

# Freshman FAQs

Welcome to the JET Band! It's one of the largest organizations on the Taylor campus and is full of a great group of students and parents. You probably have several questions about the band program, so here are answers to common questions. Email [freshman.mentoring@jetband.org](mailto:freshman.mentoring@jetband.org) with questions or concerns not covered here.

## Where can I get information about band?

The JET Band website, [www.jetband.org](http://www.jetband.org), is the source for all **Director and student information**. For the monthly practice and event schedule, click on the Calendar button then Charms then Public Calendar.

The **Jet Band Blast** is dedicated to **Booster information** and is sent out weekly. To get on the distribution list, send an email to [blast@jetband.org](mailto:blast@jetband.org).

Also, encourage your student to ask his/her section leader any questions. The leaders are here to help and guide new students.

## What do I need to bring or do for Summer band?

Eat breakfast or bring it along with a water jug, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, tennis shoes, music & instrument. A Frog Togg is great for keeping you cool - available at Wal-Mart or Academy.

## Lunch during Summer band - what are the options?

Students can bring lunch from home or purchase pizza and snacks from Project Grad during lunch break each day. Pizza will be \$2/slice and snacks and drinks will be \$1/each.

## How does my student get his/her gear?

Uniform Fittings & Gear Check will take place Thursday and Friday, July 27 and 28th, during summer practice. After your child's fitting, they will receive a packet for you to review which will include:

- What they need for the year
- Payment/Order Forms
- Checklist of all required forms & information
- Spirit Wear Forms

New Students and freshmen will receive most of their required gear on the 27th and 28th. If they have items that can be gear checked, bring them to their Section Leader on those dates. The checklist of items that your student needs to order will be sent home after their uniform fitting. Payment for these items is due in the band safe by **Tuesday, August 8**. If you have any financial concerns, please contact Mr. Ary.

Helpful hint: at gear check - be sure to buy 2 pair of socks, 2 pair of gloves, 2 pair of shorts and 2 JET band performance shirts so you won't be washing clothes at midnight for the next day's contest.

## What is after school practice like during football season?

Practice takes place after school from 3:30 - 6:00/6:30 p.m. (usually) 3 days prior to a football game with a run-through performance before the game on game day. Students will go to the band hall after school, eat a quick snack (because they'll need it) then grab their instrument, water jug, sunglasses, hat and head to the practice field. Percussion students can expect to stay 15 minutes longer to put away the "pit" equipment.

### **Where & when can you buy football tickets?**

For games at Rhodes Stadium, tickets can be bought individually at each game at the gate or in the THS commons, two days prior to the game at a discounted price (cash or check only). Season tickets cover all games at Rhodes. For away games, tickets are available at the gate. Athletic passes are also available and cover all sporting events.

### **Pep Rallies - where and when do they take place?**

Pep rallies usually occur on Fridays at 10 or 2 in the main gym. Come early & grab a seat in the Commons to watch the band march from the band hall to the gym, then make your way to the gym. Sit high up in the bleachers on the west side with all of the other parents & wear your JET band shirt.

### **How do I monitor my student's band account?**

Charms is where you find all pertinent information the band directors hand out and each student has an account to track money owed and/or credited.

- Any over payments, refunds, etc. are issued through credit on your child's account unless otherwise requested. A credit on your child's account can be used for ANY band related activity throughout the year, including fees, gear, Band Banquet, etc.
- Any under payments or unpaid fees- large or small will be put on the ledger, as well. It is important to check for debt so that it does not affect your child's exemptions at the end of the year. Money not paid hurts the band program because the boosters are solely funded by band parents and not by KISD. If you need payment plans for the Activity Fee and Gear Forms. You will need to contact Mr. Ary directly to arrange one
- We will email monthly balances starting in Sept. If you are not getting statements, then we do not have the correct email and to contact [treasurer@jetband.org](mailto:treasurer@jetband.org).
- You can access the Charms account under the Calendar link.
  - Go to <http://www.jetband.org/>
  - Click on the CALENDAR box on the top left side of home page
  - Click the blue CHARMS link at top of page
  - Enter your child's Student ID Number in the STUDENT AREA PASSWORD box. If this is your first visit you will also need to create a new password. To reset passwords, please contact Mr. Ary.
  - Your child's balance can be found by clicking FINANCES (wallet icon) or the DOLLAR SIGN (at top of page).

### **Are there ways to contribute to my student's account to offset costs?**

Yes, there are two ways individual students can fundraise to offset activity expenses. First, through Shopwithscrip.com & the JET Band, you can buy gift cards for stores and restaurants. A percentage of your purchase will go into your student's Charms account. Look for the Scrip Card tab on the [jetband.org](http://jetband.org) website to see what companies offer Scrip cards.

Students also have the opportunity to sell Butter Braid products each November. Butter Braids are a frozen pastry that thaws triple the size and filled with gooey goodness. This fundraiser begins just before Thanksgiving break with delivery before Winter Break. Unlike other band fundraisers, the money earned goes directly into your child's Charms account which can offset any balance owed or just to build credit. Each pastry sold earns your child 40%. A \$14 Butter Braid will put \$5.60 in your Charms account, so your child benefits directly from the work they put into this fundraiser.

### **How can I get involved?**

There are many volunteer activities available for parents and it's a great way to develop friendships that can last for years and years. Check out the volunteer opportunity list in this packet or take a look at the Parents section of [jetband.org](http://jetband.org).

### **Other Helpful Hints:**

\*\* During marching band season, put all accessories like socks, shorts, performance shirt, gloves, rain poncho & garment bag in the band duffel bag and keep it in the same location so students remember to bring it along with the water jug to school on game day.

#### **\*\* Safe in the Band Hall**

- Any checks paid to band are to JET BAND BOOSTERS (the only exception to this is the Butter Braid Fundraiser). You can write one check if you need to pay for more than one fee or have multiple kids. As long as it is noted how it's to be distributed, we will apply it accordingly.
- All payments, forms, etc. are to be turned into the band safe. If you are new to the band, the band safe is next to the inside band room door, there is a drop box that the kids can easily put items into.
- ANY money going into the safe needs your student's full name and what payment is for either on the memo line of the check or marked on the outside of the envelope. \*\*If you are paying cash, please indicate the amount you sent in, so if there is a discrepancy, we can work it out before it is deposited.\*\*
- We have envelopes on top of the safe, if needed. We collect for various events throughout the year and mystery money takes time to figure out. When in doubt of where to turn something in for band, put it in the safe, it will get to where it needs to go.

\*\* Percussionists - make sure your student has ear plugs.

\*\* The band has several rebate programs in which you can participate and support the band.

- Be sure to link your grocery cards with James E Taylor Band Boosters at Randalls & Kroger. Kroger clears out every August 1st, so you need to link it every year. Instructions are on the band website. At Randalls, you will need to go to the service desk to link your card. Our Good Neighbor Number is 2789
- If you shop on Amazon, sign in using [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and link your account to James E Taylor Band Boosters. Many purchases are eligible for a rebate.
- Go to [www.givingassistant.org](http://www.givingassistant.org) to make purchases with other retailers such as Kohls, Forever 21, Staples, etc. and we will receive a cashback reward. You must link your account to James E Taylor Band Boosters under your account profile.