

Hilliard Davidson Wildcat Marching Band

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Student Handbook

2011

Name: _____

We are very excited to be starting the 2011 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 you in being a successful band member and an important part of our accomplishments. The following policies will help us work together to excel this fall.

Attendance

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is a requirement of the band program. Our practice time together is extremely important if the band is to reach its highest potential. The following rules on attendance apply:

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

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 with the same policies as 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 a few exceptions listed below. It is vital that every band member is at every rehearsal so we can continue to improve and exceed our potential.

An excused absence from rehearsal is one due to personal illness, family emergency, or other 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 note is given it will be counted as an unexcused absence.

Summer Activities

Students **must** be at pre-band camp and band camp. Other summer activities may be excused if a student will be out of town **and** a director is notified 2 weeks **in advance** in writing (use the form on the summer schedule). Students are expected to perform in the 4th of July parade unless out of town; this is an important opportunity for us to support the community. All summer dates, as well as in-school ones, will appear the band calendar.

Punctuality to Rehearsals and Performances

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

Shared Positions and Challenges

We would like to provide every student with a position in the competition show, but it is impossible to know the exact number of marchers when the drill is written in the spring. This makes it necessary to have shared positions. Students will be assigned shared positions during band camp.

Rehearsals

Normally shared positions will shadow one another on the field. When this is impossible because of the drill, they will split the rehearsal time. Shared positions on the sideline need to play and mark time as if they were on the field. This is **not** time off!

Non-Contest Weeks

During weeks without competitions students marching shared positions will split a half-time competition show performance. All students will be able to march a football show.

Contest Weeks

Shared positions will still split the half-time performance, but challenges will be held on Thursday afternoon to determine who will march the competition. Challenges will be observed by directors and staff, and their decisions will be final.

Challenge Procedure

A specific segment or entire show will be marched twice: once for each shared marcher. They will be observed by staff for marching technique, posture, accurate direction changes, spacing, and playing. Shared positions who are not marching must face away from the field. After the challenge staff will share the decisions and explain why they were made. They will also provide the marchers with feedback on how to improve for the next challenge (right after rehearsal is not the appropriate time for this, however).

Music Checks

Music memorization is an important factor in an outstanding performance. Our shows are too challenging to march effectively while reading music, and every student's musical effort is vitally important. Therefore, we will check periodically to see that every student has memorized the required music. Plenty of notice will be given as to the selections to be checked, and a procedure to do so will be outlined at band camp. Please see a director or squad leader for help if you need it!

Procedure

Squad leaders will play their check to a director, and band members will play to their squad leader. Time will be given during rehearsals for music checks. During band camp checks will be given every few days, and during the season checks will occur on Thursday. Squad leaders may listen to 3 students at a time.

Failing a music check during the season will result in the student sitting 3rd quarter that week. Repeated failures on may result in loss of performance privilege.

Remember:

If you need help memorizing music, ASK!

Bus Policy

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

To ride home with parents from out-of-school trips you must bring a note before school ends on the day of (or the Friday before, if it is on a Saturday) an event - **and-** parents must talk **directly** to a director when picking up their student. This is so no one gets left behind.

Place bus notes in the slot on the office door.

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

Student Conduct

Remember: **we represent the band, the school, and the community of Hilliard at all times.** People at parades, rehearsals, on busses, and at games and contests will form opinions of our band and city by watching how we act as well as how we perform. Show pride in our band and school through your actions! A few specifics:

- In the Stands**
- **Remember that you represent the band and the school at all times!**
 - Don't leave the stands without director's permission.
 - Keep one eye on the game and be ready to play at all times.

- Third Quarter**
- **Stay in uniform.**
 - Make friends with the visiting band members.
 - **Be in your seat, ready to play, when the clock reaches 2:00.**

- 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. What they say goes!
 - Don't change busses.
 - No eating on busses.
 - Leave the bus cleaner than you found it.

- Care of Uniforms**
- Wear appropriate garments under the uniform. You **MUST** wear a sleeved t-shirt and light weight shorts under the uniform.
 - Treat uniforms with care: return them to the racks promptly after performances.
 - Black socks are required! Please don't forget them!
 - Have the appropriate rain gear when needed.

- Care of Equipment** School instruments are provided for you with the understanding that you will treat them with care; they have to last a long time.
- Put them back into their cases and **close them!**
 - Always put cases away. **Do not leave them on the floor!**
 - If you play a school instrument, please understand the rental fee is for the future replacement of the instruments. Repair costs are the responsibility of the person to which the instrument is assigned.

General Conduct **The Student Code of Conduct is in effect at all times during marching band activities.**

Profanity, smoking, alcohol and drugs are strictly forbidden. Smoking and using alcohol before or during band functions may result in dismissal from 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.
- 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 IN YOUR Demeanor!

Hilliard Wildcat Marching Band

Student Contract

I have read and understand the policies in the Hilliard Davidson High School 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 directors.

Student Name (please print): _____

Parent Name (please print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Potential Conflicts:

RETURN BY MONDAY, AUGUST 8TH.