and a strap that they can put over their shoulder (messenger style). If you can find them, you can buy one. Otherwise you will have to adapt an existing notebook with a strap. Some kids use shoestrings wrapped around the binder. Some attach luggage straps. The point is it has to be sturdy because they will use it all season. It’s nice if they can zip the binder up so the pages don’t fall out.

The students will also need a small notebook made up of 3 by 5 cards. This is called a dot book. It will need a shoulder strap and, ideally, a waterproof cover. You can make a dot book with a hole punch, rings, and strap. Use an old page protector or cheap piece of plastic as a cover. You can buy a 3 by 5 binder already made (Wal-Mart) and attach a strap. Old purse straps, shoelaces, and cord make workable alternatives.

The Directors will supply more information as the season progresses, but at times it feels a bit like a scavenger hunt. Horn players will be required to get a ball valve, for breathing exercises. These are available in the vending marching outside the band room for $2.00. Or you may purchase at most larger hardware stores. The vending machine also has reeds by the box, sticks and many other things your student will need.
A word of warning: Practice, especially the early days, can seem a lot like boot camp. Endurance training like running and push-ups help the kids get physically ready for some very long days ahead. For some children it is a very intense experience that can leave them feeling frustrated and off balance. How you handle this is likely based on your parenting style and your child’s personality. Try not to blow off your child’s concerns, but try to keep in mind there are some valuable life lessons to be learned about working with others. Talk to them, support them and encourage them to hang in there. Only you really know your child and whether this program is going to be too much. Before you make any final decisions, talk to the directors and maybe an experienced band parent. Perhaps they can offer insight and suggestions on how to get past this hurdle.

Drop off times: On time is late. The band must be on the field (or their designated practice space) with their instruments, ready to go by the time practice starts. Please plan on having your child at the school at least 15 minutes before the start of practice. Earlier is even a bit better. Guard Seniors may be at the school at 4:30 p.m. on practice days and willing to help other members. Occasionally, a section will have an earlier than usual start. Your child should know about this in advance and keep you informed. It helps to keep checking in with your child because they get busy and they do forget.

Pick up times vary after practice and a lot depends on what your child plays in the band. If practice ends at 9:00 pm, the band still needs to put their instruments away. Some sections have a brief section meeting right after practice, and members of the pit need to move their equipment from the field to the band room and put it away. Do not be surprised if 9:00 is really 9:15 or 9:30. The pattern is pretty consistent throughout the season and rarely do practices end early.

Thursday Nights: Thursday is the traditional night to stroll to the stands and appreciate the band’s progress. You are welcome any night, but on Thursday, the week’s work is showcased. You will watch the show evolve and sit in awe of your child’s accomplishments. There is something really great about watching the Avon Marching Black & Gold from the home stands. And remember to keep the noise down so we don’t distract the kids.
GUARD SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Attire
Each guard member will have an assigned locker w/ a lock. Each member should plan to keep extra practice clothing in his/her locker as well as a light jacket.
Guard members are required to wear sports bras as well as spandex shorts under practice shorts (it’s important that the girls stay appropriately covered). No half shirts, bellies must be covered when arms are raised.
The Guard is expected to have an appropriate change of clothing for Dance Performance class during the school day.
Black leggings (yoga pants) are acceptable. “Jeggings” are not.
Depending on the costume, Guard members will also possibly need to purchase specialty undergarments such as shapewear and strapless bras.
Tennis shoes (with an arch) are required for practice (girls should be able to see their toe point in the shoe, so no converse, Toms, etc).

Band Camp – See Page 17
Camp will be held at Taylor University. The dates for camp are July 14-18. A complete packing list will be provided to all Guard members by the end of June.
Chaperone - During competitions, chaperones accompany the girls on the bus, and remain with the girls on site (or in the homeroom during winter season) until they go to warmup. You’re responsible for making sure they get to the instructor and the instructor will give them directions and instructions on when and where they need to check in. Once you’ve heard the meeting place and times, you may go sit in the stands.
**We do have a Chaperon3 committee where you can get additional information.

Communication – See Page 10
The guard has a Facebook page where many announcements/reminders will be posted. Guard members prefer this site be for Guard members only (not parents). If your student does not have a Facebook account, please notify a Senior Guard member.
Be sure to sign up for a “Charms” account. (See Page 4) The Charms account is online and you can use it to check/download important forms, check your account balance, and many other important features.
Also, you can “sync” the band’s calendars to your smart phone. This is the band’s PRIMARY means of communication so it is extremely important that you sign up!
ALL Guard announcements and information is emailed through Charms as well. The Guard Mom normally sends weekly announcements about costumes, needed items, upcoming events and workshops and any other important information. PLEASE check your emails frequently especially once competitions have begun…things often change fast!

Extra Fees
Makeup – once we have the costumes a makeup look will be designed for all the girls. Generally they share the makeup kits and these are part of your fees. However, each girl should have her own foundation, blush, and mascara as part of her own personal makeup kit. She also will need a constant supply of makeup wipes.
Guard Director Gifts – the seniors usually determine what they want to buy and then collect money from each member to contribute for gifts at the end of the fall season.
Hair – each girl should always have her own hairspray, bobby pins, and brush
Secret buddy – each member will have a secret buddy who they can buy small presents for toward the end of the season around the last big competitions to help motivate each other and get to know each other better in order to create a stronger unit. These gift are typically small and inexpensive (gum, socks, lip glass, teddy bears, etc…)
BOA and WGI Tickets – BOA tickets (fall) should be ordered by early October to get the best choice of seats. Tickets range from around $25-80. WGI Tickets (Winter) are usually around $75.00 and should be ordered no later than early March to get good seats.
Shirts/Patches – the girls receive a “show shirt” as part of their fees but normally parents also purchase these shirts to wear in support of the kids at competitions. These are normally offered for order ONE time each season. You will also need to purchase event patches separately if your daughter plans on adding them to her letter jacket down the road. These are normally purchased at BOA and WGI competitions.

Guard Jackets/Zoot Suits – each girl will be issued an “Avon Guard” jacket. This is a part of her “zoot suit” and is to be worn at every home football game, fall and winter competition. These are rental jackets and must be turned in at the end of every season. If a jacket is not returned you will be responsible for replacement costs as well as any major wear and tear from misuse. Each girl will also need to have a pair of black “warmup” style pants to complete the zootsuit. These are to be SOLID black with no words, stripes or anything on them. They can be the “swishy” style pants or more like a cotton fabric but they are not to be leggings and they must be ankle length.

Mentors - The guard will also implement a Mentor system for the Freshman with the Upper Classmen.

Practice - Members should text Daniel (as well as tell another member) if he/she is going to be late to practice. Seniors may be at the school at 4:30 on practice days and are willing to help other members (please notify a senior in advance if you’d like to come early for help). Also, if a member has missed a practice, it is up to him/her to learn what was missed PRIOR to the start of practice. Freshmen may not TEACH Freshmen. It is okay for freshmen to practice together, but not to critique/correct each other. Practices are always OPEN. Parents are invited/encouraged to come and watch the final run through of the show during practice. Thursdays are typically the best night to watch.

Getting involved..ways to help out - One of the best ways to get involved in the Guard is to HELP!!! We have quite a few opportunities for you to volunteer to help out our Guard. Many of the opportunities remain the same from fall to winter but most are short term commitments and we welcome ALL help...experienced or not, we will train you and come even if you can only stay a while:

Flag/Sewing workshops – it is a long standing Avon tradition that we make all of our own show flags (fall and winter). There will be many workshops for cutting, pinning and sewing while we prepare for the shows. Please watch your emails for information and know that you need NO experience to come help...if you do sew though we will REALLY need you!!

Boxmoms (fall only) – this is a more intense commitment as you will be assisting to dress the girls each weekend during the fall. This is a FUN and rewarding job. Underclassman moms are paired with upperclassmen to take care of all costumes, getting the girls dressed and prepared for the show and it’s just a fun way to get to know the girls. If you are interested, space is limited so let the guard mom know right away

Snacks & Drinks: In the fall you will be hearing from your Box mom about opportunities to donate snack for the girls on competition weekends and in the winter we will have a signup sheet at the parent meeting

Spirit: In addition to the band’s Spirit nights the guard often does some of our own, especially during the winter season. We will also get together to decorate the guard room, prepare flower bouquets for finals and provide fun goodies for the girls throughout the year

Most importantly, watch your email and come get involved!!
The Real Costs of Marching Band and How to Prepare for Them

Okay, so you’ve come to terms with the sticker shock of your band fees. You’ve accepted that you are giving your child a once in a lifetime experience that will teach them discipline and help them build friendships that will last a lifetime. Every effort has been made to keep the costs down. Schools with similar programs charge three to four times what you are paying. How much you spend and on what are largely up to you once the band fees are taken care of. Here are some additional expenses you may not anticipate. This is not an all inclusive list. Here are some additional costs, but by no means a complete list...

Awards and Letters
Students receive a chevron each year they march. Students are given a patch to signify the band they performed with during the school year. Students may receive their letter for band in the fall of their second year of marching band. As a junior, each student receives a pin of their instrument and as a senior they will receive a senior award. Marching season awards are given out at the Awards program in the fall. Awards for winter season bands, guard, and drumline, are given out at the annual Spring Awards ceremony.

Buying Performance Tickets
Indiana State School Music Association State Final tickets will be on sale in the band department for the week prior to State, November 4 – 7, 2014. Buying them in advance removes the wait in line at Lucas Oil Stadium. These are not reserved seats. Bands of America tickets may be purchased on line at www.musicforall.org. It is strongly recommended you purchase these tickets as soon as possible for the BOA Indy Regional and Grand Nationals.

Championship rings
You will be approached during your child’s freshman year at Avon to purchase a class ring. Consider whether a standard class ring or a band specific ring would best suit your child’s preference. If we win a championship (state, national or both) Herff Jones will design a ring to commemorate the occasion. The rings run around $300 and full payment is required in the spring (late March/early April).

Food and beverage: Snacks, spirit nights, treats to help box moms
Depending on your budget you will be making or buying lunches for your student in between practices and competitions. Snacks and power drinks may be needed or requested depending on your child. Spirit nights (snack night, cupcake night, soup night) are scheduled throughout the season. The kids really look forward to them and your contributions are welcome. Your child’s box mom will be supplying beverages and snacks after all competitions (including Invitationals). Please consider helping them with a contribution of some kind.

Invitational fees
Invitationals require you to pay entrance fees for each person in cash. Fees generally run about $7 per person, but they can run higher. If you can’t make it to every invitational, try to make it to a couple. You will see how the show progresses throughout the season and our band really loves to hear the roar of their fans as they take the field.

Items for Sale Throughout the Year
Other than T-shirts, all items are available at booster meetings. Online information will be e-mailed to everyone for any T-shirt order. We will only place one order per T-shirt style so please make sure you watch for this information. The orders will be placed online with Logos Express in early August 2014.

ISSMA, BOA fees.
Late in the fall, the state and national competitions begin. The semi-finals and finals are held at Lucas Oil Stadium. Each completion is a separate fee. There are sometimes $25 tickets available for BOA, but generally tickets run about $35 and go much higher. Avon typically does well at both the State and National level. You probably don’t want to miss the finals, so plan carefully and plan early.

ISSMA and BOA bling
You will be tempted to load up on themed T-shirts and sweatshirts at ISSMA and BOA competitions. If you can afford it, they are great mementos. If your budget is a bit strained, consider saving your money for items more personal or specific to your child’s interest like professional pictures or an Avon T-shirt.
**Letter jackets**
Letter jackets are generally not a concern until your child’s sophomore year. That being said, if you purchase one, it can cost close to $300 by the time the embroidery and patches are done. You will have to buy BOA patches. Other patches are provided by the school. Letter jackets are purchased once your child receives their ‘letter.’

**Patches**
BOA Patches (Regional, National) are best purchased at the time of the competitions. If your child is considering getting a letter jacket, you will want to purchase the patches for their freshman year in anticipation of using them for their jacket (purchased their sophomore year). Patches are not expensive, but you will want to be prepared to add them as a budget item.

**Picture Button** - $5.00 will get you a photo of your student in uniform to wear on your show shirt. We will take pre-orders before band camp.

**Show Shirts and sectional shirts**
If you can manage it, invest in show shirts for your family. They run about $20 and we wear them throughout the season. The kids usually design a sectional shirt which is totally separate from the show shirt done through the boosters. Your child will likely want one. They run about $15 and usually paid to the section leader – again – not something done through the booster organization.

**Championship T-Shirt** If we win State and/or BOA we usually make a shirt to represent this accomplishment. This would NOT be included in any fee for the student. If anyone wants one - they will have to order one. Again, this will be done as an online order through Logos Express and will be a one-time order.

**Videos**
Video recording is not allowed at events held at Lucas Oil Stadium. You will not be able to record State finals, Regional finals, or Grand National finals, (although some cameras have some video recording capacity). Professional videos vary in price. The Grand National video runs around $90. Pre-purchasing the video will save you about $10. The State and BOA Regional video is somewhat less. Occasionally, you can get the videos a year later for a lot less. It’s a bit of a gamble, though. Even though you make your payment in November, the Grand National Video will not be available until March/April.

**Yard Signs** - $15.00 is all it costs so that your neighbors will know that you have a child in the Avon Marching Black & Gold.

**BE OUR GUEST: INVITATIONALS**
The performance season begins with Invitationals. These are events sponsored by various high schools to give the bands a chance to strut (ummm... MARCH) their stuff. Awards are given and schools are scored. It is important to understand that success at the Invitationals does not equate directly to success in state and national competitions. Logic would dictate that awards and good scores are an indication of potential, but are by no means a guarantee of future success. You will begin to appreciate the level of work that goes into not only Avon Marching Black & Gold, but also all of the other high schools that compete. This leads us to...

**Cell Phone Etiquette:** If you have an emergency, leave the stands and make your calls. **DO NOT TALK ON YOUR CELL PHONE** or carry on a loud conversation during any of the performances. It is disrespectful to the bands and to your ‘neighbors.’ Put down the phone and enjoy the experience; most matters can wait an hour or two.

After the band takes the field, the announcer will introduce the band and the crowd quiets. **DO NOT yell out your child’s name or anything else during this quiet time.** This is not a football game. The kids are nervous and trying to focus on the task at hand ... performing the show.
Etiquette
We follow a strict code of behavior at Avon. It is designed to show appreciation for ALL of the bands that take the field. You will occasionally witness bad behavior from other spectators, but rarely will an Avon parent show poor sportsmanship. Part of participating in a top-notch program is demanding excellence not only on the field, but off the field as well.

Do not make derogatory comments about anyone. First of all, all of the participants have worked hard. If you have something you don’t like about a show, save it for the ride home. This is about respect. We have a reputation for being a class act. Help keep it that way. Besides, you have no idea who you are sitting by or with. Do you really want to take the chance that someone will be offended by your editorial comment?

We give a standing ovation to EVERY band that performs. Get up and give the bands your enthusiastic applause. Other schools do notice and have commented on it. The kids appreciate it and you will feel good at the end of the competition.

Practical Matters
Bring cash ($5 to $10 per person) and give yourself PLENTY of time to find parking and get through the gate. Parking can be a real problem and the gates can get backed up during peak times. You will not be allowed to enter the seating area once a performance begins. If you cut it too close, you will be listening to your child’s performance from the parking lot.

Bands of America Regionals and Grand Nationals. BOA Regionals is a different event than BOA Grand Nationals. Even if we take the top spot at Regionals, we still need to qualify for finals at Grand Nationals. There are preliminary competitions and semi-final competitions BEFORE you even get to the finals. All require that you buy a seat (some are general admission). The tickets to the preliminaries and the semifinals are less expensive. Pick and choose what you can afford and enjoy as much of it as you can.

Some Advice about events at Lucas Oil:
Food: Food is expensive. You are not allowed to bring in coolers or backpacks and your items are subject in inspection. Eat outside the stadium if you can. Some parents report success with bringing small snacks inside of camera bags. It is technically not allowed, so do so at your own discretion.
Parking: Carpool if you can. You will have to pay for parking. If you park at Lucas Oil, it can get expensive. Parking farther away (two or three blocks) is cheaper. Some people park at Circle Center Mall. There is free parking along S. Illinois, but it is near a gentlemen’s bar, so park at your own risk, especially at night.

Patches: You will want to purchase BOTH Regional and Grand National BOA patches at the events. Give yourself extra time so you can do so. The patches are usually available on the website, but it’s a gamble and will cost you more. These will go on your child’s letter jacket, in a shadow box, or in a scrapbook.
State and BOA - Pit parents are better off purchasing cheap tickets to be able to see their children better (lower seats cost less). Some of the seats go for as little as $25.
Will Call tickets are cheaper than ones purchased through Ticketmaster with a "processing fee." (However, if you have a large group or a specific preference, you may be out of luck. There WILL be seats available, but if you buy them at the last minute, be prepared to be flexible.)
Regional Finals and Grand Nationals -

Tickets: Can be purchased through Ticketmaster and through the Bands of America (Musicforall.com) site. If the event is general admission (where you can sit anywhere), children 3 years old and under are FREE with a paying adult. Some of the preliminary competitions are general admission. BOA Regional competitions have the option for a combination ticket for Semi-Final and Finals, and children 3 and under are free. Grand Nationals Semi-Finals are general admission. Grand National Finals are reserved seats only.
**Video Streaming:** Bands of America offers online video streaming for a fee. You can view the competitions in real time on the website. This is especially nice if for some reason you can’t attend. You also have the options to view and archive the performance. If you don’t watch the video in real time, you will have to wait three to four days to watch the semi-finals. The Grand Nationals are not posted for six or more weeks. (If you wait for the DVD, you will wait until at least March.)

**Video Recording:** Is prohibited at Lucas Oil. Cameras are permitted.

The following are some (but not all) of the opportunities available to you. Fundraising, and the activities associated with it, is covered in the next section.

**Concession – All Year:** This is one of the biggest money makers for the Marching Black & Gold. We are in charge of the concession stands for most sporting activities held at the High School. Therefore, we need volunteers to help manage and work the concession stands throughout the entire school year. The money raised in concessions helps to support the general funding of the band programs. This is how many of the bills get paid. Without this great opportunity our band fees would be much higher. You will receive a form, asking for your signature, confirming you will work no less than 4 concession events during the year, not including the Avon Invitational and the IPA Event. We need many parents to work all the events. You will be able to sign up for the events you wish to work at www.charmsoffice.com.

**Equipment:** Equipment parents help all year with whatever needs to be moved, fixed or built. During marching season and drumline season, we need parents that will help move all the pit equipment on and off the field/floor. We also need parents to help move the tarps on and off of the floor for the Guard. Some of our shows require props. We need volunteers that can saw, hammer, nail, glue and paint to build these props.

**Band Chaperones:** As various student groups participate in competitions and performances throughout the year, chaperones are needed to accompany the groups. These events may vary in length of time, from just a few hours to overnight or two to three day events. We require a minimum of three chaperones per bus. One chaperone sits at the back, one in the middle and one at the front of the bus. For competitions a chaperone may get a hand stamp (free entry), but these are limited and not guaranteed. Please be prepared to pay for a ticket to get into each event. All ISSMA and BOA events you will need to pay for a ticket even if you are chaperoning.

**Nurses/Medical Personnel:** We have a need for medically trained parents to travel with the band to and from each contest and also for the week we are away at band camp. Please contact Roberta Szumski, our Medical Director, with any questions.

**Sewing:** Throughout the entire school year, we need volunteers to help with sewing. We make all of the show flags used in the Marching Band Show and Winter Guard shows. Some shows require more than 100 flags. You do not need to be a great seamstress to help. There can be hand sewing, machine sewing, cutting and pinning, gluing, and a variety of other tasks that need to be done. We also make costumes and props for the winter drumlines and winter guards. We have a couple of people who are old pros at putting these types of things together and will be happy to teach you what you need to know. If you are at all comfortable with a pair of scissors, needle and thread and/or a sewing machine, please let the band office know.

**Spirit:** A band travels on their stomach. The spirit committee arranges theme nights with snacks for the band. They help set a positive mood before competitions and make all the work a lot more fun. They decorate the band room and arrange events that show the band how much we support them. We have cupcake nights, finger food nights, and hot chocolate nights. This is definitely a great place to help out.

**Uniforms:** This group works closely with the Box Moms to make sure the uniforms are properly taken care of. The band members all have to be measured in the beginning of the year. Special uniform accessories are often part of the show. If you have good organizational skills or just a desire to help, this could be your spot.
AVON HIGH SCHOOL ALTERNATIVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION I AND II CREDITS (PE Waiver)
Forms available at http://www.avon-schools.org/Page/11162

Education I and II Credits PE Waiver (updated February 2013)
The Indiana State Board of Education has provided flexibility to adapt the high school physical education requirements for students who demonstrate proficiency through other means.

PROGRAM AND REQUIREMENTS:
• One (1) PE credit will be given for a complete season of:
  o Any AHS sponsored IHSAA sanctioned sport
  o Competition Cheerleading
  o Marching Band
  o Winter Guard
  o Winter Drum Line
  o Competitive Show Choir
  o Dance team
All of these activities are within the framework of lifetime physical activities and fitness.
• You can earn one (1) credit in PE I and one (1) credit in PE II for any 2 of the above activities. You can also repeat the same activity your freshman and sophomore year to earn the 2 credits.
• Retroactive credits will not be awarded. It is your responsibility to get the form completed and turned in after completing the activity.
• A complete season is defined as: first practice to final event. The student must remain on the active roster the entire season or the duration of the activity.
• Disciplinary suspensions from the team or activity may result in forfeiture of credit as determined by the coach, director, or sponsor.
• At the conclusion of the season or activity, the coach, director, or sponsor will validate completion on the waiver form.
• The form must be completed and turned into the guidance office within 2 weeks of the end of the activity.
• A grade of A will be granted to all students who meet the requirements for the alternative credit.
• Both PE I and PE II credits must be earned by the end of the sophomore year.

THINGS YOU MUST DO:
- The PE Waiver Form must be completed by you and the coach, director, or sponsor at the completion of the activity.
- You must turn the PE Waiver Form into the guidance office within 2 weeks of the completion of the activity.
- Make sure both PE I and PE II credits are completed before the end of the sophomore year.
See your school counselor for information and forms or download forms at http://www.avon-schools.org/Page/11162
THE LANGUAGE OF THE AVON MARCHING BLACK & GOLD

Auxiliary: Aka the Guard.

Avon Marching Black & Gold: The reason we are here! It is how we are announced and it is what is proudly displayed on our semi-trucks.

Band Boosters: The success of the band program is threefold: the dedication and talent of the staff, the hard working dedicated students, and the ongoing efforts of the volunteers. Make no mistake; the boosters are made up of parents (and some alumni band parents, and grandparents) that work year round to make sure the band has everything they need to be successful.

BOA (Bands of America aka Music for All): Usually pronounced BEE OH A (initials). You will hear the term BOA used quite a bit. It is a national program for various types of music — not just marching bands. There are State competitions (ISSMA) and Invitationals and a BOA Regional, but the granddaddy of them all is the BOA Grand National Championship here in Indianapolis at Lucas Oil Stadium. Don’t be fooled into thinking since BOA is held in Indy that it is not a big deal. Bands from all over the US come to this event.

Captions: Awards are given in competition to acknowledge specific excellence in the areas of Music, Visual, and General Effect. There is a relationship between these awards and the final competition scores, as the captions are subcategories used in the overall scoring. It is possible to win the caption awards and still not win the competition, although more often the winner of General Effect is also the winner of the overall competition. Invitational scores will usually be announced. HOWEVER, ISSMA Regionals, Semi-State, and Finals scores are NOT. Only Band Directors are given scores. The Directors will share this information with the band, but under penalty by ISSMA, these scores cannot be posted to any website. Those bands given a ‘Gold’ ranking at these competitions will have the opportunity to move on to the next level.

Class A, AA, AAA, AAAA: Designations assigned by school size for purpose of competition (Avon is big!). For ISSMA competitions, Avon is a Class A. For BOA, Avon is AAAA.

Cryogenic black crumb rubber: You will likely never hear these little black crumbs referred by this name. The kids have various pet names for them such as ‘turfies.’ You will experience this ‘fill’ material for as long as your child is in marching band. It is on the practice field, so it collects in their shoes and is tracked through your house. It looks, as one parent described, like “small mouse droppings.” Have your child empty their shoes outside. You and your carpets will thank us for it.

Dot Books: Your child will be required to acquire and maintain a 3x5 notebook that is their personal map of the show. The dot book contains their specific show coordinates, spot on field, relation to other people, relation to the form, direction that they come from and the direction they move. They also include counts for each set and extra notes such as step size and visual details. If a show formation is the map, the dot book is the “YOU ARE HERE” for each band member. The band members build and maintain their own dot books.

Drumline: All percussion instruments including the pit.

Euphonium: The euphonium (Euphs) is a valve instrument. The Avon marching band marches with euphoniums and baritones instead of trombones.

Hornline: If you can blow wind through the instrument, it is on the hornline. The hornline consists of trumpets, mellophones, baritones, euphoniums, tubas, saxophones, clarinets, flutes, and piccolos.

ISSMA: Said as one word, Issmah, it stands for Indiana State School Music Association. Please go to http://www.issma.net for more information, or reference your music department handbook. ISSMA sponsors not only marching band events, but also jazz bands, show choirs, and solo and ensemble competitions. They sponsor the state marching band championship.

Mellophone: is a brass instrument that is typically used in place of the horn (sometimes called a French horn) in marching bands or drum and bugle corps. Avon marches with mellophones.

(The) Pit: The non-marching portion of the band. Includes keyboards, certain drums, some percussion instruments, and whatever instrument that is not practical to march. The pit requires a ‘pit crew’ to help get equipment on and off the field. If you are going to be at the show anyway, consider helping out.
**Props**: Short for ‘properties’ are used to enhance the shows. Flags, hoods, sabers, all manner of structures, are all props. We make most of our own show specific props and it is a huge undertaking. Whether we need carpenter skills or sewing skills depends on the show. Watch for requests to help out.

**Sections**: Each instrument is a ‘section.’ Each section develops its own pride and personality. For example the hornline is made up of the tuba section, the trumpet section, saxophone section, etc. At some point each section will design their own T-shirt to identify themselves.

**Senior Board**: During their senior year, each student has a display board chronicling their band ‘journey.’ Senior Boards are displayed during the Band Award ceremony in November. During your child’s freshman year, take time to stop by and look at that year’s senior boards.

**Shakos**: The hats worn by the marching band with the big plumes in front.
### Band Booster Officers

#### 2014-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cathy Klemmensen</td>
<td>Co-President</td>
<td>317-502-5845</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bcebk@aol.com">bcebk@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam Jones</td>
<td>Co-President</td>
<td>317-446-7137</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jpkjones@gmail.com">jpkjones@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lori Vosefski</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>317-727-0588</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lvosefski@gmail.com">lvosefski@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Klemmensen</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>317-502-5848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bcebkcy@sbcglobal.net">bcebkcy@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Sparks</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>317-946-4605</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sparksdlca@gmail.com">sparksdlca@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Acord</td>
<td>Equipment Chair</td>
<td>317-690-8100</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cacord@maingateinc.com">cacord@maingateinc.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deb Brantley</td>
<td>Chaperone Co-Chair</td>
<td>317-730-4227</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kirkbrantley@yahoo.com">kirkbrantley@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzanne Shafer</td>
<td>Chaperone Co-Chair</td>
<td>317-850-6309</td>
<td><a href="mailto:suzanne@shafercollision.com">suzanne@shafercollision.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolyn Chaplin</td>
<td>Call Tree Chair</td>
<td>317-697-3904</td>
<td><a href="mailto:carolyn.chaplin@att.net">carolyn.chaplin@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Pitzer</td>
<td>Uniform Co-Chair</td>
<td>317-502-4290</td>
<td><a href="mailto:L_Pitzer@pahsvr.com">L_Pitzer@pahsvr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denise Gunner</td>
<td>Uniform Co-Chair</td>
<td>317-319-9995</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gunnercpa@yahoo.com">gunnercpa@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherri Hoover</td>
<td>Hornline Member At Large</td>
<td>317-373-9697</td>
<td>sherrih <a href="mailto:Hoover3@allstate.com">Hoover3@allstate.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Johnson</td>
<td>Fundraising Co-Chair</td>
<td>317-698-4511</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wcjohnson68@yahoo.com">wcjohnson68@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vonda Anderson</td>
<td>Fundraising Co-Chair</td>
<td>317-509-8315</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nma121496@aol.com">nma121496@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JoAnn Koenig</td>
<td>Drumline Member At Large</td>
<td>317-517-6546</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jokoenig96@gmail.com">jokoenig96@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Para</td>
<td>Guard Member At Large</td>
<td>317-748-5253</td>
<td><a href="mailto:espa@att.com">espa@att.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurie Runyan</td>
<td>Hospitality Chair</td>
<td>317-496-7177</td>
<td><a href="mailto:runyanlaura@sbcglobal.net">runyanlaura@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roberta Szumski</td>
<td>Medical Team Chair</td>
<td>317-272-3884</td>
<td><a href="mailto:szumskimom@yahoo.com">szumskimom@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Buetow</td>
<td>Spirit Chair</td>
<td>317-446-7781</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lisabuetow@sbcglobal.net">lisabuetow@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keith Warren</td>
<td>Concessions Co-Chair</td>
<td>706-994-3121</td>
<td><a href="mailto:warrenmountain@att.net">warrenmountain@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Scanland</td>
<td>Concessions Co-Chair</td>
<td>317-294-4137</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Rgscan1992@att.net">Rgscan1992@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelly Warren</td>
<td>Publicity Chair</td>
<td>706-835-5768</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shelley_warren@att.net">shelley_warren@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuck Hess</td>
<td>Band Together Member At Large</td>
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