

How Parents Can Help

When a band question arises, it is important that you get factual information before discussing it with others.

We do more harm to ourselves, the band family, when we talk about things that contain one or more falsehoods presented as facts.

If questions arise, it is important to remember this axiom: If it is a performance issue or anything dealing with the band proper, contact the band director. If it is a fund-raising question or anything dealing with parent issues, talk with the band booster president.

- Show an interest in the musical study of your child
- Arrange a regular time for your child to practice
- Find a quiet place where he or she can practice without interruption
- Help the student keep a daily record of practicing
- Come up with a reward system for daily practice
- Visit rehearsals occasionally
- Keep the instrument in good repair, and keep at least three reeds in the case
- Get a metronome
- Be extra careful with school-owned instruments. Repair costs are high!
- Provide private instruction!
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time to each rehearsal or lesson
- Make faithful attendance at all band activities important
- Encourage your child to use the personal planner provided by the school
- Keep this handbook in a safe place and refer to it often
- Notify the director if the student is to be absent for rehearsals or performances
- Double-check to make sure students have their instruments
- Attend booster meetings, concerts, games, and contests
- Turn in fund-raising money on time

Josh Hawkins, Director of Bands
joshua.hawkins@strutherscityschools.org
330-750-1062 ext. 41380

Struthers High School

Band Handbook

2014-2015



Joshua C. Hawkins
Director of Bands

Dear Students, Parents, Community:

I hope you are excited to begin another year of music making with the Struthers Bands! I look forward to working with you in the coming year. I want to congratulate you on your choice to participate in band. Research continues to show that students who participate in the arts outperform their peers in a variety of measures.

The information in this handbook is vital to having a successful year together. For some of you, this is new information, while it is simply a reminder for others. Regardless, please take the time to read through this handbook and discuss any issues that may arise. As always, if you have any questions please feel free to email or call me.

In Music,

Joshua C. Hawkins
joshua.hawkins@strutherscityschools.org
www.struthersbands.weebly.com
330-750-1062 ext. 41380

Grading

Grades are assigned both for band class and performances.

Class participation = 10 points are awarded each day, including after school rehearsals. Partial or no credit is given if students are unprepared or disruptive.

Performances = 100 points are awarded for every performance of the band. Partial or no credit is given if students are out of uniform, are disruptive, or cannot play their music.

Practice Records = 50 points are awarded every month for completed practice records with a minimum of 6 hours of completed practice. Parent signatures are required.

Playing tests = 20-100 points will be awarded depending on the length of the music assigned.

Notice that most of the grades do not reflect on the student's ability to play their instrument but on their preparedness, responsibility and hard work. This is by design. We strive for perfection in our performance but all students have varying degrees of skill. **Good grades are easy to earn but will not simply be awarded. Effort must be made.**

Lettering

Students earn "points" for participating in various musical activities. When students earn a pre-determined number of points the students will "letter" in band. These letters are the same as a varsity letter for athletic teams and students should take pride in them. A student may earn a letter in band prior to his/her senior year of high school and also continue to letter in successive years. In such cases, after the student has received his/her letter he/she will be awarded insert pins to adorn the varsity band letter for each year another letter is earned.

A tally sheet will be distributed in the spring to determine who qualifies for a letter.

Student Owned Instruments

If your student is playing his/her own, personal instrument you must make the director aware of the serial number of the instrument for the unlikely event of its misplacement. Additionally a nametag must be on the instrument.

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 transfers to other areas of life. Although this will not immediately happen, persistent practice will lead to enthusiastic, driven practice.

Here is a suggested plan of study:

- Pick a set time each day
- Use a tuner for a portion of your practice session
- Increase dynamic range up *and down* (work on *pianissimo*)
- Use our daily warm-up and think “tone”
- Play some form of scales at every practice session
- Increase range (highest note with good tone)
- Take a break every 20-30 minutes
- Use a metronome for part of your practice session
- Practice sight reading

In addition to the stated benefits of practicing, there will be a practice record due at the end of every month that is counted toward your grade.

STRUTHERS HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome letter	2
Table of Contents	3
Band Objectives	4
Band Opportunities in Struthers	4
1st Semester Calendar	5
Attendance Policy	6
Schedule Conflicts with Band	6
Band Member Duties	6
Rules and Procedures	7
Football Games	7
Traveling	7
Materials Needed	8
Uniforms	8
Inspection	8
Financial Obligations	9
Fund Raising and Student Accounts	9
School Owned Instrument Rental	9
Student Owned Instruments	10
Practice	10
Grading	11
Lettering	11
How Parents Can Help	12

Band Objectives

- To teach music by its actual performance.
- To develop performance skills on the various wind and percussion instruments.
- To provide for the musical needs of the school and community.
- To develop discernment with regard to the selection of music.
- To acquaint the students with music theory/history and how history and musical composition relate to students' lives 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 group, enhance interaction, and develop *esprit de corps*.
- To foster leadership skills within each student.

Band Opportunities in Struthers

Concert Band—This is the primary performing group during the winter and spring. The concert band will perform in 3-5 concerts/festivals a year. Emphasis is placed on proper breathing, tone quality, intonation, articulation, development of range, music reading skills, etc.

Jazz Band—The Jazz Band performs at various venues throughout our community. Attendance at all performances is mandatory. Topics covered include theory, style, articulation, rhythm, and improvisation.

Marching Band—This group performs at all Struthers football games as well as several band nights and competitions throughout the fall season. Attendance at all performances in addition to band camp in August is mandatory.

Color Guard—The color guard provides visual emphasis for the marching band. The performance schedule is the same as marching band. Entrance is permitted by audition only.

Solo and Ensemble—During the Winter and Spring all students enrolled in band will be encouraged to participate in a chamber ensemble or a solo event. There are many possible groupings.

Private Lessons—Private lessons make the greatest impact on a student's musical ability and enjoyment. The one-on-one approach allows the student to benefit from individual attention. ALL students are encouraged to participate.

Honor Bands/Orchestras—There are several performing groups in the area available to young adults. Some require auditions while others do not. These groups can allow a student to grow a great deal and are highly encouraged.

Financial Obligations

The Struthers Band Boosters work very hard to minimize the financial burden of participation in band. However there are costs involved. Below is a cost sheet of expenses. We have tried to be as accurate as possible but these costs are an estimate. Members of the color guard will receive a separate sheet with their, more specialized costs.

Marching shoes (will be ordered by the band): \$20
Replacement Marching gloves (one pair will be provided): \$5
Black socks (must cover the ankle): purchase on your own
Instrument rental (only for students playing school instruments): \$35/year

Our hope is that financial concerns never prevent a student from participating in band. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mr. Hawkins.

School Owned Instrument Rental

The school has a limited number of instruments available for rental. These are primarily used for the larger instruments such as tuba, euphonium, French horn, and percussion. The cost of renting a school instrument is \$35 for the school year. An instrument check-out form must be filled out and on file with the director. If an instrument is damaged due to negligence, the student is responsible for the entire cost of repair or replacement if necessary.

Materials Needed

Each student should have the following items at their seat every day:

- A sharpened pencil
- Instrument (mouthpiece; sticks; mallets)
- Music and music folder
- Three backup reeds (reed players)

Uniforms

The school provides marching band uniforms to all students. The cost of these uniforms is approximately \$450 per uniform. It is very important that the uniforms are well maintained and kept in good condition. Students who damage or lose a uniform will be charged for the amount of the item lost or damaged.

Uniforms will be stored at the school. They must be hung properly on the hangers to ensure proper draping.

Students must wear black socks with the uniform. These are not provided for them.

Inspection

Prior to each performance the uniforms will be inspected by leadership and staff. Any student not in proper uniform will not be permitted to perform and will lose all of the points associated with said performance.

Items included in inspection will be:

- Clean, pressed uniforms
- Pants correctly hemmed
- Clean black shoes
- Black gloves
- Black socks covering the ankle
- Hair properly worn—hair must be off collar for performance
- Jewelry—none permitted
- Clean, working instrument

1st Semester Calendar

All rehearsals, practices, and performances are mandatory! This calendar is subject to change. For the most up to date information please see the calendar on our website. www.struthersbands.weebly.com

July

1-3: Parade Rehearsal 9-12
4: Parade
28-31: Drumline Camp 9-12

August

1: Drumline Camp 9-12
4-8: Rehearsal 9-12
11-15: Band Camp 9-3 (at High School)
18-22: Rehearsal 9-12
25: Rehearsal 3-5pm
26: Canfield Band Night
27: Rehearsal 3-5pm
28: Canfield Fair Band Show
28: Football vs. Campbell

September

5: Football @ Lakeview
6: Boardman Band Night
9: Girard Band Night
12: Football @ Field
19: Football @ Niles
26: Football vs. Notre Dame (HS)

October

3: Football vs. Brookfield
6: Mini Camp 5-8pm
7: Mini Camp 5-8pm
9: Mini Camp 5-8pm
10: Football @ Poland
17: Football vs. Canfield
24: Football vs. Howland

November

1: Football @ Hubbard
7: OHSAA Playoff Date
14: OHSAA Playoff Date
21: OHSAA Playoff Date

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances. The only excusable absences are prearranged school conflicts and those that would be excused by the school for regular attendance records (e.g. illness or a death in the family).

For all absences, the following procedure must be adhered to:

- The director must be notified in advance.
- An absentee request form must be filled out and on file in advance.
- For illness, a parental note or doctor's excuse must be submitted.
- All necessary follow-up is the sole responsibility of the student!!
- Failure to follow this policy can result in the lowering of a student's grade.
- If a student in a leadership role such as drum major is excessively absent they may be removed from the position at the discretion of the director.

Schedule Conflicts with Band

Resolving conflicts between band and other activities or events is the responsibility of the student. Schedules are given out in advance so that arrangements can be made. When outside activities create conflicts with band the student must contact the director regarding alternatives. Conflicts should be resolved in a way that does not favor one activity over the other. Work is not an excuse for missing a band activity, and failure to check and clear one's schedule will be reflected in the student's grade. See **Grading** (pg. 11).

Band Member Duties

- Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. You are to arrive 10 minutes early to prepare.
- Upon entering the rehearsal setting, get your instrument, and go directly to your seat or assigned area.
- Come to the rehearsal with a good attitude.
- Make a real effort to improve on a daily basis.
- Establish a good practice routine.
- Put all materials in proper place at end of rehearsal.
- Maintain strong academic standing in all course work.
- Assume responsibility for your own actions.
- Have proper respect for yourself and those in authority.

Rules and Procedures

In an effort to avoid problems and make your band experience as enjoyable as possible it is important that all parties are aware of the rules and expectations of band members.

- Tennis shoes and socks must be worn for all outdoor rehearsals.
- Chewing gum is not permitted during rehearsal or in band room.
- Food and drink are not permitted in band room.
- No hats or sunglasses are to be worn in any building.
- Be in your seat or assigned area, ready to begin on time.
- Respect authority and others, including their personal property.
- All school rules will be enforced.
- Students are required to remain with the band after games and will be dismissed as a group.
- Do not damage property or equipment.

Football Games

- Report times for games will be announced several days prior to game.
- Students must wear full uniform.
- For home games, students will be dismissed from band room after game.
- For away games, unless director has a signed parent note ahead of time, students must ride the bus back to the school.
- Students are to act in a respectful manner at all times. When you have class, it shows—when you don't, it *shouts!*
- Non band members are only allowed in the band section with director approval.
- Be ready to play at any time.

Violation of these rules may result in loss of privileges.

Traveling

- Keep conversations to a respectful level.
- Follow all instructions of the bus driver and chaperones.
- Keep bus clean and pick up after yourselves.
- Always thank the chaperones and bus driver.