

A.I. duPont Tiger Marching Band 2018-19 Overview

Attendance - All band members are expected to be at all rehearsals & performances, on time, and with all of their equipment in working order. Students having a valid conflict should contact the band director via e-mail as soon as possible, but not less than 72 hours (3 days) prior to the event. A successful band is made up of members who are committed and dedicated at all times.

Uniforms - Each band member is assigned a uniform for the year. It is their responsibility to keep it cleaned. All uniforms should be hung up after each performance. Do not keep them zippered in the garment bag at home. Playing members should take their uniform to be dry cleaned when necessary. Band Front uniforms should hand-washed and cannot be put into a dryer. Shoes and boots should be cleaned every week and Shoe White (polish) applied if needed. Don't forget to wear black socks (no ankle socks) and wash your gloves.

Music - Each playing member has been given a folder with their name taped to the inside. They will add music to the folder as they receive it. They will also need to keep a pencil in their folder (preferably mechanical). All students will keep to the part which they are assigned to maintain balance within the band.

Instruments - Students who do not own an instrument can usually borrow one from the school. These are provided in good, working order. It is the student's responsibility to keep the instrument properly cleaned and maintained. If the instrument needs to be repaired, it is the student's responsibility to take it to a repair shop and pay for it. This includes brass tuning slides that are frozen (stuck), leaking woodwind pads, sticking valves, etc. Students are to provide their own reeds and drumsticks.

Rehearsals - All band members are enrolled in the Marching/Concert Band course during the school day. Students in this class who cannot participate in marching band outside of school are still responsible to learn the music to perform at concerts. Outside of band camp, the marching band practices one night per week (usually Monday), from 7:00-9:00 pm. Some squads may have sectionals from 6:00-7:00 pm. All members should arrive to practice early so that we can begin on time. Also, students being picked up should have their rides waiting at the high school before 9:00 pm.

Football Timeline - For home games, any visiting team band will perform 20 minutes before the scheduled kickoff. The AIHS Band plays the national anthem and fight song 5 minutes before kickoff. We will perform our field show at halftime. The opposite will be true for away games - AIHS will perform 20 minutes prior to kickoff (unless we are invited to perform at halftime if the school does not have a marching band). Students will be dismissed to the concession stand by seniority during the game, so they should have a few dollars if they want a snack or drink. Students should contact their rides in the middle of the 4th quarter (or when the busses are 15 minutes from school for away games).

Football Stands - All band members sit in the band section during football games (with their instrument section). Nobody outside of the band may sit in the band section. Everyone is expected to participate in all stand music and cheers. We are all there to support our football team! When a student is dismissed to the concession stand they may stop and visit with their family briefly, purchase anything they need from the concession stand, then promptly return to the band section to eat. Students will only be dismissed to the concession stand once. Students should not linger and visit with other students, boyfriends/girlfriends, etc. Band members are on duty and are expected to act appropriately. Students should not be on their cell phone while in uniform. They may use their phone as a camera to take pictures occasionally, or to call/text their parent/guardian for a ride during the 4th quarter.

Transportation - We will have a bus to all away football games. Students who live closer to the away school and wish to meet us there will need written permission from their parent/guardian. Students leaving with their family from an away game will need a parent/guardian to sign them out with the band director.

Expenses - Band front need to purchase warm-ups, boots, tights, etc. These members ordered the items in June and are aware of the costs. All playing member will need to purchase band shoes (\$30) and a band t-shirt (\$8). Playing members will be provided with one pair of gloves. Replacement gloves will cost \$2. Checks/money orders should be made out to "A.I. Bands." The band participates in the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Parade. The cost will be approximately \$100-\$115 and includes motorcoach transportation, hotel Wednesday night, and a full American breakfast in the morning. The band and choir usually travel to a spring music festival. The cost could be anywhere from \$300-\$450, depending on the location and number of days. Students are not required to travel with the band on these trips. However, they are fantastic experiences and students are encouraged to participate. The band boosters provide fundraisers throughout the year to help offset the cost of travel.

Athletics - Students participating on A.I. duPont sports teams should attend their athletic game, then come to band rehearsal after it. If there is a band performance and a sports practice, then the student should attend band. Prior communication with your coaches is important! Students should not miss marching band practice due to outside club sports or activities.

Band Boosters - The band boosters is our parent support group. They provide our band with many resources and we could not function as we do without them! We highly recommend that at least one parent/guardian from every family participate in the band boosters. The group meets once a month - usually the third Thursday - at 7:00 pm in the AIHS Library. Even if you cannot attend the meetings we can use your help to support OUR kids!

Communication -

- We utilize the Remind App for sending out text messages to students and their families. All students and family members should text the phrase @aiband to 81010. Then, follow the instructions to enter your name. If you experience a technical error, please contact the band director to be added manually.
- Students will be asked to complete a contact form. This will provide the band with all email addresses and phone numbers for students and their families. We will use this to create an email distribution list that will only be used for official band business.
- www.aibands.com is our band website. Updates are posted in the Director's Blog. To access it, click on the "Media" tab, then "Director's Blog." The online calendar should be available soon.
- Please also like/follow the band on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Contacts -

- Richard F. Weaver (Director of Bands) - richard.weaver@redclay.k12.de.us or 302-598-4114. *Please note that email should be the primary method of contact. Phone calls and text messages should only be for items needing an immediate response (assuming you haven't already been given the information). Students should be the ones making contact, but can CC a parent/guardian.*
- Jessica Burton (Band Front Advisor) - jessica.burton@redclay.k12.de.us or 302-753-4027. *Please note that email should be the primary method of contact. Phone calls and text messages should only be for items needing an immediate response (assuming you haven't already been given the information). Students should be the ones making contact, but can CC a parent/guardian.*
- Martie Diffley (Uniform Coordinator) - MWDIF@msn.com or 302-658-4754 (leave a message and a callback number).
- Chris Hewlett (Band Booster President) - hewlettcr@aol.com or 302-229-0061