



*From the Desk
of the SHS
Band Boosters
Inc. President*

August 23, 2021

Edition 2

SHS Band Boosters Board of Directors: Rick Barlow, President; Alan Grimm, Vice President; Mary Wishnew, Secretary; Dan Alberth, Treasurer

PREPPED: Are you ready for some footbaaall? This Friday marks the first game back when the Band can and will perform on the field, and the Band Boosters can and will support them under the lights as the nights move in earlier.

For the Band, these Friday games require a warm-up followed by a cool-down that can take all of us late into the night hours. This is important for the Band Booster Community (BBC), and the Band Booster volunteers, to know. So, what happens for both groups? Here's a synopsis:

After arriving for the 5 p.m. call time (remember, early is on-time and on-time is late), the student musicians set up and rehearse their half-time show and some of their routine tunes outside on the soccer field far east of the stadium.

Meanwhile, the Band Boosters spend this pre-game time prepping the supply wagons (e.g., First Aid, PPE, water, etc.), the drum stand/music stand wagons and moving the band stands into preliminary positioning off the field. Once the student musicians are suited up (this may take a bit longer at first because the new band uniforms open in the back) Band Booster team members assist in inspecting the band members as they remain in their marching line outside the stadium.

During the game, Band Booster field and bleacher teams help student musicians in the stands and on the track as necessary, and they move the Drum Major band stands into position on the field.

After the game, Band Booster teams return band stands and supply wagons to storage as well as set up for uniform collection, proper hanging and storage. **Please note that this process alone can last at least 30 minutes to accommodate for the new uniforms.** Before this happens, however, the student musicians will spend time in the auditorium for a streamlined post-performance cool down. Essentially, they will play one song in a concert for themselves after performing for the community. This reinforces camaraderie and teamwork! Please note that this cool-down may last at least 30 minutes. Parents, we ask that you allow for at least 60 to 75 minutes post-game for your student musician(s) to be ready to leave for home or for going out with friends. Rest assured, as the season progresses, the anticipated time commitment likely will shrink.

SEASONS GREETINGS: Aside from the five football games (August 27; September 3, 17, 24; October 8), we also have Junior High Night and Alumni Night on September 24 where we introduce Junior High band students to the High School band experience, and we honor and recognize SHS alumni. Band alums do return to celebrate with us! If you would like to help set up, serve food and clean up after the Junior High dinner and Alumni reception, please email us at saxonbandboosters@gmail.com. September 24 marks an important milestone for both the Junior High and Alumni. Why? After the 2020-2021 school year, this may be the earliest – if not first – exposure to a live band experience for the middle schoolers, which will feed into the SHS band program for years to come, and the alumni can appreciate the live band experience again.

DINE2DONATE: With restaurants re-opened we can enjoy both dine-in/sit-down and take-out options once again. We schedule these fundraising opportunities at least once a month on the second Wednesday or Thursday of a given month. We encourage Band families to purchase meals at selected Dine2Donate restaurants. Those restaurants then donate a percentage of the proceeds back to SHS Band to support products and services not covered by the school or D211. Look for a detailed event schedule soon. If you'd like to participate, please email us at saxonbandboosters@gmail.com.

FUNDAMENTALS: Benefit Mobile and GLS Gift Card programs are ready to go! If you'd like to participate, go to the web site and click on the "Fundraising" button for more information. Feel free to email us at saxonbandboosters@gmail.com with any questions. We're in the process of producing and selling commemorative pillows made from the previous band uniforms and looking into band-themed yard signs and creative graphic T-shirts. Stay tuned for more details.

PHOTOGS: Our very own "Saxon Band Dad" Maui Mendez does a superb job taking photographs by camera and by drone/unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). You've seen and enjoyed his work for years. If you would like to submit photos for publication in the SHS Band Booster Newsletter, posting on the SHS Band Booster web site or in our Shutterfly account, please submit them for consideration. The Band Directors will assess and choose those to feature, and we'll give appropriate photo credits to you! Submit your band-related photos to saxonbandboosters@gmail.com.

MEETINGS: The Band Boosters hold meetings at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month during the school year in the band room. You're all invited to attend and join the Band Booster community, participate and volunteer for activities and learn how your student musicians are progressing. The meeting dates are **August 17, September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14, January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12** and **May 10**.

NEWSLETTER: The official *SHS Band Booster Newsletter*, edited by Band Booster Christina Kayalik, is scheduled for publication in **October, December, March** and **May**.

SCHEDULING: If you have any questions about upcoming events – including call times – be sure to check calendar updates online by clicking here:

<https://www.schaumburgband.com/calendar.html>

BANDLETICS: Back in 2013, in an apparent shameless quest for a controversial sound bite, TV sports reporters asked former Philadelphia Eagles Quarterback Donovan McNabb whether he thought a popular champion stock car driver was an athlete on par with, say, those in the ball (vs. ball bearings) sports (e.g., football, baseball, basketball, soccer – even golf!). Multiple media outlets at the time ran McNabb’s quote with glee: “Do I think he is an athlete? Absolutely not. He sits in a car, and he drives. That doesn’t make you athletic... What athletically is he doing?” Not surprisingly, the verbal detonation rocked social media outlets at the time with reverberations still being felt.

Something similar could be said about/for band and sports, a perennial hot-button issue fueled by endless debate for decades. But is there a common denominator? Reviews are mixed on whether band could/should be classified as a sport – particularly those who participate in competitions. Most assuredly, however, band can and should be considered *athletic*. How? Why? In myriad ways, those who participate in band and sports – including racecar driving – train hard to learn plays, routines, strategies and tactics to build mental and physical endurance and stamina as they compete and/or perform in front of an audience.

This may not categorize or classify band as a sport, but it does reinforce that band – specifically marching band – qualifies as athletic based on the development of emotional, mental and physical fortitude. Still, while band parents may appreciate the recognition and understanding that marching band is fundamentally athletic, they also should see value in that band resides comfortably within the academic realm even as it extends into or straddles the athletic area. If anything, this realization should be considered a win-win for all.

Band (which includes marching band) may not be a sport, but its practices, preparations and performances certainly demonstrate athletic attitude, effort and spirit. So then, band parents – and Band Boosters – be sure to appreciate your Saxon bandletes for their dedication, devotion and efforts to promote the Saxon Nation.

Coming up in the next edition of *ONE*:

- Looking ahead to the concert season that includes the Music Mosaic Concert, Variety Show, ILMEA and Holiday Band Concert.

Until next time, remember that “Saxons Are Bandtastic!” **RDB**