



**ALL of us ARE
OTHS
Band Boosters**

This is an enormous, well-run, deeply involved organization that takes on the enormous responsibility of helping to fund the activities associated with the band programs of O'Fallon Township High School.

These include
(but are not limited to):

OTHS Marching Panthers
Jazz Ensemble
Jazz Band
Symphonic Band
Concert Bands
Madrigal Brass Ensemble
Wind Ensemble
Color Guard & Winter Guard

It is run entirely by volunteers who look forward to meeting you at our next Band Booster meeting!

If you would like to suggest something to include in this brochure, please see any Booster Board Member.

OTHS Directors

Dr. Melissa Gustafson-Hinds, Director of Bands

Mr. Sean Harris, Associate Director of Bands

OTHS Band Boosters

**PO Box 993
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www.othsband.com

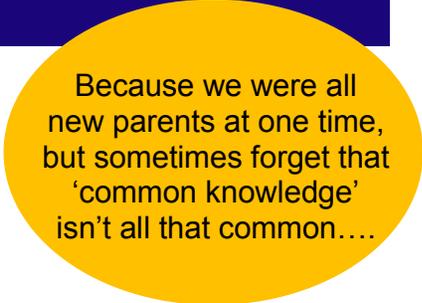
Facebook: OTHS Panther Bands



**OTHS Band
Boosters**



**Freshman &
New Parent
Survival Guide**



Because we were all new parents at one time, but sometimes forget that 'common knowledge' isn't all that common....



Welcome to the OTHS Band Boosters!

Survival Tip #1 - We're Wired

Check the OTHS website – specifically the calendar - often. It is THE communication tool of the Booster organization, and has been known to change on a daily basis.

www.othsband.com

Know it. Love it. Make it your home-page.

Survival Tip #2—Get to Know the Language

There are several acronyms used by the organization on the calendar:

- MB = Marching Band
- Perc = Percussion
- CG = Color Guard
- WG = Winter Guard
- JB = Jazz Band
- JE = Jazz Ensemble
- WE = Wind Ensemble
- BOA = Bands of America (competition sponsors)
- GN = Grand Nationals (National BOA competition in Indianapolis)
- MEMC = Metro East Marching Classic (spoken as “EM EE EM SEE” or “MEMsee”) – an OTHS Band Boosters-sponsored competition, held at Panther Stadium.
- VP Fair STL = Veiled Prophet Fair Saint Louis. (All band members are expected to be in St. Louis for this July 4th parade.)



Survival Tip #3—Get By With a Little Help from Your Friends

Try to find a few fellow Band Boosters who live nearby & get to know them. Consider setting up a carpool schedule for drop-offs and pick-ups during band camp and throughout the marching season. It WILL save your sanity, and a couple of bucks in gas – at least until your child has his or her driver's license.

During the school year, there is an activity bus between the Milburn & Smiley campuses to transport your student to MB practice. Your child may be eligible to ride a bus home from Smiley; however, they may not always be able to make the bus in time; anticipate the occasional need to pick them up after practice.

Survival Tip #4— Immersion Works Best

As with any organization, there are many volunteer opportunities and needs. Please volunteer wherever you can, whenever you can. The more people you work with, the more people you'll get to know, the more comfortable you'll be with The Machine that is the Band Boosters. Also, attend as many Booster meetings as possible. They are generally held the 1st Thursday of every month.

Survival Tip #5—FUNdraising

There are 4 major, volunteer-intensive fundraisers. Many hands make light work, and the common goal is to keep YOUR band fees as low as possible while continuing to offer – and improve upon – our well-known, quality, nationally competitive program. It is to YOUR benefit, and to that of your child, to do your part. Your student will be expected to work at each of the BIG ones: Two Yard Sales (August and April); MEMC (September); and the Craft Fair (first weekend in November).

Many other volunteer opportunities are available as well: transportation, band camp dinners, band banquets, chaperoning, etc.

Also remember that volunteering with your student provides you the rare high school opportunity to get to know the kids with whom your child is associating!

Survival Tip #6—Recognize & Represent

Purchase the yellow Band Booster shirt. Wear it while volunteering, and to as many marching events as possible. It serves two purposes: (1) It proclaims you as an OTHS Marching Panther groupie; and (2) it helps you find the rest of our group - especially at large events such as Grand Nationals, Super Regionals, and the out-of-town parades!! But please remember that when you wear the shirt, you instantly become an ambassador and representative of the band, the school, and O'Fallon. Your actions and behavior may be the only impression someone else has of O'Fallon, OTHS and your child. Please put your best foot – and behavior – forward.

Survival Tip #7— Communicate!!

If you have a question, ASK! It's a safe bet that you're not the only person asking the question. That aside, unless we know what they are, we cannot address your concerns or questions.

Survival Tip #8— Be On Time

This actually means “arrive 15 minutes *before* the published time.” Your student needs these extra minutes to gather their instrument, report to the designated area, and warm up (physically, mentally and musically).

Survival Tip #9—Help Others

Next year when you're a Seasoned Veteran, please make a point to help the incoming parents feel welcome!

**Again, welcome to the
Band Boosters!**

We're glad you're here!!