

Welcome to The Bands of Ashley High School! You have just become a part of an organization with a 22-year legacy of musical excellence. The Screaming Eagle Regiment boasts numerous awards, including multiple Grand Championships. Additionally, our Concert Band and Wind Ensemble consistently receive Superior ratings at North Carolina's State Music Performance Adjudication. We are thrilled to have you join us as we continue to build our strong tradition of musical excellence.

Our mission comprises two key elements:

Empowering students to reach their full potential as individual musicians  
Providing a band program that serves the needs of our students, our school, and our community  
The Bands' progress and achievements depend on our ability to work together in an organized and systematic way as we pursue our goals. Each member relies on the others for high musical and moral standards, strong character, and a sense of responsibility towards the group. We proudly uphold the mottos "Unus pro omnibus, omnes pro uno" (One for all, all for one) and "E pluribus unum" (Out of many, one), which reflect our collective spirit and guide our conduct.

This handbook aims to provide essential information about The Bands of Ashley High School. Our music program plays a significant role in enriching the high school experience. The band represents a large, diverse, and disciplined part of the school, adding vibrancy to our community through performances at sporting events, concerts, parades, and community events.

To consistently achieve and maintain our high standards of excellence, it is essential for members to familiarize themselves with the regulations, procedures, and traditions outlined in this handbook. While this guide seeks to address common questions, please consult the Director for any further clarification.

### Statement of Policy

This policy statement is designed to help band members and parents understand their responsibilities. Familiarizing oneself with these guidelines will enable each individual to make the most of their membership in The Bands of Ashley High School while becoming a better person and musician.

We firmly believe that regular practice leads to improvement, and students should practice consistently. In the Ashley Bands, we believe that students who lose the motivation to improve or contribute are wasting the time and efforts of their fellow members and the community. The happiest students are those who consistently practice and make daily progress. Students must not only know right from wrong but also be able to uphold honorable principles. They must develop a strong sense of purpose and be willing to work towards it. Responsibility is the foundation for achievement in this program and applies to every member, including the Director. Our commitment is to conduct ourselves in a manner that fosters learning and self-improvement for all students.

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### 2023-2024 Band Calendar

### The Ensembles

#### The Screaming Eagle Regiment

Comprising members from the AHS Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, and Colorguard, the Screaming Eagle Regiment is a musical marching unit dedicated to delivering entertaining and artistic performances at football games, pep rallies, band competitions, parades, and concerts.

While participation in the marching band is optional for all students involved in the band program, it represents a vital aspect of instrumental music education at Ashley High School, and we encourage students to take part. Those who choose to participate must submit a statement of intent, and upon signing, they are expected to honor their commitment. The Screaming Eagle Regiment holds rehearsals during the marching season (August through November) on Monday - Thursday from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, either in the Band Room (MEAC 810), on the field in front of the Minnie Evans Art Center (MEAC field) or in the AHS Stadium. Students are required to schedule tutoring and club activities around these marching practice times. During the fall of the 2023/2024 school year, the marching band will meet during 4th period.

#### The Concert Band

The Concert Band consists of students in grades 9 through 12 who have prior experience with wind instruments (Intermediate Band). Featuring modern band instrumentation, this ensemble focuses on instruction in common-practice period and twentieth-century wind literature and transcriptions. The Concert Band is a class that typically meets during the 1st period (subject to change) every school day and performs in multiple concerts and festivals throughout the year. Private study is encouraged for all Concert Band members.

#### Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble is open to 10th-12th grade students with previous instruction in wind and percussion instruments (Proficient Band), and admission is based on audition only. This ensemble features modern band instrumentation and offers instruction in common-practice period and twentieth-century wind literature and transcriptions. The Wind Ensemble class typically meets during the 2nd period (subject to change) every school day and performs in multiple concerts and festivals throughout the year. Additionally, the Wind Ensemble is the public performance ensemble and will perform for public events such as: Ceremonies, Business Openings, and School Based Functions. Private study is strongly encouraged for all Wind Ensemble members. Students will receive an honors credit for this class.

## Percussion Ensemble

The Percussion Ensemble consists of 9th-12th grade percussion students with prior percussion instruction, as well as beginning percussion students who have received the Director's approval. This ensemble offers instruction on various percussion instruments, including basic and accessory percussion, mallets, timpani, and marching percussion during the marching band season. The Percussion Ensemble class typically meets during the 4th period (subject to change) every school day and performs alongside the Concert and Wind Ensembles, as well as in smaller percussion groups at multiple concerts and festivals throughout the year. After the marching season, the Percussion Ensemble may participate in Solo and Ensemble MPA.

## Colorguard

Membership in the Colorguard is open upon Director Approval. While students with prior instrumental experience (middle school, high school) must continue performing in a concert ensemble to be eligible for the Colorguard, those without such experience are still welcome to participate. This ensemble adheres to the rehearsal and performance schedule of the Screaming Eagle Regiment. Following the marching season, the Colorguard may participate in the Winter Guard Circuit. During the winter season, the class will convene after school, with specific times to be determined by the instructor's schedule.

## Jazz Band

Membership in the Jazz Band is open to all interested students, subject to Director Approval. Students who choose to participate must submit a statement of intent, and upon signing, they are expected to honor their commitment. Typically, the Jazz Band features a big band with standard jazz instrumentation (saxophone family, trumpets, trombones, and rhythm section with drum set, guitar, bass, and piano), but may also include an additional jazz combo or consist solely of a combo. The Jazz Band meets after school during the spring semester on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Throughout the semester, they perform at several concerts and festivals each year.

## Orchestral Winds

The Orchestral Winds is a select group of instrumentalists from the Bands who participate in the Symphonic Orchestra and/or Musical Pit Orchestra. Rehearsals and performances for the Symphonic Orchestra and Pit Orchestra take place after school and outside of regular band activities. Students do not receive a separate credit for this activity. Participation in this ensemble is determined by the Band and Orchestra Directors. Students who are selected and choose to participate must honor their commitment.

## Honors Ensembles

## All-District/All-State Band

The All-District and All-State Honors Bands are audition-only ensembles composed of the finest musicians from across North Carolina. Participation in these ensembles is a prestigious honor. In the past, AHS has contributed many instrumentalists to the All-District and All-State ensembles. While all students are required to prepare the All-State audition materials for chair placement, auditioning is not mandatory. Auditions for All-District will typically take place on the second Saturday of January. A fee of \$10 per entry is due 30 days prior to the audition date to reserve an audition spot.

## All-County Band

The All-County Band is an honors ensemble composed of students from each of the four high schools in New Hanover County. Participation in this ensemble is by acclamation and requires Director Approval. Students must sign the participation contract to be considered by the Directors. After the deadline, the Directors will handpick the ensemble based on the following criteria:

- All-District Placement and Audition scores
- Seniority
- Past Honors Ensemble Experiences
- Director's Recommendation
- Needs of the Music to be performed

This list does not represent a hierarchy of criteria. Students' selection and chair placement will be based on these collective factors. The consensus decision of the four high school Directors is FINAL. No student will be allowed to participate if they cannot attend the entire clinic. Students who breach the participation/behavioral contract will be banned from future All-County Band participation.

## Solo & Ensemble MPA

The Solo & Ensemble MPA of the North Carolina Bandmasters Association takes place each year in early spring. Preparing a solo or chamber ensemble offers an invaluable educational experience. Moreover, performing for an audience and receiving constructive feedback from a qualified adjudicator contributes significantly to a student's learning. Participation in the ensemble portion of the festival may be required at the Director's discretion.

- You must provide an original score for the judge (number measures).
- You must provide an accompanist if the piece calls for accompaniment.
- You must have a contract with the Director to perform at the Solo & Ensemble MPA. Failing to perform after contracting will result in a lower quarter grade.
- Choose your ensemble partners carefully.
- Begin rehearsals early and rehearse regularly.

- Schedule performance opportunities two or three weeks before the festival (e.g., nursing homes, churches, family, friends).
- Every entry will participate in a Solo & Ensemble Recital, and grades will be assigned for each performance.

### Conductor's Clinic and Concert

To enhance our students' preparation for the NCBA Music Performance Adjudication (MPA), the Band invites guest conductors to work with our concert ensembles. The workshop takes place on a Friday and Saturday in mid to late February. These rehearsals occur outside of class time and are mandatory for all members. Any student with an unexcused absence from a rehearsal or the concert may be prohibited from performing at the MPA. If a student is denied the opportunity to perform at the MPA, they will have the chance to play their music for the Director to receive a performance grade.

### Grading Policy

Individual Performance Assessments & Evaluation: 35%

Group Performance Attendance, Preparation, Contribution & Etiquette: 25%

Rehearsal Assessments & Evaluation: 25%

Rehearsal Attendance, Preparation, Contribution, & Etiquette: 15%

### Attendance Policy

As a co-curricular, performance-oriented activity, attendance at rehearsals and performances beyond regular school hours is required of all students. This includes rehearsals, concerts, contests, and parades. The entire band is affected when a member is absent. Remember, it is about "all for one and one for all."

New Hanover County Public Schools course descriptions for all band classes state: ***"The fall semester includes activities in Marching Band such as football games, competitions, and parades, as well as Concert Band activities. The spring semester includes activities in Concert Band such as All-District Band, All-County Band, State Contest (MPA), and other concerts, Solo/Small Ensembles, and Marching Band activities such as parades and show preparation. Attendance at after-school rehearsals and performances is required."***

It is understood that attendance at these functions is mandatory, and an unexcused absence may result in lowering a student's grade. Excused absences are defined as:

Religious holidays

Handicapped students whose handicap prohibits participation

Documented illness (please provide an appropriate note)

Family emergencies (approved by School Administration or designee)

If you will be absent for any reason (performance or rehearsal/school day), ensure that it meets the excused absence criteria and follow these guidelines:

1. Notify the Director as soon as possible - [robert.parker@nhcs.net](mailto:robert.parker@nhcs.net). Put the student's name in the subject line and provide a brief explanation in the email.
2. If you cannot email, call the school and leave a message with the front office or on the band office phone. A written note before the absence is also acceptable.

### Resolving Conflicts with Band

Conflicts between band and other activities or events are the responsibility of the student. Rehearsal and performance schedules are provided in advance so that arrangements can be made. Students should avoid involvement in activities that may directly conflict with band activities. If external activities create difficulties concerning band, students must consult with the Director about potential alternatives. It is essential for students to maintain a calendar book and be aware of all band dates well in advance.

The band policy aims to support students when conflicts occur within its scope. However, students are reminded that band is a demanding activity and that involvement in external activities should be limited to those compatible with the band schedule. In all conflicts regarding performances, band performances must be the priority.

The following common issues with attendance should be avoided at all costs:

1. Routine Medical/Dental appointments - schedule around the band schedule. Monday is a great day for most students. Emergencies are excused, routine appointments are not.
2. Family trips - schedule before band camp or around the band calendar. Check band camp information for details.
3. Tutoring - complete tutoring sessions before band rehearsals. Practice is equally important.
4. After-school clubs - these should not conflict with band rehearsals. There will be no leeway on this.
5. Athletics - if conflicts arise, it is the student's responsibility to resolve them. Band is a class, and attendance is required. Please make your extracurricular and co-curricular participation choices wisely and maintain a detailed calendar.

Work is never an excuse for missing any band activity.

### BAND AND ATHLETICS CONFLICTS POLICY

Conflicts between practices/rehearsals will be resolved between the coach and teacher, through the student. Frequent conflicts may indicate that the student should consider choosing only one activity.

1. Conflicts between a rehearsal and an athletic game - students will participate in the GAME.
2. Conflicts between a performance and an athletic practice - students will participate in the PERFORMANCE.
3. Conflicts between a performance and a regular season athletic event - students will participate in the PERFORMANCE.
4. Conflicts between a performance and a playoff game - students will participate in the PLAYOFF GAME.
5. Conflicts between a multiple performance (e.g., play or musical) and an athletic event must be resolved by the Director and the coach.

#### ATHLETICS CONFLICT GUIDELINES

- Although some guidelines may seem strict, the Director will always try to work with students to enable participation in all events on a given day.
- Potential conflicts must be submitted in writing to the Director during the first week of each semester. This may include an entire athletic season schedule (exceptions for playoffs/championships extending beyond the regular season).
- Students must communicate conflicts in writing with both the Director and the coach of the sport.
- Excused absences and assignments are not exempted and must be made up if required by the Director.
- Conflicts not communicated in writing to the Director will be considered unexcused absences.
- The Director reserves the right to contact the coach directly to ensure the student is genuinely needed for the event.

#### CODE OF CONDUCT

#### DUTIES OF THE BAND MEMBER

- Be punctual to all rehearsals and performances. Remember, early is on time, and on time is late.
- Upon entering the rehearsal setting, acquire your instrument and go directly to your seat.
- Cease all talking when the director or staff member steps on the podium or requests your attention.
- Approach rehearsals with a positive attitude.
- Refrain from excessive playing or horsing around on the instrument; focus on practicing quality material.
- Strive to improve daily and establish a consistent practice routine.
- After rehearsal, put all materials in their proper place.
- Respect personal property and the property of the Bands. If it's not yours, don't touch it! If you take it out, put it back!
- Maintain strong academic standing in all coursework.

- Be responsible for your actions and accept responsibility when you are wrong.
- Public displays of affection are not tolerated during band activities.
- Show proper respect for yourself and those in authority.
- Read and play music with insight, considering the composer's goals for the piece. Reflect on how phrasing, timing, scales, range, and scope might affect the performance, and how you can contribute to achieving that within your ensemble or section. Apply yourself accordingly.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTITUDE

The single most significant factor determining the success of an individual or organization is attitude. The kind of person you become is a personal choice, and your feelings about something, which involve attitude, are among the few true independent choices you have in life. Achieving goals requires intense dedication. Students should discipline themselves for daily practice on fundamentals. A "right attitude," along with sincerity, concentration, and dedication, forms the basic foundation. This attitude paves the way for an artistic performance and sets apart a winning organization from a mediocre one. The band has much to offer you, so make the most of it in every rehearsal and performance.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLINE

Due to the nature of the organization, band discipline must be strict! Band students and parents should believe in the ideals, principles, and philosophy of the organization. Members must always be mindful of good behavior and consider if their actions serve the best interests of the Bands or Ashley High School. Any misconduct reflects poorly on the school, community, and band program. Members who discredit the organization through their conduct or actions in band, another class, or on a trip may face dismissal from the Bands or lose privileges within the program. This may include the opportunity to participate in a trip. The decision will be at the Director's discretion.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE BAND

As members of this organization, you have significant responsibilities. For the band program to meet certain expectations, these responsibilities must align with the privileges, rewards, and duties involved.

### TO OURSELVES

Your primary responsibility is to develop your own abilities. The advantages of a quality instrument and private instruction cannot be overstated. What you invest is what you will gain. The director is ALWAYS available for your guidance and encouragement – just ask!

### TO THE SCHOOL

The New Hanover County School District provides us with resources for rehearsals, performances, and equipment. The Band Boosters also offer a support network, both financially and philosophically. WE have the responsibility to provide the best possible services to our community.

#### TO MUSIC

Music has always been part of our culture. We must use what we have to enhance that culture. No one expects virtuoso musicians, only your very best! Composer Gustav Mahler once said that only 10% of a piece of music is on the page. If so, we, as musicians, have the duty to create and produce the remaining 90%. The joy of music is not just in what is apparent; it must be discovered and created.

#### TO EACH OTHER

We must always prioritize the WELFARE of the group. There can be no selfish acts solely for an individual's benefit; actions should benefit everyone. Respect each other. If conflicts arise, find a way to resolve them. Never insult another band member's integrity. The term "band" signifies that we are united, with no separation.

Students are responsible for reading and adhering to the New Hanover County Schools Code of Ethics for Interscholastic Athletics, Extra, and Co-Curricular Activities, as well as the New Hanover County Schools Student Discipline Policy 8410, available on the NHCS website.

#### PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND

As parents or guardians, it is your responsibility to ensure that the policies outlined in the HANDBOOK are followed, and that the form in the back is signed and returned. This confirms that you UNDERSTAND the policies and that any questions should be directed to the Director by making an appointment. Each parent is responsible for their child's attendance at all band functions and ensuring that their child practices their instrument daily. The Director relies on parents' support.

#### HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

Remember the following guidance: If it is a performance issue or anything related to the band itself, contact Mr. Parker. If it is a fundraising question or anything dealing with parent issues, talk with the booster club president.

- Show interest in your child's music studies.
- Arrange a regular time for your child to practice.
- Find a quiet place for them to practice without interruption.
- Listen to performances of practice material, if asked by your student or the Director.
- Help your child keep a DAILY RECORD of practicing.
- Create a reward system for DAILY practice.
- Maintain the instrument and have at least three reeds in the case.
- Purchase and encourage the use of a metronome and tuner!

- Be extra careful with school-owned instruments. Repair costs are high! Students will be responsible for repair costs for school instruments damaged due to student ABUSE or NEGLECT.
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time for each rehearsal or lesson.
- Provide private instruction.
- Encourage faithful attendance at all band activities.
- Buy your child a personal planner for marking important dates.
- Keep the Handbook in a safe place and refer to it often.
- Notify the teacher in writing, preferably via email, if your child is to be absent for rehearsals or lessons.
- Double-check that your child has their instrument.
- If your child is absent, ensure their folder gets to school if they share it with someone.
- Occasionally visit rehearsals.
- Attend booster meetings, concerts, games, and contests.
- Turn in fundraising money on time.

## FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Band has many recurring expenses and is a far more expensive activity than other curricular classes. Although the New Hanover County School System provides some funding for the band program, it is not sufficient for us to accomplish all our goals. Each band family and student is assessed a goal dollar amount determined by the budgeted needs of the Bands for that year versus the number of band members. Families earn credit towards this assessment by selling items and/or procuring donations/sponsorships during various fundraising activities held during the year, or by giving a direct payment donation to the Bands. If our band families do not meet fundraising goals during the fundraising activities, the Bands of Ashley High School will not be able to meet its budget, and the Director may have to cancel or limit the activities of the Bands. If an individual family does NOT earn their entire assessment, the family is NOT responsible for paying the remaining balance. This assessment is a FUNDING GOAL, not a fee. We hope that all families and students understand that our program will only be able to continue to improve and grow if we commit to fundraising together. If the money runs out, so does our program.

The funding goal for 2023-2024 is \$500 per student.

Disclaimer: I am not asking for only a direct payment or donation. Families have a CHOICE on whether or not to give money to the Bands. I strongly recommend meeting the goal through fundraising so that we may function with a fully funded budget and offer a total experience for each student. Families should decide the best way to meet their funding goal together.

## FUNDRAISING

Throughout the school year, the Bands and Band Boosters will present a variety of fundraising projects for our parents and students to take advantage of. These projects are designed to assist our band families in meeting our financial obligations and also allow the Bands to raise

money for special events, trips, and large purchases. All monies raised through these projects are in the name of the Bands of Ashley High School. Families (based on the student) are assigned individual accounts for record-keeping purposes only. There will be no refunds of monies raised or paid, at any time during the school year, even if a student does not continue in the Band Program. Upon graduation, monies remaining in a student's account will be transferred into the general band fund. The only exception made will be a "sibling" transfer from one child's account to another. All money goes toward meeting the funding goal first, then toward purchasing marching band attire, then toward trips or honors ensembles. At this time, it may NOT be used for one-time purchases such as food, gloves, or socks.

#### HANDLING OF MONEY POLICY

All funds collected for any fundraiser, event, donation, etc., should be placed in an envelope (available in the band room) labeled with:

- Student's name
- Date
- Total Amount
- Fundraiser or description of what the money is for

After labeling the envelope accordingly, place it in the secure, padlocked "band box" in the Band Booster area at the front of the band room. Please do not hand money directly to the Director.

#### BUDGET PRIORITY LIST

This list will serve as the official funding hierarchy for the 2012-2013 year, beginning with item number one (1) as the Bands' highest priority. The Director reserves the right to adjust line items and ranking as needed to best serve the needs of the program. A new hierarchy will be determined each year during the budget planning process.

Music Performance Adjudication  
Winter and Spring Concerts  
Yearly instrument Maintenance and Repair  
Marching Band Show  
Administrative Costs  
Family Hardships  
Band Water/Snack Food Supply  
Guard Equipment  
Percussion Equipment  
Guard Staff  
Band Staff  
Percussion Staff  
Uniform Expenses  
Competition #1 (55% of budget funded)

Honors Ensembles  
Competition #2  
Awards and Trophies  
Emergency Equipment Repair  
Competition #3  
New Instrument Purchase Savings  
Misc Music Purchase  
Sound Equipment Purchase  
Competition #4

## BAND CAMP

Band Camp begins each summer prior to the opening of school. The first week is spent incorporating new members and veteran members into a cohesive unit. The focus of week one is marching and playing fundamentals. The second week, drill is added to the marching fundamentals and preparation of the opener begins for our Show. Band Camp this year will be from August 6th through August 17th. Traditionally, Band Camp begins the first week of August or three weeks before school begins. We will have rehearsals the week before school begins, as there is a high possibility of having a football game before school starts. Any vacation plans need to occur BEFORE AUGUST 1st.

All members of the Regiment are REQUIRED to attend Band Camp. Absences must be arranged in advance with the Director. Students who miss Band Camp will be placed on "Alternate" status and must acquire the needed performance skills independently before being allowed to perform. "Alternate" status does not relieve the student from his/her rehearsal and performance obligations, even if the student does not perform on the field.

## MARCHING ENSEMBLE

As an important part of an effective rehearsal procedure, each year it is necessary for the Screaming Eagle Regiment to meet for approximately three weeks before school begins. All members of the Band are required to attend BAND CAMP and other pre-season rehearsals scheduled by the Director.

Students are expected to be in their positions on time, with instruments, music, flip-folder, charts, lyres, coordinate books, and any other necessary materials, etc. The Rehearsal Etiquette Skills grade component will be adjusted accordingly.

There is to be no individual playing before rehearsal or at any time during a rehearsal outdoors or indoors, unless the Director specifically deems it necessary. Instrument warm-up will be done together under the direction of the Director.

Talking is not permitted while at attention.

Remain focused and attentive during rehearsals; follow instructions from the Director, staff, and section leaders.

Maintain proper posture and positioning while marching, both during practice and performances. Keep your instrument in good working order, clean and properly maintained.

Wear appropriate attire for rehearsals, including comfortable clothes and athletic shoes (no sandals, flip-flops, or boots).

Stay hydrated and bring a water bottle to all rehearsals and performances.

Be respectful and supportive of your fellow band members, helping to create a positive and inclusive environment for everyone.

Attend all scheduled rehearsals, performances, and events, as participation is crucial for the success of the marching ensemble.

Communicate any conflicts or concerns with the Director as soon as possible.

## PRACTICE

As with any activity, you get out of it what you put into it. Band will not be "FUN" unless you practice outside of band class and band activities! 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 for practice.

Use a tuner for a portion of your practice session.

Have an acoustically dry place for practice.

Increase dynamic range (work on pianissimo).

Use our daily warm-up and think "tone."

Increase endurance (15 minutes of full tone playing).

Play some form of scales at every practice session.

Increase range (highest note with good tone).

Take a break every 20 minutes.

Work on technique (articulations, accents, etc.): "I will start with \_\_\_ minutes and increase to ..."

Practice sight-reading.

Use a metronome for part of the time.

Use a practice record to track your progress.

Remember, consistent practice is key to improving your skills and enjoying your time in the band. Set goals for yourself and work towards achieving them. As your abilities grow, so will your enjoyment and appreciation for music.

## INSTRUMENT RENTAL

Large instruments, unique instruments, guard equipment, and percussion instruments are owned by the Bands and New Hanover County and rented to those students to which they are assigned. As of now, the county allows these instruments to be rented for free and provides a limited repair budget to cover annual repair. Students are responsible for the care and upkeep of these instruments. Any unscheduled maintenance and repair become the responsibility of the student during the rental period. We do not provide percussion sticks or mallets, mouthpieces, ligatures, or reeds. However, percussionists are given the option to give a \$60 donation for the purchase of sticks and mallets to be shared through the section.

It is important for students who rent these instruments to treat them with care and respect, as they are valuable resources provided by the school and the county. Proper maintenance and handling will ensure that these instruments remain in good condition for future students to use and enjoy. If you have any concerns or questions about the instrument rental process, please contact the band director for further assistance.

## INSTRUMENT LOCKERS

Lockers and locks are assigned to students so they will have a place to safely keep their instruments. We have more students than lockers, so not everyone will be assigned a locker. Some students will be assigned to share lockers. Lockers will be assigned according to the size and type of instrument. Any lost lock will result in a \$10.00 charge.

Please adhere to the following guidelines to maintain the proper use of instrument lockers:

Do NOT give your combination to another student! Keep your combination confidential to ensure the security of your instrument.

Students may NOT share lockers unless assigned by the band director. Unauthorized sharing can lead to confusion and possible damage to instruments.

Food is NOT allowed in lockers - it can attract pests, grow mold, and cause unpleasant odors. Stickers, bumper stickers, pictures, etc., should not be placed anywhere on the lockers. Keep lockers clean and free of decorations to maintain a professional appearance in the band room. By following these guidelines, you help maintain a clean, organized, and secure environment for everyone's instruments. If you have any issues or concerns regarding your locker or lock, please contact the band director for assistance.

## UNIFORMS

### MARCHING UNIFORMS

Uniforms are an essential part of maintaining a cohesive and professional appearance during performances. Uniform fittings are scheduled during Band Camp, and uniforms will be stored in the Uniform Room at all times. Students will dress at the school for all uniformed performances. Please follow the guidelines below to ensure proper use and care of uniforms:

Students are responsible for wearing their official band t-shirt, black gloves (available for sale before performances), "Drill Masters" black marching shoes (orders will be taken during Signing Day), black socks, and helmet. No students will perform without all parts of the uniform. Shoes must be polished.

**NO JEWELRY WILL BE WORN FOR MARCHING PERFORMANCES. (DO NOT get piercings during marching season). NO MEDALS OR PATCHES ON THE UNIFORM - we want the band**

to look uniform! HAIR MUST BE OFF THE COLLAR - if it is long, you must put it up under your helmet. This applies to both ladies and gentlemen.

Uniforms will be checked out from the uniform room. You must check out your own uniform by jacket number. After the performance, return the uniform to the uniform room. All pieces of the uniform must be hung properly on the correct numbered hanger before the uniform officer will accept it. If the uniform needs repair, let the uniform chairman know when checking it in.

Any part(s) of the uniform damaged or destroyed by anything other than "normal" use will be the responsibility of the student. Uniforms are expensive and need to be treated with care and respect.

The pep uniform consists of the Band t-shirt and blue jeans. All students should own a generic pair of dark BLUE jeans. The Band t-shirts will be issued prior to the first performance. You will need this t-shirt for ALL pep rallies and when we travel as a group. We will occasionally use it for informal performances.

Rehearsal dress for the Regiment should be appropriate, comfortable clothing. Comfortable, athletic shoes and socks are mandatory for marching practice. Outside temperature (hot and cold) and conditions (rain) should be taken into consideration when choosing your attire. For Band Camp, wear light-colored t-shirts, shorts, athletic shoes with socks, hats, and SUNSCREEN lotion! No tank tops are allowed.

## CONCERT DRESS

The CONCERT BAND and SYMPHONIC BAND will wear "concert black" as described below. The student will be responsible for providing this attire for themselves.

**GENTLEMEN:** Male members will wear a tuxedo for all concert performances. Students will be responsible for the tuxedo shirt, black bow tie and cummerbund or vest, black shoes, and black socks. (\$60-150)

**LADIES:** Female members will be required to purchase the Bands' specific officially designated formal (long) black dress (\$60-\$75) and black dress shoes. Orders are placed at the beginning of the school year after the dress company and style number has been announced.

**NO MEDALS OR PATCHES ON YOUR CONCERT UNIFORM -- WE WANT THEM TO LOOK UNIFORM! HAIR MUST BE NEAT AND FREE FROM UNUSUAL COLORS OR DESIGNS. SMALL, NON-DISTRACTIVE JEWELRY AND MODERATE MAKE-UP MAY BE WORN FOR CONCERTS.**

## PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

Every student will receive a schedule of performances the Band will be participating in throughout the year. In addition, information regarding these events will be posted on the whiteboard, be part of the weekly email, and posted on the website. It is the student's responsibility to know this information. The bulletin boards and whiteboard should be read daily.

Always report (rain or shine) to the designated meeting place. Do not call the Director unless there is an emergency. If in doubt, phone a Band Officer, Drum Major, or Section Leader. Inspections will be held at every performance. If you are not dressed in the specified band attire for the event, you will not perform.

## TRAVEL POLICIES

A travel itinerary and procedures list will be published for each major trip. It is important that these instructions be followed so the Band can move quickly, safely, and efficiently. The parent or guardian of each student will be expected to fill out and notarize a MEDICAL/TRAVEL FORM. Students will not travel with the Band without this form. Students are responsible for knowing departure times and being ready on time.

Students will be expected to sign up for bus seating by class and/or room lists at an announced time. Any student failing to sign the lists will be assigned a seat and/or room. Students will not be allowed to change buses or rooms without permission of the Director.

Students are asked to be careful and safe. If an accident, injury, or illness does occur, the chaperone in charge should be notified at once. The chaperone will then notify the Director. Chaperones will be in charge of each bus. They will be responsible for calling roll and maintaining good conduct. No bus should be permitted to leave a stop until the roll is checked. Chaperones and student leadership are to be treated with courtesy and respect at all times. They are the delegates of the Director.

Horseplay, profanity, singing, chanting, and screaming are prohibited on the bus -- usual bus rules apply. MP3 players, CD players, or radios WITHOUT HEADPHONES will not be allowed on the buses.

All students must travel to and from performances on buses, not in personal cars. Any student who needs to depart a performance with his/her parent or guardian must submit a request signed by the parent/guardian at least three days in advance of the performance. If approved, the parent/guardian must appear in person to pick up the student from the Director.

No drinking or eating will be permitted except when designated by the Director.

Students are responsible for their own equipment, instruments, and music. The operations crew/front ensemble will load the equipment truck or buses.

Students will receive an itinerary of activities for all major trips. Any illness or injury should be reported to the head chaperone and Director immediately, no matter how unimportant it may seem.

Upon arrival at a destination, students should remain seated until instructed to unload by the officer or chaperone in charge.

The complete uniform should be worn properly when in public. You are representing Ashley High School and OUR Band!

## FOOTBALL GAMES

Report time for all games will be announced on Thursday prior to the game.

Students will wear the full uniform.

For home games, students will be dismissed following the announcements in the loading dock. When marching to and from the stadium, the band will remain at ATTENTION. When you have class, IT SHOWS – when you don't, IT SHOUTS!

Only uniformed band members are allowed in the band section.

All members are to remain in their "section." Any stands "Go cheers" will not be played unless rehearsed and approved by the Director.

There will be no eating or drinking in the stands. The band will have the third quarter off and must be back in their seats with 2 minutes on the clock before the fourth quarter.

All members should be alert as to what is going on down front. Be ready to react immediately to instructions given by the drum major or director.

If a student must leave the band section, another student and chaperone must accompany him/her, and both must have permission from the director.

## BAND BOOSTERS

All parents of band students are automatically members of the booster group and are strongly encouraged to be involved. Being a Band Booster is rewarding and fun. Band Boosters are invited to attend General Membership meetings during the school year. The dates will be announced in the Band Weekly E-mails. Attending the General Membership Meetings keeps you up to date and informed on upcoming band activities and volunteer opportunities.

We encourage all parents to consider what part they can play in helping to bring about the great performances and activities of the Bands of Ashley High School. Volunteering your time gives you the chance to get to know a great group of students and parents working together with the Band Director to maintain the level of excellence that is the hallmark of this outstanding program.

In addition to volunteering your time, please let us know if you are able to provide the Band with community, business and/or corporate contacts. The band department has many "large item" financial needs including uniform replacement, instrument purchase, and trip scholarships that are not provided by the school system. We could use your help and look forward to working with you!

## CHAPERONES

Parent-chaperones are a necessary part of moving the band to our scheduled venues of home games, away games, competitions and parades. NHCS requires adult supervision on all school-sponsored bus trips. Adult supervision of the bus is the primary function of the parent-chaperones. Additionally, parent-chaperones assist the band with chores such as

handling the band's drinking water, moving the percussion equipment onto the field, and minding equipment in the stands.

All parents/guardians are invited and encouraged to participate as chaperones for the band during the marching season. There have been requests in the past to allow siblings and other family members to either chaperone or assist with the chaperone chores. However, it is necessary to limit the chaperones and all assistance to parents/guardians only.

During the marching band season, each game is assigned to parents of an instrument section and the band boosters ask that the parents of students who play those instruments full-fill the duties for that evening. Many find this an extremely eye-opening and rewarding experience. For all other events, the volunteer coordinator is tasked with the responsibility to secure all chaperones.

For more information, please join us at our regular business meetings and read the Weekly Band E-mails.

#### BAND BANQUET

The Band Banquet (which consists of a dinner and awards ceremony) concludes the band year. Students and their families are invited to attend. Students whose financial obligation has been met are guests of the Bands for this event. Tickets are made available for other students, family, and guests. The Banquet gives the Band of Ashley High School an opportunity to recognize individual and group accomplishments throughout the year.