

# **FOWLERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK 2020-21**

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*“Music expresses that which cannot be said and  
on which it is impossible to be silent.”*

- Victor Hugo

*“If music be the food of love, play on.”*

- William Shakespeare

Dear Band Families,

Included within this document are the rules, regulations, and grading scales for the Fowlerville High School band program. It is my hope that these guidelines answer any questions that you may have in relation to the operation of the band program. If, at any time, you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via whichever method is easier for you. I look forward to working with you in order to make the best band program possible and to continue in the pursuit of excellence that our community deserves and expects.

Sincerely,

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## **HANDBOOK**

### **I. Attendance**

- a. *Requirements* – Attendance at all concerts and rehearsals is MANDATORY. A calendar of such rehearsals and concerts will be distributed and is also available on the band website.
- b. *Missing a Rehearsal or Concert* – Any unexcused absence from a REHEARSAL will result in the deduction of half a letter grade (i.e. A to A-) for that semester. Any unexcused absence from a PERFORMANCE will result in the lowering of the semester grade by a full letter (i.e. A to B). If a student misses two performances (unexcused) in one semester, that student will be given a failing grade for that semester.
- c. *Excused vs. Unexcused* – In the event of a needed absence, it is expected that the student informs the director as soon as the conflict is made known. Such contact must be made in writing and submitted no less than one month prior for a rehearsal and two months prior for a performance. There is no grade penalty for an excused absence. There may be an additional assignment given if the absence is performance related. If no notification is given, or if the notification is given exceedingly late, the absence will be considered unexcused.
- d. *Emergencies* – Emergencies happen. In the event that a student must unexpectedly miss a performance or rehearsal, it is expected that the student call or text the director ASAP.

- e. *Examples* – Below are listed examples of excused vs. unexcused absences. If a student has a question about whether an absence is excused or unexcused, they must contact the director as soon as possible.
  - i. Excused – Death in the family, Religious observance, Athletic contest (conflicting only with rehearsals), confirmed illness
  - ii. Unexcused – Work, No ride, Athletic practice (on the date of a performance), vacation (with the exception of rehearsals pre-Aug 26)
  - iii. **NOTE:** Please **DO NOT**, if at all possible, schedule any oral surgeries within one month preceding a concert date. Additionally, please **DO NOT** schedule the “putting on” or “taking off” of braces within two weeks preceding a concert. These procedures **RADICALLY** change how a student plays their instrument and, in some cases, forbids them from playing for a prolonged period of time.
- f. *Unscheduled Rehearsals* – In the event that a rehearsal, not previously on the calendar, must be called, attendance is required except in the case of a previously planned conflict (no matter the conflict). For example, if a rehearsal is called one month ahead of time, but a student has had a family vacation planned for three months, the absence is excused, so long as the director is notified ASAP.

## **II. Uniform**

### **a. Marching**

- i. All students will be issued a marching jacket, bibber pants, a hat and plume. Tuba players will not be issued hats or plumes.
- ii. All students will be issued a garment bag and hat box.
- iii. In the event that a student arrives at a performance with a uniform that is incomplete or of unacceptable appearance, that student may be denied performing privileges. This will be considered an unexcused absence.
- iv. No large jewelry can be worn during performance. All nail polish must be flesh colored during marching band.. Earrings, lip rings, nose rings, or any other facial jewelry are not to be worn during a marching performance.
- v. Hair that is longer than collar length must be put up so that it may fit into a hat.
- vi. Uniforms are never to be partially worn. Changing in parking lots or other public places will not be permitted. Wear the uniform in full, carrying the hat, or have it neatly hung in a garment bag.
- vii. Marching uniforms, excluding the hat, hat box, and plume, are not to leave the Fowlerville campus unless on a school approved trip. All marching uniforms will be stored in the uniform storage area within the band room for the duration of the year.

### **b. Concert**

- i. Option 1 - Tuxedo Coat, trousers, tuxedo shirt (to be purchased by student), cummerbund, and bowtie.
- ii. Option 2 – Floor length gown
- iii. All students must provide black dress shoes. Those opting for the tuxedo must supply calf length black dress socks.
- iv. Tasteful jewelry such as a simple necklace or earrings are permitted. If there is a question as to whether the jewelry is tasteful, please consult director prior to performance day.
- v. Appearance of the uniform is the same as marching season.

**c. Care and Maintenance**

- i. Each student is required to provide a \$10 maintenance fee per uniform (\$20 total). All uniforms will be cleaned and repaired in bulk at the end of the year.
- ii. In the event that a uniform needs cleaning during the year because of student neglect or abuse, it is the responsibility of the student to appropriately clean the garment according to the cleaning instructions. Failure to do so may result in the student being denied performance privileges, which will be counted as an unexcused absence.
- iii. No part of the uniform is to be loaned out to another member of the band or anyone outside of the band.
- iv. The uniform is to be turned in by the provided date. In the event that a uniform is not turned in on time, a fine sheet will be given to the office until the uniform is turned in. If the uniform is late, the student must dry clean the uniform on their own and provide a receipt to indicate the cleaning.
- v. Replacement Costs: if a portion of the uniform has been damaged beyond the point of repair, it is the student's responsibility to reimburse the band boosters the following costs:
  1. Marching Jacket: \$150
  2. Marching Bibbers: \$100
  3. Marching Shako Hat: \$50
  4. Plume: \$25
  5. Garment Bag or Hat Box: \$15/each
  6. Tuxedo Jacket: \$60
  7. Tuxedo Pants: \$50
  8. Bow tie/Cumberbund: \$15 (sold together)
  9. Female Formal Gown: \$85

**III. Instruments and Equipment**

- a. Any student wishing to rent an instrument from the school may do so, assuming there is an instrument available. No small instruments are available (flute, clarinet, trumpet, alto saxophone).
- b. Rental of a school owned instrument costs \$50 for the academic year. The student may also rent the instrument over the summer for \$20. If a second instrument is available for the student to take home, the charge is \$10. Percussionists are exempt from these fees as they are not allowed to take an instrument home. Percussionists are expected to supply all of their own sticks and mallets.
- c. Any abuse or neglect to a school instrument resulting in the damage of the instrument, including percussion instruments, will be charged to the student.

**Awards**

**d. Yearly Awards (9-12)**

- i. Students will receive a chevron for every successfully passed year of band.
- ii. Chenille numerals will be given to those students successfully completing four semesters of band.
- iii. A band letter will be given to all students after successfully completing four semesters in band. Additionally, any member who completes two semesters of Wind Ensemble will be given a band letter.
- iv. A senior plaque or framed certificate (student choice) will be given to any student successfully completing eight semesters of high school band.

e. **Denial of Awards**

- i. Awards will be denied any student who:
  1. Has an outstanding debt with the band.
  2. Has an outstanding loan on equipment or uniforms.
  3. Has incurred severe disciplinary action throughout the year that was either related to band or has tarnished the reputation of the band.

**IV. Student Accounts**

- a. All students in grades 6-12 have a student account maintained by the director and band boosters.
- b. Funds may be earned through fundraising opportunities throughout the year. These opportunities will be made known as they come up.
- c. Student funds can be used for anything relating to band or music at the discretion of the director.
- d. Students will never receive cash from these accounts but may file to get reimbursed from a previous purchase after they have supplied a receipt.
- e. Upon a student leaving the band (either through drop or graduation), the funds will immediately be given to a sibling in band.
- f. In the case that there is no sibling, a graduating student will have 45 days to use any of those funds on something musical. At the end of 45 days, the funds will be defaulted back to the band booster general fund. A student dropping band defaults all of their funds on their last enrolled day in class.

**V. Grading**

- a. The band grade will be a combination of 40% formative assessment (day to day work) and 60% summative assessment (exam). The final grade in band is meant to be an accumulation of all musical skills including the ability to perform, create, and analyze music.