**Galesburg High School**

Band Policies

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Galesburg High School Band Objectives:**

* Strive for excellence in performance, personal, and ensemble growth
* Develop and improve music skills and knowledge
* Continue the development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of music
* Make band an enjoyable and musical experience
* Serve to promote music and the arts within our school and community

**PRIDE**: **P**roficiency, **R**eliability, **I**ntegrity, **D**iscipline, **E**xcellence

**The Instrumental Music Program’s Responsibility to the Student:**

* Provide the band members with the proper kind of rehearsal room, lighting, seating, music stands, instrumental storage space, and such other equipment as is necessary to aid in developing the student's musical ability
* Plan each day's activities and encourage daily progress of the entire band
* Provide the band with a full musical education through rehearsal, performance, teaching, testing, and listening
* Assure that no individual member, through inappropriate or irresponsible behavior, interferes with the learning or achievement of the group
* Supervise the students in class or on school sponsored band trips; each student will receive information about the plans for the trip, the type, the dress, and the complete schedule of activities
* Grade the progress of each member on their instrument and their participation in band
* Provide quality musical literature and performance opportunities

**The Band Member’s Responsibility to the Band:**

* Be consistent in attendance and make sure all absences are excused by the Director prior to the absence; all conflicts should be communicated **two weeks prior** for approval
* Make a real effort to learn and improve daily
* Become responsible for and expect to assume the consequences for your actions
* Be personally clean, neat, and dress appropriately; always remember that you are representing our school and program
* Have the proper respect for those in authority
* Follow all classroom guidelines, school regulations, and all travel instructions given for trips
* Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music, and school life in general
* Cooperate with fellow band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are a part of the band program
* Contribute positively to your music education and that of others by the best use of your talents
* Read and play music with insight and expression
* Above all else, **HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE!!**

**Expectations of Rehearsals:**

The daily rehearsal is the basis for a good performance. A conscientious effort at rehearsals will guarantee successful performances. This means that adequate preparation on your individual part must take place at home. Band rehearsals are designed to learn about music and solve ensemble problems.

* **To Make Our Rehearsals More Productive:**
  + BE ON TIME!!! (meaning ready to play) “Early is on time, On time is late!”
  + Section leaders and Drum Majors should be the first to arrive and the last to leave!
  + Warm-up softly and slowly - no blasting
  + Have a pencil at ALL times
  + Maintain good posture by keeping both feet on the floor
  + Do **NOT** talk or play (except when instructed to do so) while the Director, staff, or band parent is on the podium, in front of the group, or speaking to you
  + Use a tuner
  + Have a friend work with you if you cannot play consistently when working
  + by yourself
  + If you have questions during a rehearsal, raise your hand and **ask the director**; Do not ask your neighbor or section leader
  + Take your instrument home often to practice
  + All instruments are to go home on Friday

**RESPONSIBILITES**

**Attendance Policy:**

Your attendance at each rehearsal and performance is very important to the band’s success and is mandatory.  Band is a team that is dependent on every player being there.  One person missing can greatly affect the ensemble’s overall sound and performance.  We do not have people on the “bench” to take your spot when you are gone!  I will do the best that I can to work performances around extra-curricular activities. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of scheduling conflicts and communicate them as early as possible. If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to find out what was missed and not hold the entire group back.

* **Excused absences:**
  + Excused absences are those due to emergencies such as illness, death in the family and other extenuating circumstances. The student or family spokesman should contact the Director and relate the facts causing the emergency and the probable length of time the student will miss rehearsals. The student should bring a note to the Director's office within two days upon returning to school.
  + If a student is absent for any reason, they will be required to make up the points for the rehearsal or performance to be determined by the director.
* **Unexcused absences:**
  + Unexcused absences are unacceptable and bring the student’s commitment to the ensemble into question.  Any unexcused absence will automatically result in a zero for the rehearsal or performance and possible dismissal from the ensemble or put the student as an alternate in the group.
  + Last minute (or after the fact) excuses of a non-emergency nature will not be accepted for missed rehearsals or performances.
  + Work, lack of transportation, or an event of a non-emergency nature is never excused under any circumstances.  Students are responsible for planning their work schedules around rehearsals and performances.  Students will be given a calendar of all band events, if a performance or rehearsal is added, students will be given no less than two weeks notification.
  + An unexcused absence at a rehearsal will result in a zero and may prevent the student from performing with the band at the next performance.

**Grading Policy:**

* Rehearsals outside of the school day = 25 points
* Performances = 100 points
* Additional work sheets and writing assignments will be assigned throughout the semester = points TBD

**Conduct:**

The conduct of a Galesburg High School band member should reflect the following characteristics:

* Display courtesy at all times
* Be respectful to fellow band members, any other visiting band members, all directors, all teachers, and general public
* When out of town, remember you are representing your school, community, and yourself
* Leave a good impression
* During rehearsals, you will not talk or be disruptive; pay attention at all times. This means you will not bring any materials that do not pertain to band.

#### Show pride in being a member of the Galesburg High School Band

#### Cell phones are not permitted during rehearsals

#### Follow Galesburg High School policies at all times

**Trip Conduct:**

Since the band is a part of the whole school system, we will operate within the rules set down by the school district with a few additions of our own. The band will always travel to a performance as a group on assigned buses. Once a student has signed up for a bus, there will be no changes in the seating arrangement. A student may return with his or her parents provided a permission slip, signed by the parents, is given to the Director **prior** to departing from school. Prior to a trip, information will be given which will tell students exactly where to be, at what time, with what equipment, in what uniform or dress, and for what purpose. Students are expected to follow these instructions to the exact detail.

* **The following rules will be followed at all times you are on the bus:**
  + Respect for the bus driver and all chaperones
  + Be completely quiet during roll
  + No food or drink, unless authorized
  + Use normal tone of voice; do not yell
  + Must ride bus to events
  + Must ride bus home from events unless riding with parents with a permission slip
  + If riding home with parents after contest, you must stay until awards presentations are completed; parents must check out with the Director and no one else before you leave!
  + Students found to be in possession of or under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be returned home with their parents or guardian and recommended for expulsion from the band
  + On overnight trips, students are not allowed to be in the rooms of the opposite sex.
  + No coed seating will be allowed on the buses after dark
* **Consequences:**
  + 1st time – Verbal warning
  + 2nd time – Meet with Director and band room detention
  + 3rd time – Detention Hall
  + 4th time – Call home and possible Dean referral

**Section Leaders and Co-Section Leaders:**

Each section will be appointed a Section Leader and in some instances a Co-Section Leader by the Director. Student leaders are an important part of our band program at GHS and help the director with various tasks throughout the year.  These students will be responsible for running sectionals and helping students that are having difficulties.  These students are in charge of their sections and should be respected by other students.  Do not abuse your authority or you will lose it! Students must be able to be present at all rehearsals and performances to be considered for a section leader position. Additionally, section leaders must lead by example by being willing to go out of their way to help their fellow students, directors, and band boosters. Leaders must continually be prepared and hold weekly sectionals. A section leader will be removed as a section leader if they have a bad attitude, are disrespectful, or does not follow through with commitments.

#### Section Leaders will be appointed by the Director and must meet the following requirements:

#### The student must be enrolled in a band the previous two semesters

#### Must possess a helpful, positive attitude

#### A willingness to go above and beyond as a band member

#### Must be a positive role model for the other students in your section and set a high example as a person and band member

#### Demonstrate a high level of musicianship and preparedness

#### Must show up early and be the last to leave.

#### Helps fellow students and directors and leads at least one sectional per week

**Drum Majors:**

Drum majors are selected through competitive auditions during the Spring or appointed by the Director. Drum majors must uphold the highest standards of leadership and conduct at all times. They are the student band director. They should promote the band within the school and community and proudly defend the band from any critics. Conducting is a very small part and one of the lesser jobs in terms of importance of the drum majors. Above all else, the drum major must be someone that loves band and is totally loyal to the goals of the organization. Please note that a student may not be able to hold a drum major position due to instrumentation needs to have a successful ensemble. Drum Majors will be required to attend all rehearsals and performances. Additionally, drum majors will be required to attend a drum major camp that is decided on by the director.

**Parades:**

Parades are required performances and one of the best opportunities for our program to perform for the community.

***For homecoming***, students are required to perform with the band in the parade. Seniors that are in a varsity sport will be given the choice to march with the band or go with their sport.

**Equipment:**

Students will be responsible for the up-keep and care of all of their equipment, whether it be school owned or not. Any damages to the instruments, music, uniforms, or any other school owned equipment will be repaired or replaced immediately at the student's expense.

**Sheet Music:**

Sheet music is the text book for band.  Band arrangements are expensive and if a part is lost, it cannot be replaced unless the entire band arrangement is purchased.  Each student will be given one copy of each piece of music and a folder to place it in.  You are responsible for the materials loaned to you from the school.  Music should not be left on your stand or on the floor.

**School Uniforms:**

Our uniforms are very expensive!  We take pride in our uniforms and expect you to take good care of them.  You are responsible for taking care of any school owned items.  If uniforms are damaged or lost, it is the student’s responsibility to pay for the cost for repair or replacement.  Hang your uniform neatly on the hanger so that they look their best for performances.  Students will be required to wear the designated band t-shirt under their uniforms, their band shoes, white socks, and at least three pairs of white gloves. Students will be expected to follow all instructions for uniform care provided by the Band Boosters and uniform chairperson. All jewelry should be removed and long hair should be pulled up under your hat.

**Band Area Environment:**

* **Band Room:**
  + Band members are to keep the band room, practice field, performance field, and any other practice location clean and neat. Keep chairs and music stands in place and use the wastebaskets for items to be thrown away.
  + No food or drinks are allowed in the band room unless permission is provided by the Director.
* **Instrument Storage:**
  + You will be provided with a shelf space to store your instrument. Instruments should be kept in their case with the case closed while on the shelves. Shelves will be inspected periodically for neatness and absence of trash and clutter.

**Instrument repair:**

#### It is very important, and a requirement, to have a fully functional instrument for rehearsals and performances.  If your instrument is out on repair for an extended period of time, you will lose points.  Kidder Music in Peoria visits once a week if you need any type of repair or to make any orders at the school discount.  Additionally, you can contact Kidder music at 692-4040.

#### We will have reeds and valve oil for sale in the band room; please make sure to purchase these before or after school. Prices are posted on the window outside my office.

**SUMMER REHEARSALS**

**Summer Marching Band Rehearsals:**

Summer rehearsals are required to be in the marching band except the rehearsals marked as voluntary on the schedule.  Family vacations and other activities will be excused if the Director is informed at least two weeks in advance.  Athletic practices and games may also be excused given advance notice. Communication is key!

**Marching Band Camp:**

Marching band pre-camp and band camp are mandatory to be in the Marching Streaks.  If a student will be absent, it must be as a last resort and also be approved by the Director.  This is the time for the band to learn the competitive show for the season.  If students miss band camp, it will be very difficult for them to catch up and the students may miss the season.  If there are “holes” in the show, it will affect the band’s performance and scores.  Students are responsible for learning all material that was missed.  Please plan all vacations around this time.

**Pep Band:**

All students registered for band at GHS will be required to play as part of either the gold or silver pep bands. Students that attend all games for gold and silver pep bands in a season will receive a pep band patch at the end of the school year. If a student will be absent, they must find a sub to cover their part. Students must attend at least half of the performances to receive credit. Students are required to communicate if they are getting a sub and have it approved by one of the directors.

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**Galesburg High School Band Handbook**

**Confirmation**

I have read and discussed the Galesburg High School band handbook with my parents/guardians and will abide by the rules stated in the handbook. We understand the responsibilities that come with being a member of the Galesburg Band and will accept the decisions of the Band Director.

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**Student printed name and signature**

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**Parent/Guardian Printed Name and signature**

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**Date**