



2010-2011 FHS BANDS HANDBOOK

2010-2011 FHS BANDS HANDBOOK

Welcome to a new school year! All FHS band members and their parents are expected to read, understand and abide by the policies contained in this handbook at all times. If you have any questions about any of the policies contained in this handbook, please call the band office at (703) 219-2235.

PHILOSOPHY

Music has been a part of the very fabric of human beings since the earliest beginnings of mankind. For centuries, people have been fascinated with music; we see evidence of this love in artifacts and drawings from ages long past. Today, almost all of us listen to music constantly – at work, in the car, on the iPod. Music plays an integral role in almost all of our major festivals, celebrations and life events.

There are several benefits to taking part in a music program, the foremost being that music study provides a complete and balanced education for your child. Teachers and administrators generally agree upon the fact that there are five core areas of academic study: mathematics, science, literature, social studies and fine arts. An education without music is as incomplete as an education without math; to be a well-rounded and well-educated individual you must have instruction in ALL five areas. Furthermore, music instruction gives your child a creative outlet that is not available in several of the other core subject areas. Math and science are absolute subjects with definitive answers. There is no such obsession with right or wrong in music; every child is able to perform and create, letting their own personal creative juices run wild. They are given the freedom to put to paper or to create whatever sort of sounds they wish, a freedom that is often not present in their other classes. Many children need this unrestricted outlet, and music is one of the avenues in which they can express themselves freely and creatively.

The goal of the FHS band program is not only to continue to provide exceptional music education to its members, but to provide this outlet for creative thinking and creating. Throughout the year, students will be exposed to various musical genres as well as given the opportunity to work effectively and collaboratively with others in order to achieve group success and a common goal. Cooperation, persistence, eagerness, effort and responsibility are all by-products of participating in a school music program, and are learned in tandem with musical skills such as intonation, embouchure, fingerings, ensemble pitch, rhythm, melody, harmony and timbre. The scheduled rehearsals, performances and trips exist to achieve these goals and work on these valuable life lessons and skills.

COURSES OFFERED

Advanced Band (Symphonic Band & Percussion Ensemble)

Students in this course form the representative-performing band for the school. Emphasis is placed on the sequential development of advanced technical skills and on the study of related literature. Based on successful completion of sequential concepts for each level, students will continue as specified in course level. After-school rehearsals and performances are required of all students as a part of this course. **Marching band techniques, rehearsals, and performances are also included in this course.**

Intermediate Band (Concert Band)

Students continue developing as individual musicians and as members of a musical group. Emphasis is placed on the development of intermediate level technical and ensemble skills necessary for performance. After-school rehearsals and performances are required of all students as an integral part of the course. Marching band techniques and performances **may** be included – participation in Marching Band will allow a Concert Band member to take the course for advanced credit.

Beginning Band

Students develop skills as individual musicians and as members of a musical group. Guidance will be given by the instructor in the selection of an instrument. Course content includes beginning level technical and ensemble skills necessary for performance. Some performance opportunities are provided. Marching band techniques and



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performances may be included. Students must meet both the school day and after-school participation requirements to receive credit for the course.

Marching Rebels

Participation in Marching Rebels is required of all Advanced Band students as described above in the FHS course handbook and the FCPS Program of Studies. In addition to being the most visible and most recognizable musical organization at FHS, the Marching Rebels provide musical support to all FHS home football games and many Fairfax Community parades. The Marching Rebels typically compete in three competitions per season and travel to at least one away football game as the schedule allows.

Fairfax Jazz

Students who participate in FHS Bands, Orchestra, or Chorus are eligible to audition for Fairfax Jazz. Auditions for this group will occur in late November. Participation in this ensemble is optional and requires the student to pay an extra fee in addition to the assessed band class fee. All evening rehearsals and weekend performances are required and **absences due to sports and/or other school or community clubs will not be excused.**

Winter Drumline and Winter Guard

Both the Winter Drumline and the Winter Guard provide an excellent opportunity for students to continue to work on their skills throughout the school year. Participation in either of these ensembles is optional and requires the student to pay an extra fee. Auditions for these groups will occur in late November. All evening rehearsals and weekend performances are required and **absences due to sports and/or other school or community clubs will not be excused.**

FORMS AND FEES

All FHS band members should have received a summer packet containing a number of forms which should have been returned to the band office by August 19th. If you have not already completed and returned these forms, you need to do so as soon as possible. **Please return all the forms in the packet, regardless of whether similar or identical versions of these forms were already completed at the end of last school year.**

The fee for participating in most band classes (Symphonic Band, Concert Band or Percussion Ensemble) is \$75. Beginning Band members pay \$50 for their course. Participation in other school ensembles (Marching Rebels, Fairfax Jazz, Winter Drumline or Winter Guard) carries its own. Band class fees must be returned to the band office by October 1st, and may be paid via check or online via Paypal (a 3% charge will be assessed for using the online service). Financial assistance for band fees is available – please contact the band office for more information.

ATTENDANCE AND GRADING POLICIES

The evaluation of each student's progress in band is based upon his or her improvement and participation in each of the following areas:

“Habits of Work” (40%)

“Habits of work” is a broad idea which incorporates criteria such as daily preparedness and responsibility. Each student is expected to make daily improvements in their abilities and work habits. Students who come to class late or arrive unprepared without the necessary equipment for rehearsal (instrument, mouthpiece, music, reeds, mute, pencils, drill charts, etc.) will forfeit their daily points under this category. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal (during school or outside of regular school hours) will affect this portion of the semester grade.

Testing (30%)

Regular performance testing will take place in each ensemble. Performance tests will be based on scales and on excerpts from current repertoire.



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Performances (20%)

This portion of the student's grade is based on attendance. It is expected that every student will be technically and mentally prepared for each performance. The primary focus of daily rehearsals is to prepare for performances, thus the penalty for an unexcused absence from a performance will be significant and appropriate. One person's absence negatively affects the entire ensemble's performance – you will have a schedule of band events well in advance; take care of problems before they happen!

Concert Reviews (10%)

Each student must attend one non-FHS concert per quarter and submit a one page concert review in addition to their concert program and ticket stub. The Northern Virginia area contains a wealth of professional musical ensembles, many of which give free concerts in the surrounding areas. Available concerts will be announced in class and advertised on the classroom bulletin board.

Grading will occur on a 100-pt scale according to the following the new FCPS guidelines:

- 93-100 = A
- 90-92 = A-
- 87-89 = B+
- 83-86 = B
- 80-82 = B-
- 77-79 = C+
- 73-76 = C
- 70-72 = C-
- 67-69 = D+
- 64-66 = D
- Below 64 = F (are you sure you want to be in band?)

EXCUSED ABSENCES

In order for a student to be excused from a rehearsal or a performance, a note or phone call from a **parent/guardian** must be received, reviewed and approved by the Director as soon as the student becomes aware of the conflict.

Emails from student accounts will not be accepted! In the case of an unavoidable emergency, a note or phone call must be received on the student's first day back to school or rehearsal. Timely notification of potential conflicts allows the Director to make adjustments to the ensemble so that the program (and other students!) are not negatively affected. The schedule of rehearsals and performances has been published in advance – take care of problems and conflicts BEFORE they happen! **Work schedules, doctor's appointments, other non-school activities and family vacations are not acceptable reasons for missing a rehearsal or a performance.** If you are participating in other FHS clubs or sports, **ask for a complete semester calendar** for all your activities so that you have the maximum amount of time to identify and resolve potential conflicts. The only excuses that will be accepted after a missed rehearsal or performance will be those involving unavoidable emergencies and sickness.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. Because of this fact, each student is responsible for his/her own actions as a member of the FHS bands. Participation in the FHS bands is privilege and should always be treated as such. The FHS bands are governed by Fairfax High School and Fairfax County Public Schools policies at all band functions and events. Any student that violates school rules while participating with the FHS Bands will be subject to all official school disciplinary action. In addition, students who violate school rules and/or band policies may be **subject to dismissal** and will **not** continue to perform or travel with the band.



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FACILITY USE AND CARE

The FHS bands are privileged to have world-class rehearsal and storage facilities as part of the completed renovation project. It is **imperative** that students take care of our new facilities and treat all band rehearsal and storage spaces with respect. The following rules govern the band room at all times:

- NO food, drinks or gum allowed in the band room or storage facilities at ANY time.
- No running or horseplay is allowed in the music wing.
- ALWAYS put away your music and instrument fully after each use.
- Do NOT play, handle, fool with, or otherwise disturb someone else's instrument. You break it, you buy it!
- Respect the belongings of others and treat others' belongings as if they were your own.

Because this is OUR room, it is expected that each FHS band member will treat the band spaces and all band equipment with care. Instruments, uniforms, music and equipment must always be put away at the end of each rehearsal and treated as if it is your own. All instruments should be placed in lockers and LOCKED when not in use. This is our band and our school – let's take pride in the facilities and equipment that we have!

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals will always **begin** at their stated time. It is the responsibility of each student to arrive at rehearsal early enough to assemble his/her instrument, gather the necessary equipment needed for the day's rehearsal, and report to class and/or the marching field. This year, FHS has adopted a new policy which requires the classroom door be locked at the second bell. Students arriving to class after the door has been locked must receive a tardy pass in order to be admitted to rehearsal. Classroom rehearsals will begin **2 minutes** after the second bell – those who are not prepared for the beginning of rehearsal will lose daily points under the "Habits of Work" category. Arriving to rehearsal as early as possible is a good habit which will always ensure that students are ready for the beginning of each rehearsal and will make the best use of our valuable rehearsal time. Likewise, rehearsals will **end** promptly at the stated time.

All talking and playing should cease when the Director steps on the podium. During the rehearsal, you are expected to give your undivided attention and cooperation to the Director. When rehearsing of individual sections takes place, all other sections should sit quietly and listen to instructions being given to that section. When the Director needs to stop the ensemble, it is to advise individuals and sections on problems that have been heard. Unnecessary talking minimizes the efficiency of the rehearsal and wastes everyone's valuable time. Deficiency in this area will lead to a reduction of points in a student's "Habits of Work" grade. **In addition to ALL equipment, pencils are required of all members at each rehearsal.**

EQUIPMENT

All students are required to have their instrument in good working order for all rehearsals and performances. In addition to having a well-maintained instrument and mouthpiece, each student is expected to have the following equipment at every rehearsal (failure to do so will cause loss of points under "Habits of Work"):

Woodwinds

ALL Woodwind players must have at **least 4** working and usable reeds, cork grease and swabs. Please see below for additional equipment requirements and recommendations:

- **Flutes** – Recommended instruments for purchase: Yamaha, Trevor James, Powell, Miramatsu.
- **Oboes and Bassoons** – **All students** should be playing on reeds provided/recommended by your private instructor. Recommended instruments for purchase: Fox.
- **Clarinets** – **All students** should be playing on one of these mouthpieces: Pyne Poly Crystal, Vandoren M30, Vandoren B45 with a Bonade or BG Inverted Ligature and Vandoren Reeds (or other if recommended by your private lesson instructor). Recommended instruments for purchase: Buffet R-13 (professional model clarinet), Buffet E-12 or E-11 (student models).



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- **Saxophones and Bass Clarinets – All students** should be playing on a Selmer C* mouthpiece with a Rovner Dark Ligature and Vandoren Reeds. Recommended instruments for purchase: Selmer S80 (professional model) or Yamaha.

Brass

Brass players must have valve and slide oil with them at all times; trombones should have slide cream and water bottles. Please see below for additional equipment requirements and recommendations:

- **Trumpets – All students** should be playing on a Bach 5C mouthpieces (or other if recommended by your private lesson instructor). All trumpets need **metal** straight and cup mutes. Recommended instruments for purchase: Bach Stradivarius, Yamaha.
- **French Horn – All students** need a **metal** straight mute. Recommended instruments for purchase: Conn 8D.
- **Trombones – All students** should be playing on a Bach 5G or Schilke 51D mouthpiece (or other if recommended by your private lesson instructor). All trombones need a **metal** straight mute. Recommended instruments for purchase: Bach Stradivarius, Conn 88H.
- **Euphonium – All students** should be playing on a Schilke 51D mouthpiece (or other if recommended by your private lesson instructor). Recommended instruments for purchase: Willson 2900, Yamaha.

Percussion

Percussion students should have at a minimum 1 pair of Vic Firth SD1 concert snare sticks and two pairs Vic Firth M114 Robert Van Sice marimba mallets in a stick bag. All sticks should be in good playing condition and should not be damaged or warped.

School instruments are available to any student who does not have his/her own instrument. In the event of damage to a school instrument, the Director must be informed as soon as possible. **Damage to an instrument that is the result of negligence or carelessness of the student will become the financial responsibility of the student to which that instrument was issued.** Do not allow others to handle or play your school instrument as you are still responsible for it if they break it!

School instruments are rented through Fairfax County Public Schools and cost \$92 per school year. All percussionists are required to pay \$52 for equipment upkeep and maintenance. In the case of a student who plays two different instruments in Advanced or Intermediate Band and the Marching Rebels, only one fee is assessed. Musical instrument rental forms and fees must be returned to the band office by September 18th.

Each student will also be assigned a folder with music. This folder is to be stored in the music folio at all times when not in use. Students are encouraged to take their music home every night and practice their own individual parts. Students who fail to bring their music to rehearsal will lose their daily "Habits of Work" points. Sheet music is very expensive and sometimes students might be in possession of the only copy of a particular part. Treat all your music with care – always keep it in the folder, keep it neat and clean, and make marks only lightly and in **pencil**. Students will be financially responsible for all sheet music issued to them that becomes lost and/or damaged.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Although participation in private lessons cannot be required as a portion of the band class, their importance cannot be stated enough. Students who study privately with a professional musician who specializes in his or her instrument gain valuable knowledge and expertise in a one-on-one environment. In private lessons, students work on advanced techniques and skills which go beyond what is possible during group instruction. A list of recommended instructors has been provided in this handbook – although these teachers are recommended, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to research the instructor and determine if they will be a good match for their child.



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UNIFORMS

Students will be issued concert and marching uniforms on behalf of the school. Gentlemen will wear a tux (black socks and shoes to be provided by the student) and ladies will wear a concert black dress (black hose and black dress shoes to be provided by the student). While in any school-issued uniform, students will abide by the “all or nothing” policy. Simply put, you are either in your full uniform (coats on, ties tied, etc.) or you are not in any of it. Your appearance speaks volumes not only about yourself, but the FHS bands, your school and your community. Wear your uniform with pride at all times!

School uniforms are expensive to purchase and maintain. Each student is responsible for the uniform pieces issued to him or her and will be financially responsible for any portion of the uniform that is lost or damaged.

FUNDRAISERS

Fundraisers are a critical component in maintaining the FHS band budget. Without these fundraisers, the quality of music education we are able to provide to our students would be extremely limited. The FHS Band Boosters, through these fundraisers, are able to raise enough money for the yearly operation of **ALL** FHS ensembles, including the Marching Rebels, Jazz Ensemble, Winter Drumline and Winter Guard. Parent and student participation in and support of fundraisers is critical so that the FHS bands may raise the funds it needs to provide the same level of excellent music education to our students.

Tag Day (September 11th) is annually the largest and most profitable fundraiser. Participation in Tag Day is **MANDATORY FOR ALL FHS BAND MEMBERS**. Throughout the school year, students will also have the opportunity to participate in various fundraisers (Cookie Dough, Fruit and Greens Sales) and a percentage of the amount sold will be deposited into that student’s individual incentive account. The incentive account is used to help students defray the cost of the Spring Trip and other band related expenses and fees. Upon graduation, unused incentive account credits will be transferred to the general booster fund unless they can be transferred to a sibling currently enrolled in FHS bands.

BAND LETTERS

Students may earn their “varsity” letter in band through use of a point system. Award points are designed to reward those students who perform and contribute above and beyond the minimum requirements. Each student needs 30 musicianship points to earn a band letter.

In order to qualify for a band letter, you must

- Have no unexcused absences from any ensemble rehearsals or performances throughout the year
- Participate in Marching Band
- Maintain an “A” average in band class throughout the year

In addition, 3 out of 4 of these criterion must be met:

- Participate in 4th of July Parade (2011 parade)
- Participate fully in Tag Day
- Audition for All-District Band
- Participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival

Points are awarded for the following activities:

Band and Ensembles	
Symphonic Band/Percussion Ensemble I	3
Concert Band/Percussion Ensemble II	2
Marching Band	4
Jazz Band	3



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Winter Drumline	3
Winter Guard	3
Other Playing Opportunities	
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Played in December Music Department Concert	1
Fall Musical Pit Orchestra	1
Spring Musical Pit Orchestra	1
Senior Regional Orchestra Audition	1
Senior Regional Orchestra Event	2
All-District Band Audition	1
All-District Band Event	2
All-State Band Audition	1
All-State Band Event	2
District Band Festival – Superior Rating	3
District Band Festival – Excellent Rating	1
March in 4 th of July Parade (2011 parade)	3
Solo and Ensemble Festival	
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Solo – Grade V or VI, Superior Rating	3
Solo – Grade V or VI, Excellent Rating	2
Solo – Grade III or IV, Superior Rating	2
Solo – Grade III or IV, Excellent Rating	1
Ensemble – Grade V or VI, Superior Rating	2
Ensemble – Grade III or IV, Excellent Rating	1
Private Lessons	
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Study with a professional for the entire school year	4
Attendance and Service	
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Participate fully in Tag Day	2
Other volunteer playing events (Freshmen Orientation, etc)	1
Mosby Woods Halloween Parade	1
Perfect attendance at Marching Band Camp (no absences at all)	2
Instrument Switch (to fill a critical need in a band)	3
Leadership	
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Served as Marching Section Leader, Drum Major or Captain	3
Served as Band Officer	2
Other Musical Groups (at discretion of director)	
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Please list: (ie AYP, University Honor Bands, etc)	1-3 each (up to 5)
Summer Music Camps (not FHS band camp)	
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Master Classes/Clinics/Addtl Concerts (submit a program)	1 each (up to 5)

Additional points may be awarded or deducted at the Director's discretion. The purpose of the point system is to encourage maximum participation and contribution to FHS bands and seeks to reward those students who go beyond basic participation required of band class. If you have questions regarding the nature of points or whether your child's participation or attendance in a non-FHS event qualifies for points, please call the band office.



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PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Please see the enclosed FHS Band Booster Volunteer form for ways in which you can help the FHS bands. Volunteers of all abilities are needed for all FHS bands to have a successful year! Regardless of whether you may be able to volunteer for various events, there are still simple and easy ways in which you can support the FHS bands:

- Attend all of our concerts, football games and performances. Wear FHS blue and cheer on our band! Nothing raises the morale of the performers more than a loud and supportive crowd.
- Support the band boosters and the various band fundraisers. These fundraisers are critical to ensuring that the band has the funds it needs to provide excellent musical instruction to our students.
- Talk up the band to friends and co-workers. Invite others to concerts, football games and other performances and tell them about what the FHS bands are doing.

Please contact Diane Smith at fhsbands@gmail.com or the band office if you are interested in volunteering. No matter what or how much you can do, your help is needed to maintain a quality band experience at FHS!

BAND NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE

During the school year, monthly newsletters and Director's corner messages will be posted online on the band's website (www.fhsbands.org) and emailed to the FHS bands email list. The website is the fastest and most efficient way to disseminate information quickly, so please bookmark our site in your browser and check it often for updates. **Students and parents are responsible for abiding by any changes that may occur to handbook or schedule mid-season.**

A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS WITH YOU! – REBEL PRIDE!!



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RECOMMENDED PRIVATE LESSON INSTRUCTORS

The following is a list of recommended private lesson instructors. Please call and research the individual you are considering taking lessons from to make sure that the instructor is a good match for your student. If you have any questions about private lessons or selecting a private lesson instructor, please call the band office at (703) 219-2235.

FLUTE

Christina Ammirati 703-966-6288
Lauren Sileo www.laurensileo.com
Jody Stein 703-690-3695
Holly Vesilind 571-292-4991
Monique Wright 703-599-0881

OBOE

Elaine Baugham 703-573-2023
Lorrie Brown 703-271-4258
Meg Owens 703-425-1126

CLARINET

Larry Bocaner 703-591-6899
Russell Gross 703-916-0857
Melissa Hinson 703-352-9190
Ken Lee 703-938-3431
Kristen Sheridan 703-426-1998

BASSOON

Lynn Gaubatz 703-207-9450
Kelly Stratil 703-927-4885
Dean Woods 703-973-3914

SAXOPHONE

Ed Fraedrich 703-569-9695
George Etheridge 202-607-5510
Steve Temme 571-338-1925

TRUMPET

James Bittner 703-425-1747
Dave Detwiler 703-631-9832
Larry Oates 703-641-0854

HORN

Jeff Bianchi 301-299-9049
Steve Breniger 240-462-3034
Becky Fowkes gbvowkes@verizon.net
Helen Giammarco 808-342-9738
Shane Iler 812-322-0333

TROMBONE

Joe Denti 703-304-8820
Greg Freeman 703-371-1088
Kathy VanHorne 703-266-5419

EUPHONIUM

Roger Behrend 703-819-5837
Joe Denti 703-304-8820
Bryan Miles 703-934-2400

TUBA

John Cradler 703-503-4468
Joe Denti 703-304-8820
Mark Thiele 703-966-8481

PERCUSSION

Aubrey Adams 703-450-1074
Paul Erickson 703-323-5469
Paul Fadoul 703-786-7075
John Kilkenny 703-798-3731

BRASS REPAIR

Cameron Gates 703-503-8257



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FHS BANDS INTENT FORM

All FHS band members – complete this form and return it to the band office by September 13th.

PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE FHS BANDS HANDBOOK CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING BELOW

“We have read the information in the FHS Bands Handbook and our student has our permission to participate in the Band activities as described in this handbook within the guidelines described. We understand that our student is responsible for all performances, rehearsals, and activities as printed in this handbook, the FHS Band newsletter, and the FHS Band website and have read and understand the policies for attendance and grading.”

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

“I have read the information in the FHS Bands Handbook and agree to abide by the policies stated. I realize that failure to follow policies or directions will result in disciplinary action that could lead to dismissal from the FHS band program. I understand that I am responsible for all performances, rehearsals, and activities as printed in this handbook, the FHS Band newsletter, and the FHS Band website and have read and understand the policies for attendance and grading.”

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

SIGN AND RETURN THIS INTENT FORM TO THE BAND OFFICE BY SEPTEMBER 13TH.

**KEEP ALL OTHER PARTS OF THIS HANDBOOK
FOR REFERENCE THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR.**