



## WHAT IS A BAND PARENT?

A Band parent is one whose child is the greatest. From the first note (perhaps squeak is more descriptive) through the monotonous scales the parent beams because this young musician is learning so fast.

A Band parent quickly learns that it requires considerable hard work, time, and money to have a championship band. After extending credit to purchase an instrument, and a pair of plain-toe white shoes, the harried band parent is then introduced to fund-raising campaigns. In between runs on the concession stand, the parent dreams of the day when the end of the rainbow and the pot of gold will be seen in the end zone, sufficiently financing all school functions (to be specific, the Band).

A Band parent is a sedated machine who can bring some form of order out of the utter madness of getting ready for a high school football game. Dad (superman) rushes to the cleaners to pick up the uniform faster than the speed of sound. Mom, who has learned to do 25 things at once, irons a shirt, finds the white gloves, cooks a quick hamburger, combs hair and herds the family into the car for a speed-breaking dash to the stadium. The following week the game is away from home. The band parent becomes bus driver, truck driver and repairman, nurse and drugstore, with everything from hairpins to tape for the rifles and flags. In more common terms, the band parent becomes the dreaded chaperone.

A Band parent relives childhood dreams, which now have become adult nightmares, memories of a cold, slow-moving school bus filled with shouting, singing and sleeping band members, creep back into his mind. Those parents who attend the away games get to see the half-time show; but unless they move to the opponent's side, where they probably can't find a seat, all they can hear is an echo.

A Band parent is one who criticizes the band director for calling extra practice sessions, praises her for instilling teamwork and discipline, and defends her when someone else criticizes.

Band parents are proud persons, especially when their band wins a trophy or when their child sits first chair. Graduation day is one of the happiest days in a band parent's life. No more hectic Friday nights—no more selling fruit at work—vacations can be taken anytime because there are no more summer band camps.

A Band parent is one who has spent four grueling years with their eldest child, and just when they think it's finally all over, a younger child announces:

***“GUESS WHAT? I'M JOINING THE BAND!”***

