



*Highlands High School
Marching Band
2008
Handbook*

Taking Tradition to the Next Level

1. Philosophy

- A. *Everyone in the band is equal.*
- B. Treat everyone as you want to be treated yourself.
- C. Do the right thing for the right reason.
- D. The end product is created by application of fundamentals and concepts.
- E. Retention and transfer is essential for a fast and progressive learning experience.

That old law about "an eye for an eye" leaves everybody blind. The time is always right to do the right thing.

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

- 2. **Attendance-** Attendance is essential for a more productive learning environment.

Marching Band Rehearsals

- A. Only excused absences are permitted. For them to be excused the student must fill out a form and submit the completed form to Mrs. Hopkins. Percussion and color guard members must turn these forms in as well to Mrs. Hopkins.
- B. Emergency situations will be excused but will need a letter or telephone call from a parent/guardian. Please call 866-1361 in the event of an emergency.
- C. Mrs. Hopkins will determine if the absence is considered excused.
- D. Failing to notify the director of an absence will result in some form of productive consequence. This will be considered unexcused. Three unexcused absences will result in immediate dismissal from the ensemble.

Marching Band Rehearsal Tardiness

- A. It is essential to be on time due to the limited amount of rehearsal time. Being on time will save everyone's time in the end to learn more and more efficiently.
- B. To be early is to be on time,
To be on time is to be late,
And to be late is to be hating it.
- C. Tardiness will result in some form of productive consequence.
- D. Three tardies = an unexcused absence.

Participation

- A. In order to obtain the best sound possible, it is up to the individual student to give his/her best possible effort at all times.
- B. In order to participate to the best of their abilities, it is crucial that each individual has done his/her best to prepare for each rehearsal.
- C. Students will practice at home...we will rehearse together as a band.
- D. **Lessons are highly recommended!!!**

3. Remember – Attitude is Everything!

- A. Approaching rehearsals and performances with a positive and open mind can make the difference between a high quality and a low quality rehearsal.

It's not the load that breaks you down,
it's the way you carry it.

-Lena Horne

- B. Being open to new ideas and having the courage to face change will help in producing a more diverse program and structured ensemble.
- C. Treating everyone equal will help produce and maintain a highly effective environment for everyone. This is very essential for every aspect of life despite any form of adversity that you may encounter.

Expectations

- A. I expect that everyone gives their best, to the best of their ability, every time we meet and for the entire rehearsal time.

4. Rehearsal Guidelines and Etiquette- these small details lead to a much more efficient rehearsal. Most of these are already common practice but it is safer to mention them than not.

- A. *Refrain from talking during all rehearsals.*
- B. Whenever someone is talking it is strongly advised that you listen and take into account what that person/party is saying.
- C. When given information eye contact shows the person talking that you are listening to what he/she is saying.
- D. After given information try and show some form of response that shows you understand the information. This can be shown either visually or audibly.
- E. If you do not understand an explained concept or information be sure you ask a question so we can all be on the same page. Do not be afraid to ask questions as this is a very basic human way of learning. We will try to clarify the question immediately or at the best time possible. If you do not understand, please ask or it will be assumed that everyone is clear.
- F. If you do have a question please raise your hand and wait to be called on. Do not just ask out loud.
- G. Please let the teacher be the disciplinarian. Do not assume responsibility for others' disciplinary problems in your section, or class.
- H. Be confident when you speak. If you are asked a question and I can't hear your answer then I don't know if it is the correct answer or not. Be assertive and confident.
- I. When the band director or staff person is working with another section everyone else should pay attention because there is something that you could learn from the information being given to the other section. Another option is to look over your part and work on something quietly without playing.
- J. Always hold your instrument properly with correct posture as this factors into your overall sound and is very important.
- K. Be ready to play whenever the conductor has his arms up to conduct.
- L. As mentioned before, attendance is important for the sake of the individual and the group involved.
- M. Focus your rehearsal energy on yourself. Everyone has something to improve on and any distraction from your own personal focus is of great detriment. Try not to waste your energy on something you can not control (i.e. something other than you).

Big jobs usually go to the men who prove their ability to outgrow small ones

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.

-Vince Lombardi

N. Moving quickly, or transitioning, from place to place is desired so we can get the most out of our time together. Much time can be wasted if we allow ourselves to move slowly.

- O. During rehearsal times there should be no eating, drinking, or gum chewing. It is quite a task as it is already to play a musical instrument, we don't need anything extraneous to hinder this process.
- P. You are responsible for bringing all materials necessary to rehearsals.
- Q. There is no tolerance for profanity or sexually related humor.
- R. Unmedicated drugs, tobacco of any sort, or alcohol will never be allowed at any band functions or rehearsals, nor should be allowed on school property.
- S. Please keep the band room or any rehearsal area clean at all times. There should be no reason why you would leave trash anywhere. This is your school, have some pride in it.

5. Responsibilities

- A. Students using a school instrument must check out the instrument with the instrument manager.
- B. Cleaning and maintaining musical instrument (if school owned must get repaired of any defects).
- C. All music issued to students by the music librarian.
- D. Drill books at all rehearsals (with miniature-music photocopied inside).
- E. To maintain drill book to the most current level.
- F. To be ready to start rehearsal at the given time.
- G. To have all materials ready for rehearsal (includes pencil, music, instrument, etc.).
- H. To attend all rehearsals and performances.
- I. To enhance knowledge of individual musicianship.
- J. Have all markings in music as explained in rehearsals.
- K. Turn in all money due at times designated.
- L. Notify and give parents information when told in class or when given handouts.

I will prepare and someday my chance will come.

-Abraham Lincoln

6. Practice Requirements

- A. Students will be expected to practice all fundamentals outside of rehearsal. This will help the progression of the group as a whole.
- B. Students will be expected to practice all music outside of rehearsal. This includes applying proper practice techniques in order to get the most of your practice sessions.
- C. Students should refer to the individual practice guide when practicing at home.

The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.

-Vince Lombardi

7. Fees

- A. The marching band fee for this season will be \$500.00. Students are expected to perform fundraisers to raise money to put towards this fee. If a student has not paid their 2007 season fees must contact Rhonda Daniels to be placed on a payment plan. Individuals failing to make this contact will not be permitted to march in the 2008 season.
- B. Individual fundraising opportunities WILL be offered. Students that truly put in 100% effort CAN work off their entire fee this year!

8. Additional Purchases

- A. In order to be in the band there are going to be a few required items that you must purchase. They are:
 - 1) Metronome- there are a variety of metronomes you can buy along with a variety of prices. You can find some as cheap as \$20-25.
 - 2) Tuner- the same for this as with the metronome. You can usually find some as cheap as \$20-25. There are some tuners that double as metronomes. These usually start at \$75-80.
- B. These items will be an important step in becoming better players. You should start to use these 2 items on a daily basis and as part of your practice routine.

9. Instrument Storage Lockers

- A. Storage is for instruments only! Music will be contained in a separate rack.
- B. Personal items may be stored in locker during rehearsal times but at no other times.
- C. The director is not responsible for loss or theft of personal items left in locker.
- D. Locker must be kept clean and free of all trash. No posters or stickers are permitted.

10. Travel Attitudes

- A. During the fall marching band season students are required to wear the following uniform to all competitions:
 shoe shirt or blue polo shirt
 khaki shorts or pants
 This year NO exceptions will be made!!!
- B. The way you act at all places when with the band is the way people are going to perceive the band and the school as a whole. It is advisable that you act in a mature manner and try not to ruin the image of the band.
- C. Please be courteous to all officials of the festival/contest/program we are attending (regardless of their attitude). They would likewise do the same for us.
- D. Please treat the boosters, drivers, and any chaperones kindly and

Part of being a champ is acting like a champ. You have to learn how to win and not run away when you lose. Everyone has bad stretches and real successes. Either way, you have to be careful not to lose your confidence or get too confident.

_Nancy Kerrigan

with the utmost respect. They are here to help, support, and serve you. Be sure to thank them.

- E. Be supportive of other bands and try to watch and listen to as many as you can. This is an excellent opportunity to learn while supporting your fellow schools.
- F. Whenever you are traveling with the band there will be no tolerance for theft of anyone else's property. **If caught stealing anything, that will be cause for immediate dismissal from the band program.**

11. Travel Methods

- A. When traveling to any musical activity for the school we will always meet at the school, at a designated time, leave from the school, and arrive back at the school.
- B. If, for a good reason, a student needs to meet at the location of the event or to leave from the event with a parent/guardian they will be allowed to do so with advance notice, only, from the parent/guardian. These special instances must be for good reason.
- C. Otherwise, everyone is required to ride the bus to and from the event location.

12. Travel Procedure

- A. Before leaving the school we will meet at a designated time to allow us enough time to leave without any hurry. **YOU MAY NOT LEAVE HHS CAMPUS AFTER THE MORNING REHEARSAL.**
- B. During this time we meet at school attendance will be taken, everyone will participate in loading equipment, and everyone will get on the buses and be ready to leave at departure time.
- C. Only band members are allowed to ride buses on band events unless approved by the director.
- D. Upon arrival at the event location, students will stay in their seats until they have been given instructions from one of the staff members.
- E. After our performance the director will give you the times of when we will need to be on the buses and be ready to pull out.
- F. It is important that we stick to the times as stated

It's the lack of faith that makes people afraid of meeting challenges, and I believe in myself.

-Muhammad Ali

Occasionally, we may stop at restaurants on longer trips. Students will be notified of these special occasions in advance of the trip so you will know to bring spending money.

- G. When we arrive back at school please be sure to help unload everything so everyone can leave as soon as possible. No one leaves until everything is taken care of so if you help out you can leave sooner.
- H. Each student is responsible for cleaning up their area of the bus. This will help the drivers out immensely.
- I. After departing the bus students will be required to help with equipment. Attendance will be taken after all equipment is properly placed in the bandroom.

13. Uniform Regulations

- A. Everything previous also applies to when you are in uniform (especially in uniform) including the following:
- no eating or drinking (except water)
 - no profanity or derogatory comments
 - no sitting on the ground
 - when sitting in bleachers please use gloves to sit on to avoid extraneous dirt
 - please hang up the uniforms properly after each wearing
 - do not leave personal items in the garment bag or uniform jacket as these will be cleaned periodically and will save time when cleaning
- B. Show shoes are expected to be cleaned (by yourself) before we step on the bus for a show. This type of detail exhibits what kind of band we are.
- C. Show gloves should be well kept and clean. If they are getting old and dirty you will be expected to buy a new pair.
- D. Do not try to make alterations to your uniform yourself. If you have a problem with your uniform, let a band parent know about so they can take care of it.
- E. A T-shirt with sleeves must be worn under band uniforms as we will warm-up without the jackets on occasionally. Be sure to always have a shirt on underneath.
- F. No type of jewelry may be worn with your uniform. NONE at all.
- G. Hair can not be below the collar of the uniform. Ladies (and some gentlemen), please put your hair up before warm-up so this will not interrupt anything.

If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail.

-Abraham H. Maslow

Knowledge builds confidence;
Confidence creates relaxation;
Relaxation produces good results.

-Pat Summit

14. Band Boosters

- All parents are encouraged to become members of the Highlands band association.
- Band booster meetings are the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 in the middle school band room. All parents are encouraged to attend these meetings.
- All marching band parents are strongly encouraged to help in one activity during the marching band season.

15. Student Officers

- All marching band students will vote on five students to serve on a band council for the 2008 season.
- These five members will work closely with Mrs. Hopkins throughout the season.
- These five students will have the opportunity to help make decisions for the band.
- The band will also elect an instrument manager. This student will be in charge of the distributing instruments.

16. Marching – The Physical Aspect:

- A. Marching band is a physical activity.
- B. Members of the band are encouraged to discipline themselves. This may include push-ups, running, etc. We do not look at this as a means of punishment but as a means of making us stronger.
- C. Students that are late to rehearsal (unexcused tardy) may be asked to run a lap after rehearsal. Again...discipline makes us stronger.
- D. We have a very large percussion section. We must move equipment and props each and every rehearsal. It is important that each student help with this task. Students will be assigned a piece of equipment that is “their” instrument for the season. They are responsible for getting this instrument to rehearsal on time. Larger instruments will require a “team” of students. When every student helps the band can begin rehearsal on time and end rehearsal on time.

17. Instrument Rentals –

The association has voted to charge an instrument rental fee for the 2008 season.

The fee will be set at **\$25.00** for the entire marching band season. Any student that plays on a school instrument (percussion, low brass, low reeds) will be expected to pay this fee. This fee will cover maintenance for the entire season. All wind instruments will be sent to Wert Music for inspection before they are distributed. Instruments will be distributed in GOOD condition.