

FAYETTEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BAND
MEMBER HANDBOOK

Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to inform and acquaint all students and parents with the Fayetteville High School instrumental music program which is available in our school system.

This information is in addition to the rules and regulations as stated in the Fayetteville High School student handbook.

In an effort to maintain high standards and to continue the tradition of outstanding accomplishment, all band members are requested to read this handbook thoroughly and to sign and obtain a parent's signature indicating the fulfillment of this request.

If one is not able to find an answer to a question, he or she should ask the band director.

Philosophy

The band program at Fayetteville High School forms a vital and important part of the total school life. This organization represents a large, colorful, visible, and highly disciplined segment of the school groups.

School life and many of the programs and traditions of the school would seem dull without the presence of the band. An appearance by one of the bands adds a great deal of color and life to the Fayetteville community.

Students in the Fayetteville Public Schools are given the opportunity to participate in the band program and to learn and progress musically as far as their abilities and desires allow. If a student accepts the challenge, has the self-discipline required and feels his or her responsibility to the band, he or she will undoubtedly succeed.

Objectives

The goals and objectives of the instrumental music program are as follows:

- A. to develop the technical skills necessary to play a musical instrument satisfactorily in a performance organization.
- B. To continue the development of music appreciation through the performance and study of the best music.
- C. To develop musicianship and pride of accomplishment.

It is the pride of a job well done and the accomplishments achieved that make the sacrifices of extra practice worthwhile. The success of the organization will lead to the success of the individual and vice versa.

Organization

The following groups make up the Fayetteville High School instrumental music department:

High School Band

High school band is a full-year course available to all tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students who have the approval of their band director.

High school band students meet daily during the regular school day. In addition, the marching band will rehearse on Tuesday evenings in the fall. The marching band also meets before the regular school day begins. For 2009, the marching band will begin at 7:45 a.m. **Students who ride a bus will be expected to find alternate transportation so they can be here by 7:45 during marching season. The 7:45 a.m. start time is mandatory for ALL students.** Color guard members will start at 7:30 a.m. during marching season. Percussionists will also meet early on Tuesday and Thursday mornings during marching season.

Extra rehearsals for the marching band, concert band, and sectionals will be conducted when deemed necessary by the directors. Rehearsal attendance is necessary to maintain membership in a performing group.

Concert Season

After marching season, the Fayetteville High School Band divides into different groups for concert season. Depending on the total enrollment, the band will divide into either two or three different concert bands. This is due to the large number of students and the wide range of musical ability within the three grade levels.

All of the concert groups rehearse during the first period and all concert bands compete in the spring.

The difference between the groups is in the difficulty level of the music they perform. The division allows for more individualized attention and keeps the student progressing at his or her own level. All concert groups are expected to demonstrate the excellence that has become tradition with the Fayetteville High School Band.

Band selection will be decided by the performance level of the individual student. This will be determined by a try out held in November. The try out material will come from the All Region/All State audition music and may also include sight reading. Special consideration may be given to specific needs for instrumentation. Attitude, discipline, tardiness, and academic eligibility will also be considered. The director reserves the right to make any changes in the concert bands at any time.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is a volunteer group made up of players from the high school band. The group will rehearse on Tuesday afternoons after marching season. The jazz band may start earlier in the year for special occasions and performances. The course of instruction is designed to acquaint the student with basic styles of jazz and pop music and to obtain the desired proficiency of this music to represent our school in performance. Selection for Jazz Band is based on the approval of the high school band director. The group will perform at various functions for the school and community.

Auxiliary Units

Drum Majors and Color Guard members will constitute the membership of the auxiliary units of the Fayetteville High School Band.

In the spring of each school year, try-outs will be conducted. Selection will be made by band directors at FHS along with judges not connected with the music department of the Fayetteville Public Schools. The auditions for color guard are open to all ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade students. Auditions for drum major are open to all tenth and eleventh grade students. The total number of members selected will depend on the quality of the auditions. Alternates may be chosen at the audition or they may be selected after camp or during the regular season. Alternates are regular members of the auxiliary units but may be limited to certain performances. Alternate status is constantly reevaluated during the season so it may change during the marching season.

Captains for color guard will be determined after the auditions. Selection will be based on try-out scores, leadership, academics, teacher's input, and a short interview to be held at try-outs. Those who want to be considered as a captain must have one year's experience with one of the auxiliary units. All Color Guard members will be required to attend summer camp to be held in Fayetteville. The cost of the camp is taken care of by the FHS Band and Band Boosters. Color Guard members may also have several mini camps during the marching season or over the summer. Drum Majors are strongly urged to attend one of the George Parks Drum Major Camps over the summer. These camps are held all over America including the University of Arkansas.

Color Guard is an intense, physical, outdoor activity. Performing in the guard requires that students be in excellent physical condition. Our experience has been that students with chronic respiratory, cardiac, or other sun or heat-related problems, as well as problems with the knee, ankle, hip, elbow, and shoulder joints will encounter serious obstacles to performing with the proficiency necessary for membership. For questions or more information about the Color Guard program, contact Trey Antonetti at trey.antonetti@fayar.net

Auxiliary members will receive a full year credit as do other members of the band. With this in mind, all auxiliary members must be enrolled in band during the second semester and will play their instruments for concert season.

Participation Requirements

All rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Students are expected to participate in concerts, parades, pep assemblies, contests, sporting events, summer band practices, night rehearsals and other functions in which their respective band participates throughout the school year.

The appearance of an organization in a public performance is to be considered the most important obligation of each student involved. Performance dates will be announced well in advance so that individual plans can be adjusted accordingly.

Should a conflict arise, a student should see the director promptly. If a conflict with another school function arises, and the two sponsors cannot work out the conflict, the decision will be made by the principal.

Failure to meet the participation requirements will impair the academic achievement of the student and his or her eligibility with the organization.

Grades

Band is a unique course at Fayetteville High School. It has curricular requirements, just as any other academic discipline, but it also has out-of-class requirements. The strength of the band program is the consolidation of these requirements into one performance based, academic course of study. The level of commitment from each individual student is the driving force behind the organization and is reflected in the level of achievement reached by the individual and the program.

All rehearsals and performances are mandatory.

Any unauthorized absence from a performance will result in the 9 weeks grade being reduced two letter grades (for a example, if a student is making a B in band and has an unexcused absence from a performance, they will receive a D for the nine weeks).

Unauthorized absences from a rehearsal will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. This includes night rehearsals and extra rehearsals that are called by the director. ***Students who cannot attend rehearsals and performances should not enroll in band.***

A student who is tardy to three early morning marching band rehearsals will receive one lunch detention. After five, students will be given one Saturday school. This will ultimately affect the student's grade. Students and parents need to be aware of the consequences for tardies. Because a student has two free tardies with no consequences, we do not excuse tardies. ***Students who cannot attend rehearsals at 7:45 a.m. should not enroll in band.*** Except for a few exceptions, band rehearsals will begin at 8:20 a.m. at the conclusion of marching season. Marching season is generally 14 weeks out of the 36 weeks of school.

In addition to performances, students will be graded on a number of playing exams. Written tests are also given and these grades will be averaged with the performance grades and the student's classroom performance.

In the unlikely event that a student is unable to maintain a passing grade in the band, improved student performance will become a prerequisite to continued enrollment within the band program.

Alternates

In the Fayetteville Band program, any student who is recommended by their director is granted membership in the FHS Band. A student's skill level (playing and marching), will determine the extent of a student's participation.

During football season, the Fayetteville High School Band performs two separate marching shows. For the pre-game show, we will march everyone. We will be doing some traditional marching routines along with the National Anthem and the FHS Alma Mater. For the halftime/competitive show, we will march fewer people and will use several students as alternates. Every good band has alternates-that is, extra people who continue to learn a marching spot and can possibly fill in or replace other band members if need be. Alternates will learn a position in the show by sharing a spot with someone else. **For the competitive show, we will use the best performers (music and marching). Some students will not possess the skills necessary to march in the competitive show. Instead of eliminating these students, we continue to work with them and allow them to participate in all other activities (pre game, playing in the stands at games, parades, trips, etc.).** In the Fayetteville Band, individual status is constantly re-evaluated as marching season progresses. Even though there is constant re-evaluation, there is no guarantee that a student will earn a spot. The way to avoid becoming an alternate is to know one's music, to know the marching routine, and to avoid unauthorized absences or tardies at rehearsals and performances. **Attendance, attitude, punctuality, and discipline are also considered when assigning or evaluating alternates.**

Alternate Policies

1. Alternates will initially be determined by the directors based on skill level (music proficiency and marching). Attendance, attitude, punctuality, and discipline are also considered.
2. Once chosen, the alternate will learn a position in a show by sharing a spot with another student. (Remember, no one has permanent alternate status or a permanent spot in a show).
3. An alternate will have opportunities to gain a regular spot by replacing people who miss practice or by replacing individuals who demonstrate an inability to play their music or march their spot. Attendance, punctuality, and attitude will be considered.
4. Alternates will attend all performances (including contests). Alternates will also travel with the band and play at all football games.
5. Some alternates may be called on to assist with props that are used in the competitive show. Having dependable people who can handle the props is a vital part of our success at contest. The props play a huge role in the performance.

Instruments

Fayetteville High School has a limited number of instruments which are available to students. Your director will designate those students who normally play a school-owned instrument. When a student checks out a school-owned instrument, the student must sign an Instrument Agreement Form insuring that the instrument is properly cared for and will be returned to the school when requested by the director. It is also the responsibility of the parent to pay for any damage to the instrument which is due to negligence on the part of the student. There is a \$30.00 annual fee for school-owned instruments.

Letter Requirements

In order for a student to earn a letter in high school band, he or she must accomplish one or more of the following:

- A. Receive a superior rating on a solo or ensemble at the district level.
- B. Be selected to one of the All Region or All State bands
- C. Complete two consecutive years of high school band with no grade lower than a C in band.

Rules and Regulations

Discipline is a quality that must come from within an individual. Thus, each student is responsible for his or her own actions. A good organization is a well-disciplined organization.

- Classroom conduct necessitates the attention of all students to the director, associate director or, in some instances, an intern or student officer who has been placed in charge of the class. Therefore, upon entering the classroom, no student is to distract from the teaching situation. It is in this atmosphere that the most valuable musical experience is realized.
- Conduct outside the classroom or in a performance situation is a reflection on the student's school and what it represents. When in doubt regarding proper behavior, read your school handbook or ask your director.
- Students should not use inappropriate language at any time. If you have a question about what constitutes inappropriate language, ask your director.
- Good discipline and a good attitude, as well as regular and prompt attendance at all rehearsals and performances, is mandatory in order to maintain membership in any band organization.
- A student should make a point to scan the announcements for items that might pertain to him or her.
- The office of the Director, like any other office, is private. One may gain admittance by politely knocking.
- Sound equipment, percussion instruments and their accessories, or any instrument other than his or her own are "off-limits" to students unless authorized by the director.
- Instrument storage is available and all instruments should be locked in a storage compartment in the Instrument Storage Room. Each student will be issued a lock at the beginning of the year. This lock is to be used at all times. The lock will be returned at the end of the school year. Locking up your instrument will eliminate theft and vandalism. If a student leaves the instrument at school, it remains his or her responsibility. It is advisable to secure insurance on personal instruments.
- Members of the band are expected to take care of music. Music or folders that are lost, stolen, or damaged will be charged to the student at the end of the semester.

- Students should be in their seats, warmed up and ready to play at the start of each rehearsal. Don't wait to get your instrument out or to be seated. ***Be ready!***
- Band members will not play on or play with the equipment of others (including school owned percussion equipment). The practice can lead to potential damage and a general lack of respect for the property of others. If you see someone picking up an instrument or equipment that is not theirs, remind them of the policy.
- Destructive activity will not be tolerated, whether it is playing with someone's locker or deliberately damaging equipment, writing on walls, throwing objects or trashing a locker or one of the rooms. It is the responsibility of everyone to see that these type of things do not occur.
- It is a good idea to avoid dental and orthodontic work right before band concerts and contests.
- When a conflict arises, a student should see the director promptly. If possible, contact should be made by the parent prior to the emergency.

A schedule of performances will be available at the first of the school year (or earlier). A few performances may have to be added (football playoff games, for example). We will announce all additional requirements well in advance so adequate plans can be made.

Remember: ALL PERFORMANCES AND REHEARSALS ARE MANDATORY!

General Policies for Special Problems

Tobacco and Alcohol: School policy and state law clearly forbids the use or possession of these items. Penalties may include suspension from the band and/or school. Students with these items will be sent home from trips at the parents expense.

Candy, gum, pop, snacks, etc: At no time will these items be permitted in the band room or on the practice field. No food or drink is allowed on the buses unless special permission is granted.

Playing your instrument at games, contest, etc.: All performing will be done in an orderly manner. You are not permitted to play unless instructed to do so. Failure to comply can result in disqualification from contests and may bring a penalty from the official at a sporting event.

Assembling to perform: The band will assemble together and move in an orderly manner (march when permitted).

Bus requirements: When a bus is provided, all students will ride the bus to and from the event. This can only be adjusted by a parent signing out their son or daughter at the event. Only the parent has the power to do this and they must sign in person. If a parent is not available to sign, a letter from the parent to the principal is acceptable. This letter must be in the principal's office 24 hours before the trip and the band director must receive a copy at that time.

FHS Band Fundraising Requirement

After many months of research and discussion, the Fayetteville Band Boosters have agreed to support a program which keeps students from paying a large participation fee to be in the band. However, to avoid this fee, all students will have to participate in our two biggest fund raising opportunities (U of A football/basketball parking and Bikes, Blues, and BBQ.) The seatback fund raiser is the only one that is strictly for trip accounts.

Starting this year, all students will be responsible for 12 hours of fund raising. The hours can be earned as part of the Bikes, Blues, and BBQ fundraiser OR parking at U of A athletic games. At least 4 of the 12 hours must be earned through basketball parking. Generally, a football parking shift lasts 4 hours while the shift for basketball parking is 2 hours per game. The requirement is for 12 hours per student but can be earned by the student, their parents, or other friends and family members (provided that each participant is at least 12 years old). For example, a student and one parent could work one 4 hour shift for a Razorback football game and one 2 hour shift for basketball and fulfill the requirement. The great news is we are still giving students \$5.00 per hour for their trip account for each hour they work. The extra money that we make from these projects will go to fund the band and will keep us from charging a large participation fee (like so many of our competitors are doing). For those people who absolutely cannot fund raise, we are offering a \$200.00 payment instead. Checks should be made out to Fayetteville Band Boosters and turned in to any Booster officer or Mr. Harper. The requirement is for 12 hours (or \$200.00) per student.

Health Issues

It is critical that each member take personal responsibility for their own well-being in order to be successful in rehearsal and performance. Perhaps the most critical issue is **hydration**. If you wait until you are thirsty, you are probably already well on your way to a dehydration problem. Students should have had a minimum of 32 ounces of water before starting a rehearsal or performance day, and should drink adequately during the rehearsal whether or not they feel thirsty at the time. Adequate water breaks will be taken but a student can break during the rehearsal to get water if need be. Please avoid soft drinks before and during rehearsals or on performance days. Of almost equal importance is protection from the sun. All students should wear sunscreen, even on cloudy days, and reapply as needed. Students particularly susceptible to the sun should have light weight "cover-up" clothes to put on should they start to sunburn. Light colored clothes, sunglasses, and a cap will make you more comfortable and able to be successful when the sun is strong.

Percussion Responsibilities

No member of the percussion section will be excused from class unless the following has occurred: All instruments covered and put away properly; All music in folders, folders in the percussion file, and all sticks and mallets stored in stick bags or in the percussion cabinet.

Drop Outs

Students who drop out of the Fayetteville Band program are not allowed reentry (including colorguard) without permission from the band director. Before a director will consider this request, the following is required:

1. A meeting with the student, parents, and band director to discuss the reason for the drop out as well as expectations for the class if the students is allowed to return.
2. The student must take lessons and practice to make up for the time that has been lost.
3. An audition will be required before the student is granted permission to reenter the program.

Private Lessons

Private instruction is not a requirement in instrumental music; however, it is encouraged for all students who are willing to do additional work on their instruments. The musical enrichment derived from private lessons will aid the student's understanding and practice of nuances not covered during a class situation. The director's assigning of each individual student to the teacher who best fits the student's needs is advisable. A list of recommended teachers is available from your director.

Uniforms

A prescribed uniform symbolic of the organization is worn by the Fayetteville High School Band at designated public appearances. Each student is expected to become acquainted with the proper and only way to wear and care for the required dress.

With the exception of the traditional uniform, all other accessories are to be furnished by the student. Accessories include band uniform shoes, socks, and gloves. Colorguard members will be required to purchase dance shoes and hose. Colorguard members may also have a special day uniform to be used for game days, travel, and some performances.

Bulldog Band Uniform Procedures

All band students will be fitted with a band uniform during summer band practice. Uniforms are stored in the band room and are not checked out to students to take home. Uniforms will be checked out before each event, and checked back in afterward (hung up correctly).

Check out times will be announced prior to each uniformed event. PLEASE BE ON TIME. Students MUST bring these items with them when they arrive to check out the uniform for a performance:

*BLACK BAND SOCKS – These solid black uniform socks are available for \$3.00.

They will be ordered in August.

*CLEAN BLACK POLISHED BAND SHOES – Write your name on the inside. Shoe sizing will be determined at uniform fitting and available for \$25.00.

*CLEAN BLACK GLOVES – These are available for \$2.00. Please keep up with them.

*Above items can be ordered and paid for in August. Items will be issued prior to the first time uniforms are worn at the football game.

Long hair will need to be pulled back into a pony tail. No dangling jewelry or jewelry (including watches and necklaces) that show during the performance is allowed. Earring studs are permitted.

Students are required to wear their band show T-shirt and purple shorts under their uniform. If the weather is cold, black leggings, black silks, or black exercise pants are permitted. No jeans are allowed under the uniform.

Procedure to Check Out Uniform: Students should arrive at the scheduled time with clean marching shoes, black socks, and gloves. Before you will be allowed to check your uniform, you will be asked to show your MARCHING SHOES, BLACK SOCKS, AND BLACK GLOVES. New gloves and/or socks can be purchased, if necessary, prior to checking out the uniform. Know your uniform number.

Procedure to Check In Uniform: Students will check the uniform in after every performance. After the event, parents will check your uniform to make sure it is complete and hung up correctly. After it is inspected, you will be able to check it in.

Please be patient and have a good attitude when checking out or checking in your uniform. Parents who are helping are volunteers and we could not do this without their help.

Please take care of your uniform. Our uniforms are new and expensive (\$250.00 per suit). You are responsible for any items lost or damaged.

It should be considered an honor to wear the uniform of the organization. When in uniform, the student is a representative of his or her community and school. The complete uniform is to be worn at appearances unless specific instructions are given to the contrary. Hats are to be worn correctly and coats are to stay buttoned unless instructed to take them off. Each student will be assessed a \$25.00 maintenance fee for the uniform (dry cleaning). This will be due at the beginning of the school year.

If you have a problem or question concerning your uniform, please contact the uniform chairperson. Additional information regarding uniform check out and check in procedures will be provided at the time the student is fitted with a band uniform.

Fee Forms

BAND AND DRUM MAJORS

Financial Responsibility

Black Drill Master Band Shoes – \$25.00 – The band will wear a uniform shoe for all performances. These will be ordered in August (for those that need them).

Band T-Shirt – \$10.00 – Every student will need a band T-shirt for special performances. The back of the shirt features the current show.

Band Shorts – \$10.00 – We will be wearing black shorts for some rehearsals and performances at the beginning of the season. We will also wear them for a travel uniform.

Band Socks – \$3.00 – Everyone will be required to purchase black uniform band socks. These heavy-duty socks are designed for marching and will be available for \$3.00

Band Gloves – \$3.00 – All wind players will be required to purchase black uniform gloves.

Uniform Maintenance Fee - \$25.00 – Each student will need to pay \$25.00 for uniform maintenance. This fee is used to clean and take care of the uniform.

SOI fee (School Owned Instrument Fee) – \$30.00 – Students playing a school owned instrument will need to rent the instrument from the school. If a student does not need it a full year, they will pay \$15.00 for one semester. Percussionists will also pay \$30.00 and will be responsible for providing their own sticks and mallets for the concert season.

FHS COLORGUARD

Financial Responsibility

Guard Shoes – \$25.00 – Guard shoes will be different from regular band shoes and will be ordered in August.

Band T-Shirt – \$10.00 – Every student will need a band T-shirt for special performances. The back of the shirt features the current show.

Band Shorts – \$9.00 – We will be wearing black shorts for some rehearsals and performances at the beginning of the season. We will also wear them for a travel uniform.

Uniform Maintenance Fee – \$25.00 – Each student will need to pay \$25.00 for uniform maintenance. This fee is used to take care of the Colorguard uniform and to offset some of the cost.

SOI fee (School Owned Instrument Fee) – \$30.00. Students playing a school owned instrument will need to rent the instrument from the school. If a student does not need it for a full year, they will pay \$15.00 for one semester. Percussionists will also pay the \$30.00 and will be responsible for providing their own sticks and mallets for the concert season.

Black Sweat Pants – \$25.00 – Each Colorguard member will need to purchase a pair of black sweat pants to be worn as a “game day” uniform and as a travel uniform.

Black Sweat Jacket - \$50.00 – Each Colorguard member will need to purchase a black sweat jacket with the band’s logo embroidered on the front. This will be used as a “performance day” and travel uniform. This is a one time purchase and the jacket can be used in future years.

All band fees are due by the end of August.

The following expenses will be provided for the Colorguard at no expense to its members:

Two instructors on staff

Summer camp instruction

New Colorguard uniforms which will reflect the theme of the show

All flag equipment including poles and several new flags for the contest show.

FAYETTEVILLE BAND BOOSTERS

The Fayetteville Band Boosters is a volunteer organization made up of band parents or interested citizens. The group promotes and finances many projects designed to enrich the instrumental music program. In addition to these activities, they also assist those bands which make trips to contests and festivals by providing transportation or chaperones. All parents are encouraged to take part in this organization.

Welcome to the Bulldog Band. We are proud of our high school band and want it to be one of the finest in the nation. It is our belief that the student will be a success with his or her life if the methods of success are taught now. We are all aware that succeeding at something is far better than just participating.

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK SIGNATURE FORM

I have thoroughly read this member handbook and understand its contents. I have also read the Schedule of Events and understand that all rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Should any question arise, I know to obtain the correct answer from my director. By signing this form, I agree to be bound by the provisions of this handbook. I am also aware that failure to comply with the traditions, policies, and procedures as stated herein might result in a loss of privileges.

Student Signature Date

Parent Signature Date

Conflicts with the Schedule

Please list specific conflicts that you have with the rehearsal and performance schedule (**this does not excuse the conflict**).

Reasons for the conflict _____

Do we have permission to put your child's photo in the paper and on the band website?

YES NO

FAYETTEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BAND STUDENT INFORMATION

Student's Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Parent's Name _____ Parent's Email _____

Grade _____ Instrument _____ Home Phone _____

Parent Cell _____

Student Email _____ Student Cell _____

Do we have permission to publish the above info in the band directory? YES NO