
ACA BAND HANDBOOK

Band Students and Parents:

WELCOME to one of the most exciting experiences in which you can be a part – THE BAND! Experts in many fields have concluded that the study of music helps with spatial reasoning, test taking, and overall quality of life! Factor in social skills, emotional development, leadership training, group interaction, aesthetic perception, music making, and discipline and you begin to see why this is such a great activity. Our ultimate goal is a lifelong understanding and appreciation for quality music and music making in a Christ-centered environment.

EVERYONE SHOULD READ THE INFORMATION IN THE HANDBOOK, even veterans. Some of the information is new this year, so make sure you're informed. Consider this handbook as the source that keeps us running smoothly and efficiently. Most questions can be answered by consulting THE HANDBOOK and policies will be adjusted from year to year as the need arises to clarify issues within the program. It is our hope that the information contained in this handbook will be both informational and inspirational. There are also topics designed to give guidance to parents; please read carefully. You will quickly find that the band is truly a family in and of itself.

This handbook is designed to answer any questions you might have concerning the program. Please read all of the information and sign the perforated form in the back of the book.

Sincerely,



Amy Davis
Band Director



Trey Holladay
Asst. Band Director

STUDENT HANDBOOK

A STATEMENT OF POLICY

In order to assist band members and parents in understanding areas of responsibility, a statement of band policy is herein set forth. Becoming familiar with this policy will enable each individual to make the most of this great opportunity to be a member of the Alabama Christian Academy Band program, becoming a better person and a better musician.

We firmly believe that the student should improve through regular practice. In the Alabama Christian Academy Band program we feel that when the student has lost the will to improve him/herself or make a better contribution to the band, he is wasting the time and efforts of his/her fellow members and the community by continuing in this program. The HAPPIEST student is the one who is improving through regular habits of practice and daily progress. He/she must develop a high sense of purpose toward which he/she is willing to work. RESPONSIBILITY is the focus behind any level of achievement within this program. We intend to conduct ourselves in a manner that will facilitate all students in learning and bettering themselves.

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord...”
- Colossians 3:22-24*

OBJECTIVES OF THE BAND PROGRAM

- To teach music by its actual performance
 - To develop performance skills of the various wind and percussion instruments
 - To provide for the musical needs of the school and the community
 - To acquaint the students with music theory / history and make application to the students' current life and musical experiences
-
- To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self expression, and a healthy social experience
 - To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of a larger group
 - To foster Christ-centered leadership skills within each student

Did You Know...

“Middle school and high school students who participated in instrumental music scored significantly higher than their non-band peers in standardized tests. University studies conducted in Georgia and Texas found significant correlations between the number of years of instrumental music instruction and academic achievement in math, science and language arts.”

-University of Sarasota Study

“Music majors are the most likely group of college grads to be admitted to medical school. Physician and biologist Lewis Thomas studied the undergraduate majors of medical school applicants. He found that 66 percent of music majors who applied to medical school were admitted, the highest percentage of any group. For comparison, (44 percent) of biochemistry majors were admitted. Also, a study of 7,500 university students revealed that music majors scored the highest reading scores among all majors including English, biology, chemistry and math.”

-“The Comparative Academic Abilities of Students in Education and in Other Areas of a Multi-focus University,” Peter H. Wood, ERIC Document No. ED327480

-“The Case for Music in the Schools,” Phi Delta Kappan

“High school music students score higher on SATs in both verbal and math than their peers. In 2001, SAT takers with coursework/experience in music performance scored 57 points higher on the verbal portion of the test and 41 points higher on the math portion than students with no coursework/experience in the arts.”

-Profile of SAT and Achievement Test Takers, The College Board, compiled by Music Educators National Conference

“A ten-year study, tracking more than 25,000 students, shows that music-making improves test scores. Regardless of socioeconomic background, music-making students get higher marks in standardized tests than those who had no music involvement. The test scores studied were not only standardized tests, such as the SAT, but also in reading proficiency exams.”

-Dr. James Catterall, UCLA

BAND PROGRAM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July/Aug	Band Camp Football season begins
September	Football games Competition season
October	Football games Competition season
November	Chair Auditions Pep Band Begins
December	Christmas Concert*
January	All-State/Honor Band Tryouts*
February	District Honor Band*
March	MPA (Music Performance Assessment)
April	All-State Band*
May	Spring Concert* Band Banquet*

***events that include Beginning and Intermediate Band**

BAND CURRICULUM IN BRIEF

Advanced Band

Advanced Band is also referred to as Marching Band (marching season) or Symphonic Band (concert season). Due to the difficulty of music played in Advanced Band, it's crucial that students can thoroughly demonstrate the concepts previously learned in Beginning and Intermediate Band. **The current requirement for membership in the Advanced Band is the ability to play all 12 major scales and arpeggios.** The Advanced Band is ACA's premiere performance group, representing ACA in various marching & concert band competitions as well as various school events.

Intermediate Band

The Intermediate Band is comprised of mostly middle school students who have completed their first year of band, but have not yet met the playing requirements for the Advanced Band.

Beginning Band

The Beginning Band is for players who have never played a band instrument. Students will have the opportunity to choose and learn woodwind, brass or percussion instruments in a concert band context.

Jazz Band

Advanced Band students may elect to audition for the ACA Jazz Band. Students interested in learning about the fundamentals of jazz should talk to Ms. Davis about joining the Jazz Band. Students will learn how to interact and perform through jazz literature. They will also learn the foundations of improvisation and jazz theory. The entire Jazz Band will begin rehearsing after school in the weeks following marching band season.

Color Guard

Female band students who are interested in dance, choreography, and movement may choose to audition for the ACA Color Guard. There is both a JV and Varsity Color Guard. Auditions are usually held in April. Students must play an instrument in the band in order to try out for Color Guard. Only students in Advanced Band will be considered for Varsity Color Guard.

Percussion Ensemble

Membership in the ACA Percussion Ensemble is required for all Advanced Band percussionists. Wind players may also participate in Percussion Ensemble if interested for certain performances. Being in the Percussion Ensemble allows students to dig deeper into the fundamentals of a variety of percussion instruments and musical styles that are normally not covered in Advanced Band. Additional after school rehearsals are usually held in order to prepare for concerts & competitions. The percussion ensemble is rehearsed by Dennis Johnson, ACA's percussion instructor.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PRIVATE LESSONS

As one might expect, private lessons on a musical instrument are the best way to improve performance skills. The one-on-one approach allows the student to benefit from the individual attention as opposed to a teacher monitoring a class of over fifty. Students are generally more inclined to practice diligently and this discipline increases the student's enjoyment with their instrument. Ms. Davis will be more than happy to assist you in finding a private teacher. **A STUDENT CAN LEARN IN ONE PRIVATE LESSON WHAT MIGHT HAVE TAKEN YEARS TO LEARN OTHERWISE!**

ALL-STATE BAND & DISTRICT HONOR BAND

Members of the ACA Band are eligible to audition for the Alabama All-State Band & District Honor Band. Auditions are held in January. Materials and requirements for these auditions can be found at www.alabamamea.org as soon as late summer each year. Click on the "Band" tab, then "All-State Requirements." It is a great honor to be selected for these groups and can lead to scholarship opportunities in college.

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY HONOR BANDS

In addition to the honor bands that are offered by the district, there are a number of honor bands that take place at the major universities and colleges in Alabama. Marching & concert honor bands take place throughout the year. Your child can be excused from school for representing ACA at these events, however, it is the parent's responsibility to provide transportation and supervision since it is not an official ACA event. Info about these honor bands can be found online at the websites (find dept. of music) for Auburn, University of Alabama, Troy, Huntingdon, etc.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

THE ONLY EXCUSABLE ABSENCES ARE PRE-ARRANGED* SCHOOL CONFLICTS AND THOSE THAT WOULD BE EXCUSED BY THE SCHOOL FOR PERSONAL ILLNESS, DEATH IN THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY, EMERGENCY MEDICAL OR DENTAL, OR OTHER LEGITIMATE EMERGENCY SITUATIONS WITH DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE OR PROOF.

***Individual needs will be addressed as they occur. This system is subject to modification by the director.**

For ALL absences, the following procedure must be followed by the student and parent:

- Director must be notified in advance.
- For illness, a parent note or doctor's excuse must be submitted.
- Although cleared by the school office, absences from a band activity that same day must be cleared with the director as well – please email.

CONFLICTS WITH BAND

Conflicts between band and other activities or events are the responsibility of the student. Rehearsal and performance schedules are given out in advance so that arrangements can be made. Students should not become involved with activities that may directly conflict with band activities. When outside activities create hardships concerning band, unless it is a rare and unusual situation that may only happen once, the student will need to consult with the director about alternatives that may be possible. Students should know how to access the online ACA Band Calendar and be aware of all band dates that have been scheduled.

GRADING POLICY

Grades are assigned for the band class and performances, which are co-curricular.

Effort/Responsibility: 60%	Students will be given an Effort/Responsibility grade each grading quarter. Students must have their instruments, music, and a pencil at every rehearsal, and show maximum effort in order to maintain this grade. <u>Attendance at performances is required</u> and will also be counted as an Effort/Responsibility grade.
Playing Tests/Written Assignments: 40%	Students will perform playing tests in relation to the music and fundamentals played in class. Assignments must be turned in by the due date. 5 Points will be deducted for each day assignment is late.

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in the HANDBOOK are followed and that the form in the back is signed and returned. This states that you UNDERSTAND the policies as set within. Each parent IS responsible for the attendance of his/her child at all band functions. It is the responsibility of each parent to see that their child practices his/her instrument on a regular basis. The hands of the directors are tied without the help of parents.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- Volunteer
- Show an interest in the music study of your child.
- Arrange a regular time for your child to practice.
- Find a quiet place where he/she can practice without interruption.
- Listen to performances of practice material, when asked to do so.
- Come up with a reward system for DAILY practice.
- Keep the instrument in good repair and keep at least three reeds in the case (woodwind instruments)
- Be extra-careful with school-owned instruments.
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time to each rehearsal or lesson.
- Provide opportunities for private instruction!
- Make faithful attendance at all band activities.
- Teach your child how to use a personal planner (why not?)
- Notify the teacher if the student is to be absent for rehearsals or lessons.
- Double-check behind the student to make sure that they have their instrument.
- Visit rehearsals occasionally.
- Attend parent meetings, concerts, games, and contests.
- Turn in fundraising and payment money on time.

BOOSTER PARTICIPATION

All parents (Beginner, Intermediate & Advanced) are encouraged to join Band Boosters before the end of each school year. By joining band boosters, parents help contribute to the financial success of the program and keep costs down throughout the year. All parents are expected to volunteer for at least one or more activities throughout the year.

STUDENT'S' RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND

As members of this organization, you have a great deal of responsibility. It is essential to any program that if certain expectations are to be met that they coordinate with the privileges, rewards, and duties of the band program.

TO OURSELVES

YOU have the primary responsibility of developing your own abilities. What you put into it is what you will get out of it. The director is ALWAYS available for your guidance and encouragement – just ask!

TO THE SCHOOL

Our school provides us with the resources for rehearsals & performances. The Band Booster Club also provides a support network, both financially and philosophically. WE have the responsibility to provide the best possible services to our school in return.

TO MUSIC

Music has always been a part of our culture. We must take what we have and use it for the betterment of that culture. No one expects virtuoso musicians, only your very best! The great composer Gustav Mahler once said that only 10% of a piece of music is on the page. If that is the case, then we as musicians have the duty of creating and producing the other 90%. The joy of music is not in everything that is apparent. It must be discovered and created.

TO EACH OTHER

We must always do what is best for the WELFARE of the group. There can be no selfish acts solely for the benefit of the individual, but for all. Respect each other. If there are conflicts, find a way to resolve them. Never insult another band member's integrity. The word "band" means that we are banded together and that there is no separation.

FUNDRAISING OBLIGATIONS

All band members (Beginner, Intermediate, & Advanced) are expected to participate in any and all fundraising opportunities. All income raised by fundraising will benefit the entire band program.

DUTIES OF THE BAND MEMBER

- Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. **EARLY IS ON TIME – ON TIME IS LATE.**
- Upon entering the rehearsal setting, acquire your instrument and go directly to your seat.
- When the director or staff member steps on the podium or asks for your attention, all talking should cease.
- Come to rehearsal with a **GOOD ATTITUDE.**
- There is no useless playing (i.e. horsing around on the instrument); only good solid material for warm-up or working through tough spots in music.
- Make a real effort to improve on a daily basis and establish a good practice routine.
- At the end of rehearsal, put all materials in their proper place.
- Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work.
- Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you are wrong.
- Have a proper respect for yourself and those in authority.
- Read and play music with insight – have musical expectations.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTITUDE

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is attitude. The kind of person that you are is an individual choice and how we feel about something, which involves attitude, is one of the few actual independent choices that we have in life. It takes intense dedication to reach goals. Students should learn to discipline themselves to daily practice on fundamentals. The “right attitude” must be present along with sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the basic foundation. Such an attitude makes an artistic performance inevitable and is the difference between a successful organization and a mediocre group. The band can do much for you. Make the most of it in every rehearsal and performance.

THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLINE

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must be strict! Band students and parents must believe in the ideals, principles, and philosophy of the organization. Each member must always be aware of good behavior and think for himself. Any misconduct casts a bad light on the school, community, and band program. Any member who casts discredit to the organization by his/her conduct or actions in band, in another class, or on a trip, may be subject to dismissal from the band program or may lose a privilege within the program. This may include the chance to go on a spring trip. This decision will be at the director's discretion.

RULES AND PROCEDURES

MISCELLANEOUS

- Shoes and socks must be worn at all times for outside practices.
 - Chewing gum is not permitted during a rehearsal or in the band room.
 - A band member must respect his/her uniform, and wear it properly at all times.
 - Be in your seat, warmed up, and ready to begin on time.
 - Respect authority and others, including their personal property.
 - A band member will wear no exposed jewelry while in their marching uniform.
 - Fundraising materials & fees will be collected in the bandroom money box located on the wall near the front entrance. Be sure to include your name and the activity with your payment.
-

MARCHING BAND

BAND CAMP

Band Camp is held during the last two full weeks before school begins. Percussion & Color Guard will usually start a week earlier due to the extra time needed to learn their music/choreography. Camp is required of all students in the band. Approximately “seven weeks” of normal rehearsal time is crammed into two weeks so attendance is a MUST. Parent volunteers will be in attendance to help out with whatever needs may arise.

AFTER SCHOOL PRACTICE

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. If there is a situation that will prevent this, a note from a parent must be turned in BEFOREHAND. After school rehearsals may fall on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays until 5:00. Try your best to schedule all routine doctor/dentist/orthodontist appointments, tutoring sessions, etc. around the schedule posted on the band website.

UNIFORMS

Band Will Provide	Student Must Purchase
<i>Marching Jumper & Jacket</i>	<i>Black “Dinkles” shoes</i>
<i>Shako (hat)</i>	<i>Black socks (tall enough to cover ankles)</i>
<i>White Gauntlets/Gloves</i>	
<i>Plume (given out and collected at games)</i>	
<i>Black ACA Shorts</i>	
<i>Black ACA Shirt</i>	

INSPECTION

Prior to marching band performances, all band members will stand inspection. Any member that does not pass the inspection will not participate in the given performance. Band members will be checked by their section leaders for the following:

- Cleaned, pressed uniforms
- Correct socks and gloves
- Cleaned, polished shoes
- Hair correctly worn---all hair will be up off of the collar while in uniform
- Jewelry – only watches and own class ring
- Clean, lubricated instruments

FOOTBALL GAMES

- Band members will not be allowed to leave school campus on home game days. They must bring all parts of their uniform with them to school on game days.
- The band will warm up in “halves” after dinner, and then will change from “halves” to full uniform as a group. The director will give instructions on when “halves” are appropriate vs. full uniform.
- For away games, if a student is not riding the bus home from a game Ms. Davis must receive a note from a parent by Friday morning. Also, parents must check their child’s name off the bus list with the designated bus chaperone before leaving .
- When marching or “trailing” into any stadium, the band will assume the position of attention until all are in place and the drum major signals a change of position.
- Only uniformed band members are allowed in the band section.
- All members are to remain in their “section.”
- There will be no eating or drinking in the stands. The band will have the third quarter off and must be back in their spots for the downbeat at the beginning of the fourth quarter. To guarantee you are not late, remember to “Head back at 3 minutes!”
- All members should be alert as to what is going on down front. Be ready to react quickly when instructions are given by a director or drum major.
- If a student must leave the band section, another student must accompany him/her and both must have permission from the director.

When you have class IT SHOWS – when you don't, IT SHOUTS!

SITTING THIRD QUARTER

During marching season, students will sit during third quarter of football games for the following reasons:

- Failure to Pass-off Music by the allotted deadline
- Any unexcused absences during that week of rehearsals
- Any infraction of disrespect

BAND TRAVELING

- If a conversation can be heard in the front of the bus, it is **TOO LOUD!**
- Please lower the volume level considerably when entering towns or stadiums (This is for your safety, is courteous to the bus driver, and an act of class)
- Please keep the bus clean; pick up after yourselves and always thank the chaperones and driver!
- When coming home from an away game or other event, students will be advised to call parents when we are 1/2 hour from Montgomery. Parents, **PLEASE DO NOT DELAY** in picking your child up.

HOTEL SITUATIONS

- Rooms are to be locked at all times.
- There will be no one of the opposite sex in your room.
- Please refrain from playing instruments in the room.
- All students should realize that any personal desires or uniqueness may have to be put aside for the duration of the trip in order to facilitate large group control and management.
- No one is to leave the hotel by themselves for any reason.
- No weapons of any kind are allowed.
- Band members are expected to be at the right place, at the right time, ready to go!

COMPETITIONS

Competitions are special events where we get to perform for a sophisticated audience and competent judges. **WE ARE THERE TO DO OUR BEST!** If we give our best, we will often find success, but winning will seldom be talked about as it is not our main goal. It is far more important to glorify God with our character and work ethic.

Specific information is given prior to competitions as to directions, departure and anticipated return time. All parents are encouraged to attend competitions and support the band.

CONCERT BAND

CHAIR AUDITIONS

In November, there will be chair auditions to determine chair placement. Audition criteria will be announced in advance and may consist of scales, technique, sight-reading, tone and range.

REHEARSAL PROCEDURE

- You must be in the band room or your seat when the bell rings; a downbeat for warm-up will be given three minutes after the bell. During the three minutes you should move to your seat, obtain music, a music stand, and a pencil, and begin warming up for the day's rehearsal. Make sure you have extra reeds, extra valve oil, etc. Percussionists should set up all equipment immediately upon entering the bandroom.
- Announcements will be made at the beginning or end of class and the order of rehearsal will be written on the board.
- Excessive talking will not be tolerated during a rehearsal.
- The purpose of rehearsal is for you to learn the parts of others and how they relate to yours, not to learn your individual music! (Individual music is learned during independent practice.)
- If you must leave your seat for any reason, simply raise your hand and request permission. In general, restroom breaks should be taken between classes.

MATERIALS

Each student should have the following items in class everyday:

- a working pencil
- your instrument (sticks, mallets - percussionists)
- your music (in a 3-ring binder w/ sheet protectors)

SCHOLARSHIPS

There are a wide variety of scholarships available for both music majors and non-music majors on the collegiate level. Many universities grant partial scholarships or a one-time scholarship to students who simply agree to play in an ensemble, and some will waive out-of-state tuition. The BIGGEST determiner of music scholarship opportunity is a student's placement in All-State Band while in high school. Colleges want to recruit All-State musicians!

BANDROOM

The use of band facilities before, after, and during school is a privilege. Students who abuse the facility will be disciplined accordingly. Any abuse or damage will be considered vandalism. No outside students are permitted in the bandroom except for business with the director. There will be no horseplay, i.e. throwing of things, in the band room. All percussion and guard equipment is off limits to anyone not specifically designated to use those items.

PRACTICE

As with any activity, you get out of it what you put into it. Band will not be “FUN” unless you practice! There are many values in the study of music as a discipline that transfer to other areas of life. Although this will not immediately happen, persistent practice will lead to enthusiastic, driven practice. Remember: “Perfect Practice makes Perfect!” Here is a suggested plan of study:

- Pick a set time each day
- Use a tuner for a portion of your practice session
- Have an acoustically dry place of practice
- Increase dynamic range (work on pianissimo - reinforce air counts used in band)
- Use our daily warm-ups & think “tone”
- Increase endurance (15 minutes of long tone playing)
- Play some form of scales at every practice session
- Increase range (work chromatically)
- Take a break every 20 minutes
- Use a metronome for part of the time, or play with SmartMusic tracks
- Work on technique (articulations, accents, etc.)
- Practice sight-reading
- Explore all the songs, exercises, and solo pieces that SmartMusic has to offer!!

RECORDINGS

An instrumentalist has a hard time duplicating a characteristic sound on their instrument without an appropriate model to emulate. Below are suggestions of a few artists for each instrument. Every student in the ACA Band is encouraged to listen to recordings of the following instrumentalists:

FLUTE	Jean-Pierre Rampal, Jim Walker
CLARINET	Harold Wright, Larry Combs
OBOE	Joseph Robinson, John Mack
SAXOPHONE	Jean Rousseau, Joseph Lulloff, Steven Mauk
TRUMPET	Phil Smith, Adolph Herseth, Wynton Marsalis
HORN	Dale Clevenger, Dennis Brain
TROMBONE	Joseph Alessi, Christian Linberg
EUPHONIUM	Brian Bowman, Roger Behrend
TUBA	Arnold Jacobs, Sam Pilafian
PERCUSSION	Mark Ford, Ivan Trevino, Michael Burritt

Letter Of Mutual Consent

I, the undersigned student, accept membership in the ACA Band Program and understand that I am responsible for all the policies as set forth in the Band Handbook. I fully agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my ability.

(Student Signature)

(Date)

I, the undersigned parent or guardian, have read and understand the policies as set forth in the Band Handbook.

(Parent Signature)

(Date)
