

What happens on a Friday Night for the Marching Band?

For the Students:

Students will be given a Report Time. This is the time they are to be at the band hall. This will give your band student a chance to make sure they brought everything they will need for that night – black shoes, black sox, gloves, music, etc. If they forgot something, they should have the time to go home and get it or call mom and dad with a “Please bring me…” call.

Students will also be given an “Inspection Time”. This means that at the given time, they are to be in their full marching uniform (and they will know what that means – if they don’t, all they have to do is check with their Section Leaders), having picked up their gauntlets from the distribution table at the back of the band hall. The students then line up in the band hall by section, with their instrument, and their supplies in their duffel bag.

The Inspection Time can vary, depending on whether the game is at Pennington Field or an away game – and depends on the distance to be traveled. Just because inspection time one Friday was 5:45pm, does not mean it will be that same time the following week. When provided, Report times and Inspection times will be posted on the website. Also, Inspection time means that is when you are in your line – not 5 minutes after that time, not 10 minutes after that time – and you had better not just be getting dressed when inspection time is called!

After inspection has been completed, band members will be dismissed by the Drum Major by section to board the school buses to the game. The student will be handed a bottle of water – please stress that the student needs to take this bottle of water and they **NEED TO DRINK IT**. The kids need to hydrate! The band uniforms are made of wool – which can become very hot during August, September and even into October. Keep the water bottle with you, even if you empty it on the way to the stadium. They will be refilled once you get to your seat in the stadium.

Each bus will have a band mom or dad (or two) riding as chaperones. However, they are not in charge – your SECTION LEADERS AND DRUM MAJORS are in charge. Also, when you have been given the okay to talk on the bus, please keep the noise level down. The bus drivers will greatly appreciate it!!

Upon arrival at the stadium – just listen to your SECTION LEADERS AND DRUM MAJORS. Although we generally warm-up at the same spot at Pennington, it can change, and every stadium will have a different spot for the band to warm up. Listen and you won’t get left behind. Do not ask your bus rider chaperones where you are supposed to go – they will be following YOU!

At half-time, again, listen to your section leaders and drum majors as to when to proceed from the stadium for warm-ups. When you get to the warm-up area, be on the lookout for the Plume Mom – she (and/or her assistant) will be handing out the black and silver feather plume that fits into a slot at the front of your shako (hat). Carefully insert the plume into your shako – if you have any problems, ask another band member. After your half-time performance, be on the lookout for the Plume Mom holding up what looks like a mesh laundry bag (it is one!). She wants you to carefully remove the plume from the shako and drop it into the bag. The plumes are expensive to replace, so please handle them gently.

When you return to the band hall, REMEMBER – you, the student, are responsible for correctly hanging up your uniform – not your mom or dad, not any of the band parents who will be inspecting the uniforms as they are returned to the correct hanging rack, nor the band parents at the table at the back of the band hall taking back your gauntlets (yes, you need to return them to the distribution table). If you want to get out of the band hall as soon as possible – then hang up the uniform correctly the first time.

Do not let yourself be relegated to the “Slacker Rack” – if you don’t know what this means – check with a Junior or Senior.

After Friday night games (may change in October due to Saturday marching contests), the band members and parents meet at CiCi’s on Main Street at Eules. CiCi’s offers a special price for our band members and family, and the band students watch a video of that night’s half-time performance.

For the Parents:

We need your help at the Band Hall. In order to get the kids in and out of the band hall as quickly and orderly as possible, we need parents before and after the games.

We need parents to help set up the uniforms – roll the clothing racks to the correct dressing area, help set up and distribute the gauntlets (the material that wraps around the band students uniform sleeve at the wrist), and to help students with any last minute repairs to the uniforms.

We need parents in the stands to **CHEER** for our Trinity High School Trojan Marching Band when they march out onto the field for their halftime performance! Stand up and applaud as they enter and exit the field – let our kids hear you!!!

Stress to your band student the need to drink water before, during and after the game. Water bottles are handed out as they head to the buses; they need to keep these with them when they get to the stadium – they will be refilled.

We need parents even more after the game. We need parents to inspect uniforms as they are returned to the hanging racks – make sure pants are folded on the crease, give the student some instruction in how to fold and hang the pants, and to place the jacket on the hanger, zipped and snapped, with the baldric attached properly (this word is not in the dictionary – it is the sash that hangs across the front of the marching jacket – red for football games, and for contests and other occasions, black sequins).

The more parents that are there to help out after the game – the quicker everyone gets out of the band hall! Parents are strongly encouraged to come to CiCi’s after the game and view the half-time video. Your band student may say NO, but privately, they will appreciate the fact that you are there. You DO want to come, at least once during the marching season. It is simply amazing to watch the amount of food a band can put away in as little as an hour! This opinion comes from three years of watching marching band kids chow down after a performance.