

Why does my child need to be a part of the Fayetteville High School Band Program?

This is a question I have heard and have answered myself as I have had 2 sons participate in the band program.

The Fayetteville High School Band has the best band program in Northwest Arkansas and one of the best programs in Arkansas. Over the past decade, the band has grown from 58 students to more than 200 musicians. The band has performed in several national parades, and yearly receives superior ratings at marching and concert band contests.

Band director Barry Harper and his staff of directors have created a positive environment for learning, discipline, dedication, leadership, teamwork, and commitment while enhancing the student musical's skills. The band is all inclusive—allowing musicians of all skill levels. No one is left behind! But being a part of the Bulldog band is also rewarding and most of all *fun*. They perform at weekly football games, participate in several marching contests, compete in concert contests and take band trips. New students are welcomed warmly each year, with band students encourage each other to achieve his or her personal best. Students are also encouraged to pursue other extra-curricular activities. Students participating in athletics, choir, employment, church-related groups, Boy Scouts, etc. When your child becomes a member of the band, he or she becomes a part of the history and tradition established by former students.

For our family, being a part of the Fayetteville Band program allowed us to remain involved with our sons and their friends during their high school years.

As a parent and a member of the Band Booster organization, you are part of the program. There are many areas for you to be involved. Helping with uniforms, moving band equipment on and off the field, loading and unloading equipment trucks, serving as a chaperone on the band trips, or raising funds from the local businesses are just a few of the ways parents can be involved. Parents are the “cheerleaders of the band,” supporting the band at weekly football games, marching contests, regional and state concert contests. They also help by communicating with school administration and the school board members about the program that has made such a big difference in their children's lives. Words can not describe the emotions and sense of pride I experience every time the Fayetteville High School Band takes the field, celebrates a superior rating at a concert contest or when they marched in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena CA in a driving rain storm.

Being a member of the Fayetteville Band program is committing oneself to excellence and the end result is worth every hour spent in rehearsals, on the football field, or on stage performing as a musician.

Barbara Verdery
Band Booster Parent 2001-2007
Band Booster President 2006-07