



ANNANDALE HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

2017-2018 PARENT HANDBOOK

**PREPARED BY THE
ANNANDALE HIGH SCHOOL BAND BOOSTERS
(AHSBB)**

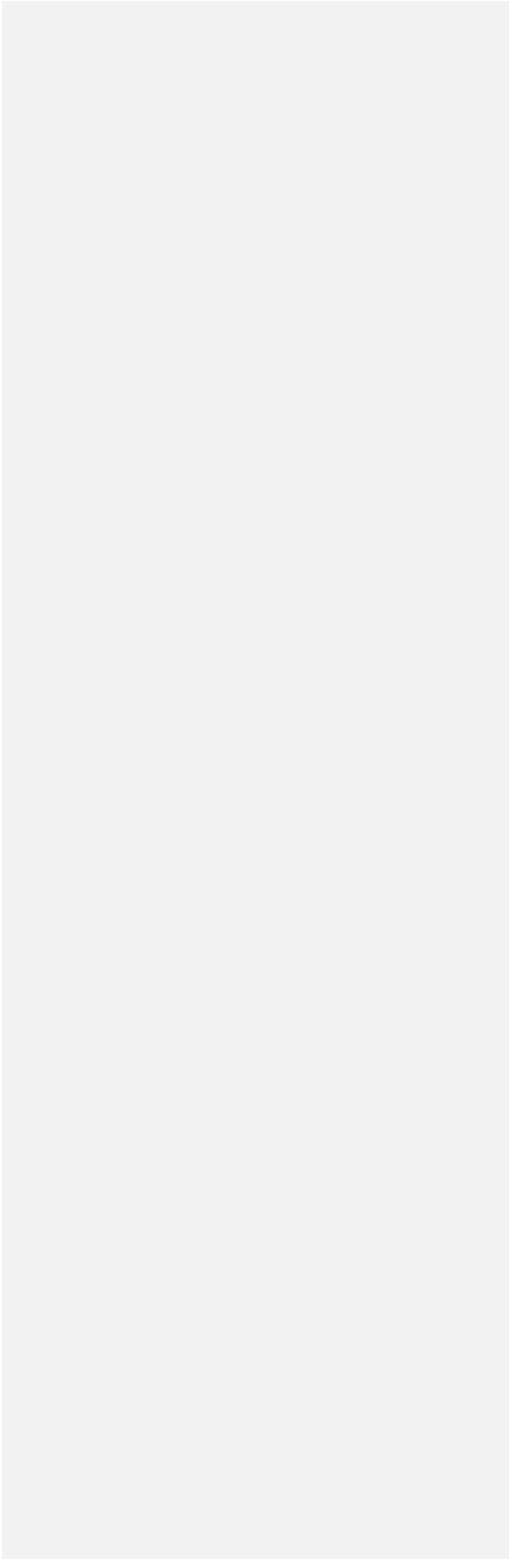


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Annandale High School BANDS

Everything You Wanted to Know...and More!

WELCOME!

We are excited that your student is a member of the Annandale High School Band Program – it is a family of students, parents, the Band Director, and band staff that work together to bring great music and school spirit to Annandale High School and the Annandale community. The Annandale Band programs consist of Marching Band, Color Guard, a variety of Concert Bands, Jazz Band, with the possibility of Indoor Drumline, Winter Guard, and the Basketball Pep Band.

Annandale High School Band Boosters (AHSBB)

The Annandale High School Band Boosters (AHSBB) is a non-profit organization to which all parents and guardians of Annandale band students automatically belong.

Parent involvement is essential to the success of the entire band program. When we, as parents, offer time and effort to chaperone, help with fundraising, assist with uniforms, serve on the pit crew, work in the concession stand, or help at band camp - we support our sons and daughters and ultimately, the success of the program.

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The Boosters also HAVE FUN!! You'll always have Booster friends with you when you volunteer, you'll have a great hobby, and you'll add fun to your social life. You'll find many opportunities to meet new people, form relationships and have a great time. Throughout the fall parents meet and work together at events such as TAG day, in the concession stand, and on the pit (equipment) crew. Band families have a lot of school spirit and often sit together in the stands at football games and competitions, showing their support of the band. Did we mention that it's a lot of fun?

Communication

The Band Director and Boosters communicate with parents mainly through email. It is vital that the Boosters have a current email address for you. A system called CHARMS is utilized for this purpose. The subject line of the emails will always start with "CHARMS". Contact information forms are sent home with students or are available from both the Director and Boosters. Please update your spam software or check your junk mail filters to be sure you don't miss anything.

The AHSBB also maintain the band website: www.annandalebands.org Check this site often as it will contain calendar updates, needed forms and pictures.

The Annandale Band Program is also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Don't forget to "like" us on Facebook, Annandale Bands, and follow us on Twitter and Instagram @AHSatomsB.

Volunteering

The Annandale Band program is a large organization and requires MANY volunteers to make it successful. There are leadership opportunities, big jobs and little jobs available. Parents who are new to the band program quickly discover that no special skills or experiences are required. There really is something for everyone! For the Annandale Bands to be successful, every family is needed! You will have many diverse opportunities to contribute throughout the year. You'll get to know all the band students – and – they'll get to know you. Recruitment takes place through sign ups in the fall, email requests for assistance and volunteering for tasks. AHSBB use SignUpGenius as a way to manage volunteers for our many events. SignUpGenius is a free online tool to create and manage volunteer groups. You do not need an account to sign up to help with an event.

AHSBB has elected officers and committee chairpersons who make up an Executive Board. Terms for elected officers begin July 1st prior to each school year. All Executive Board members are expected to attend every Booster and Executive Board meeting. There are additional coordinator positions whose functions are generally shorter in duration. Coordinators are encouraged to attend all Booster meetings, especially those relevant to their activity. All parents are encouraged to serve on a committee to lend a helping hand and attend Booster meetings.

Please consider helping by taking on a role with the Boosters. Most of these functions can be done as a Co-Chair or Co-Coordinator so that you can share in the experience with a friend!

2017-2018 AHSBB Executive Board Positions and members:

President: Catherine King schking@mindspring.com

Vice President(s): Bryan Strong b.strong@cox.net

Treasurer: Christina Russell cmrussell1@verizon.net

Secretary: Kimberly Strong mom2jes@cox.net

Concessions Chair: Laura Byrne byrnefamily5@gmail.com

Pit Crew Chair: Mark Russell

Fundraising Chair: Jean Berry poetessx@verizon.net

Uniform Chair:

Hospitality Co-Chairs

Color Guard Parent Rep: Catherine King catherine@nowsight.com

Publicity/Communications Chair: Jacki White jacquelinew41@gmail.com

Representative from any Band class not represented by the positions above.

How AHSBB Fundraising Dollars are Spent

Concert Bands

- Provide music for students to play
- Provide clinicians to work with the students
- Provide uniforms for students to wear during concerts so they look as good as they sound
- Provide instruments for the bands. Large instruments, including Euphoniums and percussion are purchased by the Boosters.
- Pay for All-District Band auditions and registration fees
- Pay for All-District Jazz Band auditions and registration fees
- Pay for All-State Band auditions and registration fees
- Pay for Senior Regional Orchestra auditions and registration fees
- Support for the Director to try new and innovative teaching and learning methods such as commissioning a new piece of music and supplying complete musical scores for the students
- Feed band students, as needed, before, during or after events during State Assessment rehearsal/performance day
- Provide leadership training
- Supply all year-end awards and recognitions

Pep Band

- Provide T-shirts
- Feed band students between practice and performance on game day

Marching Band

- Provide uniforms - jacket, bibbers, shako, plume, Color Guard costumes
- Pay for Competition registration fees
- Feed band students at various events as needed
- Provide instruments
- Provide props for the field
- Provide all the accessories to learn and practice a competition show: field paint, yard markers, step poles, extension cords, carts, drill markers, etc.
- Pay for the drill design, and copies for the students and staff
- Provide flags and rifles for the Color Guard
- Supply an equipment truck to take the percussion, large instruments, and field props to competitions, eliminating parents hauling them there themselves
- Compensate the Assistant Directors and other band staff. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) does not provide sufficient funding to cover instructors for all sections and Color Guard
- Supplement away instructional retreat fees to enable all students who want to participate to do so
- Provide away instructional retreat supplies, such as first aid and theme day materials

Winter Guard and Indoor Drumline

- Supplement registration fees for competitions
- Provide music, drill and instructor fees

Additional Information About the Committees and other Volunteer Opportunities

Concessions Committee

This committee of Booster volunteers oversees the operation of the Bolding Stadium concession stand for all Junior Varsity (JV) and Varsity home football games in the fall as well as soccer and lacrosse games held at the stadium in the spring. The committee creates the staffing schedule, maintains the food and supply inventory, prepares shopping lists, shops for supplies and works with the Treasurer on all expenditures and finances.

The Concessions Committee Chair is a member of the Band Boosters Executive Board and responsible for everything related to the concession stand. The committee maintains opening/closing captains who oversee the stand when in operation, and Leads for shopping, inventory and grilling.

All families are requested to work several shifts in the Concession Stand during both the fall and spring sports seasons. The Concession Stand is our second-largest fundraiser during the school year and provides the means to support all bands. Please see page 5 for a list of how these funds are used to gain a broader understanding of why the Boosters need your help with concessions. A shift in the Concession Stand only requires a commitment of a couple of hours. For example, one shift is only half of a varsity football game or one JV soccer game.

Did we mention that it's FUN??? You'll meet lots of band students and other band parents.

Pit Crew Committee

Able-bodied Booster volunteers (men and women) are needed to move the Marching Band Front Ensemble (percussion/pit) equipment on and off the field during half time and competitions. The Pit Crew also transports, loads, and unloads the percussion equipment as well as larger instruments onto a rental truck for Marching Band and Indoor Drumline away events.

The Pit Crew Committee Chair is a member of the Band Boosters Executive Board, coordinates scheduling with the Director, arranges the equipment truck rental, and oversees scheduling of drivers and all aspects of moving band equipment.

Pit Crew members are requested to come to as many events as they are able; commitment for all events is not necessary. For football games, members arrive prior to the game to prepare the pit instruments for the half time show. Once everything is put away following the halftime show, members join their family and friends in the stands for the remainder of the game. On competition days, help is needed loading and unloading the truck at the school, as well as, the competition site.

The Pit Crew has been known to add their own fun to those days by tailgating when they are not helping with the instruments. Check out our alumnae-made videos at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEzIF8FzGsY> and

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4S-aG-z_7A

Fundraising Committee

This committee coordinates several fundraisers throughout the year to support all band programs. See page 5 for a list of how the funds raised are used for each band. The more successful we are in each fundraiser, the more the Boosters can support the bands and keep student costs to a minimum. The Fundraising Committee Chair helps oversee all fundraisers throughout the year and is a member of the Band Boosters Executive Board. Parent volunteers are needed to run individual fundraisers. Annual Fundraising activities include:

- *TAG Day* - usually the first weekend after Labor Day. The Parent Coordinator organizes the event by preparing the route maps, tags and collection envelopes. Teams of band students solicit tax deductible contributions from the community by going door to door in local neighborhoods. Parents are also needed as drivers to chauffeur band students throughout the Annandale High School boundary area as well as to count the receipts collected during the event. **This is the bands' single largest fundraiser of the year, providing more than half of our needed funds for the year.**
- *Car Washes* – held once in both the fall and spring at several locations in the community. Parent Coordinators are needed to supervise the event, as well as, monitor band students during hourly shifts.
- *Citrus and Poinsettia Sale* - held in the late fall. Band students sell fresh citrus products and poinsettias for delivery in December. Parent Coordinators are needed to liaise with the vendors for product and scheduling, tally the orders, as well as place the order with the vendor. Additional parent volunteers are needed to unload the truck when the products arrive and to help distribute orders.
- *Spirit Wear* - the boosters offer various items to the band family for purchase. Parent Coordinators are needed to work with the vendor to select products, create order forms, tally orders and assist with delivery.
- *New fundraising ideas are always welcome!* Contact the fundraising chair with your ideas!

Uniform Committee

Adult volunteers are needed to work closely with the band staff to manage and maintain all uniforms associated with the bands. The Uniform Committee Chair is a member of the Band Booster Executive Board and is responsible organizing the distribution, inventory, cleaning and maintenance of uniforms for the marching band and concert ensembles. This function takes several hours at the beginning of the year to coordinate, work with the Treasurer to purchase uniform parts and pieces, and provide properly fitting attire to the marching band and all concert bands. There are student leaders who help with uniforms as well.

This is not a one-person job! Volunteers for the various bands/groups are needed to assist, especially during uniform fittings. This is a great way to connect with the band students and it means a lot to them. Volunteers can provide assistance during any fitting sessions for a few hours. Also, before performances and competitions there may be a need for assistance for last minute issues.

Hospitality Committee

This committee organizes social events, provides food and snacks for certain Marching Band events and competitions, for Concert bands on assessment days, and organizes Marching Band Senior Night. There could be special events that come up during the school year that need support, at the direction of the Band Director. Being part of this committee is a great way to meet the band students; and they love those who feed them!

The Hospitality Committee Chair oversees all events and is a member of the Band Boosters Executive Board. Co-chairing this committee with a band parent friend is a great idea. During marching band season, it can take about 3 hours per week to get everything organized.

Parent Volunteers can take responsibility for individual events. Please contact the Hospitality Committee Chair for more information.

Publicity Committee

Adult volunteers are needed to communicate with all band families and promote the band in all forms of public media. The Publicity Committee Chair is responsible for informing the membership and the public of all events involving the band or the Boosters and is a member of the Band Booster Executive Board. Volunteers can assist by managing the website, communications, and organizing freshman recruitment activities, as needed.

Color Guard Representative

The Color Guard Representative is a parent guard member who serves as the liaison between Color Guard and the Band Booster Executive Board to provide the unique perspective of the Color Guard and to ensure the Color Guard and coach is aware of events and any issues from the Band Booster Executive Board. You must be able to attend most, if not all, Booster meetings.

This parent also provides logistical support for the Color Guard during football games and competitions—securing guard belongings while they're on the field, helping to carry flags and equipment; and helping with emergency costume repairs (Color Guard students are responsible for maintaining and repairing the flags and equipment, as well as stocking an emergency repair kit). This commitment takes approximately 30 minutes during football games and an hour for competitions. These can all be shared duty among all Color Guard parents!

Chaperone Coordinator

The Chaperone Coordinator works with the Director to identify needs for chaperones for all band activities including Marching Band competitions, away football games, fall parades, Spring Trip, State Assessments, concerts and the graduation performance. The Coordinator recruits volunteers and provides instructions for each event.

Booster volunteers are needed to chaperone the band for these events. Band students cannot travel to events without chaperones. FCPS requires a chaperone for every ten students each time the band boards a bus for travel. Chaperones assist the Director to ensure the safety and well-being of all band students, as well as monitoring student behavior. The chaperones take attendance on the buses and are responsible for first aid kits - when needed. Chaperones also make sure that a member of the band staff (or another FCPS employee) has the student medical forms notebook in case of an injury or

emergency. Additionally, chaperones assist with uniforms when needed and carry extra supplies. The Coordinator provides specific guidelines for each activity as details vary for each activity.

Volunteer Coordinator

Adult volunteer who organizes SignUpGenius to recruit and manage volunteers for various Band program and Booster activities.

Marching Band Summer Retreat Coordinator

The Coordinator works with the Director to coordinate all aspects of the marching band away instructional retreat. This involves coordinating with the camp facility, the Pit Crew Chair for supplies and instruments, and the student leadership for activities planned for the week. Booster volunteers are needed to help chaperone away retreat by spending a day or two, or the entire week, at camp with the band.

Mary Read Cleanup Coordinator (Adopt-A-Highway)

The Coordinator is responsible for scheduling and coordinating a clean-up crew of 10-12 volunteers to clean up Wakefield Chapel Road and the Canterbury Woods Park in the fall and spring. The road clean-up is a great community service event and a way to continue to honor the memory of Mary Read, former AHS Band member. This event is coordinated with VDOT, part of the Adopt-A-Highway program, who supply all equipment including trash bags and safety vests. The Boosters have instructions with notes on how to easily coordinate this event.

Other Committees

Other committee needs arise throughout the year such as the Audit and Nominating Committee. When they are needed, CHARMS emails will be sent requesting volunteer assistance. Please consider helping out.

Band Classes

The following is some basic information for parents regarding the various band classes and other groups that parents have inquired about in the past. Although informal, it is hoped that this provides a little clarification about your student's activities.

Concert Bands

There are currently five (5) concert band classes, Beginning Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble. Students are placed into each class based on their audition with the Band Director. Students will learn their band placement prior to the end of the previous school year. Each band performs several concerts throughout the year, which are required for all band students. Parents are encouraged to attend with family and friends to support their students and the program as a whole.

A special note about Jazz Ensemble. Jazz Ensemble is a class that meets after school following Marching Band season. Since this is a class, your student will be earning a separate grade on their report card. Jazz Ensemble performs a few concerts throughout the year. There is no school-provided uniform or course material fee at this time.

Jazz Ensemble has a fun environment and allows the students the opportunity to experience different kinds of music and to think about music in different ways. The extra time and effort that they put in after school is recognized and appreciated.

Fees

Any fees associated with band classes will be determined and presented by the Band Director.

Uniforms

All concert bands wear matching concert attire while performing. Some pieces of the uniform are issued by the school (as noted), with accessories provided by the student. The uniforms must be returned following the last concert of each school year.

The men's concert season uniform includes:

- Black tuxedo pants (provided by the school)
- Black tuxedo jacket (provided by the school)
- White tuxedo shirt
- Black bow tie
- Black dress shoes (marching shoes may be worn, but must be clean)
- Black socks

The white tuxedo shirt and black bow tie can be purchased from formal wear shops such as Men's Wearhouse at Springfield Town Center or K&G Fashions at Bailey's Crossroads.

The women's concert season uniform includes:

- Long black dress (provided by the school)
- Neutral colored stockings
- Black low-heeled shoes. Multi-inch heeled shoes are not acceptable.
- Minimal jewelry (no dangling earrings) may be worn and hair should be pulled away from the face.

Alterations

All students must hem their concert attire. Pants and dresses should be hemmed 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches off the floor when wearing black dress shoes. Do not cut the fabric. Do not use fusible or iron on products to put in the hems. Do not use a sewing machine—hand stitching only!

Marching Band - The Marching Atoms

Marching Band is a co-curricular class, which means it is part of the band class. Students in the advanced bands are required to be members of the Marching Band per FCPS regulations. Students in all other bands are encouraged to be members of the Marching Band as well. Marching Band will be included as part of the students grade for their concert band class. The Color Guard is also a part of the Marching Band.

Marching Band begins in August to prepare for the first home game. Once school starts, practices are after school most days of the week from September through the beginning of November. The band will compete in 4 or 5 competitions on Saturdays during that timeframe. One of those competitions is the State Assessment for Marching Band. Competitions generally involve the entire day. Parents are encouraged to attend competitions with family and friends to support the students and show great Atom Pride.

Rehearsals are mandatory. Vacations, doctor appointments, jobs and family time should be scheduled outside of marching band rehearsal. Marching Band home and away instructional retreats equate to 12 weeks of regular rehearsals. Music will be learned and the drill on the field will be set. If one person is missing, the entire band needs to review what was missed when that student returns: it slows everyone down!

Fees

Any fees associated with Marching Band will be determined and presented by the Band Director.

Uniforms

Uniforms will be fitted during band camp. Between performances, marching uniforms are kept on hangers in labeled garment bags in a locked uniform room at AHS. Students should arrive at school in their “A” band shirt and shorts and with their shoes and socks. For all performances, students are dismissed from warm up by grade level to get their uniform.

The marching band uniform consists of:

- “A” band T-shirt- available for purchase, at cost, from the Band Boosters
- “A” band red shorts- available for purchase, at cost, from the Band Boosters
- Red jacket
- Black bibbers (pants)
- Black gloves
- Black marching shoes- available for purchase, at cost, from the Band Boosters
- Black shako and plume
- Black, calf length socks (provided by the student) Short or “no-show” socks are ***not*** acceptable.

Hair is kept neat and if long, banded and tucked into the shako. Nail polish must be removed. All jewelry must be removed (to include earrings). A long sleeved black shirt is recommended under the “A” band shirt when it gets cold.

For the returning members whose feet may have grown over the last year, a shoe swap is available to exchange shoes for a different size.

Alterations

Students are responsible for all uniform alterations. Although the marching band pants have snaps on two sides, the rest of the hem must be tacked as well. Use black thread for the pants. DO NOT use safety pins or paper clips. **NEVER USE IRON-ON HEMMING SHORTCUTS!!!!** Tacking must be removed at the end of the year and it is impossible to

get the fused material cleaned off. If you pay someone to tack, please make sure they HAND-SEW the tacking. Tacking done by machine is very difficult to remove at the end of the year.

The bottom of the pant leg should be **2 ½ inches** above the ground when wearing marching shoes.

Summer Home and Away Instructional Retreat (Camp)

Marching Band begins generally 3-4 weeks before school starts. Forms and fees must be turned in prior to the start of Home camp for the students to be able to participate. Announcements will be made throughout the summer as to days and times of form collection.

Forms required prior to participation the first day of Home Camp are the VHSL Physical Form, the Emergency Care Form and the Field Trip form for the Away Instructional Retreat. Also, if your student will require medication while away, a Medication Authorization form will need to be fully completed including your physicians signature, if required. All forms will be provided in the Marching Band packet as well as being available on our website, www.annandalebands.org. A medical physical must be obtained after May 1 of the current year and the results must be documented on the correct VHSL form and signed by the doctor to allow your student to participate. Only one physical is required per year, so if your student will be playing sports in other seasons, they will already have this completed.

Home Camp, the first week, is held at Annandale High School and is generally all day Monday - Friday. Students learn the fundamentals of marching and begin to learn their music as an ensemble.

The next week, the Marching Atoms have a long tradition of holding a week long, Away Instructional Retreat. This is when the field show is learned and the bonds that make our organization what it is, are formed. Students depart the school on Sunday afternoon and return on Friday night. The Away Instructional retreat is held at Camp Highroad, 21164 Steptoe Hill Road, Middleburg, VA 20117. A suggested packing list is included at the end of this handbook and will be distributed to students during the summer.

At Camp Highroad, students sleep in logs and hot meals are served. The students work long hours on the show but there is also down time with swimming, a Cantina for snacks, and evening activities such as movies, team Olympics, bonfires, and relaxation. Parent chaperones are with the students at the camp to help ensure safety and fun.

Parents are invited to the camp on Friday night for a BBQ dinner and the first performance of the field show. Reservations are needed for all guests for the Friday night dinner. Information will be available at home camp.

Football Games

The Marching Atoms perform at all home football games and a couple of away games.

For Home games, the students will report a couple of hours prior to the game start time. They will practice and change into their uniforms. A half hour before game time, the band marches from the band room, down Four Year Run, through the parking lot and onto the Stadium field for the introduction of the football players and the playing of the National Anthem. The students then sit in the stands and play pep songs to encourage the team and the fans throughout the game.

The half time show is the highlight of the evening (unless you are into football). We encourage all parents, family and friends to come to home football games and support the Marching Atoms!

After the game is over, if the AHS football team has won, the band serenades them with the Fight Song outside the locker room. Then the band marches back to the band room where they store their uniforms and equipment and are dismissed by the Band Director.

For away games, the students report a couple of hours prior to the game's start time. They will rehearse and then take a bus to the game site. They play pep songs in the stands throughout the game. Uniforms are generally worn to away games. All details will be provided the week of the game by the Band Director.

Competitions

The Marching Atoms perform at a number of competitions, generally on Saturdays, from September through the beginning of November. At competitions, numerous marching bands from High Schools in the region perform their field show in front of judges. The judges provide comments and ratings for each performance. At the end of the competition, the ratings are announced and awards are given. Comments from the judges are reviewed by the Band Director and the band to help improve the field show for the next competition. Generally, the last competition in the season is the State Assessment; one of the two performances that determines eligibility for the Virginia Honor Band recognition.

The schedule for competition days varies depending on the timing of the performance and the location of the event. For example, some days band students might begin rehearsal at 7 a.m. and return to AHS by 5p.m. Other days, they might report at noon, but won't return until late in the evening.

Most competition venues are still working out the specific timing of their events the week prior to the competition. Therefore, the time of the performance and hence the timing of the entire day is not always known to our Band Director until the week of the competition. For family planning schedules, it is best to plan that the entire day will be consumed with the competition.

Students travel to competitions on buses, either school buses or commercial carriers depending on the distance to the competition. They may need to bring a bag lunch, dinner or snacks. Sometimes meals are provided depending on the length of the event. All specifics for each competition will be provided by the Band Director the week of the event.

A typical competition day would be something like this:

- Practice on the field for 1-2 hours
- Pack up, get uniform, load bus
- Arrive at competition site, change into uniform, stretch
- Warm up
- March to field
- Perform
- Eat lunch, dinner, snack
- Watch other bands until division awards are announced
- Load bus and go home

Parents, family and friends are highly encouraged to come to all competitions to support the students. They like to hear a big cheering section in the crowd when they are performing!

Parents will be notified by a CHARMS email as to any changes in arrival times when the band is traveling.

Other Possible Band related activities

The following occur at the discretion of the Band Director and the interest level of the students.

Pep Band

The Pep Band, Atomic Force, plays for select boys' and girls' home Varsity basketball games. There are a number of rehearsals before the season starts. On a game day, the students will report for some practice time, dinner and then play during the game to encourage the team and get the audience involved in cheering for the team.

This band is not required, but if students are interested, they must commit to being involved.

Winter Guard

Winter Guard is an indoor version of Color Guard. They begin practice once Marching Band is over. They attend competitions throughout the winter months culminating in a Regional final competition. There is a fee for involvement in Winter Guard. Additional details of the program will be provided as the season approaches. The ability to field a Winter Guard in a given year is dependent on the availability of an instructor, student interest, and/or budgetary feasibility.

Indoor Drumline

Indoor Drumline is a great way for percussionists to improve and enhance their musical skills. This ensemble begins rehearsing following Marching Band season. Indoor Drumline performs a show that is similar to a Marching Band show but it is only percussion instruments (battery and front ensemble) and performed in a gym. They attend competitions throughout the winter months culminating in a Regional final. There is a fee for involvement in Indoor Drumline. Additional details of the program will be provided as

the season approaches. The ability to field an indoor drumline in a given year is dependent on the availability of an instructor, student interest, and/or budgetary feasibility.

Varsity “A” Letter / Awards / Memorial Scholarship

All students have the opportunity to earn a “varsity letter” in music, similar to student athletes. Having (or not having) a music letter has no effect on a student’s grade in band. This award is based purely on loyalty to the band and participation in band activities. Each spring, students will receive a point sheet to determine if they qualify for a letter or star. Points are earned for ensembles in which students participate (i.e. Concert Bands, Jazz Ensemble, Pep Band, Indoor Guard, etc.), as well as participation in Solo/Ensemble Festival, All-District Band Audition and membership, All-Virginia Audition and membership, and private lessons. A total of 6 points are needed to earn a letter and a star is awarded for each additional 3 points earned.

Awards are given at the Annual Spring Band Awards event each June, to include:

- John Phillips Sousa Award
- The U.S. Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Award

The Mary Karen Read Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a graduating marching band student, nominated by his or her peers, who exemplifies Mary’s characteristics: compassionate, caring and kind. The scholarship honors Mary Karen Read, a 2006 AHS graduate, active member of the Marching Atoms, former President of the AHS Bands, member of Tri-M Honor Society, and member of the winter Color Guard who was tragically killed at Virginia Tech in April 2007. The scholarship is paid to the higher education institution of the awardee’s choice.

General Band Program Tips

- Make sure the Band Boosters have your correct email address for rapid notification.
- Timeliness—students should report 15 minutes early for each rehearsal. Parents/guardians should plan on picking up their students 15-20 minutes after a rehearsal, performance or other band activity. All students are expected to help with loading, unloading, set up and tear down following trips or performances.
- An easy way to organize your marching band student is to have a band bag. This bag can stay packed with many of the things needed for band thus cutting down on the “I forgot” phone calls.
- Be sure to check your email and visit the band website often to stay informed.
- Time management is the key to success. Effective time management will be the most important tool that your student will acquire as a member of the AHS Band program. Students quickly learn that they must use every minute wisely. At any given time you will find students in the band room, out in the hall, or in any other space available doing homework. Remember that many band members are Honors or IB students. Your student must learn how to keep a schedule, how to be punctual, and how to set priorities (life will require you to learn these lessons anyway.) If your student is struggling - encourage him or her to ask a fellow band member (especially an upperclassman) for help! Don't wait till they are way behind - get back on track early! The band student leadership will have a list of student tutors available in all subjects—don't be afraid to ask!

Glossary of Band Terms

Battery - a section of percussion instruments that consists of snare drums, tenor drums (quints), bass drums and cymbals; all the marching percussion instruments. The Battery and the Front Ensemble combined are commonly referred to as the Drum Line.

Bibbers - Marching Band uniform pants. These are high-waisted with shoulder straps similar to ski pants or ski bibs.

Color Guard - included in Marching Band, this group provides movement, expression, and color to the field with flags, rifles, other equipment, and dance.

Drum Major - member(s) of the student leadership team who conducts the Marching Band on the field for half-time shows and competitions.

Front Ensemble - part of the Marching Band, these are the percussion instruments on the front sideline (e.g. marimbas, vibraphones, cymbals, etc.) also commonly referred to as the Pit.

Honor Band - a designation given by the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors' Association (VBODA) to a Virginia High School Band program when the Marching Band and top concert band achieve a Superior rating at State Marching Band Assessment and District Concert Band Assessment performances. The Annandale High School Band program is a sixteen time Virginia Honor Band.

Plume - the feather arrangement that is worn in the shako.

Pit - Pit is also known as the Front Ensemble. It is the area on the sidelines, in front of the drum major, where the percussion instruments that do not march are staged and played. It is similar to an Orchestra pit for musical theater. Percussionists play many of the instruments in the Front Ensemble which generally include marimbas, xylophones, large drums, gongs, electric instruments, etc. However, other band students may also play in the Front Ensemble.

Red Box – a locked box, painted bright red, located outside of the Band Director's office that is used as a drop box for forms and fees due to and made payable to the *Annandale High School Band Boosters (AHSBB)*. It is checked regularly.

Shako - the hat worn in Marching Band. A plume is worn in the shako.

FCPS Drop Box - a locked box located outside the Band Director's office that is used to drop forms and fees *due to Annandale High School (AHS)*. It is checked regularly.