

Owasso Band Patrons' Parent Handbook



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2022-2023 HIGH SCHOOL BAND CALENDAR

Important Dates to Remember (all dates subject to change):

Band Patrons Meeting - Band Patron Meetings are the 2nd Monday of the Month during the school year.

Admin Day - July 23, 2022

High School Band Rehearsal Begins - July 25, 2022

Band Party at Sparks Aviation - August 10, 2022

1st Day of School - August 11, 2022

Meet the Rams - August 12, 2022

Golf Tournament - August 27, 2022 – Bailey Ranch

Owasso Invitational Marching Contest - September 24, 2022

Union Renegade Review Invitational Marching Contest - October 8, 2022 - Union High School

Bands Of America Regional Contest (Prosper, TX) - October 15, 2022

Host OBA 5A State Championships - October 22, 2022

OSSAA Regional Marching Contest (Tahlequah) - October 26, 2022

OBA State Marching Contest - October 29, 2022 - Broken Arrow High School

All Region and 1st Round of All State Tryouts - November 5, 2022

OkMEA All-State Final Round - December 3, 2022 - Westmoore High School

Winter Concert - December 8, 2022

Christmas Parade - December 10, 2022

All Region Clinic - January 6-7, 2023 - Stillwater

OkMEA All State Clinic - January 18-21, 2023 - Tulsa

OU Steel Festival (Percussion Only) - February 11, 2023 - Norman

HS Solo & Ensemble Contest (Brass & Woodwind Only) - February 25, 2023

IRELAND - March 12-18, 2023

Pre-Contest Concert - April 6, 2022

Solo & Ensemble Contest (Percussion Only) - April 8, 2023

Symphonic and Concert Bands State Contest - April 11, 2023

Wind Ensemble Contest - April 14, 2023 - Jenks

Chamber Ensembles Concert - April 20, 2023

Spring Concert - April 25, 2022

Marching Clinic - May 1-5, 2023

Percussion Concert - May 2, 2023

Band Banquet - May 6, 2023

Band Senior Party - May 12, 2023

Commencement (Juniors & Seniors) – May 16, 2023

THE PRIDE OF OWASSO AND OWASSO BANDS - HISTORY

The Owasso Band Program has a long history of excellence. Students learn that good behavior and citizenship are the driving force behind the success of the band. Without these things it is impossible for individuals to reach their maximum potential as a musician.

Since 1980 the Owasso High School Band has earned 109 OSSAA State Sweepstakes Awards. The band program now has five contest-level concert bands. In April of 2016, all five concert bands received straight Superior ratings in Concert and Sight Reading at OSSAA State Contest.

The concert bands have also participated in contests in Chicago, Washington D.C., Orlando, St. Louis, Houston, Virginia Beach, Atlanta, Chattanooga, Indianapolis and San Antonio. The PRIDE of Owasso is a 1997 recipient of the Sudler Flag of Honor and a 2005 recipient of the Sudler Shield. These international awards are presented by the John Philip Sousa Foundation to outstanding concert bands (the "Flag") and marching bands (the "Shield"). Owasso High School is the only band in Oklahoma to have received both awards.

The PRIDE of Owasso marching band has received First Divisions in the OSSAA marching competition for the past 41 consecutive years, performed in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and has made five appearances in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade. Most recently, in March of 2014, the PRIDE of Owasso was named "Best Overall Band" in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland. At the Oklahoma Bandmasters Association Championships, The PRIDE has finished in the top three every year they have competed and were named Grand Champions in 1996. They have been a finalist at Bands of America Regionals in Arlington, San Antonio, Atlanta and Las Vegas and were the 2012 Champions of the St. Louis Super-Regional Marching Contest. At the Bands of America Grand Nationals in Indianapolis, the PRIDE of Owasso was a Semi-finalist in 2001, 2002 and 2009; the band reached the finals in 2005 (12th) and 2011 (7th).

Our commitment is to help your child develop life skills through the art of music. Among these skills are discipline, citizenship, responsibility, and leadership. We also hope to create a love and understanding of music through performance, preferably top-notch performance, which we can all be proud of. Thank you for letting us share in the growth of your child.

Updated 5/10/2016

The Pride of Owasso Helpful Telephone Numbers

- High School Band Office 918-272-1856
- Mr. Harris 918-697-2200
- Mrs. Craft 918-609-5498
- Mr. O'Kelley 918-401-0362
- Mr. Hollon..... 405-401-2802
- Ms. Matheny..... 918-230-6613
- Mr. Weimar..... 918-808-6203
- Mrs. Gaddy..... 918-313-1508
- Mr. Simmons.....tyler.simmons@owassops.org

OWASSO BAND PATRONS

P.O. Box 604, Owasso, OK 74055

Email address: owbandpatrons@gmail.com

Facebook: Owasso Band Patrons & Owasso Color Guard

Website: owassobands.com

2022-2023 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

918-855-1433

JENN WILLIAMS

OWBANDPATRONS@GMAIL.COM

CONCESSION COORDINATOR

405-605-9773

JUSTIN BLALACK

OBPFOODCREW@GMAIL.COM

SENIOR ACTIVITIES/BAND BANQUET COORDINATOR **CONNIE RICHARDSON**

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WENDY HELM & STEPHANIE JENNINGS

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COLOR/WINTER GUARD COORDINATOR

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HEATHER ENGLEMAN

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OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

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OWASSO BAND PATRONS GENERAL STANDING COMMITTEES

The following is a listing of general operation committees and their descriptions.

We encourage you to volunteer your time to the committee of your choice.

**We understand people cannot be available every time help is needed. But we will still contact you to give you the opportunity.

- **Concession Stand (Justin Blalack)** - This committee assists in coordinating volunteers working in the concession stand during the fall football and basketball games and any other activities involving concession activities.
- **Senior O's and Smiley's (Connie Richardson)** - This committee coordinates the decorating of Senior O's (Fall) and Smiley's (Spring) for Senior Parents
- **Band Banquet (Connie Richardson)** - This committee assists in designing and creating decorations, preparation of banquet programs, selling tickets and anything else necessary for this event.
- **Chaperones (Connie Richardson)** - This committee assists with calling and coordinating chaperones for local band events.
- **Hospitality and Food (Tracye Crowder)** - This committee will coordinate, purchase, and arrange to serve food and refreshments to band members and chaperones at band events and competitions.
 - ✓ Marching Contest Meal & Judge Hospitality
 - ✓ 3rd Quarter (Wendy & Jason Helm) - This committee assists in supplying drinks to band students during their 3rd quarter break at both home and away football games. Drinks are purchased, chilled and transported to the game.
- **Pit Crew (Justin Dawson & Jeremy Thomas)** - This committee will help load and unload instruments and percussion equipment for marching season. This equipment is used on the field during performances.
- **Props - (Jason Helm)** - This committee is responsible for coordinating, building props and handling all props at shows and contests.
- **Merchandise (Carlyn Heinrichs)** - This committee is responsible for ordering and distributing shirts, marching contest crew shirts, other merchandise.
- **Fundraising (Amanda Bright, Melissa Wellborn, Ingrid Swank)** - This committee is responsible for reviewing, suggesting, and organizing fundraising opportunities for the club.
- **Publicity and Corporate Relations (Wendy Gonzalez)** - This committee assists with getting our fundraising activities into the press and taking pictures.
- **Owasso Invitational Marching Contest (Jenn Williams)** - This committee assists with organizing and staffing the annual Owasso Invitational Marching Contest. The contest is the official start of Marching Contest season for many schools.
- **Uniform Room (Pamela Blakestad)** - This committee is responsible for organizing, fitting, cleaning, and checking in the marching and concert uniforms. This group usually works during the day and/or during band rehearsals in the uniform room.
- **Run to the Beat (Stacey Kendall)** – This committee is responsible for organizing the Run to the Beat 5K & Fun Run.
- **Golf Tournament (Brian Wellborn)** – This committee organizes the annual Golf Tournament at Bailey Ranch Golf Course which takes place in August.

OWASSO BAND PATRONS CLUB - BAND PARENT HANDBOOK

The first priority for every band parent is to attend as many events where your child is performing as possible. Our kids work extremely hard and it is our responsibility as parents to be there to recognize their effort, provide support and encourage them to succeed.

Another major priority of a band parent is to get involved and volunteer time supporting our nationally-recognized band program. The Owasso Bands program is blessed to have some of the nation's best directors and supporting staff. However; It is very difficult to run a world class band program without volunteer and financial support generated through various fundraising activities. Our mission is: To provide unwavering support for the Owasso Bands program which in turn leads to our hardworking band students achieving success.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A BAND PARENT WHEN...

- You make three more trips than expected to drop off your child with everything they need. You carry spare black gloves, needle & thread, black socks and duct tape with you at all times.
- You follow yellow school buses around during trips to band competitions.
- You are unable to pick your child out of the band in uniform because they all look alike.
- You no longer speak of your child as a daughter/son, but as a "freshman trumpet."
- You prominently display a band calendar in the kitchen, have band dates marked on the calendar in your purse or on your smartphone, or have the band room number on your speed dial.
- There's no such thing as a prior commitment.
- You know that you will be wearing a "Pride of Owasso" or "Owasso Bands" shirt every Friday night and Saturdays.
- You actually know the "deep meaning" of the marching show.

HELPFUL HINTS THAT SAVE YOU TIME, GAS AND GRIEF

- Make your child responsible for being prepared. The first time they forget something will be the last! They learn to be resourceful when they have to be.
- Keep extra gloves, socks, needle & thread, etc. in your car or purse just in case.
- At the end of each practice session there are usually announcements – listen up. This is your best opportunity to find out who, what, where and when things are going on.
- Keep all items (socks, shoes, gloves, etc.) in a bag. This way you won't spend time hunting for them each time they are needed.
- Your child will be given a schedule of events for all trips and competitions. Ask to see this so you will be informed of their schedule. If all else fails, check the website for information.
<http://owassobands.com/owassobands/hscalendar.html>

"WHAT THAT REALLY MEANS ..."

- **"Band practice is at 6 o'clock"** – If you're early, you're on time, if you're on time, you're late. When you drop your child off at 5:30, there will be students already there, ready to play. At this point, the anxiety level for being late dramatically increases. The band actually takes the practice field for warm-ups around 5:45. This is when your child will be sweating bullets. Always allow extra time because tardiness will not be accepted.
- **Where is your pencil?** – Students should always have a pencil with them.
- **Practice field** – The practice field is located at the track.
- **Are you working the Pit?** – The pit is not something bad. It's the group of percussion instruments that travel in the semi-trailer and are stationary during performances. Parents in the Pit Crew work feverishly to set up and take down the pit in record time, before and after a performance.

UNIFORMS, SHIRTS, OR "WHAT DO I WEAR?"

- **Marching uniform** – NEVER CUT - THEY HAVE SNAPS! They will be cleaned as a group to ensure equal fading. This is what your uniform fee is used for. The uniform committee will "size" the uniforms during pre-band and are kept in the uniform room at the High School. These are worn for marching competitions and football games. You will need marching shoes (to be ordered at Admin Day or through the band office), black socks (no colored stripes)

please!), and black gloves. The “O” shirt and compression (bike) shorts are to be worn under the Marching uniform. This allows modest changing on buses and in band room/hallways in mixed company.

- **Concert uniform** – Tuxedos will be issued to boys and dresses will be issued to girls. These are worn for concerts and concert competitions.
- **“O” shirt** – This is the black shirt your child purchased in 8th grade. These shirts will be worn at various times during the next four years.
- **“O” black shorts** – worn by students over their compression shorts.. Students will be sized at Admin Day.
- **Marching Contest T-Shirt** – Worn by students and parents when they volunteer to work at the *Owasso Invitational Marching Contest*. *The design of this shirt is kept constant so you don't have to buy one every year.*
- **Show Shirts** – T-shirts that reflect the marching show theme. *This design changes each year.*

CHEERING, SCREAMING AND OTHER FUN STUFF

An important job of our club is to make certain our parents and friends are familiar with some simple rules of etiquette for contests and concerts. These events can be very exciting and it's easy to get carried away. We want to make certain we give our band and their competitors the respect they deserve.

MARCHING EVENTS AND GAME

- When events are held in our facility remember to applaud and recognize the hard work and skill of the visiting bands. All of these young people give their best effort, and we should always reward a performance with appropriate applause. Don't be afraid to stand up when a band deserves it, even when it's not our kids. Please treat visitors in the same manner you would like your children to be treated when they perform away from home. When traveling to another school, remember that we are guests who want to be invited back.
- During marching competitions, get to your seats early. When a band is on the field performing, please wait until the band begins to leave the field before entering or exiting the stands. It is very distracting when people are wandering in and out. Also, remember that other parents may be photographing or videotaping their children. Please be considerate.
- Cheer, clap, yell and wave signs BEFORE and AFTER your favorite band performs. Then sit down and enjoy the show once the music begins. Always stand and applaud your band when their program is done. It means so much to our students to know that we're there to support them and that we're proud of them, win or lose.
- Clapping and cheering for the entire band is appropriate. Yelling out individual student's names is not. This is embarrassing and distracting to the students and can cause a chain reaction in the audience.
- Marching contests are a great opportunity to use those video cameras but some event operators hire professional videographers to record the event and may not allow use of personal cameras. Bands of America has this policy. Still photos are almost always allowed at marching events, but please respect the organizer's rules.
- Please carry your food wrappers and cups with you and deposit them in the waste containers as you leave the facility. It's a small gesture that demonstrates your respect for schools and their facilities. It also sets a good example for our young people.

STAGE CONCERTS AND CONTESTS

- Barking, whistling, hooting and foot stamping are part of the fun at football games or marching competitions but concerts and stage competitions are more formal.
- Always be considerate. Please do not talk during a performance. Performances are often recorded for evaluation and sometimes submitted to contest organizers. The microphones used are very sensitive and easily pick up voices and other background sounds. This is even more important during contests since judges will often sit in the auditorium, recording comments that will be used to evaluate and score each band. Even low voices can be distracting. Also, be sure your cell phone is off or in silent mode.
- Please do not enter or leave an auditorium, once a band begins to perform. This is VERY distracting both to the musicians and the audience. Remember that doors slamming shut, voices, and footsteps can ruin a recording.
- Watch the conductor closely. When a selection is finished, hold your applause until he or she steps down from the platform. Some musical selections have several parts separated by a pause to allow the musicians to arrange their music or change instruments. Hold your applause until all of the parts of a selection are complete and the conductor steps down. Applause and or standing ovations at the end of a performance are appropriate.
- Many parents bring video cameras to concerts and contests when the sponsoring organizations allow them. Set up tripods at the rear of the auditorium or look for an open balcony. Please refrain from using electronic flash units while a band is performing. Remember that some auditoriums have restrictions on photography. Please honor their rules and always be considerate.

OTHER INFORMATION

- Suggestions that could be helpful to our organization are welcome. Information can be obtained through the Owasso Bands website or by contacting the appropriate officer or committee representative. We are hopeful your first year is as pleasant and enjoyable as possible.

OWASSO BAND PATRONS' CLUB

TERMS & DEFINITIONS

- **Admin Day** - The Pride of Owasso Admin Day event ensures that your student has completed everything necessary to participate in the Owasso Band program. There are a few mandatory forms that must be filled out and initial band fees that need to be paid prior to the start of the school year.
- **All-Region and All-State Band** – Elite bands made of players from many schools selected by audition. These auditions are in November.
- **Band Banquet** – End of school year event for band members and their parents. The banquet is typically the first Saturday of May.
- **Band Room** – Center of band activities in a school, your child's second home.
- **Band Time** – Arriving **at least** 10 to 15 minutes before the scheduled time. This allows the event/practice to start on time.
- **Battery** – The marching percussion usually snare, tenor, bass drums and cymbals, same as Drum Line.
- **BOA** – Bands of America, a national organization hosting marching and concert competitions for high school and college bands. Regional competitions are held in different cities over the United States with marching competition "Grand Nationals" held in Indianapolis.
- **Caption Awards** – Awarded in marching contest. Depending on the competition, Caption Awards can be awarded for Preliminary competition and for Finals competition. These awards are: High Music, High Visual, and High General Effect.
- **Chairperson of a Band Patron Committee** – Band parent in charge of a specific activity such as fund raising, chaperones, etc.
- **Color/Winter Guard** – Auxiliaries who spin flags, rifles, sabers, and dance to enhance the marching shows during marching season. During the concert season, Winter guard performs their own show at contests around the state.
- **Concert Season** – Roughly December through May, the band parent's busiest time of year, see also Marching Season.
- **Concert Uniforms** – Tuxedos for boys and gowns for girls. Owned by the school and checked out during concert season.
- **Concession Stand** – 1. The Band Patrons largest revenue source held during football and basketball games.
2. Fun place to work and earn money for your child's trip account.
- **Contests, Concerts** – 1. Competitions among concert bands playing contest music before a panel of judges.
2. The focus of life in the spring.
- **Contest, Marching** – 1. Competitions among marching bands before a panel of judges.
2. The focus of life in the fall.
- **Eligibility** – The condition of being able, under state rules, to participate in a band activity. Fear of this may inspire band members to study.
- **Email** – The best way to contact the Band Patrons President.... owbandpatrons@gmail.com
- **Fall** – 1. What marchers do after they try to march backwards, 2. Marching Season
- **Finals Competition** – The top 10 or 12 bands based on a 100-point scale after preliminary competition in a marching contest. These bands are ranked based on a 100-point scale to determine the Grand Champion.
- **Front Ensemble** – see **Pit Instruments and Equipment**.
- **Football** – A game played on a marching field to entertain the audience while the band is getting ready to perform.
- **Flags** – Large pieces of colored cloth on poles waved by Color Guard auxiliaries.
- **Hat Boxes** – Carrying cases for marching uniform hats that are often left behind in the band room at the beginning of band trip or on band buses at end of band trip.
- **High School** – Secondary school, the level at which band parenting becomes intense.
- **Indy Trip** – Bands of America Grand Nationals marching competition held in November.
- **Judges, Contest** – Eagle-eyed, golden-eared infinitely demanding persons who can spot un-raised band member toes at a distance of 200 yards, at night, through fog while detecting one slightly out of tune clarinet during a brass fortissimo.
- **Lyre** – Device that is supposed to hold flip-folder on instrument while playing in the football stands.
- **Loading Crew** – Loosely organized group of band members and parents, who load/unload the semi-truck.
- **Marching Field** – A field of 100 yards in length, marked in 5-yard increments used for marching band performances. There are some sports (such as football and soccer), which can be played on a marching field.
- **Marching Practice** – Band member's principal waking activity from August through November.
- **Marching Season** – Roughly June through November, the band parent's busiest time of year, see Concert Season.
- **OBA** – Oklahoma Bandmasters Association sponsored statewide marching competition. Competitions are held according to school classification (3A, 4A, 5A, 6A).

- **OSSAA** – Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association. Association that regulates statewide athletic and music competitions. Bands are rated on a 1-5 scale with 1 being the best. Bands winning a 1 rating in marching competition, concert competition, and sight-reading are awarded a Sweepstakes trophy.
- **Owasso Band Patrons Club** – 1. All the band parents as a group.
- 2. Your primary waking activity during marching and concert seasons.
- **Owasso Invitational Marching Contest (OIMC)** – Marching contest hosted by Owasso Band Patrons Club.
- **Pit Crew** – Band parents with sore backs. Seriously, band parents who help push front ensemble equipment on and off the field during a show.
- **Pit Instruments and Equipment** – Large non-marchable instruments and equipment moved onto marching field sidelines by band parents (see Pit Crew). Includes, but is not limited to, marimbas, tympani, bass drums, tenor drums, wood blocks, trap sets, vibraphones, xylophones, amplifiers, speakers, podiums, ladders, gongs, chimes, bells, cymbals, pianos, organs, synthesizers, sirens, electronic keyboards, generator, sound board, and props.
- **Practice** – 1. Individual work your child should be doing in his/her “spare” time, 2. Concert or Marching activity usually held in the band room or on the practice field.
- **Preliminary Competition** – All bands in a marching contest compete for finals standing. Accumulated scores on a 100-point scale rank bands. 100 being the highest.
- **Renegade Review** – Marching contest hosted by Union High School Band Parent Organization.
- **Rain** – 1. Inclement weather that interferes with marching practice and outdoor marching competitions, 2. What some students look forward to on the 100+ degree rehearsal days.
- **San Antonio Trip** - Bands of America super regional marching competition held at the end of October.
- **Soloist** – Band members who play a featured part by themselves in a performance, half of the band wishes that they were a soloist and the other half is glad not to be a soloist.
- **Shoes, Marching** – Shoes worn with marching band uniforms and suitable for no other purpose. Usually black with scuff marks, frequently forgotten or lost by band members. Ordered at Admin Day.
- **Show, Marching** – The music and choreography performed by a marching band and auxiliaries.
- **Show Shirts** – T-shirts designed to reflect the “theme” of the marching show.
- **Sight Reading** – Playing music that one has never ever seen before. Widely held to be the true test of a band’s ability.
- **SignUP Genius** - The platform we use to sign up for almost all things related to our fundraisers, committees, and volunteers.
- **Socks, Band** – Familiar article of clothing for the feet (black in color) frequently forgotten by band members.
- **Spring** – 1. Wound tensioned metal wire that, until it breaks, moves valves and keys back into the open or closed position, 2. Concert Season.
- **Spring Trip** – Mass transport of the band for the purpose of competing in concert competitions at a location so remote from the band room that they must stay overnight at a hotel.
- **St. Louis/or Dallas Trip** – Bands of America super regional marching competition. Held in the middle of October.
- **Trip Accounts** – The place where money earned from fundraising is stored. The balance of this account can be used to pay any band fees (trips, instruments, music, uniform, trip) incurred. This money cannot be paid out to anyone other than the band program. If your band student has money in their account when they graduate or leave the band program, this money can be transferred to a sibling or will revert back to the band program.
- **Trip Amounts** - The cost of fall and spring band trips. The amount varies from year to year depending upon trips selected. The Band program and the Band Patrons Club help provide fundraising opportunities to meet these financial obligations. The student and parents may elect not to participate in fundraising activities and pay the amount due instead.

- **Website, Band** – owassobands.com

Owasso Band Patrons Membership & Volunteer Information 2022-2023

The Owasso Band Patrons Club would like to invite every parent that has a child in the High School Band to become an Owasso Band Patrons Member. Membership is **\$15 per household**. Joining is simple.

<https://www.owassobands.com/aboutpatrons>

Even though all of our general Band Patrons emails go out via “CutTime”, in order to participate in Band Patrons sponsored fundraising events that benefit your student’s individual trip account, you are required to be an Owasso Band Patrons member.

It is our goal that EVERY parent will choose to volunteer for something. This is a good way to see the band “behind the scenes” and get to know other parents and students. We will have sign-ups for Concession Stand workers and Marching Contest workers available at the August and September Band Patrons’ Meetings. However, we have several areas that require a committee of workers. Please review the work areas on the SignUp Genius. Choose the area(s) in which you would like to volunteer. We will then pass your name to the appropriate committee chair.

The committee chairperson will make contact with you in advance of planned events.

To sign up to volunteer, please visit:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f4ea9a629a6ff2-202223>