

THE SGHS MARCHING STORM

BAND HANDBOOK

2009-10

This handbook is planned to acquaint every member of the Southern Guilford High School Band with its activities, rules and administration. In order that our band may function smoothly, it is necessary to have these regulations, with a fair and firm method of having them respected. These rules and regulations are not a threat, but a means of protecting each member and should bring us closer to the finest band possible.

PURPOSE

It is an honor and privilege to be a member of the Southern Guilford High School Band. As a member of our organization each individual must assume responsibility to maintain our reputation for reliability, efficiency and the highest standards of musical performance. You should take pride in our accomplishments and seek to improve yourself, and thus contribute to both the success and future of the band.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We strive to be the best and accept only the best and are committed to bringing music to the masses. It is our goal to set the highest standard of musical performance for future musicians. As a united family we must respect our authority figures so that what is contributed from them and us will better our success and development in the band. We believe it is a privilege to be in the band and our responsibility to try our hardest at all times in order to lead our band to victory.

OBJECTIVES

1. To help students learn about the content of musical works through discussion, analysis and performance with a goal of developing aesthetic responses to music
2. To increase aesthetic sensitivity to music by using music of varying forms and styles
3. To develop high standards of musical performance and to maintain a well organized band program
4. To develop pride and confidence in self and school community



5. To encourage the student to continue his or her musical experiences in post- school years
6. To provide opportunities for development for those who may make music a profession
7. Students should find satisfaction and enjoyment in their participation in band
8. To encourage parents' participation and support in musical activities and to encourage fine music in the home

STUDENT LEADERS

Most student leaders are chosen during the Spring Semester during the previous school year. Positions available are Drum Major, Field Commander, Color Guard Captain, Color Guard Co-Captains, and Band Captains. The Drum Major or Color Guard Captain may be a Junior or Senior. The Field Commander may be a Sophomore, Junior or Senior. Band or Guard Captains may be any age. Sections available for leaders are high brass, low brass, woodwinds, battery percussion, pit and color guard. Section Leaders are selected during band camp and is available to any age.

With all positions, the director has the right to move people if there are serious violations of rules and/or power. Section Leaders and Captains may be challenged. The challenge can be through playing, teaching, behavior and/or leadership ability. The director and the section will decide who “wins” the challenge. The Section Leader and Captain may be the same person.

Notice that excellent musicianship or proficiency in specialty area is the first pre-requisite for every student leader. Also understand that any leader must become a first-rate motivator and be a positive example to everyone in the band program. You are an extension of the director and instructors and they depend on you.

DRUM MAJOR:

This is the top student leader. This person must be a very capable musician, marcher and leader. She/he must have complete faith of both the ensemble and the director. She/he will assist the director with music and marching rehearsals. She/he will tutor any students needing individualized help. She/he will create monthly, weekly, and daily plan to accomplish the goals created by the DI class. When the director is absent, she/he will run rehearsals for that day. During rehearsals and performances, she/he will take attendance.
Prerequisite: DI Training Camp and Drum Major Camp; Selection by Mrs. Batts



FIELD COMMANDER:

This is the second highest level of leadership. This person must be a very capable musician, marcher and leader. She/he must have complete faith of both the ensemble and the director. She/he will assist the director and Drum Major with marching rehearsals and tutor any students needing individualized help. If the Drum Major is absent, she/he will assume all Drum Major duties and responsibilities. She/he will assist in decision making process. *Prerequisite: DI Training Camp and Drum Major Camp; Selection by Mrs. Batts*

BAND CAPTAIN:

This is the third highest level of leadership. This person must be a very capable marcher, musician and leader. She/he is responsible for the quality of musicianship, marching and behavior within the section. She/he is responsible for leading sectionals and, therefore, maintains the quality of musicianship within the section. They are also responsible for preserving the cleanliness of the instrument and/or percussion closet. This person works to maintain harmony and discipline within the section along with a continual thirst for knowledge and growth. *Prerequisite: DI Training Camp; Selection by Mrs. Batts*

DRILL INSTRUCTOR:

This is the fourth highest level of leadership. This person's duty is to teach and review drill and music. She/he will hold majority of the work during camp and be a role model for all SGHS Band members. They are a daily demonstration of "How it is done". *Prerequisite: Must have two seasons of marching experience to attend DI Training.*

SECTION LEADER:

This is the fifth highest level of leadership. This person is chosen on their musical ability and is the first chair of their instrument section. She/he is responsible for leading sectionals and, therefore, maintains the quality of musicianship within the section. Sections available for leaders are high brass, low brass, woodwinds, battery percussion, pit, flag, rifle, dance, and sabre. *Chosen by Mrs. Batts during the first week of band camp.*

GUARD CAPTAIN:

This is the highest level of leadership within the color guard. She/he must have complete faith of the ensemble, band director, and guard instructor. This person must be a very capable marcher and is proficient in flag maneuvering, rifle, and dancing. This person must possess leadership qualities. She/he will tutor any students needing individualized help.



She/he will create monthly, weekly, and daily plan to accomplish the goals created by the DI class. During rehearsals and performances, she/he will take attendance. She/he is responsible for leading sectionals whenever the instructor is not available. They are also responsible for preserving the cleanliness of the guard closet. This person works to maintain harmony and discipline within the section along with a continual thirst for knowledge and growth. *Prerequisite: DI Training Camp and Color Guard Auditions; Selection by Mrs. Batts*

GUARD CO-CAPTAINS

These people are the second highest level of leadership within the color guard. These persons must be very capable at marching and/or are proficient in flag maneuvering, rifle, and dancing. These persons must possess leadership qualities. They are responsible for leading sectionals whenever the instructor or guard captain is not available. *Prerequisite: DI Training Camp and Color Guard Auditions; Selection by Mrs. Batts*

BAND STUDENT STAFF

In order to have more efficient rehearsals, there will be some positions available to students to assist the director in day-to-day activities. These positions are renewed every semester and are picked by their peers through voting.

MUSIC LIBRARIANS:

The responsibility of this position is to oversee all handling of music. To keep all music filed and organized. This may be two or more students depending on need. They will be responsible for making sure all students have music everyday. All student music needs will go through these people and they will report to the director when assistance is needed.

DRILL LIBRARIAN:

The responsibility of this position is to oversee all handling of drill. To keep all drill filed and organized. She/he will be responsible for making sure all students have drill everyday. All student drill needs will go through this person and she/he will report to the director when assistance is needed.

EQUIPMENT MANAGER:

The responsibility of this position is to see that all property used by the bands is carefully handled. To oversee the handling of all equipment on game days and trips and to assist



band parents on these occasions. She/he will report to the director when problems arise or assistance is needed.

BAND STAFF

These persons are an extension of the director and must be respected and listened to. They work in the complete confidence of the director. Whether or not they are in charge of your particular section, you must listen to them at all times. In some cases, these persons are Guilford County School employees.

BAND PARENTS

Band parents, or chaperones, are very important to the band program. They help with uniforms, instruments, games, trips, etc. and help the band function.

You will:

1. Show complete respect for them.
2. DO NOT ask them to perform menial tasks for you (i.e. put up your uniform or instrument, clean after you, etc.)
3. SAY THANK YOU EVERY TIME THEY HELP!

Parents will be expected to help on at least 2 events per school year. Parents must be involved in order to make the day easier for everyone and to show support for both their child and the band. A sign-up sheet will be available with dates of events and numbers of parents needed for each. Events will include uniform fitting, football games, competitions and parades. Tasks will include uniform duty, water duty, sitting with students during games, chaperoning, security, field set-up, etc. This is a team effort and when everyone is involved it becomes much easier.

Band Booster Meetings occur **every first Monday** of the month, unless changed due to scheduling conflicts. Boosters meet to discuss fundraisers, events, and the direction of the band. Students and Parents are strongly encouraged to attend!

RULES

I. INDOOR REHEARSALS

1. Golden Rule: When a director is on the podium there is to be no talking or major



distractions.

2. Always be on time - - Every time.
3. Have all materials with you and prepared before rehearsal begins. This includes a properly functioning instrument with all appropriate supplies (i.e. reeds, neck-strap, sticks, oil, music, pencil, etc.)
4. NO food, gum or candy in the room!!! Water and drinks must be in a bottle.
5. Chairs and stands are to be left neat and orderly.
6. Do not enter the director's office without permission.
7. All instruments must be properly put away and all sections must be cleaned and organized. **No one leaves until this is done.**
8. Treat all instruments with respect—no instrument repairing without director's approval.
9. Keep everything neat - - We do have trashcans.
10. The band room is for band members only. Non-music students are not allowed to play instruments.
11. **Do not** argue.

II. OUTDOOR REHEARSAL

1. Golden Rule: When a director is on the podium there is to be no talking or major distractions.
2. Once called to attention, do not move.
3. Move quickly when directed to do so.
4. Be efficient.
5. **Do not** argue.

III. MUSIC

1. Always have your copy of all music at every rehearsal.
2. See the music librarians when needing a new copy of music.

IV. DRILL

1. Always have your copy of all drill at every rehearsal.
2. See the drill librarian when needing a new copy of music.



V. UNIFORMS

1. You are responsible for the proper care and storage of your uniform at all times. Any damage to the uniform or garment bag will result in your financial replacement of it (approximately \$370).
2. No student will leave after a performance until every uniform is properly put in its correct location.
3. You will not remove any part of the uniform in public view without permission from the director.
4. You must wear black socks with the uniform. Please wear shorts and a t-shirt underneath your uniform.

VI. TRIPS

1. You are responsible for loading and unloading YOUR equipment only. No one is dismissed until all equipment is unloaded and put away.
2. Respect the driver by keeping the noise level low and putting trash in proper receptacles. Remain seated while the bus is in motion.
3. The back door and window of the bus is to be used only as an “emergency exit.” Do not open without permission of the driver.
4. There will be a female and male bus if needed for changing.
5. Busses will be loaded by seniority.

VII. FRIDAY NIGHT RULES:

Only the staff, chaperones, student leaders and director may give directions. **You are a representative** of yourself, your band, your director, your school, your county and family so always act in the best interest of those groups.

- Once entering the stadium, do not sit until told to do so.
- Do not remove any part of the uniform until told to do so.
- Do not leave the band block without permission.
- No one may sit in the band block that is not currently part of the band.
- Do not let anyone play your instrument.
- Do not play without permission.
- Do not ask the director, drum major or any staff member “when are we going to



play?” or any variation of that question.

- Do not turn around to talk and do not spend time talking to those outside of band block.
- Pay attention to both the game and the director/staff/drum major.
- Always be prepared to play.
- Listen to chaperones, staff and director instructions.
- Water will be provided to you.
- Must be back in block with 2 minutes remaining in 3 quarter.
- ABSOLUTELY NO cell phone usage until after the game and we are back in the band room.

Pre-game expectations are simple. We will rehearse from 4-5pm. You may stay or leave to have dinner. You must be fully uniformed, with your instrument, stand music and any other needed items by 6:30pm for warm-up and tuning. Line-up will be at 7:05. Pre-game activities begin at 7:15.

COMPETITION AND PARADE RULES:

On competition days, arrival will be approximately two hours before departure time. The time will be used to 1) warm-up, 2) run through the show, and 3) dress and pack. We will spend approximately one hour on items 1 and 2 and 45 minutes on item 3. The remaining time will be for emergency needs. Expectations are:

1. Arrive at least 5 minutes early in order to be prepared at the beginning of warm-ups.
2. Eat breakfast at home. Do not use our rehearsal time to eat.
3. Bring several water bottles and a healthy snack for the bus ride to the event. The snack should re-energize you and fill you up. Do not bring salty and sugary snacks that will ultimately deflate your ability to perform.
4. Perform all pre-competition/parade functions in an organized and precise manner.

Once at the competition or parade, we will use the following rules in order to **best represent** Southern Guilford High School and ourselves.

1. Exit the bus in an orderly fashion without speaking and immediately line up wherever told to. (Equipment manager uses this time to help unpack.)
2. Get instrument when instructed to do so.



3. Wait for directions related to changing rooms and restrooms. Always stay in line when not performing a specific task as ordered by the director, staff; student leaders or chaperones.
4. Allow chaperones to provide gauntlets and plumes.
5. Do not play until instructed to do so.
6. Move without talking or playing.
7. ALWAYS be in the performance mindset until your performance is finished.

Once the performance is over:

1. Do not stop marching until commanded to halt.
2. Do not change or pack instrument until instructed to do so.
3. Change and pack as quickly and safely as possible.
4. March back to the stadium.
5. Respect every performing band, as you would want them to respect you.
6. Do not separate yourself from the band.

With parades, the rules and expectations are basically the same. There are some modifications as not every rule or expectation is applicable to the parade setting.

DISCIPLINE

ONLY THE DIRECTOR AND STAFF WILL HANDLE DISCIPLINE. Any student may address the director about discipline concerns and those concerns will be investigated and handled. Please keep in mind that with marching band discipline is even more important. Simple things such as excessive movement and bad body posture become discipline concerns in marching band. Students will be dealt with in a fair but firm manner.

1. Warning
2. Loss of Privileges- Sit out during games, stay after rehearsal, etc.
3. Parent Contact
4. Office Referral

Serious rules violations during rehearsal, games, competitions and parades will result in banishment from performance opportunity and/or a school discipline referral.



COLOR GUARD DEMERIT SYSTEM

Color Guard will be dismissed from stand performances on a demerit system. If a guard member acquires 3 demerits they will have to sit out for the first half of stand performances. If a guard member acquires 5 demerits they will have to sit out an entire game of stand performances. It is up to the director and instructor if guard member will be allowed to perform at half-time. Numerous demerits lead to parent contact and suspension from the team. Demerits are acquired by:

- Being late for practices or performances
- Absent from performance
- Noncompliance towards director, instructor, or captains
- Not letting director or instructor know when there was going to be an absence;

ULTIMATE RULE AND EXPECTATION

Although there are many band rules and expectations, students will ultimately be held to all Southern Guilford High School and Guilford County Schools rules. In the event these rules are challenged, students will be referred to a principal as soon as possible.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

The rehearsal schedule for band camp is included in this packet and the band's website at sgband.org. There may be modifications since the original draft was provided. We will rehearse the same time as last year, on Tuesday's and Thursday's; students will rehearse from 4:30pm until 7pm. Students can use the 45 minutes after school to attend tutorial, club meetings, and/or do homework. There will be no playing of instruments during this time unless requested to do so by Mrs. Batts. Students will be required to either attend a tutorial session or remain in the band room for study hall from 3:45-4:30. A note from the teacher whose tutorial or club was attended will be needed. Friday rehearsals will be utilized on game days only. See "Friday Night Rules" to review that schedule.

The Advanced Band class meets daily during 4th period. Unless it is raining, assume we will march every day. This means you need to have proper shoes and clothing.

CAMP SCHEDULE



The camp schedule is attached in this packet and is available on the band's website at www.sgband.org. No student is allowed to leave campus for lunch. Parents are allowed to visit, but no friends or siblings are allowed to attend. Unfortunately, the director must assume responsibility for these individuals and therefore takes on a huge liability if something negative occurs.

BEHAVIOR & ATTITUDE EXPECTATIONS

If a student's behavior and/or attitude contribute to breaking Guilford County Schools, Southern Guilford High School or SGHS Band rules, she/he may be suspended from the band until the director and staff sees a significant change in the behavior and/or attitude. We will always do our best to act in a firm but fair manner, however the focus will be on protecting the band program and helping the offender modify his/her behavior and/or attitude.

PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

Because so much occurs during the camp, it is imperative that each member attends every day. What happens in camp sets the stage for the remainder of the season. The staff has high expectations and these must be met. In order to participate in the nearest performance opportunity, the student must attend and participate in 90% of the rehearsals leading up to that event. The director and staff retain the right to allow the student to participate in games or performances regardless of rehearsal time attended (it is our business as to why so do not ask).

Participation during these rehearsals and performances is MANDATORY. I cannot stress this enough. Every member's participation is vital to the group. When you miss a rehearsal or a performance, it not only hurts your grade, but it also hurts the learning experience, performance, and the judge's scores for the entire group. Since missing band events will affect many people, signing up for band or color guard and not committing to the schedule is completely unacceptable. **Perfect attendance is expected.**

