

The Band Boosters' Glossary of Acronyms, Phrases, Terms and Words

Commonly Used Around the OTHS Band Program

Band Camp Dinner—these are meals provided by the Band Boosters in the evenings during the weeks of Band Camp. The students enjoy a relaxing time with the band members dining on site. These times are always a welcome break for the students and a time of need for volunteers to help serve the food.

Band Camp-this is generally two weeks of intense band related activities held in early August. Band students arrive early am and practice music and movement throughout the day culminating in the evening. Students are introduced to the Field Show and learn skills required for producing an outstanding performance as a Unit.

Band Room-this is generally the Smiley Campus Band Room however it can also mean Milburn!! This area is on the North end of the Smiley facility.

Band Shoes—these are the black shoes required to perform at events.

Band Wagon—separate from Concessions, this is the customized trailer that is a self-contained funnel cake and sno-cone producing machine staffed by Band Booster Volunteers. This fundraiser is a locally known and recognized legend that is sought out by the hungry public and is known for producing the finest funnel cakes in the whole Mid-West region!

Battery—this is the portion of the Band that is comprised of the snare drums, bass drums, and quad drums. Easily remembered as the portion of the drumline that moves around the field during the show. Also occasionally used as a term to name the cylindrical energy source used to power portable electronics.

Bibbers or bibs-refer to the dark blue bib overall type part of the Band Uniform. Generally stored in a garment bag and slipped over shorts near time of performance.

Big Blue-Tractor/trailer used to transport band instruments to the various venues the Band participates in. This customized trailer accommodates the bulk of the student's instruments on trips. Additionally, this is the storage area for Shakos. (See shako)

Black socks-must be worn with band uniform. White socks + dark blue uniform=TACKY

Blue shirt-slang for the transportation crew that moves the band's large equipment. These (usually) handsome, sturdy men wear dark blue instead of yellow shirts because blue doesn't show dirt as readily as yellow. They also act as the *MacGyver's* for the Band. They routinely make anything out of plywood, pipe and duct tape! If it's broke or needs moved----see Transportation-they are in Blue Shirts!!

Blue shorts-the dark shorts worn under the band uniform. Students are sometimes instructed to show up in polo and blue shorts. This is for ease of dressing in the uniform when they get to school. Pull the bibbers over the blue shorts and they are ready!

BOA-Bands of America---this is a national organization that OTHS Band participates in sanctioned events. BOA provides high quality competitions and expert advice in all things band related. If it's a BOA event—it's a big deal for the Students, Parents and Spectators.

Board Meeting-this meeting is held monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Smiley Band Room (or in a room nearby) and is attended by Booster Officer's, Committee Chairmen, Event Key Workers, and is open to all Members. The meeting is to discuss the details of the Booster organization with regard to events, planning, review of events, finances and all issues in regard to supporting the Band

Board-term used to describe the Officers and Committee Chairmen for the Boosters

Boutique-this is the area located at the end of the hallway after entering the Band Room door provided to purchase accessories for the Student and Parent. Gloves, socks, shirts are generally available. The YELLOW SHIRTS you as a parent will want to purchase are available here. Boutique items sometimes require a deposit and order and ALWAYS require payment prior to use.

Budget—this refers to the Band Boosters financial plan for each year to support Band related activities through the purchase of, providing for, and maintenance of assets in our mission of supporting the Band

By-Laws—these are guidelines used by the Band Boosters to govern activities

Calendar---this is the “event tracker” posted on the OTHS Band Booster web-site. Most events, practices, times, dates, trips, etc. are posted to this calendar. It is important to reference it often as it changes nearly daily as the most current information is posted. Great communication tool for students and parents alike to stay “in tune” and plan your daily schedule.

Charter—Charter Bus-when traveling longer distances, Charter Coaches are generally used for the comfort of the students. These expenses are mostly paid by the Booster organization with some consideration by OTHS District. Charters are a “treat” to provide the highest level of comfort vs. using Yellow Busses. All rules still apply with Chaperones manning seats to assure compliance.

Color guard—unit of Band that handles the flags, weapons and related movements during performances.

Concessions-this term is used to describe the activities of selling soda, chips, hot dogs and other highly nutritious items at events including Craft Fair and HOME Football games. Profits from sales support the Band by providing reduced Band Fees and purchase of support components

Craft Fair- the single LARGEST fundraiser for the Band Boosters. Annual event held for the last 30+ years the first weekend in November; an “all hands on deck” production. Parents and students volunteer for work shifts convenient for their schedule throughout the weekend, providing support and direction for the 300+ crafters hosted. Help is needed in all areas: parking, set-up, break-down, food concessions, bake sale, Santa Helper's, office help, and various other areas. The impact of the Craft Fair is simple: The more funds raised during this *ONE weekend*, the less money you pay in annual band fees. Please mark your calendar now and plan to spend time helping keep your (and everyone else's) band fees low.

Dot Book---this is the mysterious and top secret notebook each Band Student uses to record and check their movements for the Field Show. You will hear this term and see your student referring to this Dot Book many times as they learn “the show”

Dr. Beat—this is an electronic device often heard at practices. It produces an audible (and annoying-to-spectators) sound for reference of Band students as they practice

Dr. G-term used to identify the Band Director. Full name: Dr. Melissa Gustafson-Hinds. Usually seen pacing the sidelines or perched atop the press box, and sporting a “Hello Kitty” accessory of some kind. If you can’t find her, she’s probably on the field; simply note the direction in which all student heads are turned. Also commonly referred to as Ms. G. when in a hurry! Gustafson-hindsm@oths.k12.il.us

Drop-off point---this is the Parking Lot on the South end of the Smiley Building. It is NOT the Faculty Parking Lot adjacent to the Band Room. Please don’t drop off your child anywhere except the South Lot. This is to provide the highest level of safety for your child. The students march many miles during the day; a few feet from the SOUTH parking lot to the band room is good warm up.

Drum Major-these are the students standing on the ladders or platforms directing the Band during performances. They are also respected as a vital communication channel between Director, Assistant Directors, Techs and the Band students.

Edward Jones Dome-Home of the St. Louis Rams football team and a venue used quite often for band competitions and events. Located in downtown St. Louis. Use the MLK Bridge for quickest access (next best option is the Eads St. Bridge)

Field Show---this is the show that is generally performed at football games and during competitions the Band is attending. This show is custom and unique to OTHS in that the music and movements are designed and refined with regard to the OTHS Marching Panthers. Students start learning it in early August and have it perfected by BOA Grand National Championships in November

Flags—these are the devices used by Color and Winter guard. They look like a flag on a stick hence the term Flags.

Football game-used to describe the time when the Band allows the sports team to interrupt their practicing by hosting a game at Panther Stadium. The Band performs a half-time show and Band Members sit together showing support for their fellow OTHS participants throughout the game. Home games serve as “tune-up” time for the Field Show performances. Concessions are provided at home games by the Band Boosters. Away games are not mandatory for Band Students to attend in that no OTHS Band performances are conducted.

Fundraising, General—a committee of dedicated individuals who organize, promote and nurture fundraising events that support the entire Band and all its associated programs (Winter Guard, Jazz Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, etc.). Activities include: Yard Sales, Craft Fair, Concessions, O That Jazz, MEMC and much more

Fundraising, Student – Activities, usually monthly, that are equivalent to opportunities for the student to raise money for their individual accounts. Percentages vary, but generally range between 30-50% of total sale of products, which include TJs Pizza, Auntie Anne's, Coffee Beanery, and Butter Braids. These funds can be used for a myriad of things (band fees, trip payments, etc.) and results of efforts put forth are immediate rewards for each individual student having his/her account grow in balance to fund specific items related to their performance.

Funnel Cakes---the “other” thing the OTHS Band Program is known for!! Delicious treat that is cooked up by Band Parent volunteers at numerous events. These culinary delights are made in the Band Wagon exclusively, and created by volunteer gourmands highly trained in frying things in lava-hot oil.”

Garment Bag—this bag stores the Band Student's uniform. It is required and should be treated with respect and Band Uniforms should be properly transported in this bag. This helps keep the uniform clean and presentable safeguarding it from damage.

Gauntlets-these are the dark blue/black and gold things that go over the sleeves of band jacket and are designed to fill in the space where the uniform jacket ends and the gloves begin (aka ‘hiding the wrists while playing an instrument’). These items are universal in size and handed out just prior to performance and returned after performance to Uniform People for storage. They shouldn't be taken home or left in the Band Room after performances.

Gillespie-this parade is formally known as the Gillespie Black Diamond Parade. OTHS has accepted invitations to this parade and it is used as an “eye-opener” for Staff and students to give feedback to Director on areas needed for improvement by the Band.

Golf Carts—these are (oddly enough) golf carts used at events to transport equipment and personnel. The use is restricted to adults only for safety concerns

Grand Nationals—Grand Nats----this competition is the “Big-Daddy” of events. Held annually, and most recently at the Lucas Oil Stadium (home of the Colts) in Indianapolis, IN. This event is an overnight (or two, depending on the luck of the draw that determines performance date and time) competition that spotlights the best of the best bands across the nation. The competition starts with nearly 100 bands and is judged down in an elimination tourney-style atmosphere, eventually culminating in several categories of excellence. It is best compared to the NCAA Basketball tourney in its composition, level of national competition and level of exposure to the elite band programs. OTHS is gunning to join the Finals category since coming off their 1st ever Semi Final placement in 2011.

GSL-Greater St. Louis—this event is a “local” competition held at the Edward Jones Dome annually in the fall; and in which the premier bands from the region perform. It is also a well-attended spectator event that you will not want to miss. It is used by the Band as another tune-up for competing at the BOA Grand National competition.

Instrument—this is what your Band student plays!! It is also one of the most forgotten items when preparing to leave for an event

Jazz Band—an exciting and growing band program at OTHS. These talented musicians play music from (surprise!) the jazz genre. (Noted as JB on the website calendar)

Jazz Ensemble – A smaller group of amazingly talented musicians playing music from the jazz genre. (Noted as JE on the website calendar)

Khakis—these are the shorts or pants your Student should wear for traveling to events and when referred to by Dr. G. These shorts are purchased on your own and are not provided in the boutique. Like the polo shirts---appearance, in consideration to performance of a large group, is important and we want the kids to not only sound good but to LOOK their best, too.

Lucas Oil Stadium-Home of the Indianapolis Colts and used as a venue for band competitions. Indy is an easy 4 hour drive straight out Interstate 70 East. Lucas Oil Stadium is in downtown Indianapolis, and is connected to the convention center and several affordable downtown hotels by a series of skyways and walkways.

Madrigal Brass – the Brass instruments, and their students, that accompany the Madrigal choir.

Marching Panthers – the multi-talented and nationally competitive Marching Band program associated with OTHS. (Noted as MB on the website calendar.) Approximately 240 students strong and growing.

Marquee---this is the area of the Smiley Campus near the electronic sign board, at the corner of Smiley and 50. This area has become a popular practice area due to the shade provided by the large trees.

MCCGA—Mid Continent Color Guard Association provides competition venues for the popular Winter Guard program

Membership Meeting-this meeting is held generally the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 in the OTHS Smiley Campus Cafeteria. Meeting is used to discuss needs of the Band in regard to events and support issues. There are a few notable exceptions, which is why it is so important to check the calendar often.

MEMC-Metro East Marching Classic-an annual event hosted on the OTHS Smiley Campus. Invitations are sent out and accepted by as many as 18 Marching Bands in our area. This premier competition allows band directors to gauge their band's performance with professional judge feedback. Band Students and Booster parents volunteer to man a variety of stations to ensure the event runs smoothly. It has developed into a well-respected band competition and a profitable fundraiser to support the Band Program.

Milburn-term used to identify the OTHS Milburn Campus on Milburn School Road. Also called the "Freshman Campus" or "9th Grade Center" at times.

Mission Statement—To provide support of the OTHS Band Program

Mr. Harris—this is the handsome gentleman that also serves as the Assistant Band Director!! Often seen interacting with various groups of students on the field during practice.

O' That Jazz---Annual dinner auction that features the Jazz Band students. This semiformal event is held on the 3rd Friday in February, and raises funds to support the Band Program and Booster mission. In its 3rd year (2012), this unique program became our 2nd largest fundraiser.

Officer-general term used to describe the Band Booster Officers---President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Band Boosters. Each term is for 2 years; elections are staggered for program continuity sake.

Orchestra—this band is another growing part of the OTHS Band Program. It is a classic group of string instruments that will amaze you!!!

Panther Dome—this is the main gym area on the South side of the Campus. The Band performs concerts and pep rallies in this facility. It is also an integral part of the Craft Fair.

Pit-this term is used to describe the portion of the Band that uses stationary percussion related equipment; commonly found front and center of the Field Show

Plume-this is the feather that goes on top of the shako (See “shako”)! Delicate and expensive. These are handed out and collected at each performance. Please do not play with or tickle someone with it even though this is very tempting!

Polo(s)-these are the white shirts required to be worn by the band student at various functions and events, while volunteering or during traveling. Requiring these shirts has given the Band a sense of unity and conformity in presentation. Besides—it helps with dress code issues and OTHS student identification

Red Bud-this parade is formally known as the Red Bud Fireman’s Parade. Is “tune-up” parade for the VP Parade.

SAM—Student Account Manager—this is the person who tracks, records and reports the activities concerning the individual Band student’s financial account. To receive emailed statements or for any question---email contact is: SAM@othsband.com

Scrip – a gift card program which raises money for your student’s individual financial account. Orders are generally accepted twice each month (every other Tuesday) during the school year, and once a month during the summer. Basically, you can purchase gift cards to the stores and restaurants where you shop and eat most, and use them in lieu of cash; or you can order them to use as gifts for family, friends, neighbors, teachers, coworkers.... You get the idea.

Section Leader---these are Student Leaders selected to head up each instrument section (e.g., “Clarinets,” “Flutes,” “Mellophones,” “Sousaphones,” etc.; main job is to communicate the expectations for the section to the section members. These leadership positions are key in the chain of command to interpret and move the Band toward the Director’s goals. This is your student’s best contact person. Having your student obtain the Section Leader’s cell number is suggested and may be helpful, especially since texting is the student-preferred communication method.

Shako-this is a term used to describe the Hats worn by Band members. These expensive little hats have a permanent home in Big Blue in a hat box specifically assigned to your band student. Generally worn at parades and performances. Never to be taken home or left lying around the Band Room. Put them in their box and then in your assigned slot in Big Blue.

Silk-the flags used by the Colorguard. The silks the Booster's sewed this year are beautiful. Yes, we quite often do these types of things!!! Do you sew? Talk to the Guard Director—they always appreciate help in this endeavor

Smiley-OTHS on Smiley Street. This is the "main campus" where the 10-12 grade students attend.

Snacks-these are items provided to Band Students at events, practices, and sometimes performances. Usually light in nature with some attention to nutrition given. No, they are not candy bars and soda pops!

Sound System—this is the electronic component provided to the Band for performance. It is comprised of mixing boards, speakers, microphones and other electronic gadgetry and wizardry. It can be seen at all Field Shows front and center of the Pit.

South Parking Lot-this is the drop off/pick up point for Band Students. Do NOT drop them at the parking lot adjacent to the Band Room. This is IMPORTANT for the safety of all. It gets very congested in the small Staff Parking Lot adjacent to the Band Room and crossing the street can be very dangerous. PLEASE adhere to this requirement and drop your student—child where it is safest and have them walk the 400 steps to the Band Room. It is simply too DANGEROUS to allow any exceptions. The students march all day---400 steps to the Band Room is a good warm-up

Tarp—this is the floor covering used by the Winterguard to provide a visual back drop for performances but also to protect the floor from damage

Techs-these adults are consultants, teachers, and instructors and assist the Director in communication and performance enhancement. Generally a Tech conveys very specific instruction to the student regarding the musical aspects and the overall wishes of the Director.

Travel uniform-consists of the Band polo and khakis to identify the students as part of OTHS Band. This small detail in dress reinforces the concept of self-pride, team unity and a professional look.

Triangle – (I still don't know what it is, but I've heard it referred to when asking about parking....)Parking are at the corner of US Highway 50 and Weber Road. Oddly enough, the parking lot is in the shape of a triangle.

Uniform—this consists of jacket, bibbers (bibs), show shirt or polo shirt, shako, shoes, black socks, gloves, gauntlets, and other accessories.

Volunteer—this is you!! Your help is always needed and welcomed. The Band Boosters survive by the fantastic spirit of volunteerism to meet the needs of the Band. Each event and each time the Band

moves—help is needed to ensure the students realize the highest possible level of performance and take away positive experiences. Great way to meet other parents who have a common interest—the Band – (and to get to know the kids your student is hanging out with)

VP Parade—this is the annual Veiled Prophet Parade held in St. Louis around the 4th of July. OTHS has a proud history of being the standard bearer at this parade. The Band has a string of 18 consecutive years as being voted the Outstanding Band at this parade.

Weapons—these are the stick guns and sabers used by Color and Winter Guards during performances.

Weber Field—area used by the Band often times to practice drill. The demands of Panther Stadium sometimes require the Band to practice here. The area is located just EAST of Weber Road---east of the Stadium. There is a huge parking lot for you to use to watch band practice should you decide to come a little early to pick up your Band Student.

Website---othsband.com or linked from OTHS website. However you get there---get there often!! This is a great announcement and explanation tool used regularly and updated nearly daily. This tool is vital to keep you informed and up-to-date with the many activities of the Band

Wind Ensemble – an orchestra comprised of wind instruments (flutes, clarinets, bassoons, saxophones, etc.). Students must audition for the exclusive right to perform; auditions are typically conducted in February for the following school year. (Noted as WE on the website calendar.)

Winter Guard—unit of Band that performs during the “off-season” winter months. Similar to Color Guard but a stand-alone unit that competes against other units. (Noted on the website calendar as WG)

Yard Sale---this is a twice a year ---Fall and Spring --- fundraising event held at the Smiley Campus. Donated items are sorted and priced and offered to the general public for sale in a “yard sale” fashion. All unsold items are, in turn, donated to a local charity

Yellow bus—term used to describe the school bus that transports band members to events that are close to O’Fallon. The Yellow Bus drivers are employees of the same bus service used by OTHS to transport students daily to and from school. The busses are provided by the District and all School Rules of Conduct are enforced. Band Booster Chaperones generally travel on these busses to events to also monitor activities and provide support to the Band students.

Yellow Shirts—these polo type shirts are available for purchase. Parents attending events are encouraged to wear a Yellow Shirt. This serves two purposes—1. Identification: You can easily find the OTHS Band Boosters in a large crowd, and the kids (and other attendees) get to see the outstanding support the Band enjoys and 2. If an OTHS band student should need assistance, they know they are soliciting help from an OTHS parent (even if they don’t know you personally) and not some random stranger. Also band slang for a Chaperone or Groupie

Etiquette Tips

Whether it's a parade or a field show—stand and cheer for all bands participating but always make sure that, when the OTHS Band performs, the loudest cheers are heard!!! Other Bands are comprised of kids just like yours---they just live in a different school district. Band is really about the students having the opportunity to learn *life skills*---individual pride in a job well done, always giving it their best, learning to function in a group setting, learning new skill sets, teamwork, listening skills, communication skills, and many more lifelong traits that are built upon to be a successful and satisfied member of society.

The “cardinal rule” of “if you can't say something nice—don't say anything at all” is a trite expression that certainly applies. As parents of young adults, we all know how fragile emotionally these kids are at this age. Whether it's your child or a child of someone in an entirely different band, positive reinforcement and encouragement through cheering and clapping will serve the Band student well.

Treat others' children the way you want your child to be treated! Whether you are sitting in the stands or standing along a parade route, the kids in the band performing are someone's child just like yours!! Be respectful and encouraging please.

The Band Boosters look forward to providing support for many years to come as our predecessors have done for years. The Band continues to grow in numbers and quality of performances and *not by chance*. OTHS is blessed to have a Band Program led by quality staff, and educators, and supported by engaged PARENTS. As a parent, you are to be commended for seeing the value in music education for your child but the journey is not over! Now is the time that you, as a parent and Band Booster member, get to reap the rewards through making new friends and enjoying watching your child perform at an extremely high level in the music world.

The Boosters look forward to getting to know you and your student over the next few years and encourage you to **GET INVOLVED**. A few short years from now---your child will Thank You for being there with them and experiencing their successes as Band Students.