

1. **When will I know what the schedule is for competition day?** This will vary based upon when Mr. Stegeman receives the performance time from each event. He has to build the daily itinerary based upon that information. Mr. Stegeman will publish it as soon as he has it ready. Responding to questions will not get the itinerary out any earlier; rather it will slow down the process. The information will be shared with everyone through multiple channels as soon as it is available.
2. **Speaking of competitions, where do I find the schedule?** The best place is on the band's website ---www.fhnbands.com. Click on Competitions, and then click on '2021 Marching Band Contests'. This will open up the entire list of competitions for the season. As a quick reference, the same dates are listed on the back of our musicians show shirts.
3. **What does a typical itinerary look like?** The itinerary will have the time for your son/daughter to report to school, what to bring, what to wear, and an agenda for the day. It will include what time the buses will load and depart for the competition, the approximate time that the band will eat, the time(s) that they will perform, and approximate time that they should be back at FHN at the end of the competition day. If the competition has a Prelims and Finals, we normally have the Prelims performance time, and then find out the Finals performance time after the initial Awards Ceremony. You can sign up for "REMIND" to be notified of the time for Finals. See below for directions.
4. **Secret Pals --- what is this?** The band members put together their own Secret Pal exchange for the season. Each student draws a name from another member of their group (i.e. brass, woodwinds, percussion, guard). They make lists of items that they like, which is posted in the band room. The kids put together bags with snacks, drinks, games, etc, and deliver them secretly to their pal. Most kids have someone else deliver the bag for them to keep up the surprise. At the last competition, the kids turn things around and instead of giving something to their pal; they give a gift bag to the person that has been giving them treats all season. It is totally optional to participate in secret pals or not. If you do opt to participate in secret pals then you are responsible for bringing in a goodie bag each competition.
5. **What do parents do on competition days?** This varies based upon the family. We do need more help with loading up our trucks at FHN before we leave, unloading/re-loading at Competitions, and then unloading back at FHN at the end of the night. If you have questions about what to do, you can just show up and ask for the Pit Crew Chair, or contact via email, pit@fhnbands.com. Other areas that need help on competition days are **Event Support** that feeds the band and **Uniform distribution**. The Event Support team can use help with setting up, feeding, and cleaning up at each meal and snack. You are welcome to help out! Come look for our camp in the parking lot. The Uniform team needs help getting students into uniforms and collecting uniforms after a performance. Other families come and sit together in the stands and cheer on the group. This is where the show shirts come in handy for family members!
6. **Tips for competition days ---**
 - a. Bring cash for tickets. A typical entrance fee is around \$10.00. Everyone needs a ticket to get in to the stands to watch the bands perform. The only exceptions are that there are a limited amount of free wristbands that go to those on the Pit team and sometimes Uniforms and Event Support teams. Even if you are helping, only a few will receive a free wrist band so bring some cash for the entrance fee. Also if you are planning to be there all day, bring money for food/drinks. Parents can opt to leave a competition after prelims and go out to eat and come back for finals.
 - b. Event Support does a great job of feeding the band on competition days. Students can be fed multiple times on a competition day. Eating times will be listed on Mr. Stegeman's schedule. You may still want to send cash with your musician, just in case they want extra snacks from the concession stand at the event.
 - c. Each band member needs to bring a string bag to hold their personal items for the day. It will be locked up in the box truck on the uniform racks when they are performing. For the band members, be sure that they pack or wear a pair of black socks.
 - d. These events are ALL DAY events.

Don't plan on the band members doing anything else on competition days. Also, be sure they are well prepared for the weather, it could be sunny during the day, but quite chilly once the sun goes down. That goes for family members too!

- e. Francis Howell North is known for our good sportsmanship from students and parents. When sitting in the stands clap and cheer for other bands as well as FHN. We all know how much work these students put into a performance and each deserves appreciation from the crowd.
7. **Wash show shirts promptly.** Unexpected events come up where they will need to wear their shirts. It is very likely that you will need to wash show shirts Friday night after a football game to be ready for a competition on Saturday.
 8. After competitions parents line up cars in the FHN parking lot and honk and flash horns to show appreciation to the band arriving home.
 9. **In the words of a former band parent, be a bendie straw--- be flexible. Things happen, vehicles break down competitions run late, generators stop running.....Don't let this ruin your time because guaranteed, it won't ruin their time.**

Enjoy this opportunity to be involved with other parents/families of the kids that your child is spending lots and lots of hours with. The years will pass quickly!

INFORMATIONAL TIDBITS:

- Have your student bring something to do on the bus, especially for longer bus rides. Ideas for activities might be bringing a book to read, a gaming device, homework, or a device for listening to music.
- Have your student bring not just their cell phone but also a portable battery charger if they have one.
- Arrival times: if you're not with the band, plan on arriving at least 30-40 minutes prior to performance time. Allowing time for parking shuttles, ticket line and locating seats. The show will go on in a timely fashion (almost always) and you will miss it if you're not seated before they block off bleacher entrance between performances.
- Plan on not seeing much of your kids outside of the performance. They are kept busy MOST of the time with their sections.
- Cheer, applaud our kids!
- Things for parents to bring
 - String bag or large purse. (You'll need this!! A lot of times, you're nowhere near your car)
 - Cash
 - Cushion seats
 - Sunscreen
 - Sunglasses
 - Pen for writing scores into program book.
 - Umbrella
 - Sweatshirt/ jacket/ gloves

How to sign up for the REMIND text for updates and reminders regarding competition days.

1. Text @fhnbb to 81010
- Or
2. Follow the link below to sign up online. (Be sure to sign up using your mobile device.)

<https://www.remind.com/join/fhnbb>