

## What to Expect on Contest Days

Contests usually begin with a preliminary performance by each band. After prelims, an exhibition band will perform, followed by a presentation of awards. (This is when we find out if our band made it to the finals.) There will be a small break, and the finalist's band directors will meet to find out what time we play in the finals. The finalists will perform again in the evening. After that we sit in the stands anxiously awaiting the results. There is a final presentation of awards. In the event that the band does not make finals, they usually stay to watch the finals.

**Arrive Early** - No one is allowed to enter the stands during a performance so don't be surprised to see staff at each entry to stop spectators. (I'm talking about entry into the stands, not the stadium) You will have to wait until the band is through playing before staff will let you in. Quickly find your seat before the next band begins their performance. This may seem silly but it is disruptive to the judges and the band. We want them both to be able to focus on their jobs without distraction from us. Please note that parking is usually a hassle so allow time for that.

**Show Support** – Wear your school colors and sit together in the stands. In the past, the kids have commented on how great it is to look into the stands and see the big splash of green, cheering them on. SHS Band knows we are there to support and encourage them and we are a proud bunch! If you are there early, spread your stuff out and save some seats. When you see familiar faces or shirts entering the stands, wave them down. The prime spot is on the 50 and up high! At every contest I've been to, parents of other bands will recognize my shirt and tell me how wonderful our band is!

**Know When to Make Noise** – Cheer like mad when the band enters and exits the field. This really pumps them up and makes a statement to the judge. Bring noise makers, wave banners, whistle, scream, clap...and more cowbell please!

**Know When Not To** - During the performance applaud and cheer, but do not use any Noisemakers or Whistle as that might interfere with the judge's ability to hear the music and our kids will suffer.

**Know When to Cheer/Applaud** – When a really cool formation takes shape, whenever you see the horns tilt up to the press box for an impact statement and you hear that really big sound, when the soloists or ensemble complete their piece, whenever a featured section (i.e., drumline) knocks your socks off with their playing, when the color guard creates a visually stunning special effect, and when you get goose bumps because the sound is so awesome.

**Sportsmanship** - Remember that as parents we are also representing our band and are an example to our children. Certainly applaud for other bands when they look and sound great, but just applaud and cheer big time when our band is on the field. The judges notice. Just have some common courtesy for others by turning off those cell phones or putting them on vibrate and wait the few minutes it takes for the program to end to return that call. Keep talking down to a whisper during the performance and do not enter/exit the stands, change seats, etc.