



vines band

WELCOME

Dear Future Viking Band Members,

On behalf of the Band staff and administration at Vines High School, I would like to welcome you officially into the Vines Band. Your student is about to embark on a journey in realizing their fullest potential through learning and rehearsing the music alongside their peers. Over the course of their two years in the Viking Band, students learn discipline, pride, responsibility, confidence, and collaboration – qualities that students will employ well beyond their high school years.

We are the largest spirit organization at Vines High School, and we represent the best on our campus. Band members are active in shaping the culture of campus by using the skills learned in Band to lead their peers in athletics, fine arts, service organizations, and academics.

The Viking Band Family is a place for everyone. From the color guard to the percussion, and from last chair to All-Region rock star, every single member of the Viking Band has a vital role in the success of every performance. In Viking Band, there is no “B Team.” Every student is given the highest level of instruction from our world-class staff, and every student is given a performance responsibility that directly contributes to overall product for our audience. In learning this, students have a sense of belonging to something greater than themselves.

Along the way, you may find that you have some questions for the staff, please feel free to drop us a line via our website (vinesband.info) or via email (Jonathan.Cao@pisd.edu). We look forward to working with your students next year in Viking Band.

Go Vikings!

Jonathan Cao, Director of Bands
Chris Martin, Associate Director of Bands
Tex Bosley, Percussion Instructor
Alex Webb, Color Guard Director



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What important dates do I need to remember?

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Mid-April | Placement auditions for the Vines Band. Music will be available in March, and auditions will take place via virtual submission. |
| April 27 | MANDATORY Parent/Student Meeting; Students will be fitted for gear and shoes. |
| May 22 | Viking Band Launch Camp, 1-5pm: Students will be issued their marching season instruments, learn some new Viking Band traditions, and participate in masterclasses in preparation for their Fall halftime and contest production. Students will also be fitted for shoes and gloves at this time. |
| June 1 – 4 | Cluster Percussion/Color Guard Camp, 8am – 5pm at PSHS (required for all drum line members - \$70 tuition fee) |
| Jul 19 – 23 | Cluster Percussion/Color Guard Camp, 8am – 5pm at PSHS (required for all drum line members - \$90 tuition fee) |
| Jul 26 – Aug 10 | Summer Training Camp: All Texas marching band students begin their preparation for halftime and contest productions beginning the first two weeks of August. Exact times can be found at www.vinesband.info |
| Jul 25 | Parent Welcome Meeting, 4-5pm |
| August 11 | 1st Day of School |

What will the rehearsal schedule look like after school begins?

A “normal” week of rehearsal looks like this:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Monday – Friday | 7:00am – 8:30am |
| Thursday (Game Day!!!) | 3:30pm – 5:00pm Dinner 5:30pm Leave for the Game |
| Game Week Fridays | No morning practice, Study Hall during class |

What course should my child take for band?

Incoming percussionists should sign up for **1st Period** band. All other band students will select **Band** as a class, and the Vines Band Directors will ensure that all students are in the proper class period. Percussion Class (fall) meets 1st period, Symphonic Band meets 1st period, Wind Ensemble meets 2nd period, Wind Symphony meets 3rd period, and Jazz Band meets 6th period.

Do all students participate in the Vines Marching Band?

Yes – and it is SO MUCH FUN!!! Per PISD Policy, all students enrolled for Band participate in the Vines Viking Band during the fall semester, but your involvement may look differently (color guard, soloist, sound engineer, etc.)



How do you determine placement into concert bands for the Fall/Spring Semester?

We use an audition process to evaluate the performance abilities of all band students. This process includes playing two etudes and several different scales. The spring audition is very important because it determines the students' band placement based on ability/execution, learning pace, and maturity.

What is Charms?

Charms is an online database that the Vines band program uses to keep financial records, record of instrument checkouts, contact information, communication to parents, etc. All information distributed from the directors/band boosters is done through email (so your Charms account being up to date is very important). The incoming students will be placed into the Vines band database at the end of the 2017 spring semester. We will discuss this online feature in great detail at the Mandatory Parent meeting in August.

I want to know more about... who do I contact?

Please direct your questions to the appropriate instructor...

General Questions: Jonathan Cao – Director of Bands. Jonathan.Cao@pisd.edu

General Questions: Chris Martin – Associate Director of Bands. Chris.Martin@pisd.edu

Percussion Questions: Tex Bosley – Percussion Instructor. texbosley@gmail.com

Colorguard Questions: Alex Webb. Webbalex13@yahoo.com

Band & Athletics

Q. Can I be in Band and Football?

A. **YES**, all band rehearsals during football season are 7:00am – 8:30am (Fall ONLY) and football practices are after school 4:30pm – 6:00pm.

A. If a conflict arises where a football game and a marching band performance are on the same day, student will discuss with director on an individual basis to resolve conflict.

A. Summer band **DOES** conflict with two-a-days. Band students attend football practice during their scheduled practice time and students join the marching band later in the day.

Q. Can I be in Band and Wrestling?

A. **YES**, all Vines wrestling practices are in the afternoon and do not conflict with band rehearsal.

A. Vines wrestling have minimal conflicts with marching band performances and all conflicts can be discussed with a director on an individual basis.

Q. Can I be in Band and on the Plano Senior High School Soccer Team?

A. **YES**, all students can play soccer for the Plano Senior High School soccer team and participate in all band activities (schedule accommodation does not include club soccer).

A. Boys Soccer practices before school at the same time as band (7:00am – 8:30am Fall ONLY). Boys Soccer students will be placed into an alternate marching block to accommodate them missing morning band rehearsals. This allows the students to catch up during alternate rehearsal times and still perform at all football games.

A. Girls soccer is during 7th period and no conflicts arise concerning marching band rehearsal.

A. If a conflict arises where a soccer game and a marching band performance are at the same time, the student will discuss with director on an individual basis to resolve conflict.



Q. Can I be in Band and Volleyball?

A. **YES**, students can be in both programs. Band rehearsal and Volleyball practices **DO CONFLICT**. The solution for this problem is the volleyball students will attend marching band from 7:00am – 7:40am (Fall ONLY, until November 1st) and attend volleyball practice from 7:45am – 8:30am (this has been cleared with volleyball coaches).

A. If a conflict arises where a volleyball game and a marching band performance are on the same day, student will discuss with director on an individual basis to resolve conflict.

Q. Can I be in Band and Basketball?

A. **YES**, boys basketball practice is after school and band meets in the morning from 7:00am – 8:30am (Fall ONLY) (Try-outs for basketball are usually sometime in November, when marching band is concluding, so usually no conflicts arise).

A. **YES**, students can be in both programs. Band rehearsal and girls basketball practices **DO CONFLICT**. The director/coaches will find a solution so that the student may participate in both activities.

A. If a conflict arises where a basketball game and a marching band performance are on the same day, student will discuss with director on an individual basis to resolve conflict.

Q. Can I be in Band and Tennis?

A. **YES**, Tennis practice is after school and band meets in the morning from 7:00am – 8:30am (Fall ONLY). Most tournaments are during school so conflicts are minimal.

A. If a conflict arises where a tennis match and a marching band performance are on the same day, student will discuss with director on an individual basis to resolve conflict.

Q. Can I be in Band and Track?

A. **YES**, see band director/coaches for more details.

Q. Can I be in Band and Plano Senior High School Swim Team?

A. **YES**, all students that swim on the Plano Senior High School swim team can be in band (schedule accommodation does not include club swimming). All students need to compile their swimming schedule and bring to directors so conflicts can be resolved at the beginning of the year.

Q. Can I be in Band and Golf?

A. **YES**, see band director/coaches for more details.



Band & Cheer/Dance

Q. Can I be in Band and Cheerleading?

A. **YES**, all cheerleading practices are either during school or after school. All band rehearsals are in the morning (7:00am – 8:30am Fall ONLY).

A. All Cheerleaders are committed to cheering at football games **first** when conflicts arise with marching band performances. Cheerleaders join the band for the halftime performance and continue cheering for the remainder of the game.

Q. Can I be in Band and Vikettes?

A. **YES**, all Vikettes practices are either during school or after school. All band rehearsals are in the morning (7:00am – 8:30am Fall ONLY).

A. All Vikettes are committed to dancing at football games **first** when conflicts arise with marching band performances. Vikettes join the band for the halftime performance and continue dancing for the remainder of the game.

Bowling

Q. Can I be in Bowling and Band?

A. **YES**, all bowling practices are in the evenings and have no conflicts with marching band. If conflict arises, we will discuss on an individual basis.

ROTC

Q. Can I be in Band and ROTC?

A. **YES**, all ROTC meetings are during or after school.

A. If a conflict arises where a ROTC and a marching band performance are on the same day, student will discuss with director on an individual basis to resolve conflict



Other Fine Arts Programs

Q. Can I be in Band and Theater?

A. **YES**, all theater classes/practices meet during and after school. If a conflict arises with band, we will discuss conflicts on an individual basis.

Q. Can I be in Band and Orchestra/Choir?

A. **YES**, all students are able to be in two music activities at Vines HS. Sometimes a schedule conflict arises and the student/parents have to decide which ensemble (Band and orchestra or Band and Choir) needs to be adjusted so that the student can be in both programs.

A. All students are able to participate fully in both programs (Performances, rehearsals, and competitions). Minimal conflicts arise due to overlapping of performances, rehearsals, and competitions and can be resolved on an individual basis

Q. Can I be in Band and Speech/Debate?

A. **YES**, classes meet during school, and practices are after school. Band rehearsals are in the morning from 7:00am – 8:30am (Fall ONLY).

A. Most tournaments are on the weekends and conflicts are minimal.

A. If a conflict arises, the student will discuss with director on an individual basis to resolve conflict.

NHS and YearBook

Q. Can I be in Band and National Honor Society?

A. **YES**, students have minimal conflicts with NHS.

A. The biggest conflict is meeting times being at the same time as marching band rehearsal, but NHS offers alternate meeting times in the afternoon. If no alternate time is given, priority goes to NHS.

Q. Can I be in Band and Yearbook Committee?

A. **YES** students meet for yearbook either during school or after school with minimal conflicts.

A. If a conflict arises, the student will discuss with director on an individual basis to resolve conflict.



VINES HIGH SCHOOL BAND BOOSTER CLUB

What Is the Band Booster Club?

The Vines High School Band Booster Club is the parent organization that works with the school administration and Band directors to enhance the Band program by providing financial assistance for supplies, services, and equipment. We also support the Band by making available expert clinicians and off-site educational instruction to the students.

Parents play an important role as volunteers and are vital to the Booster Club's success. Their involvement enhances the experiences of each student and provides ideal role models.

The Booster Club recognizes the benefits that a good music program can offer to the students and promotes opportunities to strengthen their musical skills knowledge.

What Events do the Boosters Sponsor?

Fundraisers

The Boosters hold several fundraisers throughout the year to raise money to pay for services and equipment the band needs. These include general fundraisers and fundraisers that allow students to raise funds to be applied to their band accounts to help pay for Family Obligation Fee, Spring Trip, banquet ticket, etc.

- **General Fundraisers** – 100% of profits go to the Booster account.
 - Snap Raise
 - Café Virtuoso – Bake Sale and Raffle Ticket Sales
 - Spirit Wear/Spirit Button Sales
 - Fundraising Dinners at Local Restaurants
- **Fundraisers that Credit Student Accounts** – Portion of the profit goes into student account.
 - Mattress Fundraiser - \$25 for each mattress sold
 - Pecan Sales – 25% of student's sales profit
 - Café Virtuoso – 25% of pre-sale admission tickets
 - Business Sponsorships – Employers, doctors, dentists, local businesses, etc. (100% profit to band!)
 - \$100 Sponsorship - \$20 credit to student's account
 - \$350 Sponsorship - \$75 credit to student's account
 - \$500 Sponsorship - \$100 credit to student's account
 - \$1,000 Sponsorship - \$200 credit to student's account

Other Events

- 8th Grade Information Night
- Awards Banquet
- Coordinating Meals Prior to Football Games
- Popsicles during Summer Marching Camp

How Can I Help?

Parent volunteers are needed for **EVERYTHING** the Boosters do!!

- The Executive Board is made up of parents.
- Volunteers are needed to chair, coordinate, and help with each fundraiser and event.
- Chaperones are needed for football games, stadium rehearsals, UIL performances, holiday parade, etc.



What does it Cost to be in Band?

Costs change from year to year based on performance and travel expenses, but the list below is what we paid this year:

Band Required Items:

- Uniform (2019 Pricing)
 - o Band Shirt: \$15
 - o Band Shorts: \$13
 - o Black Shoes: \$38
 - o Black Socks (2 pairs): \$6
 - o Black Gloves (2 pairs): \$6
 - o Drawstring Backpack: \$10
 - o Uniform Accessory Fee: \$50
 - o Concert Uniform Cleaning Fee: \$10
 - Game-Day and UIL Meals/Snacks (10 @ \$6 each): \$60
- Subtotal: **\$208**
-
- Family Obligation Fee* \$285 (Required fee of each student that pays for items not covered by PISD.)
 - **REQUIRED ITEMS TOTAL \$493**

Color Guard Required Items:

- Uniform (2019 Pricing)
 - o CG Marching Uniform: \$100
 - o CG Equipment Check-Out Fee: \$13
 - o CG Warm-Up Jacket: \$28
 - o CG Warm-Up Pants: \$22
 - o Jazz Shoes: \$38
 - o Stir-up Tights: \$11
 - o Show Gloves: \$14
 - o Band Shirt: \$15
 - Game-Day and UIL Meals/Snacks (10 @ \$6 each): \$60
- Subtotal: **\$301**
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- Family Obligation Fee* (in band): \$285
 - Family Obligation Fee* (not in band): \$160
 - **REQUIRED ITEMS TOTAL (in band): \$586**
 - **REQUIRED ITEMS TOTAL (not in band): \$461**

Optional Items:

- Spirit Wear & Show Shirt Items (students and parents): \$15-\$35
- Spirit Buttons: \$2-\$5
- Spring Trip (San Antonio): \$375



Family Obligation Fee Calculation:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Percussion Director | \$ 14,000.00 |
| Color Guard Director | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Music/Licenses/Marching Drill | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Visuals (Flags, Vests, Uniform Parts) | \$ 8500.00 |
| Clinicians (Marching, All-Region, UIL) | \$ 12,085.00 |
| Admin Fees (CC fees, MTK) | \$ 2,500.00 |
| Conventions (Directors/Drum Majors) | \$ 1,250.00 |
| Popsicles | \$ 120.00 |
| Truck Rental for Twilight Concert | \$ 150.00 |
| TOTAL | \$58,605.00 |
| Cost per student based on 130 students | \$ 450.81 |
| Family Contribution remaining amount covered by fundraising | \$ 285.00 |

Required uniform items (\$208) and \$100 of Family Obligation Fee are due at Registration Pick-Up in August. Uniform items will be available for purchase on Membership Toolkit in early June, so most these items will have been paid for already.

Families choosing to pay the Family Obligation Fee in installments will need to pay a \$100 deposit and then pay monthly installments until the end of January. If attending the Spring Trip, all fees due (including trip fee) must be paid in full by the end of January.

Expenses for the Family Obligation, Spring Trip, and banquet tickets can be offset by the students selling sponsorships and fundraising items that credit the student's account.

*PLEASE NOTE: A **scholarship fund** has been set aside for families needing assistance in meeting the financial requirements of the band. Please do not let cost be a reason to not continue in Band. See Mr. Cao for more information.*

Why does Band cost so much?

Many of the listed costs are not covered by the district for various budget reasons. For more information about your property tax information, please visit www.pisd.edu/taxparency or see the attached handout.

HOW “ROBIN HOOD”

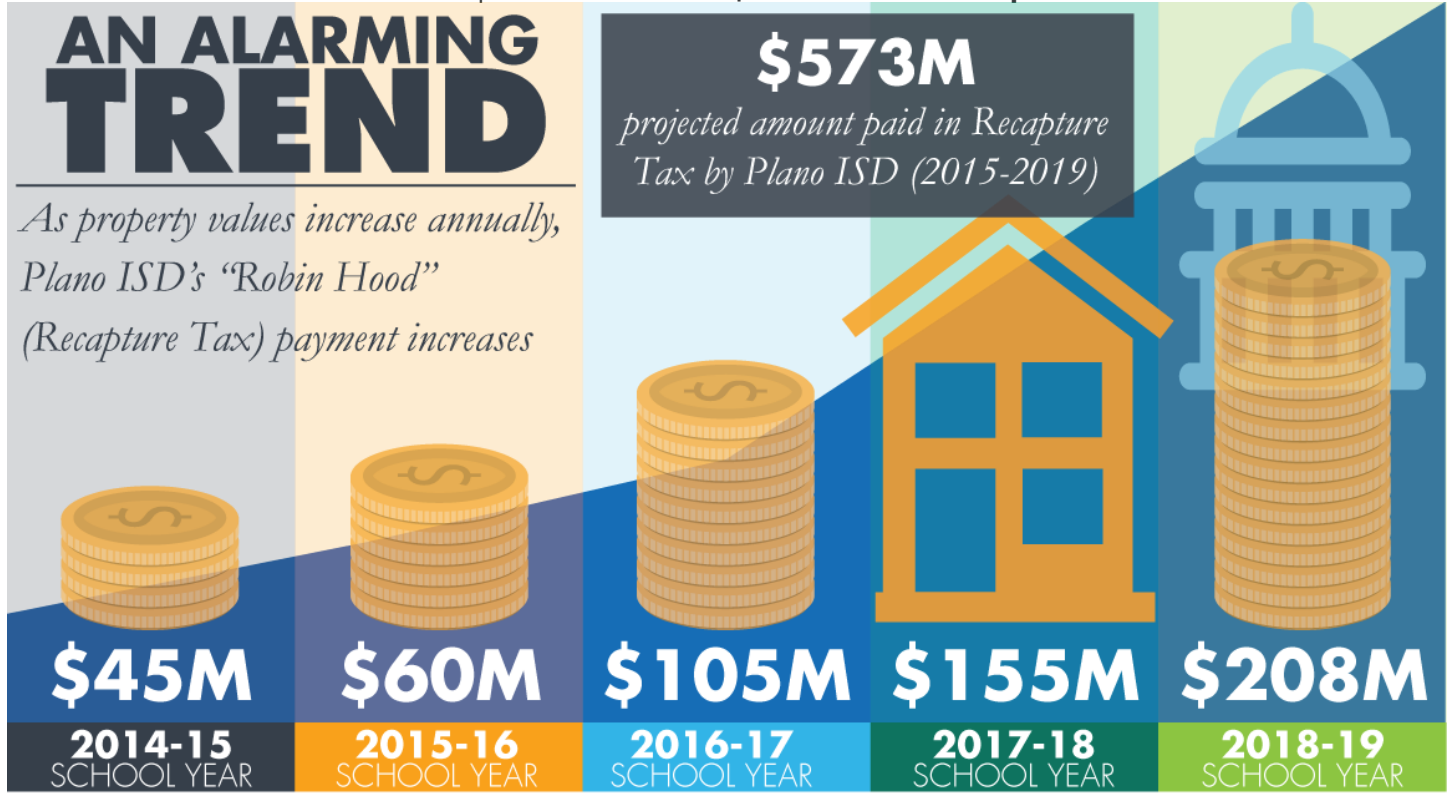
IMPACTS PLANO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Plano ISD is classified as “property wealthy” and subject to the state’s Recapture (“Robin Hood”) Tax. In school year 2018-19, Plano ISD’s Robin Hood payment to the state is projected to be \$208 million. This is more than 34% of your locally generated operating tax revenue. As of 2018-19, Plano ISD will have paid more than **\$1.9 billion in recapture since 1993**.

AN ALARMING TREND

As property values increase annually, Plano ISD’s “Robin Hood” (Recapture Tax) payment increases

\$573M
projected amount paid in Recapture Tax by Plano ISD (2015-2019)



\$45M

2014-15
SCHOOL YEAR

\$60M

2015-16
SCHOOL YEAR

\$105M

2016-17
SCHOOL YEAR

\$155M

2017-18
SCHOOL YEAR

\$208M

2018-19
SCHOOL YEAR