

Hamilton Band Handbook

OUR MISSION: The Hamilton Attendance Center's band department is dedicated to providing outstanding musical experiences and opportunities to its students while helping them grow into responsible, mature adults. To make these experiences successful, we require discipline, organization and commitment to the program. Being a part of the band is to be seen as an honor and students will be expected to help serve as role models for the school and other organizations within it. As a result of our high expectations, discipline, leadership and social opportunities, the students have the opportunity to develop valuable life skills such as a positive self- image, time management skills, confidence, poise, responsibility, and loyalty as well as the musical abilities needed to be a successful musician.

OUR GOALS:

- To provide a comprehensive knowledge of music through the performance, creation, and promotion of music.
- To provide an environment that promotes and encourages life-long learning and personal as well as professional growth.
- To create an environment that provides all students with a sense of community and loyalty to an organization bigger than themselves.
- To provide an opportunity for students to develop as disciplined, organized and mature adults.
- To allow students to express themselves in a different, creative manner through the means of music.
- To reach full potential in all aspects of students' lives through the use of music.

ORGANIZATION:

- **MARCHING BAND** - The Marching Band operates during the fall semester from July with the start of band camps through the middle of December with the end of football season and Christmas parades. It is comprised of all band students and performances including halftime at all football games, various parades, and marching band contests. It is important to know that marching band is a physical activity and does require a significant time commitment. Students will have two-hour afternoon rehearsals two days a week. Students will be required to be early to all rehearsals and performances. The color guard is an extremely important part of the marching band as it greatly adds to its visual and aesthetic appeal to an audience. They hold all of the same requirements and responsibilities as any other band member and WILL serve as part of the band in the spring.
- **CONCERT BAND** - The concert band begins as marching season ends. Students will be required to audition for this ensemble with scales, a prepared piece, and sightreading. A rubric will be used to assess each student's proficiency level and

determine chair placements. This rubric will be given to the students before they audition so they know how to prepare. Concerts will be held throughout the year to let the parents enjoy the progress and work of the students. We will also perform at the State Concert Evaluation.

- **WINTER GUARD** - The Winter Guard is a new part of the band that started last year. The Winter Guard will practice during the spring with practices/performances to be announced after Christmas Break. The students who participate in this must be aware that they are taking on a very serious commitment. It is not a requirement that a student participates in Winter Guard, but participation will require the appropriate amount of practice time and effort.
- **INDOOR PERCUSSION** - We will be attempting a new group this year with the Indoor Percussion group. This group will be open to any student who wishes to participate. Participation is not mandatory, but any student who participates will be expected to devote the appropriate amount of practice time and effort to make the group the best that it can be.

CONCERT ATTIRE/UNIFORMS:

We recently purchased all new band uniforms. They are very nice and were very expensive so students will be expected to take great care of them. These uniforms will be worn at all marching band performances

Again, students will be expected to take very good care of their uniforms. At the beginning of marching season, students will be issued their own uniforms. These uniforms will be kept in the band room and checked out for performances. Students will be expected to turn in all parts of their uniform after every event. If any parts of the uniform are missing, students will be held accountable for replacing those items. Be aware that uniforms cost approximately \$350 each to replace. Also, students will be responsible for keeping their uniforms clean and presentable between cleanings. Included in the band fee is a Uniform Cleaning Fee. The band will assume responsibility for having the uniforms cleaned regularly, but students are responsible for keeping the uniforms as clean as possible while wearing it.

STUDENTS WILL WEAR THE UNIFORM CORRECTLY OR NOT AT ALL. As part of the uniform, the students will need to purchase their own marching shoes. These will need to be purchased by the student at the beginning of the season. The students will receive a band t-shirt as a part of their band fee. This shirt will be considered a part of the uniform, and will be **REQUIRED** as a part of the full uniform.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES:

There will be several fundraising opportunities for the band this year. Fundraising is going to be a vital part of allowing the Hamilton Band to have the freedom to participate in trips/events that we otherwise would not be able to do, as well as purchase new equipment that will make the band better. Information will be sent home regarding fundraisers as the time gets closer.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS:

Some students will need to use school owned instruments. The students will need to fill out an instrument checkout sheet that will be kept on file. If any damages occur to the instrument while in the student's possession, they will be responsible for any repairs except for regular maintenance repairs. Things like reeds, neck straps, and valve oil are considered accessories and must be purchased by the students themselves. At the end of the school year, instruments are to be returned after all personal items are removed from the case and it is spotlessly cleaned.

INSTRUMENT CARE:

- Students must take proper care of all instruments and make sure they are in good playing condition.
- Students are responsible for all accessories needed for their instrument. Failure to have these items will have consequences as they are needed to keep their instruments in good working conditions. (These accessories include valve oil, reeds, neck straps, cork grease, etc.)
- Accessories may be purchased online or through Buxton's Music store in Aberdeen.

BAND FEE:

Participation in the Hamilton Band will require a BAND FEE of \$50 as well as a UNIFORM CLEANING FEE of \$30. The BAND FEE will need to be turned into Mr. Funderburg at the beginning of the Fall semester. The BAND FEE will cover the cost of each student's band t-shirt as well as allow the band to purchase various music and equipment needed for the success of the band program. The UNIFORM CLEANING FEE will cover the cleaning of the band uniforms 5 times during the Marching Season.

ATTENDANCE:

- Students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances.
- Attendance is figured into every student's grade. Points will be given every day for attendance and for every rehearsal and performance.
- Being tardy counts against the attendance grade. It is important for the program's success that all students are on time. Failure to do so will take points off of the attendance grade for that day.
- Students are responsible for notifying the **director** of missing any extra rehearsals or performances **well before** the event occurs (AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR).
- Excessive tardiness and/or absences will affect the student's eligibility and participation.
- Students will only be excused from performances/rehearsals for the following reasons: (1) school activities, (2) sickness (a doctor's note must be provided on the day the student returns), and (3) family emergencies such as a death in the immediate family (a parent note must be provided on the day the student returns). Any other circumstances should be brought to Mr. Funderburg.

- Students will be allowed ONE (1) UNEXCUSED absence per semester. The student will still be responsible for knowing all material learned during the absence by the following rehearsal.
 - On the 2nd UNEXCUSED absence, the student will no longer be eligible to participate with the Band pending a parent/teacher/student conference to determine the student's continued participation in the band program.

ELIGIBILITY:

Eligibility is based on two things: (1) passing grades in all subjects and (2) good attendance and participation at all rehearsals and previous performances. Students cannot participate in any activities when ineligible. If a student is ineligible:

- They are not allowed to participate with the rest of the band in any out of town trips.
- They will still be required to attend home games and play in the stands. They will not be allowed on the field for halftime.
- They will be given only partial credit for any missed performances caused by ineligibility.

REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE RULES AND CONDUCT:

- ALWAYS BE ON TIME. If you are not early, you are late!
- The band program will follow all school policies and will not tolerate students that go against school regulation. For instance, no alcohol, tobacco or drugs shall be tolerated at any time.
- Always be prepared. Students must have all materials needed for a successful rehearsal. Always have your music, instrument, pencil and mind ready to go!
- Students must show respect for all band members, directors, and parents. Whether they are a part of our organization or a part of another organization, it does not matter.
- Students must show respect for all property. Every area the band visits should be left in better condition than it was before they entered it.
- The uniform must be worn correctly at all performances. Students will wear their band shirts underneath their uniform jackets and all jackets and pants are to be fully buttoned and zipped at all times. The uniform will be worn correctly or not at all.
- Students must have music prepared. During marching season, this means having all halftime show music memorized.
- No food or drinks will be allowed at any rehearsal or performance. This includes gum on the marching field and food or drinks in the stands.
- Being in band is a privilege. Only band members will be allowed to sit with the band at any rehearsals or performances, including times that we perform in the stands.
- Proper language is to be used at all times!
- Public Display of Affection is not for rehearsal or for the band room. PDA will not be tolerated at any time.
- Band should be fun! Remember, the more effort you put into the program and making every rehearsal successful, the more fun and worthwhile your experiences become.

BAND ROOM POLICIES:

- The band room should be kept neat and orderly AT ALL TIMES. It should exemplify the PRIDE and ORGANIZATION that reflects the program. Students should clean up around his/her own area, instruments are to be restored in their designated places, and backpacks will be left in lockers.
- There will be NO FOOD OR DRINKS in the band room at any time. Water bottles used for marching band will be the only exception. (Gum and candy is also considered a food that will not be allowed in the band.)
- Hats will be removed when entering the band room.
- Non-band students will not be allowed in the band room. Band students have earned the privilege to be in the band room.
- Students will only handle things that belong to them. No one should touch the instrument or personal belonging of another student.

BUS TRIPS AND TRIP POLICIES:

- All normal school bus rules apply to bus trips. There will be consequences to any student who does not abide by these rules.
- Students will make sure to leave the bus better than they found it. No belongings or trash shall be left behind.
- Be early for any trip the band might take. To be early is to be on time...to be on time is to be late!
- When the bus arrives at a particular location, stay seated and wait for an adult sponsor or Mr. Funderburg to give you instructions before getting off the bus.
- Only band members and sponsors/sponsor's children are allowed to ride on the bus.

GRADING POLICY:

Students will receive grades throughout the year for the following:

- Attendance
- Preparedness
- Individual playing tests
- Section playing tests
- Full Band playing tests
- Written tests

CONFLICTS WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES

Students should do their very best to be at all band rehearsals and performances, as students should feel a sense of loyalty to the band. However, conflicts with other activities are sure to happen. The key to avoiding any confusion and to keeping a good rapport with the band is communication! Please let Mr. Funderburg know of any conflicts immediately after they have been realized. ***Failure to do so can result in the lowering of a student's grade.*** It will then be up to Mr. Funderburg to find a solution to the problem, not the student.