

Hilliard Davidson Wildcat Marching Band

Student Handbook

2017 - 2018

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Preface

We are very excited to be starting the 2017 marching band season with you! We expect to achieve great things this year, and we expect you will as well. This handbook was put together to assist students and families in being successful members of the band community and collectively reach our goals. The following policies will help us work together to excel this fall.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is a requirement of the band program. Furthermore, participation in performances is a privilege earned through our work together in rehearsals. Excessive absence on any one member's behalf severely jeopardizes our future success and will be handled in equal measure. Our practice time together is extremely important if the band is to reach its highest potential. The following rules regarding attendance apply:

See Mr. Shultz with all notes concerning absences and tardies.

Attendance concerns **MUST** be communicated prior to the conflict occurring, except in emergency situations. 24-hour notice must be given for an absence to be excused, again with the exception of emergency situations.

Performances:

The only excuses for missing a performance are personal illness, family emergency, or other circumstances approved by a director in advance.

Postseason football games: We are done when the football team is done. Playoff games are required performances and will be handled using the same policies as all other performances.

Any departure from this procedure may result in any of the following:

- Loss of third quarter privileges.
- Loss of performance privileges.
- Dismissal from band.

Rehearsals:

All students are required to attend all rehearsals after school, with the few exceptions listed below. It is vital that every band member be at every rehearsal for our continued growth.

An excused absence from rehearsal is one due to personal illness, family emergency, or another circumstance approved by the director **in advance** (such as academic help).

Any departure from this procedure may result in any of the following:

- 1 or more unexcused absences during a week will result in loss of performance privileges that week.
- 2 or more excused absences (except illness) during a week will result in loss of performance privileges that week.
- Loss of third quarter privileges.

- Excessive absences may result in loss of privileges or dismissal from band.

Academic Help:

Missing rehearsal for academic help is permitted, but will be counted as an excused absence **ONLY** if a note from the teacher is given to a director **1 day in advance**. If no notice is given, it will be counted as an unexcused absence.

Punctuality to Rehearsals and Performances:

Be on time for rehearsals and performances. Tardiness may result in push-ups, loss of third quarter privileges, or other consequences deemed appropriate by the directors.

Alternates

Every effort was made in May to determine the exact number of students committed to the 2017 Davidson Marching Band. Those students who committed have a permanent spot on the field for the contest show. Students who did not commit in May, or moved in over the summer, will start the season as alternates for the contest show. All students will march pregame and special halftime performances, such as Homecoming, Senior Night, and 8th Grade Night.

Alternates may have the opportunity to march if a spot becomes available at any time due to absence or illness. If a space does become available, an alternate will be selected for that spot based first upon like section (trumpet, flute, etc.), then upon instrument family (brass or woodwind). Added weight will be given to upper classmen who have marched in past seasons.

Rehearsals: During rehearsal, alternates will shadow a squad leader in their section.

Music Checks

Music memorization is an important factor in presenting an outstanding performance. Due to the high degree of difficulty in our shows, marching while reading music would greatly hinder our overall performance and lessen each student's potential for musicianship. Therefore, we will have periodic music checks to ensure that every student has memorized the required music. A procedure to do so will be outlined at band camp and plenty of notice will be given as to the selections needing to be checked. Please see a director or squad leader for help if you need it!

Procedure:

Music checks for the contest show, the Nation Anthem, and the Fight Song will take place using a computerized music evaluation/practice program called "Smart Music". A squad leader will be present during these evaluations. Squad leaders will play for each other and/or a director.

While the ultimate goal is a 90% from Smart Music to officially "pass" a music check, it is most important that we see progress. If students are working hard and making an attempt to improve from one check to the next, they are meeting expectations.

Remember- If you need help memorizing music, ASK!

Bus & Transportation Policy

Our expectation is that we travel as a band. Every student needs to ride the bus to events, unless approved by a director in advance.

Riding Home With Parents

In order to ride home with a parent from out-of-school trips, you must **first** bring a note to a director either before school ends on the day of the event OR by the Friday before if the event is on a Saturday. **ALSO**, the parent must speak **directly** with a director when picking up their student(s) after the event. **Please hand all notes to a director.**

Students Driving

Under very select circumstances, a student may be permitted to drive to or from a performance. All situations where a student would need to drive must be discussed with Mr. Malone in advance. Under no circumstance will a student be permitted to ride with another student to or from a performance.

Student Conduct

We represent the band, the school, and the community of Hilliard at all times.

Observers at parades, rehearsals, on busses, and at games and contests will form opinions of our band and community by watching how we perform, but more so by how we act. Show pride in our band and school through your actions!

In the Stands

- **Remember that you represent the band and the school at all times!**
- **DO NOT** stand on the seat portion of the bleachers. Stand only on the lower portion. This is for the safety of all students, as well as respectful treatment of equipment.
- Do not leave the stands without a director's permission.
- Pay attention to the game and be ready to play at all times.
- All trash must be cleaned by students. Parents will provide trash bags when appropriate.

Third Quarter

- Stay in uniform.
- Make friends with the visiting band members.
- **Be in your seat and ready to play when the clock reaches 2:00.**
*Returning late will result in loss of 3rd quarter privileges for you, and possibly the loss of Long Train privileges for the band.

Bus Conduct

- Obey the bus driver at all times: they are responsible for your safety.
- Obey the chaperones at all times: they are extensions of the directors.

*The adults on the bus are in charge- what they say goes!

Bus Conduct continued...

- Don't change busses.
- No eating while on the bus.
- Leave the bus cleaner than you found it.

Care of Uniforms

- All members must wear appropriate garments under the uniform at all times. At minimum, you **MUST** wear a sleeved t-shirt and lightweight shorts under the uniform.
- Treat the uniforms with care. Properly hang all garments and promptly return them to the racks after every performance.
- Long black socks are required. Please don't forget them!
- Have the appropriate rain gear when needed.

Care of Equipment/Instruments

- School instruments are provided with the understanding that they will be treated with care. The instruments need to last well beyond your time in the program.
- Return all instruments to cases and **close the case**, unless otherwise instructed due to rain.
- Always return instrument cases to the assigned locked cubby or backroom shelf. **Do not leave instruments scattered in the band room!**

General Conduct

The school's "Student Code of Conduct" is in effect at all times during all marching band activities, both on and off of school grounds. Therefore, profanity, smoking, alcohol, and drugs are strictly forbidden. Smoking and using alcohol before or during band functions may result in dismissal from the band.

Consequences

All infractions of the "Student Code of Conduct" will be turned over to the office for school disciplinary procedures. In addition, the following consequences may result:

- Loss of third quarter privileges.
- Loss of performance privileges
- Loss of leadership position
- Suspension or dismissal from band.
- Other punishment deemed appropriate by the directors.

REMEMBER YOU ARE ALWAYS REPRESENTING THE BAND, HLLIARD DAVIDSON HIGH SCHOOL, AND OUR COMMUNITY. ALWAYS DEMONSTRATE PRIDE AND COMMITMENT THROUGH YOUR ACTIONS AND DEMEANOR!

Hilliard Wildcat Marching Band

Student Contract

I have read and understand the policies in the Hilliard Davidson High School Wildcat Marching Band Handbook, especially those regarding attendance at rehearsals and performances.

I have no conflicts with the required dates (see band calendar). If I do have a conflict, I have listed it below for review by the directors.

Student Name (please print):

Parent Name (please print):

Student Signature:

Parent Signature:

Date:

Potential Performance Conflicts:

Please sign, date, and return this page to a director by Friday, August 11th.