



Tips for Chaperones

Thank you for helping. It is our hope that the following tips help you be informed and have the best possible time.

- Busses
 - Pick up the bus list from the band office or directors.
 - Make sure everyone prints their name the bus list.
 - Take attendance after the bus is loaded after each stop.
 - Only a director can authorize a change in bus. This will eliminate the responsibility of dealing with constant requests and pleadings from students as they attempt to find the most willing adult to grant them their request. You may encounter students who switch without speaking to anyone. If this occurs, send them to a staff member.
 - Encourage students to pick up trash after stops and upon arrival at home.
 - It is very difficult to force students to clean up a mess they did not personally create. When the culprits are not known, the best approach is to ask nicely without accusing anyone.
 - Be a liaison to the bus driver.
 - Walk the aisle and make sure all equipment and personal items are removed from the bus upon arrival home.
 - Return the clip board/bus list to the band office upon arrival home.
- Events

Please plan to spend the duration of the trip or event with the group. Remember, even if you have some “down time” with nothing to do, your simple presence helps supervise, control negative behavior, and many other things. Seldom does the band staff have a replacement chaperone or alternative plan.

 - Have an updated copy of the schedule or itinerary. This will better help you answer any questions which may arise.
 - Encourage students to meet all time requirements with positive suggestions and updates.
 - Discourage loud and obnoxious behavior.

You will find that a vast majority of our students are respectful and will offer no problems. However, it is possible that an occasional student may offer some resistance to being told what to do by someone who is not their primary teacher. Even hired staff members encounter this from time to time.

→ Please do not consider yourself the only course of discipline, or yourself as the sole person whose job it is to fix every instance of misbehavior. This will only add to your stress. If your positive requests are not met, you can inform a director at an appropriate time.

→ A good line to students may be “Mr./Mrs. _____ has asked me to see to it that _____. Would guys give me a hand?”

Remember, anytime you ask for volunteers, you aren’t going to get everyone.

→ Unless there is a serious situation that could result in the injury of a student, or damage to equipment, most negative instances can be reported and dealt with at the most appropriate time. Usually this is never as we prepare for a performance or in a public setting.

→ Remember, the goal is to achieve a specific action not to prove who is in charge. Avoid power struggles with students. While you may win at the time, ultimately we all lose the ability to co-exist in an environment that allows us to be successful. Without the day to day rapport that the band staff has with each student, you will find that kind, positive requests will be met with the best response and will be most likely to achieve whatever the desired action is.

Thank you again for your assistance, and we hope these tips have helped!

