

*2016-2017
Gettysburg
High
School and Junior
High
Band
Handbook*

Philosophy of the Band

My goal as director of the Gettysburg School bands is to achieve success for the students by setting the bar high, to try our very best and instill a sense of pride in the groups by rising to a higher level of confidence in performance. High expectations help to inspire students to want to achieve and be challenged. Historically students rise to the challenge which produces success in their performances and results in higher learning, pride in their organization and eventually a successful band program that our school can be proud of! That's what keeps kids in band!

All performing ensembles are group endeavors. As such, no performing ensemble can successfully achieve its goals without a complete commitment to excellence from each member. This handbook serves to identify the standards of excellence to which we collectively aspire and methods used to achieve said goals. Furthermore, the guidelines herein help to ensure a productive and safe working environment for all members and staff.

The Gettysburg high school band serves many musical roles:

- We pursue the highest artistic standards in band
- We continue the patriotic tradition of the American marching band by performing in parades and honoring America with the performance of *The Star Spangled Banner* as well as performance at the Veteran's Day Program.
- We add to the excitement and promote school spirit during games and pep rallies

Each of these endeavors is important and requires an equally high standard of excellence.

We must always seek to generate support through the highest quality public performance as well as carrying ourselves in a professional manner at all times.

Athletic Events

Participation at athletic games is required of all band students except for the students in the sport we are at. Please note that report time means in the stands with your instrument ready to go. If you are

late, you will be counted as late. The following athletic events have these specific requirements:

Football – We will be playing pre-game and halftime at all football games. In case of inclement weather such as rain or snow or freezing temp, a group text will go out as far as cancelling pep band to protect instruments. Report time for pre-game is 30 minutes before the game starts. Report time for halftime is when there is 3:00 minutes left to go in the second quarter.

Volleyball games: Report time is 25 minutes before the game starts. When there is a JV game before the varsity game, then you need to be at school 30 minutes before the varsity game is scheduled to start. Report time will be after the second game ends. If one team is winning 2-0 after the second game, please monitor the third game and be ready to go at the end of the third game if that team ends up doing a sweep.

Basketball Games: Report time is 25 minutes before the scheduled start of the game. When there is a JV game beforehand, then report time is when there are 3:00 minutes left on the game clock.

Please note that if you come in after report time, you will be considered late and your grade will be docked according to the syllabus.

Family and friends may not come into the band section to sit with a band student unless they are helping hold music. When we are done playing, instruments must be put away in the band room or designated place.

Attendance

ATTENDANCE AT ALL PERFORMANCES IS MANDATORY. Only with approved advance notice may a student miss a rehearsal. Serious medical or family problems (like a death in the family or hospitalization of an immediate family member) would excuse students from attending. Sickness of a student needs to be reported by the parent.

Students need to arrange their work schedules to accommodate the band schedule. Missing for work will never be an excused absence! Arrange doctor and dentist appointments for non-rehearsal days.

In case of an emergency absence, email or text the band director to inform that you will not be present.

Attendance will be taken at all rehearsals and band events just like in class. All band events are inclusive in the co-curricular class setting, and will affect all band students' grades. Missing performances or rehearsals will give a student a 0 on that event. (Upon request, time can be made back up by staying after school and doing band service in order to maintain an A average in band). Every third tardy will count as an absence and immediately drop a student's grade by one letter. Please note that if you miss, you are not only affecting yourself, but the entire band.

Check out Procedures

From time to time students may need to leave band performances early. When this happens, we allow students to "check-out" with their parents. Please refer to the handbook for further instructions on this.

Band Leadership

A questionnaire is completed at the beginning of the year where the student can pick which events he/she would like to participate in such as solos or small groups or jazz band etc. It also allows them to decide if they would like to be considered for section leader or drum major. From that, the director chooses leaders based on their leadership qualities, not necessarily age.

Primary Responsibilities

- Lead by example
- Demonstrate high qualities of musicianship
- Loyalty and total cooperation with director, staff, parents, and peers.
- Proper conduct and positive attitude.
- Complete all duties required of the position.
- Run sectionals as needed.
- Assist in loading/unloading and setup/teardown of all sections.

- Be well informed of all events and prepared to answer peer questions.

Removal from Office

If a student officer's actions are not appropriate and do not set the proper example, they will be called in for a conference on their first offense, and dismissed from their leadership position on a subsequent offense. An offense is considered anything that violates the high school handbook.

Uniform Guidelines

In order to present a "uniform" look and make a great impression, it is important that uniform guidelines be strictly adhered to.

Marching Band Uniform – the only things you should be wearing under the uniform are gym shorts (leggings are acceptable for girls only) and the pep band t-shirt. Please note that if you wear jeans or sweat pants, they will stick through the uniform.

Hair will be up under the hat in pony tails or buns – males too if needed. The black marching shoes and gloves are part of the uniform. Gloves and uniforms will be checked back in to the band room after marching season. The shoes are yours and will be kept at your homes.

Parades

Every year, the band participates in the homecoming parades of Gettysburg and Hoven. Uniforms are to be worn at all parades. More information will be handed out 3-5 days before a parade.

Lettering

Lettering in band is an important honor for students. The following is required for lettering:

- Participate in a small ensemble at Small Group Contest. (2-12)

In addition, you must do 4 of the following 8 items:

- Try out for All State
- Perform a Solo at Small Group Contest.
- Participate in North Area Honor Band.
- Participate in Jazz Band
- Perform at a local or state event (this is something outside of the bands normal performances. I.E. playing the national anthem in a small group at a sporting event, performing at the manor or the senior center, in church, etc)
- Take 8 - 15 minute lessons each semester
- Participate in a music camp
- Provide 10 hours of service to the band program

GRADING POLICIES

HS STUDENTS:

POINTS RECEIVED

- 5 points a day for rehearsal behavior which includes pep band performances.
- 20 points for concerts or large group performances
- 20 points for Honor Band or Music Festival participation
- 25 points for Band Camp participation
- 2 points for helping around the band room
- 30 points for All State Band audition
- 20 points for each solo or ensemble event at Small Group which is in addition to the section event.
- 20 points for jazz band participation
- 5 points for performance at church or other function
- 10 – 15 points for other groups such as drum line performance etc.
- 10 – 30 points for various band quizzes or tests given

POINTS TAKEN AWAY

- 20 points missed concert or contest performance (unexcused)
- 5 points for gum remaining in mouth after being told to get rid of it.
- 10-20 points for vandalism of school property in band room
- 5 points for failure to complete a written assignment or unsatisfactory work.
- 2 points for forgetting instrument
- 2 points for forgetting music
- 1 or 2 points for minor infractions such as blasting horn or loud percussion at inappropriate times, incessant talking while director is talking, yelling, disrespectful behavior towards the director or others etc.

JH POINTS RECEIVED

- 5 points for daily rehearsal behavior
- 20 points per week for completed practice chart
- 5 points per lesson
- 25 points for band camp participation
- 5 points for performance in church or other event
- 20 points for JH Festival
- 2 points for helping around the band room
- 5 points for the selected loaders for FB pep band
- 10 points for Middle School All State Band audition
- 20 points for Middle School All State Band participation
- 5 points for extra lessons

POINTS TAKEN AWAY

Same as HS plus:

- 5 points for missed lesson
- Points for under practicing

INSTRUMENTAL RENTAL

School instruments may be rented in lieu of purchasing your own depending upon availability. Rent is \$45.00 per year (Sep thru May). A payment plan can be set up as well. Due to the heavy amount of repair and replacement needed for percussion equipment in past years, the school has decided to charge \$3.00 a month rent or \$27.00 for the year for all percussionists. There are sticks, stands, drumheads and misc. auxiliary percussion etc. that needs repair or replacement on a regular basis.

If the director chooses to switch a student to a different instrument for the good of the band, rent will not be charged; however, if any damage happens to that school instrument above normal wear and tear, the student will pay full price for damages.

Students are responsible to purchase their own reeds, cleaning kits and oils/grease. Only emergency reeds and oils will be sold by the director.

JH PLAYING IN PEP BAND

7th and 8th graders are allowed to try out for pep band. Once they are in pep band, they have the same rules as the HS pep band and are required to be at every pep band performance. JH will need to “pass” on 10 pep tunes including the “Star Spangled Banner” and “On Wisconsin” with 2 errors or less. The 8 additional songs are the students’ choice but still need to be OK’d by the director to avoid VERY easy, repetitive tunes. This process instills in the student, the precise playing of all articulations, dynamics, accidentals etc. These skills will become second nature to the student as a result, and make for faster learning of music in the future.

JH PRACTICE

JH are required to practice 40 minutes a week. The preferred practice time is during their study halls. There will be practice log-in sheets in the band room and students can sign up for a practice room right after band time or before school. There are 5 practice rooms available. Instruments will be put together in the main band area and practice time will start when the student enters the practice room. If a student does not show up to use the practice room, they will be docked 2 points. This is valuable time to practice that others would've been able to use.

The entire 40 minutes should be able to be completed during school hours. That is 1 study hall a week. Practicing can also be done after school or before school in the practice rooms. If a student wants to do extra practicing at home, they can take a practice chart for their parents to sign. This is in addition to the regular 40 minutes. This change is implemented due to the falsifying of practice charts in the past.

Once a JH student gets into pep band, each performance counts as 20 minutes towards practice time. There will even be times that there are up to 3 performances so a student will be earning extra points instead of practice minutes.

JH will have a lesson once a week and no skips. A missed lesson is 5 points docked unless made up.

5-8 BAND CONTEST

All JH are required to perform a solo or ensemble at contest.