

Claudia Taylor Johnson (CTJ) Band Parent Etiquette

Developed by the Parents for the Parents

“Some people love us...others don’t...our response should be the same. Professional and humble. In the greater scheme of things...none of it matters, other than our love for what we do, and we don’t want to offend anyone or give anything but the most positive message from our program.”

Jarrett Lipman 2017

- **Weekly Sheet/ CHARMS/ johnsonjaguarband.com** – These tools are your main source of information. The Weekly Sheet is VERY important and comes out via email every Sunday evening from Mr. Lipman. You and your child will be receiving this email weekly. This has all the information need to know for the coming week. Some people print it out and keep it displayed for the week) Charms will have estimated schedules further out (you must be logged into your account to see full calendar). Please fully read these 3 resources.
- **Slack/ Facebook/ online communication:** Slack is a new platform that we have been using since Spring 2018. There are several channels that you can subscribe to such as #general, #bandparentbusiness, and #charmscalendar. These channels are useful for questions not answered in the above places. Our online communications are *NOT* a place for any complaints or gripes. If you have an issue, please privately talk to the person your issue is with or bring the issue to a board member.
Facebook: **CTJ Band Parent Association:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/254015514756197/>
This page is for current band families only and information posted on here should mirror what is posted on Slack.
- **Posting of videos/ photos** – Please don’t post videos of our practices or performances online until the end of marching season in November. Mr. Lipman will send out videos of our performances via a private YouTube channel throughout the season. As Mr. Lipman has said, *“It’s no means “top secret” or anything silly like that.... we just want to present media that showcases our band members in the most professional and positive light, and we also don’t want anything posted on forums to be perceived incorrectly. Feel free to share privately with family or whoever else...but just keep it off social media.”* Jarrett Lipman 2017
- **Commenting/Posting on TX Bands, Horn Rank, or other online forums** – We ask parents and students not to comment on these sites. As a nationally recognized program, it is important to present ourselves in a way that does not reflect negatively on our school or band program. A comment you may intend as innocent may be taken the wrong way by someone else and it’s just not worth it. *“enjoy it when it’s positive...ignore it when it’s not”* Jarrett Lipman 2017
- **Contest Behavior** – *Be humble.* It’s a simple phrase but very important. We are honored every year to compete alongside some of the best bands in America. The difference between the contest scores of the top bands can often be less than a one-point difference. If we win, be excited & humble. If we don’t, be congratulatory to the winners and proud of our students and their hard work. Many kids and families would love to be a part of this program and work incredible hard themselves.
 - Be complementary, encouraging, and cheer for *ALL* bands - especially those bands from other North East ISD High Schools. We are a family!

- During performances please do not do anything that obstructs the view of those around or behind you (ie: signs, umbrellas, camera/phones/ipads when held up high)
- Do not stand up, walk to and from your seat, or talk during performances.
- Keep your conversations positive and control your responses to negative chatter that you may hear around you.
- **Ambassador** – Be aware of when you or your child are wearing CTJ Band attire around town, while on vacation, at a contest, or even at HEB (using your band gift cards). People recognize the CTJ band name and it's important to remember that we are ambassadors for our program wherever we go.
- **Guiding your student** – Band is an incredible opportunity to help your child grow in responsibility and ownership of what they do.
 - Encourage your child ask the questions of their friends, section leaders, drum majors, or band directors. If they haven't had success with that route, then you can step-in to help.
 - Encourage your child to take personal responsibility for where they need to be and what they need to bring. They will definitely forget something at some point during their time in band. Don't rush in to rescue them every time. Give them the opportunities to grow and learn, they will figure it out.
- **Pick-up and drop-off** – Please follow all guidelines while picking up and dropping off students. This can be a chaotic time, often late in the evening after football games or in the middle of the night after band competitions. **ONLY** pickup and drop-off at the front of the school.
 - Do not leave your parked car in the driveway leading up to the front entrance, or sit idle along the main road that connects Bulverde to TPC Parkway
 - Do not park in the front driveway after football games/competitions. The buses need to park there
 - Please DO Park in teacher/ visitor lot (front lower parking lot) while waiting
 - Be aware of band hall construction and changing traffic patterns.
- **Concert Etiquette** – The behavior at an indoor concert is very similar to the competitions. Please do not stand up or move to and from your seat during the actual performance (unless you need to remove a fussy child). Please do not talk, check your phones, or do anything to disturb others around you trying to enjoy their child's hard work.
- **Get involved - "Many hands make light work."** We are always on the look-out for parent volunteers for a multitude of different events, large tasks and small. Please don't assume "someone else will do it" and sit on the sidelines - we need everyone's help to pitch in and create an amazing experience for our band members.
- **HAVE FUN!** Get to know other parents and be gracious! We encourage parents to meet each other (during meetings, volunteering, etc) and ask questions of each other. CTJ Band is known for having fun both on and off of the field. Being part of this program takes hard work from the leadership, students, and parents. Some weeks will be very busy, tiring, and stressful for all involved, but when marching day comes you can see by the smiles on everyone's faces that it is all worth it.

For ten years, CTJ Band has been striving to be a top-notch program on the field and off. As parents, we are equally fortunate as the kids to be a part of the program. We always want to maintain a culture of humility and professionalism, and we are all role models for this. We wanted to share these things for new families who join, and as a reminder for our veteran families in order to help make the upcoming year smooth and successful.