



**JAMES F. BYRNES
REBEL REGIMENT
CHAPERONE
HANDBOOK
2017 – 2018**



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Why would I want to hang out with over 200 kids?

BECAUSE THEY ARE AWESOME! Our Rebel Regiment family is like no other. Our kids really are one big family who need the love, and support from everyone! These are the hardest working, talented, adventurous, dedicated, and well behaved kids in the history of Rebel Regiment. We want you to be a part of that by pitching in wherever you can! If you are great at talking with teens, or helping to move the things they need, organizing, have a CDL, know First Aid and CPR, guard crew and pit crew, like to help with water and snacks, or are good at making the uniforms look snazzy - **WE NEED YOU!**

I don't know any of our kids who might be like this, but if your child doesn't want you beside them all the time, (You know - EWWW! Parents!) You do not have to chaperone. You can help out in areas so that you aren't actually with your student. When we travel there are at least 5 buses, a really big truck, and a small truck and you can help with any of them! You can even help when you meet us there.

First thing we need to do is run a background and sex offenders check on anyone who would be close to our kids. Their safety comes first! Please completely fill out the top two thirds of the District 5 Volunteer form so they can do background check and approve you to chaperone our band. If there's a chance you could go on overnight trips with the band also, fill out the bottom portion of that golden rod District 5 Volunteer Form plus section IV and V of the Consent to Release Information forms. I will turn them into the

District Office for approval. I also need you to completely fill out and sign the Acknowledgement Page in the back of this handbook so I can then call you when the band needs help.

Code of Ethics for Chaperones:

Help anywhere you are needed. Don't wait to be asked. Be flexible!

Attitude is contagious. SMILE! Have FUN and let them have FUN!

Patience is a virtue.

Every student is someone's child! (Be careful what you say!)

Respect all the others you come in contact with.

On time is 15 minutes before you are supposed to be there.

NEVER show disappointment in the students' performance!

Every Chaperone is LOVED AND APPRECIATED!



HOW TO CHAPERONE 101!

Remember that you are the influence! BE respectful, courteous, and kind. No tobacco use or swearing please! If a long trip, no alcoholic beverages while on duty either. When you are asked to chaperone, please meet me at the trophy cases in the back of the Fine Art Center (between the back of the band room and back patio) about 15 minutes before the students call time. I will give you everything you need and any additional instructions then. Please wear closed toe shoes. Dress for the weather. Layers are wonderful between riding a hot bus and getting in the cold stands. Bring a blanket if you wish.

To be a chaperone for the Rebel Regiment we ask you to wear the chaperone badges at all times. This is our way of saying you're with the band so that you are not charged for tickets, or kept from entering with the band. The badges must be returned to me with any other equipment after that event.

Your main job is to maintain supervision and be visible at all times! The students have also received a band handbook with the rules, but may sometimes need a gentle reminder. BUT! It is not your job to yell at the kids or discipline. Our AWESOME Directors handle that part with ease. If someone has not followed your directions please let one of them know what's going on. Refrain with discussing the problem with anyone else.

While you will have an assigned job, please BE flexible and pitch in wherever you can from handing out water bottles, to reminding them to clean up, to escorting students to restrooms. Be observant and you will always find something to do. Make yourself very visible so they can ask for help also.

The kids are allowed 1 carry on, a blanket, and a pillow. You are allowed the same plus whatever we need you to have (chaperone bag, etc.). We do ask that you sit in the center to the rear of the bus. Not the front. It's hard to see the kids if they are behind you. If on a long trip we would like 2 DVDs per bus that are rated PG13 or LOWER. That way we can rotate the DVDs and have at least 10 movies. If you would let us borrow any, make sure your students name is on case and the disk.

Be sure to do all that you can to avoid causing any student to become stressed out before a performance. Rather than raising your voice at a student, pull them aside and talk privately. We believe in the "Safe Touch" policy. Chaperones are not allowed to place hands on any child. The Acknowledgement Page contains a "Safe Touch" policy you must also agree to by signing to be a chaperone.

Feel free to email me anytime you are available for that you didn't sign up for tonight. Plans change! I may have someone cancel and need you. Be sure to check Charms or the Facebook page for parents often to see where you can help. PLEASE call or text me if you need to cancel anything you have signed up as a chaperone for ASAP so I can get it filled by someone else. Our job is to make it easier for the directors to concentrate on all they have to do. We try not to bug them about anything but discipline!

Someone who is certified in First Aid and CPR will travel with the band and will have the larger First Aid Kit. The students know to head to them with things more serious than a band aid. If something happens while the bus is moving – keep you and everyone else calm! Handle emergencies the best you can - like if someone's vomiting give them one of the trash bags found in your chaperone bag quickly. ALWAYS use rubber gloves found in all Chaperone Bag for any bodily fluid!

ALL event chaperones – You are also needed to help with uniforms. Pitch in wherever they need you. After we meet at the trophy cases, head to the Uniform Room to be of service. The Uniform Captains are very good and may not need you, but be there to help first unless told otherwise by a director. When at the event and the kids are getting their plumes, gauntlets, shakos, and things at traveling events please be there to pitch in wherever they may need you. When we travel anywhere or return home, please do not leave until you have checked the band stands, bus, band room for cleanliness and the last uniform has been hung correctly. It is also our job to make sure every child has left before we do. I stay until the last one goes, but need help when there are many left. Don't leave until we have talked to see if there is anything else to do.

BUS TRIPS:

Arrive 15 minutes before student call time to the glass trophy cases unless otherwise noted.

Please be sure to have phone numbers of the district chaperone, directors, or anyone else you may need, and be sure we have yours. Each bus will have a lead chaperone who will keep the chaperone bag. Please familiarize yourself with what is in it as soon as you get it so you know what you have to use. Each kit will contain an attendance list which you will give to the bus student captain, checklist, pen, 2 large black trash bags, band aids, rubber gloves, and a feminine pad. There will be someone with a uniform bag that has uniform spare parts, sewing supplies, black socks, duct tape, and the like. Each bus will have a first aid kit. Please be careful with it! Let me know as things have been used so I can replenish when we return for next time.

The Student Captains will loudly check attendance and go over the checklist with the students before the bus pulls out of school! NEVER let the driver start to leave if you have not done attendance at EVERY stop!

Bus drivers are not chaperones! If a band staff member is not on your bus it's your job to keep the kids quiet and orderly; it's the bus driver's job to get us there safely. Make sure they can. Students are to remain in their seats and keep the noise to a minimum (they do not have to be silent!). Nothing is to go out the windows. This includes trash, water, body parts or kids! If someone is not behaving or being disrespectful please let a director know at the next stop so they can handle the problem. Please keep the drivers' seat and instrument panels off limits to the students and other adults.

Band Directors will LOUDLY yell, "Standby!" to let the kids know they need to be quiet as a driver navigates over railroad tracks or in ANY circumstance in the interest of safety. Everyone quiet means chaperones too. Lead by example! Also keep in mind this is their time to together. Let them enjoy it! You do not need to keep them perfectly quiet. They are great at talking in low roars. If you can't take a lot of talking at once this may not be the job for you! Percussion kids tend to beat on things - constantly. If you can't stand a lot of noise - not the bus for you. Guard usually does hair and make-up on the road. If the scent of hairspray is not your favorite - this is definitely not the bus for you. You can always meet us there instead to help and let someone else handle the "racket".

You are allowed to have water and snacks, but keep in mind sodas and sweet drinks spill and get sticky, and there should not be any trash left on the bus so remind keep any spilled snacks picked up. Lead chaperone has 2 trash bags. There are no paper towels or cleaners around so only drink water on the bus. Be sure when we arrive back at the school the Captain and his crew cleans the bus of ALL trash. Anything found can be turned into the lost and found bucket in the band room. Then you can leave the bus. Students and chaperones are to remain on their assigned bus unless removed by a director. If a student wishes to switch send them to a director!

If the band stops please remind them to leave any areas cleaner than they found it. This includes other schools bandstands, restaurants, and buses.

Please remember that chaperone = WORK. No sleeping on the job!

If you need to check out certain situations please feel free to use the flashlight on your phone, but do this in a manner respectful to all! Do not use this as an opportunity to shine the light in student faces or target certain people.

Please remember that only working chaperones allowed with the band! No one else should be with the band. They must purchase their tickets separate, but can sit in the closest band stands to you in case you need them.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY REQUIRING EVACUATION OF A BUS, REMAIN CALM, AND DO WHAT YOU CAN TO KEEP THE KIDS QUIET AND CALM. FOLLOW ANY DIRECTIONS FROM THE BUS DRIVER!

IF a student is not riding back with us they must be signed out by a PARENT! Not sibling/boyfriend/girlfriend, etc. They can sign out with the directors or chaperone.



Football Games:

Arrive at the glass trophy cases 15 minutes before student call time unless otherwise noted.

We need help monitoring the students especially getting them in and out of the stands as a band or individually. They have their own gate to enter and exit the stadium and you may have to help supervise it also. Siblings or family members must buy a ticket and enter and exit the regular entrance. Only the chaperone(s) working the event may sit in the band stand. No family members in the stands, BUT! They can sit close, and assist as you need them to at the away games.

If you are helping with uniforms, water and snacks, stands/concessions, hospitality, pit or guard, please check with the person in charge of that ahead of time to see where and when you need to be there. Remember that parking can be tricky so plan to come early to park.

Ways to find Byrnes Rebel Regiment information:

First thing I would look at would be the byrnesband.org website. It will probably answer any questions you have and then some. Check out the Parent Handbook and the one for Rookie Parents! (You've really got to check out Upstate Creative Photography's Gallery of pictures of our kids!). There is a link on there for the Charms website, and how to order Rebel Regiment merchandise too.

PLEASE be sure to sign up to help with the C. Philip McIntyre Tournament of Bands competition. This one event is a main reason we do not have to pay the kind of money Wando band does. It takes all of us to pull it off.

The Facebook Parent page - Not a member yet? Look for Rebel Regiment 2017 - Parent Page. It's a closed group, but if you friend it they will let you in if you have a student in the band. This is a perfect spot for all band information for the parents so I highly suggest you join.

Need to get ahold of me about chaperoning?

Leave a message for Debbie Scott Reitz on the Facebook parent page and I will reply ASAP.

You can text or email me:
864-431-1130 (call or text)
Justamom1996@yahoo.com

So you've sat through this boring meeting and still want to chaperone?

You are as awesome as our kids are!!! Here how:



By signing and turning in this page you agree:

That I will abide by the safe touch policy. I understand the difference between appropriate and inappropriate touch. I believe at no point should an adult use touch to satisfy their own need for physical contact. Our kids are HUGGERS and that's great! A side hug can mean as much as a full on body contact hug. A great rule of thumb is never touch a child anywhere a one piece bathing suit does. Working with uniforms and providing first aid we need to have physical contact to help, but this refers to any inappropriate touching that may make a student uncomfortable. I should not be alone with students at any time. I will make sure another adult is in view of the students and I at all times. I will not put myself in situations that can be questioned.

I will not yell at the kids! Discipline will be handled by Band Staff only.

I will be a positive influence! At no point will I make the band feel they failed at anything! I will always point out the GREAT things they do!!! I will keep them hyped! I will clap for EVERYTHING they do! These kids thrive off the thrill of an active, positive audience.

I have read the hand book and understand all the rules to live by. I will obey by all of these chaperone rules.

Print your name _____

Sign your name _____

Date _____ Home Phone _____

Cell phone _____ Can we text? Yes or No

Email address _____

Who's your student? _____

What instrument do they play or are they in guard?

Are you CPR Trained? _____ First Aid? _____ Have a CDL? _____