

Arlington High School

Colt Marching Band Overview of Activities

June

Fish Camp!! Early June!!! This is a very important time for Freshmen. You will get your summer music, instrument and order your Parade Uniform. This uniform MUST be purchased at Fish Camp, or they will not be ready in time for the Parade!

Yes, the band's Summer Season starts around the third week of June. Practice is usually Morning for Freshmen and Officers, and in the evening for street marching and performance preparation for the Arlington July 4th Parade. Volunteers can help provide heat relief during practices and the parade. Full band uniforms are NOT worn during the parade. The parade uniform consists of polo type shirts, ball cap, black shorts, and black shoes. The shirts and caps are to be purchased from the band. There is also an alumni band in the parade for AHS alums.

The band family picnic will be around the third weekend of June at Woodland West Park. The burgers and hot dogs are provided and cooked by the Booster Club parents. Chips, sides, desserts and drinks are contributed by the families for sharing. Swimming is available at the city pool after the meal.

July

The 4th of July Parade is a very hot and tiring activity, but everyone always has a good time. There are lots of volunteer opportunities since we need parents to walk with the kids, give them drinks, and cool them down with squirts of water. The band group pictures for the football program are usually taken the day of the parade prior to the long hot march.

You will learn to take your vacation in July. There are no planned band activities this month after the July 4th Parade.

August

In the early days of August, the band starts their weekday two-a-day preparations for field marching competitions. The morning sessions are usually reserved for marching practice on the school parking lot on the south side of the school. The afternoon sessions are used to work on the music in the band hall. The kids are working very hard this time of year and will be tired. Help them get adequate rest during their time off. Please come volunteer for heat relief duty during the morning practices! Heat relief volunteers help provide drinks and snacks for the kids and keep a watchful eye to make sure no one is getting too hot. This is a very important job! Contact the volunteer coordinator on the www.ahsbbc.com website if you can help. If you can't volunteer for morning relief duties, please consider donating snacks (fruit, pretzels, cookies, crackers, etc.). They go through lots of goodies during band camp!

Get Fit Day – This is the day for fitting uniforms, shoes, hats and such and occurs on a Saturday in August. Also band dues are expected to be paid this day. It usually takes a couple of hours to get through all of the tables, so be patient. It is a very good idea for parents to come with their child for the beginning of this process. There is usually a lot of information to be learned, forms to complete, and spirit items available for sale.

Band Fun Nights and Camp Thurman – A few times during band camp, time is set aside during the evening for the band to have fun together and bond. Fun nights include activities like bowling at Alley Cats, Swim Parties, Pizza Night, Movie Night etc.... whatever the parents can dream up! The Camp Thurman party marks the end of summer band camp. This activity is the culminating event of Summer Band! We have a great meal provided by the Band Boosters, ride the zip lines, climb the ropes, swim, and have a great time keeping the traditions of the AHS Colt Band Alive in the hearts and minds of all!! All Band Students, especially Freshmen and newbies should attend our Camp Thurman activities.

Band Officer Elections – Get those posters ready! The band officer elections take place early in the band season. There is a position for Freshman Representative if your child is interested.

After school starts, the band will continue evening practices on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Prior to Labor Day, the practices are late (6:00-8:30) to avoid the Texas heat. After Labor Day, practices move to an after school schedule (4:00-6:30). In the event of a Thursday night football game (YUCK) our rehearsal schedule may have to include an early (right after school) Marching Practice!

September

This is when the fun starts. The band begins their field marching performances at the halftime of the first football game. Come out and watch - the games and halftimes are great fun! Usually they perform only one of the three movements the first week and add the rest of the program in the following weeks. The band parents will sit near the band at all the games. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities for bus chaperones, drum draggers, spirit sales, concessions and providing water and snacks for the kids.

October

This is the prime month for marching band season. In addition to performing at halftime of the football games, there are at least three opportunities to get on the field with their program. The First Competition we attend is usually the Preview of Champions in Mansfield. The Second is the Dean Corey Music Festival at UTA stadium on a Tuesday night around the second week of the month. The program is scored by judges, but this is not a competition. Think of it as a warm up to the other competitions and a means for the directors to see the areas for improvement.

The third competition is usually the Sound of Springtown Marching Festival. This is a very rigorous all day event that is judged. The top ten bands are selected in the afternoon and will return after a dinner provided by the band boosters. The afternoon is usually hot and the bleachers face south, so bring an umbrella, hat, and sunscreen. It is similar to sitting at a six hour afternoon Rangers game. The evening competition is judged separately from the afternoon. Large trophies are presented and the competition is over between 9-10pm.

The third competition is the UIL, which is usually held on a Tuesday afternoon and evening. There are fewer bands at this competition and the top bands have a chance to proceed to the area marching competition and on to state every other year. Class 6A advances to area and state competition in even numbered years, such as 2018.

November

If the football team makes the playoffs, the band will continue to go to all of the games. Ask a few veteran band parents about going to Abilene, Odessa or even Cowboys Stadium!

This is also the month for the All City auditions so it can be a busy month for your student.

This is also a great month to start looking for a Solo for UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest in February! If you take private lessons, ask your teacher, if not, ask your band director about picking out a solo or ensemble.

December

This month includes the auditions for the All Region bands and holiday concerts for Percussion and the Bands.

January

If you child advanced from the All Region auditions, the All Area auditions occur this month. Also in January, the All Region and All City Clinics and Concerts are scheduled for those qualifying for those bands.

February

This month has the UIL Full Orchestra judging. There is also a Drum-A-Thon to raise money for the Percussion section and UIL Solo and Ensemble late in the month.

March

This is the month for the Full Orchestra UIL, if your student is in the orchestra. Next comes spring break, phew!!

April

April has the Band UIL Concert & Symphonic judging.

The other item that happens this month is the band trip! This trip is scheduled to go to different areas of the US for competitions and fun. Some of the past trips have been to Disney World, Washington DC, San Antonio, and New Orleans. The trips alternate between using buses and flying and the costs vary depending on the transportation costs. The 2018 trip was scheduled for April 19-23 and we took charter buses to New Orleans LA! We had a great time performing in a music festival and sightseeing in Missouri. These trips are sanctioned by the school and are great bonding times for the students. Adult chaperones are required and have to pay their own costs. Sleep can sometimes be optional.

May

To finish out the school year, there are Percussion, Jazz, and Band Spring Concerts, State Solo and Ensemble Contest in Austin for your qualifying students and there will be a band banquet a few weeks before graduation. This is lots of fun and the band awards and letters are presented. There are more volunteer opportunities for the band booster parents to put on this banquet.

May is also the start of the next year! We have Section Leader/Drum Major camp and start getting ready for Summer Band!!