

Clarification About Rehearsal Times

In previous years, parents have voiced concerns about the band going over the allotted time for fall rehearsals.

While we don't claim to have a perfect record at stopping at 8:00 pm, we do our best (in the face of major logistical obstacles) to get students out on time.

Many parents may be unaware of the issues facing the UHS Marching Band, including the loading and unloading of a LOT of large equipment, the practice field being a five-minute walk from the band room, and the fact that for reasons beyond our control, the band has the latest practice times of any group at UHS.

Please be aware that the rehearsal time listed (5:30-8:00 pm) is intended to be the time we spend on the field, NOT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES.

We ask that students arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the 5:30 rehearsal to allow time to get their instruments from the band room and make the trip up the hill.

Likewise, after rehearsal is over, it usually takes approximately 15 minutes to reload the equipment on the band bus and get back down the hill.

We understand that these times are not convenient for some, but unfortunately, there is no better alternative to this type of schedule right now. In fact, after complaints in previous years about the number of rehearsals we held, we eliminated weekly Monday rehearsals last year...mostly because we understand that some families drive a long way to and from rehearsals, and late rehearsals three times a week can be very taxing. However, eliminating one day of rehearsal means that the remaining rehearsal time becomes more important, so we cannot cut back on the times we have allotted.

For years, the UHS Band has struggled with a lack of facilities, which lead to many scheduling snafus and inconveniences. Fortunately, things will become much simpler when the new UHS opens. The band schedule will change so that rehearsals will take place immediately after school, and students will be home by dinnertime.

In the meantime, we appreciate parents' understanding and patience concerning our dilemma.

Mark S. Palmer
Director of Bands