

ALPHARETTA HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

Introduction to Students and Parents

Congratulations...You have made the decision to become a member of the Alpharetta High School Band Program. We welcome you! We believe that your dedication and hard work will lead to another productive and successful year for the Alpharetta High School Band!

We count on students like you to continue shaping traditions, setting standards, and create legacies for which we can be proud in the future. Our bands have traveled the country and have given performances in such places as local festivals, various state competitions, our state convention, festivals on both the East and West coast, including invitational performances at the prestigious National Concert Band Festival at Carnegie Hall in 2006 and again in 2010, The Georgia Music Educator's Association state convention in 2010, the University of Georgia's January Band Festival (Janfest) in 2011, The Georgia State University's Honor Band of Distinction in 2012, Festival Disney 2012, performed with Symphony at the 2012 Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic (Chicago), and the 2013 University of Alabama's annual Honor Band Festival. This "tradition of excellence" that we have grown accustomed to is achieved through the hard work and dedication of each and every band member. It will be your individual responsibility to act in such a manner as to enhance this position of honor and prestige. We are glad you chosen to be with us this year!

High School Band serves to provide its members with an invaluable experience in music as an art form and performance medium, encourage and develop school spirit, and as a byproduct, train youthful citizens in the business of living. Aside from the obvious musical objectives of the band program - to develop musical expression and playing competence, to read, write, compose, arrange, and evaluate music - we also strive for character building, cooperation, loyalty and respect, dependability, responsibility, punctuality, and self-control.

The quality of the instrumental music program at Alpharetta High School each year is contingent upon the completion of the above goals. Individual Band members will distinguish themselves as gifted musicians by being selected as members of District and County Honor Bands, the Governor's Honors Program, Solo and Ensemble performances, University Honor Band Clinics (in GA, FL, and AL), honor ensembles such as the AYWS, ASYO and MYSO, and the prestigious Georgia Music Educators Association *All State Band*. It is up to us as individuals to work together as an ensemble, to have pride in all we do, and to realize the privilege and talents that allow us to be a part of The Alpharetta High School Band Program.

Students and parents should read this handbook carefully, then print, sign and return the Grade Policy and Handbook Agreement form found on p.13.

This handbook is provided to students, parents, staff and administrators as a convenient source of information regarding the varied aspects of the Alpharetta High School Band Program. Band members are expected to abide by and understand all rules and regulations set forth in this handbook. An interactive calendar of events for the upcoming year is available for viewing 24-7 on our website (www.alpharettaband.org). All anticipated performances, events, and travel *known to date* are listed. Updates are posted to the website as they occur, on a regular basis. Please refer to the schedule regularly to avoid conflicts and insure you are in attendance at all band functions.

COMMITMENT

The Alpharetta High School Band seeks discipline and excellence through individual responsibility and student leadership. This high ideal works with the top band programs throughout the state and country. It is not flawless - it highly depends on cooperation, loyalty, and commitment. Alpharetta High School Band members are encouraged and expected to set and attain high goals for themselves and their Band Program. The rewards of being committed to and meeting these expectations will be the development of both quality musicians and well-rounded individuals. With that philosophy in mind, and realizing that nobody is perfect all of the time, the following criteria has been set up which ALL band members must choose to follow.

Each Band Member Shall:

1. Attend ALL scheduled rehearsals (includes after-school activities and any other scheduled rehearsal times) and ALL performances. No Excuses. If we can do without you in performance, we can do without you period. However, we want to include you - so don't miss a scheduled rehearsal or performance. Careful planning in advance will help you avoid unnecessary absences.
2. Be on time for ALL band activities (early is on time - and on time is late!).
3. Be prepared for each and every class and rehearsal. Come with the necessary equipment: instrument, accessories (extra reeds-minimum 4, mouthpiece cap, valve oil, slide grease, mutes, etc). Have a pencil on your stand at all times.
4. Be sure your instrument is always in great working condition. NOTE: In the event that your instrument needs repair, please allow the Mr. Walsh to look it over before sending to the shop - this could save you time and money!

The success of our band program is highly dependent on the dedication of each individual member. ***One unexcused missed performance may earn a failing grade for that 9-week grading period and depending on the situation, place you in another class.*** Again, if we can do without you in a performance, we can do without you. Band members must be 100% dedicated to each and every rehearsal and performance. We want to be able to count on you!!

Excuses that will be considered:

1. Sickness or death in the family. Notify the director immediately via phone or email.
2. Emergencies that cannot be helped (Bring a note from a parent the following day).
3. Personal illness. If you are sick and cannot make it to a performance, it is your responsibility to make personal contact with the Band Director at school; never send this message with another student. In the event that this is not possible, contact the Director via email asap. This will allow time to make adjustments for the impacted performance.
4. ***The Directors reserve the right to excuse or not excuse each absence depending on the situation.*** Since Band is a performance-based discipline, missed rehearsals and performances will result in a lowered grade. This definitely includes all scheduled after-school rehearsals.

Excuses offered after-the-fact WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. NEVER count on another student to speak to the director on your behalf - be responsible.

RAIDER BAND BUILDING REGULATIONS *We have one of the **most complete** high school band facilities in Fulton County; we must be intentional in respecting the space. Treat it as your own and it will be here for the future to enjoy.*

1. You may come into the building before and after school, and during your band class time. You should not be in the band building at any other class time unless you have received prior permission from a Director. This includes practice room time.
2. We ***encourage*** the use of practice rooms. Please sign up for a time slot prior to use. If you do not show on time, your time will be given away. If the time is open, it is yours!
3. **There should be absolutely NO EATING, DRINKING, OR CHEWING GUM IN THE BAND BUILDING AT ANY TIME.** Exceptions will be at the discretion of the Director.
3. All books, personal items, etc. should be placed in/on a locker or bookshelf or during rehearsals. **DO NOT use your band locker for cloths, books, or non band-related items. Band lockers are for instruments only!**
4. Vandalism is a criminal act, punishable by law. Our Band Building and equipment will look good as long as we take care of it. Report all vandalism immediately, no matter how small.
5. **NEVER**, under any circumstances, leave money or other valuables unattended - anywhere. We cannot be responsible for carelessness.
6. All instruments shall be stored in the instrument storage room, in a locker, with a lock, unless specified by the Director. ***Instrument storage lockers are for daytime use and not intended to secure instruments overnight or over the weekend.*** To get a locker, you must rent a combination lock from the Director (\$10). Locker assignments are for the year.

7. Percussion equipment is for the use of drummers only; percussion instruments are not to be played without the Director's prior permission. The percussion cabinet should be closed during the day except during rehearsal. Percussion students should rent a locker to secure their mallet bags and sticks.

8. Please do not enter a Director's office for any reason unless he/she is present and invites you to enter. Be courteous - always knock first!

REHEARSAL RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. Enter the room with the intent to improve yourself and the ensemble and most important, learn each other's part! The level of expectation you have determines how much you will get out of each rehearsal. Expect to succeed - then do the work!

2. Bringing your instrument to each rehearsal is a minimum requirement. A "0" will be assigned each day you are without your instrument or do not play in rehearsal. You are expected to play every day.

3. Have a pencil on your stand for every rehearsal.

4. Your music is your responsibility. *Learn it* before you get to rehearsal. *Memorize it* before the show (MB). *Perfect it* before you get to the stage performance. Always number measures for your performance music. Be Great!

5. Talking during rehearsal is prohibited. When someone is on the podium working with or addressing the band, give him or her your FULL attention. If you need to say something or ask a question, raise your hand. Courtesy is a sign of maturity.

6. Finally, a music rehearsal is part of the journey to the performance – enjoy the journey and have fun! The more prepared you are for each rehearsal, the more fun you will have. Remember, you will NEVER perform better than you rehearse!

Consequence; that which follows every action

1. Small infractions by first offenders will result in a conference with the Director and potentially a written assignment. Repeated offenders will be dealt with through the school discipline policy (see AHS student handbook).

2. Performances are an extension of the classroom and count 50% of your overall grade. **One unexcused absence from a performance may jeopardize your membership with the Alpharetta High School Band. A grade "0" will be assigned for that performance. We want to be able to count on you!**

3. The Director reserves the right to raise or lower the amount of enforcement due to circumstances, including disrespect, poor attendance, repeat offences, and general attitude.

Dismissal from the Program

Being a member of our Band Program is a privilege, not a right. The Director reserves the right to remove a student from any performing organization in the unfortunate event of an unexcused absence from a performance, use of / under the influence of drugs or alcoholic beverages while with the AHS Band, or an ongoing failure to demonstrate a cooperative behavior and attitude. That student will also be subject to all school, county, and state rules that may apply to the infraction. Being a part of our Band Program is a privilege, not a right.

In questionable situations, the Director will evaluate the severity of the offense and consult with AHS Administration to take appropriate action according to school board policy and law. **In a serious circumstance a student may be removed from the Band and be placed in a different class.**

THE RAIDER MARCHING BAND - A Philosophy and Rationale

So, what is Marching Band – and why should I march?

Each and every August through November a unique performance organization is formed in the name of football season on every high school campus. ***It is considered a co-curricular performance organization rather than an extra-curricular activity because it is indeed an extension of the classroom curriculum.***

The Marching Raiders are a combination of ALL Band ensembles and include Orchestra and Chorus students as well; we are very inclusive. We are the most visible music performance organization on and off-campus, performing an average of 12-14 times a year under the lights and at halftime! In addition, we perform at pep-rallies, community events, parades, and competition/festivals.

The Marching Band will travel. Future travel may include but not be limited to NCAA Bowl Games and related Parades, Holiday Parades, and performances and evaluations in major cities across the US and abroad. Each year we put together an intricate field show, explore fun music for football games and for the field show, and build extra-musical skills such as marching, coordination of movement and music, and teamwork. From a non-musical standpoint, there is no substitute for a student to learn the skills of teamwork and cooperation.

The ability to work together to achieve something great can be accomplished through Marching Band; the acronym for TEAM – **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore – will never be more applicable as *we only field a first-team – everyone performs!* From a music education standpoint, there is no finer way to teach the feeling of pulse than through marching – our foot's rhythm is the heartbeat of the band, and our feet are always moving. Marching Band strengthens musicianship and performance endurance through hours of practice on a variety of genres of music (pop, jazz, rock, etc...) not taught at any other time of the year. It also helps us meet State and National Music Standards. Finally, Marching Band creates a stronger individual player and a better, well-rounded musician, which in turn, improves each concert ensemble!

All that being said, *Marching Band is a 13-week activity*; when football season is over, so is Marching Band. We count on every Band member to participate in order to have our very best performance ensemble in the public eye on a weekly basis. Choosing to march is actually a huge advantage for you as a musician. Your physical performing endurance is developed through increased hours of playing; you are musically challenged through being exposed to the many genres of music that are covered; and you are developing a work ethic that requires you to become part of something larger than yourself. Unless there is a physical ailment that prevents you from participating or direct schedule conflict (i.e. varsity football players play at the same time we perform), we want you to be included!

We also have students who cannot commit to the after-school rehearsal schedule but DO play in the stands on Friday nights. Special scheduling exceptions can only be made through the Director. Placement in our ensembles is based on performance skill level and part-availability; marching band strengthens playing skills.

At Alpharetta High School, our goal is for 100% of our Band members to be involved and march in the Band each fall.

Marching Band (MB) Rules and Regulations

ATTEND EVERY AFTER-SCHOOL REHEARSAL. Full rehearsals are every Tuesday evening from 6:30-9pm and Thursday after school from 4 – 7:00pm. Games are on Fridays and Festivals are on Saturdays.

1. Be completely and properly uniformed AT ALL TIMES - PLAN AHEAD!
2. GOLDEN RULE: Once the Band has been called to at ease, set, or attention, there will be no talking, moving, or playing instruments. Absolute SILENCE.
3. Instruments should be played ONLY during authorized and organized periods of time; never play out of order or without permission.
4. When quiet is requested, respond IMMEDIATELY...
5. Your Directors and Drum Majors select the music during the game - pay careful attention for music selections.
6. When it is time to leave the stands for the half-time show, talking should be limited until you are given a break after the show is over. Warm up time is limited and important.
7. NEVER enter the general seating area during a game while in uniform. Uniformed band members should stay in the band block. Likewise, only uniformed personnel are allowed in the block with the exception of chaperones.
8. ***Eating food in uniform is not permitted during games.*** Drinks are only permitted during the third quarter. We eat dinner as a group before every game. Water is the only drink allowed in the Band seating area in order to protect uniforms. Exceptions may only be made by a Director.
9. Band members and color guard may be inspected before each game. Your punctuality, bearing, instruments, equipment, uniforms, and personal grooming will be checked carefully. NO JEWELRY should be worn with the uniform. This includes earrings.

10. Finally, no band member should act in a way that brings attention to himself/herself or the band in a derogatory way. Be classy at all times. Absolutely NO PDA (public display of affection) in uniform.

Failure to know the rules is not an excuse for not complying and may result in the loss of performance privileges, which may in turn affect your grade or continued membership with the MB. We are counting on you!

REMEMBER, LOOK SHARP - BE PROUD: EYES...WITH PRIDE !!!!!!!

TRAVEL CONDUCT – OFF CAMPUS

1. Keep in mind that we are representing Alpharetta High School whenever we travel off campus with the Band. Conduct yourself in a manner that will only bring credit to your Band, Alpharetta HS, and Fulton County Schools.

2. Address chaperones at all times with DUE RESPECT (Mr./Mrs.). They are volunteers and are here for us!

3. PROMPTLY follow suggestions made by chaperones and authorized Band officers. 4. Please act appropriately at all times. Any malicious behavior will be dealt with severely.

5. The standard Fulton County bus rules for behavior on the bus apply during all Band travel – including commercial carriers.

6. Keep your bus clean – it is a reflection on our program and AHS.

7. You are required to load or unload all of your own equipment into the bus / equipment truck during travel. Please help other band members if you are asked to do so. We are a team!!

8. All Band members will ride the same bus TO and FROM all events. Exceptions must be cleared through the Director IN ADVANCE; asking is not a guarantee that you will be approved.

OVERNIGHT TRAVEL

1. NO PDA (public display of affection). We are a class act and must conduct ourselves as such. If you are corrected for this behavior comply immediately!

2. GOLDEN RULE: No boys in girl's rooms or girls in boy's rooms - AT ANY TIME... EVER.

3. Drinking illegal beverages (alcohol) and smoking are expressly forbidden. Infractions will result in a bus ride home at your parent's expense and will also be dealt with strongly by school officials according to FCS board policy. Don't be foolish and test this – this is a ZERO-tolerance rule - no exceptions.

4. Curfew time is not negotiable. Room checks will be conducted at curfew. Lights out 45 minutes after curfew. If you are caught out of your room after curfew you may be stuck with a chaperone for the rest of the trip or worse, you may be sent home! Be smart; we are on a schedule and you need your sleep.

5. You are responsible for getting to the bus on time in the AM. Your tardiness affects the entire band's schedule.
6. When we travel, we represent AHS and Fulton County Schools. Act with Class!

BAND GRADING POLICY (revised August 2015)

Band grades are based on five categories:

1. **50% = Performances and Rehearsals.** Any unexcused absence from a rehearsal - which includes Marching Band rehearsals, Symphonic Band rehearsals, and any scheduled rehearsals called by the Director or ensemble coach - may warrant an "F" for that six-week grading period. Notice of predetermined absence must be given to the Director at least 24 hours in advance. 24- hour notice does not guarantee being excused; situations will be considered on an individual basis. Excuses after the fact will not be considered unless it is an emergency situation, which can be called in or sent in the next day, in writing, by the parent.
PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY - One missed performance without excuse or reason will assure an "F" for the six-week grading period and possible removal from the program at the end of the semester. We know we'll be able to count on your presence. Careful planning with your Band schedule will eliminate any unnecessary conflicts!
2. **20% = Daily Progress (DP) / Class Progress.** Individual musical progress is vital to the progression of the Band program. At a minimum, it is crucial that every student "participate" in class daily. Band is a performance-based activity that requires every student to ***DO*** something. Students cannot earn a daily progress grade without an instrument, so this is a minimum expectation. Your field show and concert music as well as your 12 major scales and chromatic scale are potential testing material each and every day.
3. **15% = Performance Assessments.** We "assess" students four ways: live performance, audio recording, and video recording, and written. Smartmusic is a web-based practice and assessment application records, assesses, and sends results to the instructor. And it provides a great artifact for parents to be able to check progress of their band member. It requires a subscription, which we require of every band member.
4. **15% = Semester Final.** This minimum percentage is mandated by FCS and may include a playing portion and a written portion – or just one or the other. **Your scales should ALWAYS be prepared - ALWAYS.** There may be ways to earn this part of your grade through extra performances or activities. Pay attention in class for details. When in doubt, ask the Director.

A complete Fall and Spring Syllabus is available on the website on the Student page.

Attitude Makes THE Difference

In your playing, in your interaction with others and reaction to others, and in the response you'll receive, *attitude - is - everything*. Treat people how YOU want to be treated. We want you to participate, so remember: Your attitude is your choice - don't let it get out of hand! This type of grading policy is adaptable to achieve our yearly goals and allow for the best music ideals available.

Financial Information

The Fulton County Board of Education provides basic support for their band programs. However, since the financial investment to maintain the level of excellence in our program is great, we must annually supplement the system's support. Fund raising opportunities will be scheduled each year through our Booster Organization to help the Alpharetta Band Program maintain the high level of success we expect and to help individual students offset some of the costs related to the program.

Funds raised by students are vital to the ongoing success of our program. These funds help pay for student scholarships, instrument repair, music, licensing fees, meals, camp and workshop instruction, guest clinicians, performance evaluation entry fees, uniform repair / replacement, equipment replacement, transportation, etc. Fund raising and payment plans will be made available to ensure that all students who wish to participate in the Raider Band Program will have the opportunity to do so.

If a family experiences financial difficulty, the Director should be notified to set up a financial plan. Scholarship and Sponsorship are also available; cases will be reviewed with strict confidence. You can find scholarship application on the website. Parents, if we don't hear from you, we will expect payments when they are due.

Band Participation Fee

We work hard to create a budget each year that is our best estimation of the necessary operating expenses needed for the following school year. The director, along with the Band Booster officers, works to outline and estimate the profits from scheduled fundraisers throughout the year. In most cases, a shortfall exists between these two figures. This shortfall is made up among all participating members of the Alpharetta Band program through a participation fee. Fulton County Schools and AHS provides funding for only a portion of the costs of maintaining a music program with the level of activity and with the opportunities that we expect and enjoy as members of the AHS Band Programs.

UNIFORMS AND CLEANING

Uniforms are issued to every Band member. MB (marching band) uniforms will be dry cleaned regularly by the band; storage will be at the band building. Band t-shirts will be provided to wear under your uniform. A substantial investment of \$450.00 per uniform has been made, and it is the band member's responsibility to take care of the uniform. NEVER, under any circumstances, wear coats, jeans, or bulky shirts under your MB

uniform. UNIFORMS MUST BE WORN IN THEIR ENTIRETY WHENEVER THEY CAN BE SEEN IN PUBLIC. Jackets should not be removed in public unless approved by the Band Director or in the case of medical emergency.

Concert tuxedos are rented from the band and are property of the band; you will be responsible for regular dry cleaning. Tuxedos should be dry cleaned prior to end-of-year turn in. Concert dresses are to be purchased from the band by each female student.

Our image is important, so we should strive to look our very best - at all times!

INSTRUMENTS

All instruments should be cleaned and polished for each performance. Every Band member should have in their case the necessary tools and cleaning materials needed to keep their instrument in its best playing condition. All instruments are to be stored in the instrument storage room, in their cases, with the tops closed and latched. Take care of your instrument; it is delicate and expensive. NEVER play another person's instrument. This includes percussion equipment. AHS has a limited number of school-owned instruments. Students using a school-owned instrument shall complete a County loan contract, have parental consent, and pay a nonrefundable usage fee each school year. ALL REGULAR MAINTENANCE and repair of instruments (cleaning, valve oil, reeds, grease, etc..) shall be the responsibility of the student. Instruments will be checked-in and inspected at the end of the school year. Any extensive damage to a school-owned instrument will be the responsibility of the student. The student who checked the instrument out must replace a lost instrument. Major routine repairs (routine meaning not caused by any type of abuse) for large school owned instruments may be taken care of as needed by FCS or AHS Band Boosters.

MUSIC

It is not uncommon for band members to share a concert folder with another person; never take the concert folder home. Never use anyone else's music without permission from the Director. All concert folders are to be kept in the folio cabinet. Original parts should always stay at school. Music returned damaged or not returned at all will be paid for by the person whom it was assigned to. Please take pride in the fact that we can provide music for you!

THE MUSIC LIBRARY IS OFF LIMITS TO EVERYONE EXCEPT THE LIBRARIANS AND DIRECTORS. PLEASE ASK FOR ASSISTANCE IF YOU NEED MUSIC, RECORDINGS, OR COPIES.

Alpharetta High School Wind Ensemble

CONGRATULATIONS! You have been selected by audition to be a member of the AHS WIND ENSEMBLE. This elite ensemble is recognized around the state and country as one of the premier high school instrumental ensembles. As a member, you are expected to commit yourself to the same traditions of excellence that have been established by those who have gone before you.

Membership in the AHS Wind Ensemble (WE) is a privilege - not a right. WE is an unusual combination of curricular and extra-curricular. There are high performance expectations, academic expectations, behavioral expectations, and growth and maturity expectations. In many ways it is like joining an extended family. Each member is expected to give and take (the more you give the more you get, and the more you get, the more you have to give!). Like any successful family, if members are more inclined to give than take, there is always more available for each one to have. You will get from this organization what you put into it. There is a high expectation for WE members to be self-disciplined, industrious, creative, and positive. The tradition of excellence has to be reestablished each year. It only takes one generation to destroy what it takes many to build. Your school-wide attendance and citizenship record will play a significant role in your success in the WE. Therefore, it is possible to be dismissed from the WE as a result of irresponsibility in other classes. Working with people demands a certain attitude to allow for individual needs and circumstances. If you have been responsible and considerate you may count on an open mind and a ready ear to hear your special needs and circumstances. That responsibility includes attendance and attitude throughout school. WE members are expected to provide leadership in everything his/her ensemble does. This will include performances as well as non-performance activities, including but not limited to fund-raising events and volunteer hours.

As a WE member who expects to be helped by the AHS Band Parent Booster Organization you will be asked to participate in various fund raisers, car washes, concession work, and various other activities. These are primary fund raising activities of our Booster Association. If you choose to raise your own money and not make a contribution to the Program as a whole, you cannot expect any financial support from the Booster Organization. We expect to be able to count on you. We have no benchwarmers in the WE - ONLY A FIRST STRING TEAM. If you do not want to pay the price of membership on the first team, you have no right to the thrill of accomplishment, which is possible through the combined efforts of the WE. If you disagree with this philosophy, that's O.K. But do not expect to be a member of the WE unless you agree with the stipulations in advance.

REHEARSALS / SECTIONALS / PERFORMANCES

Rehearsal schedules are always set in advance (ie. every Thursday beginning after football season). You will not be excused prior to the end of the rehearsal for makeup work in other classes, detention, or club meetings. Please plan doctor / dental appointments around rehearsals. Plan your schedule in advance. *Exceptions will be determined by the Band Director. Every member is needed at every rehearsal. Remember, if we can get along without you in rehearsal / performance, we can get along without you PERIOD. The point is - COMMITMENT.

*An unexcused absence from one performance WILL result in a “zero” for that performance and possible removal from the WE program; placement into a different ensemble may be imminent.

AHS Bands - The Challenge

This handbook sounds like a lot to be expected. *IT IS A LOT TO BE EXPECTED.* *Extraordinary commitment creates extraordinary results.* The Alpharetta High School Band Program expects to be among the top high school Band programs in the State of Georgia year in, year out. You are a part of that program. So we want you to accept this challenge of success. When all of these costs – money, time and effort - are added up, the price actually paid is really very small if the end result is a responsible young adult with a positive attitude, good self-image, and strong work ethic. These “extra-musical” goals are just as valid as the musical goals. You and/or your parents should feel free to contact the Director at the Band Office if a conference is desired concerning your Band membership relative to the aforementioned requirements. These expectations are made available for your reading so you are not surprised in any way. Your signature (on the handbook agreement page) attests to the fact that you have read, understand, and accept all parts. Conversely, this handbook will eliminate any surprises for the Director, which is just as important.

PARENTS: You are urged and encouraged to participate in the Band Booster Association. It only takes a little effort on the part of all willing parents to have a positive effect on the Band Program - and its fun! Meetings will be once a month; the schedule will be set at the beginning of the year and posted to our website. We want to involve you - you will be contacted!

Dear Student and Parent: We want Band at Alpharetta High School to be a positive experience for you. This handbook has been carefully prepared and produced to enhance the understanding of how our Band Program operates, and eliminate many misconceptions about our program. This handbook is in-line with the policies governing many successful band programs throughout the state as well as the country. It is CRITICAL that you and your parents read and understand the contents of this handbook. This will answer questions and solve many problems before they occur. Please direct any questions you may still have to by contacting the Director at walsh@fulton.k12.ga.us You may request a call back if you provide a number in your email.

After you have read through the handbook, please sign the bottom of this agreement, detach the page from the handbook, and return the signed copy to the band office.

NOTE to Wind Ensemble members: your signature here will also attest to the fact that you have read and understand the previous section as it pertains to Wind Ensemble membership.

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PRINT THIS PAGE AND RETURN TO BAND DIRECTOR

I have read and understand the Alpharetta High School Band Handbook, *which includes the Band Grading Policy (p.8) and Wind Ensemble Contract (p.11)*. I understand that this handbook includes all policies, which may govern the Band, and in the event of conflict, will be referred to for policy and procedure verification as well as actions that may be taken. DATE _____ Home Phone ____ - ____ - _____

PRINT STUDENT NAME _____

Signatures

PARENT(S) _____ STUDENT _____

Travel

Parents: Due to the nature of the way the Band Program operates, frequent travel on school bus, commercial bus, or other vehicle is required. In order to verify your awareness of this fact based on website calendar, a separate signature is required. In the event of medical emergency involving your child your signature is required in order for us to have your child treated in your absence.

As the parent / guardian of _____ I hereby grant permission to travel with the Alpharetta High School Band. _____ (sign)

I have completed and returned the medical forms and liability waiver found on the AHS Band website under “forms.” _____ (sign)

FINALE

World-renowned Dr. Ben Carson, retired Professor of Neurosurgery, Oncology, Plastic Surgery and Pediatrics and the Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University, lists his high school band experience as one of his most important influences. High School Band is a great experience that is never forgotten. Because of its nature, close relationships will develop between students and between parents. The Band Director functions as a teacher and musician and at times, a counselor. Sports and various outside activities *are recommended* by the Director to help students get a well rounded education in several activities, provided the rehearsals of the musical group which they are a member of can still be attended. Students wishing to be in a top performing band (ie. WE, MB) must make it a priority over all other activities. We offer other music ensemble classes for those who cannot meet all the rehearsal requirements.

The Band Director has an open-door policy for individual problems as they occur, whether it is related to Band or not. All conflicts can be resolved by the student, Band Director, and Coach or sponsor if the situation is made clear well *before* a problem arises. **It is the student's responsibility to inform the Director and Coach of any such situation WELL IN ADVANCE.** Remember, A PERSON WHO INVOLVES THEMSELVES IN TOO MANY ACTIVITIES MAKES LITTLE CONTRIBUTION TO ANYONE, INCLUDING HIMSELF!!! It is Hard Work, Dedication, and Pride that will build and shape our Band Program at Alpharetta High School. A Super musical experience is about to happen to you. ***WELCOME TO A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE.... THE ALPHARETTA HIGH SCHOOL BAND!***

AWARDS

The annual Band Awards Banquet is a formal affair held each spring to recognize those students who have earned the respect of their peers through hard work and dedication to our Band Program. ***The following is a partial list of major awards.***

- ***Varsity Letters*** - Awarded each year to students who have met the posted criteria (look in student section of website for application and criteria). You must earn at least a "B" each grading period in Band. Applications should be completed in March or early April and must be turned in at least one week prior to the awards banquet in order to be considered for eligibility.

- John Phillip Sousa Award - Louis Armstrong Award - Director's Senior Scholarship Award (cash award through application) - Outstanding Concert Band Member - Outstanding Wind Ensemble Member - Most improved musician awards - Raider Band "Courage" Cup

Band Officers and Leadership Duties and Responsibilities – a partial list!

1. Band Officers should be outstanding in attitude, cooperation, service, leadership, musicianship, and the ability to get along with others. Band Leadership should be the standard by which we measure each and every Band member. **Band Leaders are PROACTIVE.**
2. Anyone accepting a leadership role must remain in the Band for the entire year – NO EXCEPTIONS.
3. Summer Band camp (usually two weeks prior to the start of school) is MANDATORY FOR ALL BAND MEMBERS. Any leadership members absent from this important time will be removed from their office. EXCEPTIONS can only be made through the Director.
4. All leadership must keep their schedules clear to meet at 8:00am weekly.
5. Band leadership should NEVER behave in such a way as to be assigned teacher detention, ISS, or OSS. Any such occurrence will be reviewed by the Director and/or Principal.
6. Eligibility for any leadership position shall be determined by completion of the Band Leadership Packet turned in by the stated deadline each year. All qualifications are outlined in the packet.
7. All officers shall be appointed by the Director based on pre-leadership camp, application, and interview.

Band Captains - Includes Woodwind and Brass captains - Assists Drum Major with managing the Marching Band. Assists Band Director at all functions and activities. Presides over all business meetings of leadership including roll call. Leads the Band in fund raising events. Oversees duties and responsibilities of all other officers. Responsibilities include marching music sectionals, knowledge of all instrument carriage positions while marching, assisting with drill, and music part-checks. Represents Band at student council meetings. Must be at least a rising Sophomore.

Drum Majors - Primary student leader of the Marching Band. Directs the Marching Band rehearsals in absence of the Director, and conducts the Band in the stands and during half time shows at football games. Selected in late spring after tryouts by a combination of tryout score, oral interview, band vote, and Director appointment. Candidate must be at least a rising Sophomore. ONCE SELECTED, THE DM MUST ATTEND BAND LEADERSHIP CAMP and a DRUM MAJOR CAMP EACH SUMMER PRIOR TO FALL THAT THEY WILL BE DRUM MAJOR. Finances for DM camp are never a problem if the Director is notified in advance. Summer scheduling will not be excusable. Failure to comply will result in removal from position. Prepare in advance.

Outdoor / Indoor Operations - Oversees the movement of needed equipment to and

from rehearsals and performances. Percussionists are responsible for their own equipment. Also responsible for rehearsal set ups, both in the bandroom (chairs and stands) and on the practice field (field markers and paint). Responsible for storage, issue, and collection of all school-owned instruments. Assists the Director with end-of-year inventory; in charge of keeping order in the instrument storage room. Is responsible for the Marching Band practice field; the field should be clean before and after rehearsals, and lines should be in good shape at all times, including hash marks. Equipment truck loading/unloading. Responsible for set up and take down of any / all electronic equipment needed for rehearsals and performances.

Librarians - Main responsibility is maintenance, issuance, and retrieval of all music. Keeps music library files in order. Keeps record of and advises Director when to order fill-in parts. Maintains computer database and back up copies. Should be willing to work extra hours, as the program requires. Assigns assistants to specific tasks as needed.

Director Assistants - Helps keep record of attendance and tardies for all rehearsals and performances. Assists with all correspondence and updating of forms. Keeps personnel roster updated through database in Director's Office. Attends Booster meetings as needed.

Leadership duties are always expanding to meet the needs of our growing program. Please be willing to serve!

As Always.....

The Alpharetta High School

RAIDER BAND.....

WITH PRIDE!