

Henry Clay Band Bingo 101

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Welcome to the Henry Clay Band! We're glad that you have chosen to make band a part of your high school experience. At the end-of-year band banquet, every senior talks about how important the band was to their Henry Clay years. I hope you find it as rewarding.

It takes a lot to keep the band going, financially and from a time perspective. We have various fundraisers throughout the year, but by far, **Bingo is our largest fundraiser and is essential to our program. It brings in tens of thousands of dollars each year.** As our booster club supports the entire band program, the funds raised from Bingo do also and therefore, **we ask all students who benefit from the band program to support Bingo.** So what is Bingo?

Bingo is played at Jackpot Bingo (directions below). The Henry Clay Band Boosters (HCBB) host bingo every Saturday night, year-round. This is similar to the bingo you played as a child, but more sophisticated. Customers buy sheets (that look like what you played on when you were little) and also computers that play multiple games. Throughout the night 21 bingo games are played. In addition to the bingo games, we sell pulltabs, where customers can be instant winners. Then, within the pulltabs that are sold, there are different games. It will be much easier to understand when you've seen it in action. There's a lot going on but it's well organized and it's not necessary for you to understand everything in order to start volunteering.

It takes approximately 20 volunteers each Saturday night and it's the Bingo Volunteer Coordinator's job to make sure we have coverage. We have parents who sell the bingo sheets and computers when customers first arrive. We have parents who organize the pulltabs and let the pulltab sellers know what they will be doing. We also have a parent who calls the bingo game ("B-4," "O-22," etc.) and keeps things moving along. All of these positions are trained positions and the parents who fill these roles volunteer once a month. For the students and parents who are not in trained positions, throughout the night, they walk around, as people are playing bingo, and sell the pulltabs. We also use a parent to count the money as the kids turn it in.

Because I know this is a concern to some people, I want to mention that **there is NO smoking in the room where bingo is played.** There are a couple of times throughout the evening when they take a break in playing and some people choose to step outside, but they are NOT allowed to smoke while playing.

The details: **We ask each student to cover 2 shifts within each 13-week period.** The student can volunteer twice or if you want to knock it out in one evening, a parent and student can come together. We strongly encourage the parents to participate. When we have more parent volunteers the evening runs a little more smoothly and best of all, that means it only takes up 4 nights of the entire year (Yes, we even go through the summer. That's why some of you may have already seen e-mails on it.). **Once they've signed up, it is the student's responsibility to cover their bingo shift. If for some reason they can't, they find a sub and then let me know who will be filling in for**

them. It is the student's responsibility to find a sub; I don't have a list of people who are available for any given Saturday. After I've completed the list, I'll send a copy of who is working when. If someone needs a sub, I think the simplest solution is to find a day that the student can work, contact the people signed up for that day, and see if someone can switch. During marching band season, we ask the non-marchers to cover dates that we have marching competitions and the marchers cover the Saturdays that we don't compete.

On nights you are volunteering, we ask that you arrive by 5:15 p.m. The last game usually ends about 10:00 p.m. Volunteers are generally ready to leave by 10:15 p.m. There is a concession stand. The Henry Clay Band Boosters provides dinner for student and parent volunteers. Wear comfortable shoes! You can wear jeans or shorts. We do ask the students to keep any electronic devices out of sight while they are selling pulltabs. Throughout the school year, some students need community service hours; volunteering at bingo counts toward those hours!

Non band member siblings can help with bingo. But, in order for a student (including siblings), to be at Jackpot Bingo, he/she must be at least 13 years old. This is a regulation we MUST follow and is non-negotiable. **Children younger than 13 are not allowed in the room, even if they are not volunteering.** We realize that this sometimes means parents are unable to come because the younger sibling must be at home.

For students meeting the age criteria, during bingo, they are selling pulltabs to the customers. This means they are handling some money and are required to keep track of the transaction as it goes along. They need to be able to handle themselves maturely when dealing with adults. Some 13, 14 and 15 year olds are able to do this easily and for some, it is uncomfortable. Parents, we rely on your judgment as to whether or not this suits your younger children.

Parents, if you try bingo and you think this is a place that you can volunteer on a monthly basis, we need you. We are always looking for parents to work in the trained positions as once-a-month volunteers or as subs.

Directions to Jackpot Bingo: 1230 Eastland Drive Lexington, KY 40505 (859) 258-2363 in the bottom level of the Eastland Shopping Center at Winchester Rd./New Circle Rd. ([Click here for map](#)) If you are heading west on New Circle, turn left at the light after Winchester Rd. onto Eastland Drive. (There is a Mexican restaurant on the near left corner and a gas station on the far left corner.) On the left, shortly before the water tower and the stop sign at Industry Rd., you'll see a parking lot entrance in front of a building with a big "Bingo" sign. That's where we'll be.

The Henry Clay Band is an awesome program and we are so glad you have chosen to become a part of it. Thank you, in advance, for your support of the Henry Clay Band!

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