

Performance Preparation and Expectations

Band Rehearsals and Performances

Concert Band and Wind Ensemble Rehearsals will be held on campus at School of the Arts. *See attached schedule!* Adequate notification of changes will be given so transportation can be arranged. Band members are required to attend **ALL** rehearsals and to participate in a functional way at all performances. This is part of the performance grade. **Missing a rehearsal or performance will result in a grade of Zero (0).**

Band members are expected to be prompt to all rehearsals and performances. **On time is late. Early is on time. There are no excuses acceptable, short of a major catastrophe or death in the family, for missing a major performance.** All concerts and any other performance events are considered major performance events. Missing a major performance event without a valid, acceptable reason will have a significant impact on the grade for that quarter in band. Band members are expected to be present for rehearsal if they are present for school. Please arrange other important appointments and activities around the rehearsal schedule.

When an absence is anticipated, the director must be notified in writing in advance of the date. Every effort should be made to make medical appointments at times not in conflict with the band rehearsal schedule as the absence of one band member affects the entire group. Unexcused tardiness will result in disciplinary action.

SEE THE BAND CALENDAR!

Personal Appearance

Band members will be well groomed at all times when they appear in any uniformed band function (shirts tucked in, hair combed, good shoes, etc.). Students are to remain in full uniform until the director instructs the band otherwise. Parents, please help supervise this at concerts.

Conduct Expectations

Band Uniforms

All band members are expected to wear the band uniform approved by the Band Booster Board. Students out of uniform **WILL NOT PERFORM** at concerts at school or other venues. **This will result in a grade of Zero (0).**

Casual uniform

- Band T shirt- red Tshirt
- long pants, no jeans

Formal uniform

- Boys uniform is a full tuxedo with red bow tie and red cummerbund.
- Girls uniform is the middle school band uniform black dress with red sash.

**All students will need all-black socks or hose and
All black shoes for the formal uniform.**

Performance Etiquette

- Always arrive on time for warm-up with your instrument, music, and all necessary equipment. Percussionists should always be early to make sure all equipment is set-up properly.
- The final preparations set the tone for the performance itself. Strive to focus your attention on the final instructions being given.
- Approach the stage/performance area quietly. You are performing when the audience sees and/or hears you. No audience deserves impolite performers approaching the stage. You only get one chance to make a first impression.
- Once on stage, be aware that you are being watched. Look proud, sit tall, and be glad you are there. Focus your attention on the podium so you don't miss an instruction or cue.
- While performing, be sure to do nothing that would distract the audience such as waving or talking to someone in the ensemble or audience. If something unusual happens, keep your attention focused on the director and the performance. REMEMBER, the audience will follow your eyes.
- Upon completion of your performance, follow previously given instructions, such as standing in unison with the ensemble to show courteous appreciation for the audience's applause and leaving the stage in an orderly manner.
- After your portion of the performance is over, or any time you are in the audience, remember to respond, as you would like an audience to show respect for your efforts and accomplishment while performing. APPROPRIATE applause is expected.
- Hats and other forms of dress that are distracting should not be brought into a performance.
- Never move around while others are performing. Only in EMERGENCIES should you leave or enter the performance area and only BETWEEN SELECTIONS while the audience is applauding. Remember, when you move around, you take attention away from the performers on stage.
- Always be courteous to others. The memory of a fine performance can be ruined by just one inappropriate, unthinking action.

Conduct Expectations

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must be strict! Band students and parents must believe in the ideals, principles, and rules 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 on the organization by his/her conduct or actions in band, in another class, or on a trip may face discipline within the program, including the possibility of dismissal from band field trips and any out-of-town trips. This decision will be at the director's discretion. Severe improper conduct shall be grounds for immediate disciplinary action, which may include dismissal from the School of the Arts Middle School Band Program. Examples of such behavior include, but are not limited to: committing a theft or taking any type of drug (including alcohol and tobacco) while on a band trip. **BAND TRIPS ARE NOT DATING EVENTS.** Public displays of affection (including holding hands) are not appropriate.

Theft and vandalism are cause for immediate disciplinary action, which may include dismissal from band and possible suspension from school. Damages or loss will be the sole responsibility of the thief or vandal. This includes but is not limited to school-owned property. Students are subject to the rules of the school and Charleston County School District Policies. Students should never leave their instruments unattended at school, on the bus, at the bus stop, or any other place where they could be vandalized.

PERFORMANCE AND COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES

Band Competitions

Concert Festival (Late March) – The Wind Ensemble and possibly Concert Band (6th & 7th grade bands) perform at this event. This is an event where bands are evaluated based on their live performance of prepared music and sight-reading ability. The South Carolina Band Director's Association (<http://www.bandlink.org/>) sponsors Concert Festival and attendance is required for all students who are members of a participating band. Transportation and fees are provided by the Band Boosters.

Out-of-Town Band Competition - In the spring of each year, the band may participate in an out-of-town competition.

Regional Individual Opportunities

There are several honor band opportunities available to students through audition. These include All-County Band, Region Band, and All-State Band. The audition process is similar for all three. All 7th & 8th grade band students are required to participate in these auditions. **Failure to audition will result in a grade of zero (0).** More information is available online at <http://www.bandlink.org/events/allstate/as2005/index.html>

Students are expected to participate in these events if they achieve membership. If a student auditions and becomes a member of the County, Region, or State Band, he/she must fulfill the obligations of membership in that honor band. Failure to do so will eliminate the student's ability to participate in the following year's event, even if he/she changes schools.

All-County Band is **Mandatory** for 7th & 8th grade Band Students. (Auditions take place in early December, and Clinic and Performance in early January) The Charleston All-County Band is a group of students selected from all band students in Charleston County. The band booster club is responsible for entry fees, but students are responsible for their own meal and transportation expenses to the audition and to the event. Participation is an honor and a responsibility.

Region Band is Mandatory for 7th & 8th grade Band Students. Auditions are in January at Summerville High, and Clinic and Performance at CSU. The Region Band is a group of students from southern South Carolina, selected by auditions held at Summerville High. The Band Booster organization is responsible for entry fees, but students are responsible for their own meal expenses and transportation to the audition and to the event. The event involves an all-day Friday and Saturday morning rehearsal at CSU. The event culminates in a concert on Saturday afternoon. Participation is an honor and a responsibility

All-State Band – (Auditions in January with the concert in March) Audition by invitation depending on standing in Region Auditions. The All-State Band is a group of students from all over South Carolina, selected by audition at Lexington High School. The event requires the student to miss one Friday of classes and stay four nights in Greenville. If selected to All-State, students are responsible for their own meals, lodging, and travel expenses. The event culminates in a concert on Sunday afternoon at Furman University that is open to the public. Participation is an honor and a responsibility. This is the highest honor band a student can reach in the State of South Carolina.

Solo & Ensemble - (May) ALL STUDENTS/ Mandatory for all Band Students. The Solo & Ensemble event is a regional opportunity where students may play solos and/or ensembles for ratings and to earn medals. Solos published with a written accompaniment MUST be accompanied. The Band Booster organization is responsible for entry fees. Students are responsible for their own accompanist fees. More information will be distributed in the second semester.

Local performance opportunities

8th grade outreach concerts - The 8th grade band class will perform a series of outreach concerts at title 1 elementary schools. The primary purpose of these trips is to promote and encourage 5th grade students to apply and audition for the School of the Arts. These outreach concerts will occur on A days during band class and lunch. The students will wear their band shirts and jeans for these performances.