

AHS BAND

AUGUST 2010 NEWSLETTER

CASUAL UNIFORM

Musicians will need long khaki pants to wear with their polo shirt when they are in casual uniform for games. They will also need khaki shorts for certain events such as pep rallies and parades. They should be in good condition and neat (no tears, rips, frays, etc.). Athletic shoes are also worn as part of the casual uniform. These do not have to be new, but should be in good condition for appearance. Auxiliary units have outfits to wear as a casual uniform. Their sponsor determines which uniform is worn each time. Note: Polo shirts have been ordered for new band members. The cost is approximately \$30. You will receive e-mail notification of the exact cost and a time when you can pick them up. Make checks payable to AHS Band Parents.

INFORMATION FOR GAME NIGHTS

Mr. Williams will inform the students mid-week when to report to the band room on game night and what the dress requirements for the game will be. This information will also be sent out via e-mail. Directions to away games will be posted on the band website at www.athenshighband.com.

The Limestone County Sheriff's Department provides our band with the directions and a police escort to all away games and competitions. Please remember that only official vehicles, buses and the band truck are allowed to cross intersections and traffic control points as part of the escorted convoy on the way to games and competitions. All other vehicles must obey traffic signals and signs.

If the band uniform is to be worn on game night, the student should arrive at the band room wearing a t-shirt and gym shorts/biking shorts (blue jeans or cargo shorts with lots of pockets that will bunch up under the uniform are not allowed). Hair must be pulled up off the neck, and no jewelry or nail polish is allowed. They must wear black socks with their marching shoes and black marching gloves (available for purchase in the band room). If your student does not have these items on game night, they will be provided but their account will be charged (\$2 for socks and \$3 for gloves). They also need to have their instrument, lyre and flip folder containing both stand and field music.

After their uniform is issued, students will change in the band room common areas (not in the bathroom). After the half-time show, students will turn in their plume as they come off the field. Their account will be charged \$18 for broken or damaged plumes. After the game, students are responsible for hanging their uniforms on their hangers, placing their shako in its box and personally turning these items in. Items not properly hung must be re-hung by the student before they will be accepted. Please make sure your student is aware of these things.

NOTE: Only current band members, instructors, and chaperones may enter the stadium with the band. All others must go through the main gate at the front of the stadium.

CONCESSIONS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need about 15 concession stand workers for the home side and 6 for the visitor's side per home game. Everyone profits from the concession stand since proceeds help build the band's general fund, thus keeping the student's fair share quota low. Each parent is required to work two games per season.

Varsity home games are on Friday nights and concessions workers are needed from about 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm.

Athens vs J O Johnson	September 3
Athens vs Lee	September 17
Athens vs Austin	September 24
Athens vs. Lawrence Co.	October 8 (homecoming)
Athens vs. Decatur	October 29 (senior recognition)

Signup sheets for concessions are available at the band parents meetings. In addition, you can call Barbara Parnell at 256-998-1212 or e-mail her at bparnell@christopherrealty.com to let her know which games you can work, and whether you prefer home or visitor's side. A list of concession workers is turned in to the office on the morning of each home game. All workers need to enter through the Pass Gate on the home side and sign in. If your name is not on the concession workers pass list, you are not given admission through the pass gate.

WATER BREAK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

While the weather remains hot, we will distribute bottled water to our band members during the first quarter of each game. We need about five (5) parents to volunteer to help distribute the bottled water at home and away games.

The band will be practicing in the north parking lot of the school during 4th block every day. We need two volunteers per day to provide water breaks for the band during hot weather. This involves getting the coolers from the band room, filling them with water and ice from the concessions area, taking them to the practice field, and having cups of ice water ready when the band is given a break. After practice, the coolers must be emptied, dried and returned to the band room. You would need to be at the school at 1:30 pm and would finish about 3 pm. It gets really hot out on the practice field and the band members are really grateful to the parents who provide them with water breaks.

To volunteer for either of these activities, call Johnny Hays at 256-998-0158 and leave a message or e-mail him at vh2465@charter.net.

ATTENTION PERCUSSION PARENTS

The percussion section needs eight to ten parent volunteers to help unload, set-up and reload the pit equipment at all games (home and away). These parents will exit the stands (when the band leaves the stands for half-time) and go to the band truck to help the pit members. This is restricted to adults only for safety reasons. Just see Johnny Hays at the game if you can help with this.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL FEES

The fall semester equipment rental fee of \$50 is due. This fee applies to students playing percussion and pit equipment as well as those students using school-owned horns. Make checks payable to Athens High School (not AHS Band Parents) and note "equipment rental" and the student's name on the check. Please give the checks to Mr. Williams.

MARCHING COMPETITIONS

The AHS Marching Band will compete in three marching competitions this October (Saturdays). All band members are needed for these performances. Band members will travel by charter bus to all competitions. Parents are encouraged to come to the competitions and show their support. The competitions are a lot of fun and you get to see a lot of different bands perform their field shows. Directions will be posted on the band website as the dates approach. Dates and locations will be announced when available.

FAIR SHARE QUOTA

The proposed 2010-2011 budget for the Athens High School Band will be presented for approval at the October band parents meeting. A typical year's operating budget is about \$90,000. The bulk of that money comes from the profit that we make from concessions and the fair share quota fee paid by our band parents. This money is used to pay band expenses such as transportation, uniform upkeep and repair, supplementary staff for majorettes, color guard and percussion, music and drill arrangements for our fall show, fuel and maintenance for our band truck, drinks and snacks provided at games and competitions, etc.

The fair share quota fee per student is \$290. The first installment of \$100 is due on September 1st, the second installment of \$65 is due on October 1st, the third installment of \$65 is due on November 1st, and the remainder (\$60 or amount of remaining balance) is due in full on December 1st. Checks should be made payable to AHS Band Parents and clearly marked as "Quota payment". Your payment can be mailed to AHS Band Parents, PO Box 166, Athens, AL 35612 or placed in the wooden box on the wall in Mr. Williams office.

We are offering several fundraising opportunities this fall to help you meet your fair share obligation. We strongly encourage you to participate in these fundraisers to help you meet your quota. Most students sell to family and friends, not door to door. Many students manage to entirely cover their quota this way. Some even make more than that and credit it toward the trip or next years band camp fee. Once all these fundraisers have concluded, each of you will receive a statement so that you know how much of your band quota has been satisfied. The remaining amount will be due on December 1st.

DISNEY TRIP

A trip to Walt Disney World, where the band will perform in the Disney Magic Music Days Parade, was approved by the membership at the July band parent's meeting. The band will leave Athens on Monday, December 27th and return on Friday, December 31st. Included is roundtrip motor coach transportation, 4 nights hotel accommodations in Orlando, 4 continental breakfasts, 3 day hopper pass to Walt Disney World Resort (to include Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Hollywood Studios and Animal Kingdom), performance in Disney Magic Music Days Parade, Incentive Award Ceremony (students and directors only, services of a Spotlight tours representative and all taxes and gratuities.

The cost for band members is \$497 per person (based on four persons to a room. Those members going on the trip must complete the enclosed commitment form and submit their down payment of \$165 by September 21st. Checks should be made payable to AHS Band Parents and clearly marked as

“Disney Trip”. Your commitment form and payment can be mailed to AHS Band Parents, PO Box 166, Athens, AL 35612 or placed in the wooden box on the wall in Mr. Williams office. The second payment of \$165 is due on October 19th, and the final payment of \$167 is due on November 16th

There will be a fundraising opportunity offered every month this fall to help families satisfy both their fair share quota and their trip installment payments. Magazines sales will take place in August, apples will be sold in September, citrus will be sold in October, and chicken stew will be sold in November.

FUNDRAISING CREDITS MAY BE USED TO SATISFY TRIP INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS; HOWEVER, PLEASE NOTE THAT FUNDRAISING CREDITS ARE APPLIED TOWARD YOUR FAIR SHARE QUOTA INSTALLMENT FIRST – ANY REMAINING CREDITS WILL THEN BE APPLIED TO YOUR TRIP INSTALLMENT.

NOTES:

1. Meals, with the exception of a continental breakfast each day, are not included in this package. You must plan on sending enough money with your student for five lunches and four dinners, most of which will be eaten in one of the theme parks, as well as any additional spending money they may need.
2. If you make a down payment on the trip but are unable to pay for the trip in full by the November 16h deadline, your student's name will be removed from the trip roster and any payments made toward the trip will be applied to your student's band account. NO MONEY WILL BE REFUNDED.

MAGAZINE SALES

Magazine sales will start on August 24th. Be sure to take advantage of this fundraiser since approximately 40% of total sales will be applied to the band member's fair share quota. Please remind your student to turn in the order packet in the band room and be sure to write **BAND** in the organization area on each form so that it will be credited to your band balance. Checks should be made out to Athens High School (not AHS Band Parents) since this is a school-sponsored fundraiser. Please contact Julie Prater at Julie.Prater@acs-k12.org if you have questions regarding this fundraiser. A box will be placed in the band room to turn in order packets.

DO NOT SELL OR TURN IN YOUR ORDERS VIA THE INTERNET. YOUR STUDENT'S BAND ACCOUNT WILL NOT RECEIVE CREDIT FOR THOSE ORDERS.

NEXT BAND PARENTS MEETING

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the next meeting will be on Monday, September 13th at 7 pm in the band room.