

**TAMUK BAND CAMP
2009**

**GUIDE FOR PARENTS
AND
YOUNG JAVELINAS**

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

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Chapter One:

Welcome to Texas A & M University-Kingsville Summer Band Camp!

Mission Statement:

At TAMUK Band Camp, it is our mission . . .

- to create and maintain a positive, structured, disciplined environment which promotes learning, growth, and artistic development;
- to ensure that our campers are safe, secure, and supervised by responsible adults at *all* times – but without suffocating them in the process;
- to foster and promote social growth as well as musical growth; and
- to see to it that the camp experience is FUN – not just for the campers, but for the adult participants as well!

So what IS Band Camp?

Band Camp is a whole week of making music and having FUN in the process! Our campers grow as musicians, make new friends, and discover that there are a whole lot of other people their age who are just as serious about music as they are!

Upon arrival, each camper is placed in one of four concert bands (2 middle school & two high school), depending on his or her ability. These bands range from the Gold band (for our youngest campers) to the Wind Ensemble (for our more advanced players). Each band rehearses 2 times a day for about an hour and a half each time. Between full rehearsals, the campers are either attending elective classes, chamber ensembles, or jazz band rehearsals – never a dull moment! Campers get an hour for lunch each day, and a supervised recreational activity is planned very evening. Curfew is 10:00 p.m. every night.

More details about day-to-day camp life will follow in Chapter Three.

Who's going to BE at this camp?

About four hundred people in all; it breaks down about like this:

- **Campers:** We usually have about three hundred or so campers.
- **Clinicians, faculty and staff:** There will be about fifty adults and university students employed by the camp in some capacity – either teaching or helping to run the camp. That means many responsible adults will be in constant contact with the campers during the day.

Is the university really huge? Will my student get lost?

Texas A&M University – Kingsville is just large enough to have everything that a good university should have, but not so big that it swallows our campers! They'll have to do a little bit of walking, but they won't get lost, because 1) we provide them with a campus map at registration; 2) we always have a large number of veteran campers who've been here before and know their way around; and 3) there will be specially designated **Camp Counselors** whose responsibility is to make sure that our first-time campers get where they need to be!

What if my child is having trouble in band? Will they get left behind?

Definitely not! One of the main reasons our camp exists is so that kids who are struggling can get the help they need so that when school starts in the fall, the other students will wonder what your kid did to get so GOOD over the summer!

Your camper will be placed in the band that's best suited for him. From that point on, he'll be under the instruction of clinicians and instructors specially hired for their ability to work with the student's going into the seventh grade through high school – he or she will be taught by teachers who love working with young people!

Dining Services

At A&M-Kingsville, we're very fortunate to have the services of **Sodexo-Marriot**, a nationwide food service organization; your camper will be pleased to know that the food is excellent! Campers who are on our meal plan will eat their meals in the Dining Hall of the Student Union Building (SUB), and will have the opportunity to dine with their clinicians and instructors who will also be eating there!

Housing

Campers who pay for room & board will be housed in our University Residence Halls – either Bishop Hall (for girls) or Turner Hall (for boys). They're not the Ritz-Carlton, but they are clean, sanitary, and secure. And it is our policy to see to it that a camper is housed not only with their own age group, but (where possible) in the same vicinity with other campers from their school!

After curfew, campers are under the care of several student dorm counselors. There will be several counselors in each wing that work a shift system so that at least one counselor is up and available to keep track of activity his/their wing throughout the night. Each counselor's room will be equipped with a phone and their door will be clearly marked should a situation arise that they are needed.

Chapter Two

Your Registration Day Survival Guide

The following is a practical guide to getting packed, getting to the university, getting your camper registered, and know when to say goodbye while hopefully maintaining your composure.

YOU MUST HAVE BOTH THE MEDICAL FORM AND STUDENT ACTIVITY RELEASE FORM ON FILE AND SIGNED BY PARENTS FOR A STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN BAND CAMP.

What do we need to do to get ready for camp?

Two weeks before camp:

- Have your camper start practicing his or her audition music (see section on “Auditions” below).

One week before camp:

- Check the list below and go shopping for whatever items they need but don't have; and
- Go see your repair technician to have your camper's instrument checked over – make sure no pads or screws are about to fall out, or in the case of brass instruments, slides that are likely to get stuck. We do not have an on-site repair technician; if a student comes in with a broken horn, we can sometimes patch it up here at the camp, but not always. In extreme cases, we take instruments up to Goetsch Music downtown at the camper's expense.
- Obtain written instruction from the camper's doctor in order for the camp nurse to administer any medication.

Packing, or What if all my kid's worldly possessions won't fit into their suitcase?

Your camper may think they need to have all their “stuff” with them - but in reality it's neither necessary nor safe, so please do all you can to discourage them from bringing too much. Here's a checklist of what your camper really does need to bring:

- Their instrument and accessories, i.e. mutes, reeds etc. If they are a percussionist, they will need their snare sticks, timpani mallets and other mallets, and preferably a mallet bag with their name displayed on the bag.
- Very important: a **FOLDING MUSIC STAND**. Your kid probably has one of these already; but if not, please makes it a point to buy one before camp – all music stores carry them.
- Bedding: a blanket, twin sheets, and a pillow with a pillowcase.
- Towels – about three should do.

- Personal toiletry items, i.e., toothbrush & toothpaste, deodorant, soap, etc.
- Optional: Laundry detergent – just enough for a couple of loads. Washing machines are provided in the Residence Halls; and they take quarters.
- Clothes: Swim-Suit, T-shirts and shorts for wear on a daily basis are definitely acceptable, as long as they are in good taste. (Mom & Dad, We'll trust you to make the call on that.) **For the Final Concert on Friday afternoon (more on that later), they'll wear Black or Dark Pants and a Solid White Collared Shirt.**
- Prescription medications if needed. You will also need a note from your physician that states your student can dispense medicine to themselves.
- A little spending money for recreation, pizza sodas – about \$30.00 should suffice. I also recommend that your camper bring another \$10.00 or so for medication (campers are responsible for purchasing medication if necessary) or other personal needs.

OK, we're packed – now how do we GET there?

A map of the campus of Texas A & M University-Kingsville is available at <http://www.tamuk.edu/map/map.gif>. Texas A&M-Kingsville is a few miles South of Corpus Christi off of Highway 77 in Kingsville, Texas. The campus is on the corner of University Blvd. and Santa Gertrudis Ave. We're easy to find!

We're here! Now what?

So you've found Turner-Bishop Hall! Leave everything in the car except for your camper, the paperwork (i.e., everything you've gotten from us), and your checkbook. Go on in the front door. **We are not set up to take credit/debit cards on site.** Any credit card payments should have been made through the secure website linked to the band webpage.

Step One: Letting us know you're here

As soon as you step in the front door, you'll be in the lobby. Either my chosen representative or I will be there to greet you, and to tell you what to do next. If for some reason nobody's there (I may be pulled away to answer some question I don't know the answer to), go on into the main registration area, and look at the signs posted above the various tables. If you're completely prepaid, then look for the sign that reads "PREPAID REGISTRATION", and proceed to the table. If you still owe us some money, look for the sign that reads "GENERAL REGISTRATION". Be prepared to stand in line for a few minutes, because I only have one or two staffers who are trained to do this – so please bear with us. Once you've registered, then it's on to the next station...

Step Two: Information packets and name badges

At this table, your camper will get an information packet complete with schedules, a map of the campus, and a list of do's and don'ts. They'll also get their name badge and wrist band – this serves as their meal ticket so they don't starve to death while they are here; it also serves to identify them as one of our campers in case anything goes amiss. So -- one of the first things they'll do at Registration is put on their name badge and wrist band get used to the idea of having it on at all times while they are with us – a camper seen without a name badge can count on getting a scowl from the staff!

Step Three: Pick up a T-shirt!

Every camper will get a t-shirt as **per the size they filled out on their application**. After picking up the shirt, it's on to the Residence Hall check-in table.

Step Four: Check-in at Residence Hall table

At the Residence Hall Check-in Table, each camper will receive their own key. You may want to bring a lanyard to hang their key around their neck. Campers have been paired with either, the person they requested (if they requested specific roommate), or someone close to their age. After receiving their key campers are free to check into their room. Females will stay in Bishop Hall while Males will stay in Turner Hall. These halls are connected by the cafeteria in which registration is held.

After moving in, don't let your camper get too comfortable just yet, because they still have to go over and audition (more about that below). But do me a favor and look over the room to make sure that it's clean and that nothing's damaged. If something's amiss, go back to the lobby and let the R.A. know – they're good people, and they'll take care of it. If however, there's a problem that they can't or won't address, FIND Mr. Shelton, or the head camp counselor and they'll get involved.

Once you're satisfied with everything at the Residence Hall, make sure your camper has their instrument and audition music, then head over to the Music Building (see the map) for...

Step Five: Auditions

As soon as you enter the Music Building, you will see a Directory on the wall telling your camper where to go for their audition – flutes in this room, clarinets in that room, etc. The Music Building isn't that big, so finding the right room won't be difficult.

Once you find the room, it's just a matter of your camper waiting their turn. With certain instruments (trombone, tuba, horn), there'll be hardly any wait at all; with others (flute, clarinet, trumpet) the wait may be slightly longer. But we're shooting for all auditions to be over with by 5:00 p.m. Once it's your camper's turn, they'll go in and be auditioned

by the very same instructor who will be working with them all week long in section rehearsals and master classes (next chapter).

What's this audition all about, anyway?

The audition serves two purposes: 1) to ensure that your camper is placed in the right band; and 2) to “seat” them where they belongs within the band. It will last only a couple of minutes and will consist of two items:

1. Two major scale (either C, F, B-flat or Eb); and
2. One prepared musical excerpt of the camper's choice (about one minute worth of music. This can either be an etude (see below), or a few lines from the piece that they performed at Solo & Ensemble this spring.

What's and “etude”?

If your camper has ever tried out for the All-Region Band, They'll know what an etude is! Etude is the French word for “study”; it's a short piece composed primarily for teaching purposes. If your camper is unfamiliar with all of this, enlist the help of either her band director or her private teacher in choosing an etude or other short piece that will be suitable for this audition (most band directors are very familiar with band camps, and will know exactly what your student should play).

But my kid's just a beginner!

If your child just finished his beginning band class and has yet to experience the wonderful world of region auditions, then here's what you do: have your camper pick a couple of his favorite pieces out of the band method book they used during the school year – those work just fine!

Why don't YOU guys just pick the music and send it to us?

They tried that one summer years ago, and it was a disaster – the music was too easy for some, too difficult for others. We've learned through experience that it's best to let the campers, in cooperation with their band directors, pick their own music. The auditioners will be able to discern the kids' playing levels and set them fairly in spite of the differences in the pieces. Still confused, about auditions? Call us!

Step Six: Camp Meeting

All campers: At 6:30 we'll have our first meeting in the **Music Building Recital Hall**. At this meeting, band placements will be announced along with general guidelines and rules for the camp. After this meeting, which will last a while, the campers will go to their respective bands for their first rehearsal.

Chapter Three: Day-to-Day Life as a Camper

This chapter will give you an overview of what your camper can expect on a day-to-day basis. Bear in mind that this is just an example.

First Night activities:

After the first band rehearsal on Sunday evening, all campers will return to their Residence Halls for a brief meeting with their Dorm Counselors. Curfew is 10 p.m., and it will be enforced. And even though the adrenalin will be surging that first night, I'm advising the campers to hit the hay a little early, because they're in for a flurry of activity the next day!

Day Two through Day Five

Your camper is up at 6:30 A.M. showers & and gets dressed, heads downstairs to meet to go to breakfast @ 6:55. The Counselors will walk them to the SUB for breakfast @ 7:00.

After breakfast, their schedule goes something like this:

8:00 a.m.	HS Band or MS Master Class
9:30	Break
9:45	HS Sectionals or MS Band
11:00	Jazz Band or Elective
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:30	HS Band or MS Sectional
2:45	Break
3:00	HS Master Class or MS Band
4:15	Break
4:30	Jazz Band or Elective
5:30	Dinner
7:00	Camp Meeting
7:30	Activity
9:30	In Dorms
10:00	Curfew

EVENING ACTIVITIES!!! We have a variety of events to keep our campers entertained in the evening hours, which may include: Camp Olympics, Beauty Review & Talent Skit Night, a Dance, Pool Party, Jazz Night, & Movie Night!

Day Six: Last day of camp – and although your camper's chops are tired and their feet hurt from walking, and they find they actually miss their parents, they think of all the wonderful friends they have made, and find themselves wishing camp could last forever!

8:00	Guard/Drum Major Exhibition and Guard Competition
10:30	Final Band Rehearsal
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
2:00	Concerts
4:00	Dorm Check-Out

Chapter Four:

RULES AND REGULATIONS

GENERAL RULES

1. GENERAL RULES OF COURTESY WILL BE OBSERVED AT ALL TIMES.
2. At NO time will there be any girls in boy's rooms or visa versa.
3. All camp sessions must be met on time with the proper equipment; failure to do so could cause you to move to the end of your section, or be dismissed from the camp.
4. Smoking by campers is not permitted.
5. Curfews will be strictly enforced.
6. Room check will be made immediately following curfew; all students must be in their rooms and remain there after check is made.
7. Doors should be kept locked at all times to protect valuables.
8. No consumption of alcoholic beverages by campers.
9. Campers are expected to wear identification badges and wrist bands at all times.
10. Destruction or theft of *university* property, littering of the premises, of conduct unbecoming to a band student will not be tolerated.
11. Instruments are not to be played in areas other than those designated for rehearsals, warmups, or practice.
12. Campers will be expected to dress neatly.
13. **Policemen** are on duty for your protection; if you need assistance, do not hesitate to call on them. **(361-593-2611)**
14. Students are not permitted to ride in cars except when accompanied by parents or directors.
15. Students are not permitted to leave the *university* campus at any time unless accompanied by parents or directors this includes day campers.
16. Any violation of the above regulations may result in the student being sent home and refused all future participation in the TAMUK Band Camp.

CAFETERIA RULES - Common rules of courtesy will be observed in the cafeteria. Such as:

1. Stay in line.
2. Take off hats.
3. Shirts and shoes must be worn.
4. Do not tamper with salt and pepper shakers.
5. Sit no more than four to a table.
6. Put your tray away.
7. Leave table clean.
8. No food fights, yelling, or dancing on the tables.

Observe all rules of common courtesy and everything will digest easier!

CAMP MEETINGS

The camp meeting occurs at 7:00 p.m. daily and is required for everyone at the camp. This meeting is the only time the entire camp is assembled. Announcements, mail, messages, awards, and gifts are made at this time.

ACTIVITIES

The campers and staff are entertained throughout the week by nightly activities which begin at 8:00 p.m. after the camp meeting and finish around 10:00. All activities are tentative and could change, though there will be something every night of the week. Middle school campers participate in different events every night than the high school campers. The traditional activities that have been popular every year are:

Beauty Review and Skit & Talent Competition: All campers have a chance to strut their stuff on the catwalk and showcase their unique talents!

Camp Olympics: This is a camp favorite with events like the egg toss, bowling, spoonarama, balloon bob pop, and the relay.

Pool Night: Nothing is more relaxing after a tough day in rehearsals like a trip to the pool. Students have the chance to unwind at the pool in university recreation center under the supervision of camp counselors and certified lifeguards.

Open Dance: Campers have a chance to socialize and dance to some of the hottest new music with the best DJs in South Texas!

Movie Night: Students get to choose from the most recent and popular new video releases to watch together.

Jazz Night: The camp jazz bands perform for the whole camp in one of the most popular events of all of band camp. Jazz Night is Thursday night of band camp.

Drum Major and Color Guard Competitions: Friday is the biggest day of band camp! It all begins with the Drum Major and Color Guard Competitions are held at 8:00 AM. Drum Major and Color Guard awards will be presented at the final band concerts.

Drum Major competition categories include **SOLO CONDUCTING AND TEAM CONDUCTING**. In addition, Drum Major awards will be presented for **OUTSTANDING CONDUCTOR** in each class, **MOST IMPROVED CONDUCTOR** in each class, **OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP**, **OUTSTANDING JUNIOR HIGH DRUM MAJOR AND OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL DRUM MAJOR**. Color Guard Competition categories include **SOLO ROUTINE** and **TEAM ROUTINE**. Color Guard awards will also include the **OUTSTANDING STUDENT** in each class, **MOST IMPROVED STUDENT** in each class, **OUTSTANDING SCHOOL**, and **OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP**. Students are encouraged to bring their own music and informal uniform for this competition. Students may receive assistance from the staff in preparing for the competition. There will be a two-minute time limit for each event.

Band awards are presented for the **OUTSTANDING MALE** and **OUTSTANDING FEMALE** in each concert band each Jazz band will select and outstanding jazz musician. The Outstanding Camper will be selected from the entire camp population and receive an award and a scholarship to next year's camp.

OTHER SERVICES

CAFETERIA

The TAMUK Cafeteria provides breakfast, lunch and dinner for all campers who are resident campers. In addition, they provide lunch and dinner to the commuting campers. The TAMUK Cafeteria is catered by Marriott Food Services. In addition to providing meals for campers, they also serve the camp faculty in the Tejas Room.

BOOKSTORE

The TAMUK Bookstore operates from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Bookstore carries personal items, film, gifts, clothes, and souvenirs.

CAMPUS POLICE

The TAMUK POLICE DEPARTMENT (provides around the clock patrols and security of the dorms and buildings. Telephone: 361-593-2611. Emergency: 9 - 911.

INFORMATION OFFICE/LOST AND FOUND (B.M.H.112)

The information office is the place campers go to ask questions and check on or turn in lost items. Lost money should be put in an envelope with the amount on the outside and turned in to the camp office. **PLEASE LABEL ALL YOUR PERSONAL ITEMS FOR SECURITY REASONS.** Please do not bring expensive items like laptops and MP3 players cell phones are fine but may only be used after classes and camp meetings. NO TEXT MSG during class or rehearsal,

The Information Office will also serve as a check-in point for visitors. Faculty and Staff should check visitor ID's for identity verification. Check the manual for camper information to verify their visit. Issue a name tag with their name on it

Chapter Five:

General Information and Frequently Asked Questions

This chapter is a “catch-all” for items that were not addressed in previous chapters, and an attempt to answer various questions.

In case of illness or injury:

1. **During the day:** If a camper feels ill or is injured during the regular camp day, they are to come to the Camp Office if they are able; or find a phone and call us if they are unable to make it to the Camp Office; or notify any adult – a faculty or staff member, a Counselor, a band director, anybody associated with the camp, and that person will call us. We will transport the camper to the appropriate medical facility:
 - For minor illnesses, Camp Nurse on , 5 minutes from the Music Building
 - For major trauma, Christus Spohn Kleberg Hospital, 10 minutes from the Music Building.
2. **After hours/during the night:** Campers who feel they need medical attention after hours are to notify the counselor on duty who will make the decision to either transport the camper themselves or call an ambulance for transportation to Spohn Hospital.
3. **In the morning:** Campers who feel ill upon awakening in the morning are to “bite the bullet”, so to speak, get dressed, go downstairs and report to the duty Counselor. He or she will call us here in the Camp Office and we will come and transport the camper to the appropriate medical facility.

4.

Campers are not to do the following:

- **Stay in bed and do nothing.** This sounds a bit cruel, but again, we need to know when our campers are ill. If a camper really is too sick even to get out of bed, they are to notify their roommate, who will then notify a Counselor; we’ll take it from there. If, upon visiting the nurse, the nurse may prescribe bed rest, the camper will be permitted to return to his dorm to sleep. Be advised, however, that this usually means that we will recommend that the camper go home.
- **Walk to the First Aid Station themselves.** Why? Three reasons: 1) we don’t want sick campers passing out on the sidewalk on the way to the station, 2) we have no way of knowing that the camper is sick; and 3) the First Aid Station cannot treat them anyway until they have their Medical Release Authorization which we must furnish. Besides, transporting campers is a service that we’re happy to provide; campers need not feel that they are inconveniencing us by asking us to take them to the Station – we’re here to serve.

Will I be notified if my child is sick or hurt?

In cases of major trauma, we will notify you immediately. In cases of minor illness or injury, campers may call you if they wish at our expense.

If, in my judgment and illness or injury warrants early dismissal from camp, I will call you myself and discuss it with you – I will not dismiss a camper for medical reasons without talking it over with the parents first.

For further details, see “Medical Release Authorization” on the application form.

HEALTH CARE

An official band camp nurse is employed by the university to provide first aid care for the campers and to deal with any emergency which may occur. **The nurse must have written instruction from the camper’s doctor in order to administer any medication.**

Early Dismissal Procedure:

If, for medical or disciplinary reasons, it becomes necessary to dismiss a camper early, you will be called and asked to pick up your camper. You need only to go to the Residence hall where your camper is staying – there is no need to come to the Music Building unless you need to talk to me for some reason. I will have already called the Counselor on duty to authorize your camper’s release, and once you have your camper packed and ready to go, all you need to do is sign out with the R.A. and have the camper **turn in their key.**

If for some reason you need to pull your camper out of camp before its conclusion, the procedure is the same as the above, except that you initiate the process by calling Brian Shelton or the camp office first and letting us know who the camper is, and what time you plan on coming. The R.A. will be notified and he or she will release your camper upon your arrival.

May I come up just for a visit during the week?

By all means! Just let us know in advance, especially if you intend to take your camper off campus, so we can know the whereabouts of all of the campers. We will not allow campers to get into vehicles other than their parent’s or legal guardian’s vehicle.

Refund Policy

Our refund policy is as follows:

1. **A FULL REFUND** of tuition, room and board, minus the \$50.00 deposit (processing/application fee), is given **ONLY** when the reservation is cancelled in writing before June 8, 2009.

2. **A PARTIAL REFUND** of room & board fees on a pro-rated basis, minus the \$50.00 deposit, will be issued if the camper must leave early for any reason other than disciplinary; i.e., illness or injury, early dismissal at parents' request, etc.
3. NO REFUND will be issued under the following circumstances:
 - A camper does not show and we do not receive a written request for a refund.
 - Early dismissal for disciplinary reasons.

But my child can't help it if she gets sick!

Please understand that we have to have this policy in place to protect ourselves. When we decide to hold one of these camps, we take on a tremendous financial risk: hiring clinicians and faculty members, contracting housing and food services, on and on. Once we make our final decisions regarding the hiring of personnel, there's no turning back; this is why we must keep a camper's tuition after a predetermined date or once camp starts regardless of the reasons why she may have to leave camp, and why we do everything we can to make sure that you understand this up front so that we can save ourselves some awkward moments later.

Mail Call!

You may send your campers cards, letter, CARE packages, cookies, whatever you want—we'll see that your camper gets his mail. The address is:

<camper's name>
TAMUK Band Camp
700 University Blvd. MSC 174
Kingsville, TX. 78363

One of our staffers picks up campers' mail everyday at 11:30 a.m., Mail will be given out to campers at the camp meeting. If you send something after Wednesday we will probably not get it in time to deliver it to the camper.

Frequently Asked Questions [FAQs]:

The following is a list of questions frequently asked by parents which I may not have covered in earlier chapters:

1. If I need to reach my child quickly, what's the best way to do that?

That depends on what time it is.

- During the day (8:00 a.m. – (5:00 p.m.): call the Camp Office at 361-593-2803. Someone should be here, but if there's no answer, call the band office number 593-2160 or the dorm front desk. (We'll give you that at Registration.)
- Any other time: call your camper's Residence Hall.
- If all else fails: call our University Police at 361-593-2611. They're very adept at locating campers quickly!

2. Can my kid order pizza at night?

Yes—we have a few establishments here in Kingsville that deliver pizza and other such goodies, and I have little doubt that they will make themselves known to the campers via flyers, etc. Campers may certainly avail themselves of these services, as long as they don't make themselves sick (meaning we have to drive them to the Infirmary the next morning!), and as long as they place their orders before 9:15 p.m.—these establishments are forbidden to make deliveries after curfew (10 p.m.).

3. My child calls and says “Mom, I HATE it here! Please come get me!” What do I do?

We can always count on a few cases of homesickness every summer, especially with young first-time campers—and it always seems to happen within the first couple of days. What we've observed from past experience is that if we can keep a student here just a couple more days, he/she'll come around, and end up not wanting to go home even when camp's over!

So—here's what you do:

1. Advise your camper to “stick it out just one more day, “sweetie; if you still feel the same way tomorrow, I'll come get you.” Then, after you hang up. . .
2. Call US so that we can swing into Operation Save-A-Camper: One of the Camper Leaders of the same gender as your child; he or she will immediately find him, take him/her under his wing, and hopefully the next phone call you get will be from (have to use the cliché) a HAPPY CAMPER!!

If he's still miserable the following day, I'll authorize early dismissal, and we'll try it again next year.

4. To what extent will my junior high/middle school camper be exposed to older students?

We try to keep the Junior High/Middle School camp and the High School camp separate as much as possible—separate ensembles, separate evening activities, and separate rooms in the Residence Halls. There are, however, times when the intermingling of the two camps is inevitable: mealtimes, recitals and concerts, and the Thursday night dance.

5. If my camper is in junior high/middle school but plays well enough to be in one of the high school bands, is she necessarily LIMITED to one of the younger bands?

This something that we grapple with summer after summer—on the one hand, we want to keep the two camps separate primarily for social reasons; on the other hand, we do every so often have a junior high camper of superior ability who would be limited if we put her in a younger band. So we do, upon the recommendation of the judges, make exceptions every now and then—but those exceptions are few and far between.

6. OK, so what about high school campers who are NOT particularly strong players?

Under unique circumstances is a high school camper (grades 9 & 10) placed in one of the junior high bands; he will most likely be placed in the Symphonic Band or Concert Band (the second or third High School Band).

7. What time do I pick up my child on Friday afternoon when camp is over?

The Final Concert goes from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon; we start with the younger bands and end with the High School Wind Ensemble. Our preference is for families of campers to come early enough to hear the entire concert and stay until the end so that your camper can say goodbye to her new friends and to faculty and staff. But we understand that that's not always possible. If your student must leave early, realize that each portion of the concert to be 30 minutes and plan accordingly. This is an educated guess based on how things have gone in previous years.

8. What's the checkout procedure?

“Piece o’cake!!” The students will have been instructed to pack their bags, but to leave their stuff in their rooms—so all you have to do at the conclusion of the concert is stop back by the Residence Hall, Have a counselor check the room to make sure it is in good order and clear the camper to grab the luggage, and **TURN IN THE KEY!** (Please don’t forget that!).

9. What happens if my child has instrument problems while he’s at camp?

At this juncture, let me remind you once again of the importance of having the instrument checked out by a technician before camp—we have no on-site technician here. So if your camper comes to us with a broken horn, sometimes we can fix it, sometimes we can issue a loaner, but unfortunately, in some cases we end up having to take the instrument up to a repair shop... If we have to do that, be aware that you must reimburse us for the work.

Epilogue

We sincerely hope that this guide has been helpful in letting you know what to expect and how to help your son or daughter prepare for camp. You no doubt will think of questions that aren't addressed in this booklet—so call or email us, and we'll answer your questions AND maybe even put your question in future editions of this booklet! The main thing we want to impress upon you is the importance of COMMUNICATING with the staff—there's not a problem in the world that can't be resolved with a little one-on-one communication. If for some reason camp turns out to be a negative experience, either for you or for your camper, please TELL us. If, however, it turns out to be the wonderful, positive experience that we're hoping it will be, please tell OTHERS—your friends, your band director, and your school administrators!! We ALWAYS have room for more campers!!

Again, thank you for choosing our camp program; we look forward to meeting you in June!

Insurance policy for campers

Under the terms of our camp insurance policy, all campers receive all the medical care they need while they are here at Camp; all illnesses or injuries incurred while your camper is with us are covered from the time you leave them here on Sunday evening until the time you pick them up on Friday evening.

This coverage does not include the following:

- Illness or injury due to preexisting conditions (asthma, prior injuries, etc.)
- Ambulance service pertaining to the above;
- Orthodontia (i.e., braces).

This does not mean that we will reject your camper's application if they have asthma or other preexisting medical conditions, nor does it mean we will not take care of your camper if they need medical attention.. It simply means that in these cases, our insurance will not pay, so the bill for these services will be sent to you.