

Sussex Central High School Golden Knights Marching Band Handbook

Band Member Responsibilities

As a member of this organization, it is your responsibility to contribute to our team to the best of your ability. Field Show music is expected to be memorized in full by September 30. Members that are unable to meet the standard will not be permitted to 'suit up' for performances following that date.

The Uniform

The uniform is what identifies us as a band, our school, and our community. As such, it must be worn and treated with respect for what we represent.

- Foul language in uniform will not be tolerated.
- The jacket will be worn and zipped at all times when we are in public unless otherwise instructed by the Director or Drum Major.
- The trousers will be worn with suspenders adjusted so the hem just touches the laces of the shoes. If the hem is too long or in need of repair, please let the staff know
- Uniform Base Layer consists of crew or calf-length (not ankle length) black socks, shorts, yoga, or sweatpants, and the band t-shirt or plain navy or royal-blue shirt.

No Exceptions

- Marching shoes are the only footwear permitted with the uniform. They must be kept clean.
- Shako (hats) will be carried in the right hand by winds, cymbals and bass drums until instructed to put them on prior to performance. Snares and Tenors will place shakos on their drums, facing out.
- White gloves will be available for purchase at the start of the season. Wind players should have at least two pair. Gloves are not required for percussion. Gloves for band front will be sized and ordered at the start of the season.

When the uniform is stored, the trousers are placed with creases lined up so they lay flat on the hanger. The jacket is placed on the hanger with the bow of the hanger

facing the back of the jacket. The uniform is placed in the clothing bag unless told otherwise (after hot weather/wet performances) by staff/boosters.

Rehearsal and Performance Attendance

This is a team activity where everybody 'starts' and we are only as strong as our weakest member. Rehearsal and Performance attendance is absolutely mandatory. We rehearse for only four hours per week so that members may schedule school work, appointments, employment, etc. around band responsibilities. If you have a job, you must give your employer your schedule as soon as possible so they may know of the times you are committed to the band. If your employer is inflexible with your schedule and you have done your part in notifying them in a timely manner, please let the Director know.

If for any reason a band member has not been to at least 2 scheduled hours of rehearsal for a given week, they will not be permitted to perform on the weekend.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY as a band member to inform staff members ONE WEEK in advance of unavoidable conflicts that prevent your attendance. This includes any family/school functions and SCHS social probation. The staff is flexible in managing conflicts and helping you balance your time, but the staff cannot read minds - you must communicate with us.

NO CALL-NO SHOW: Students who fail to be present at a performance without presenting medical documentation or similar cause at the first following rehearsal, or any advance notification will be dismissed from the band, and prohibited from band functions (trip/banquet) for the remainder of the school year.

Equipment and Materials:

Students are expected to provide their own instrument. If that is not possible and a school-owned instrument is available, then students will provide as necessary a mouthpiece, neckstrap, and reeds. Repairs needed due to willful misuse or neglect of a school instrument will be the responsibility of the student/parents

- Wind players are expected to purchase and maintain a flip folder and lyre.
- ALL WIND AND PERCUSSION members are expected to have a binder with 20-30 clear sheet protectors. This is for warm-up exercises, music, and drill charts.
- Band front members will maintain a small 3x5 notebook (dot book) with their drill spots, counts, and any other pertinent information.
- All members should have a hat and refillable water bottle/thermos for rehearsals throughout the season.

Rehearsal Preparation and Etiquette

As marching band is an athletic activity, band members should be in reasonably good physical condition. Band members should get a physical from the Wellness Center prior to camp.

Appropriate clothing for rehearsal should mimic phys-ed. Sneakers and socks are a must for rehearsal. Flip-flops, sandals, and/or bare feet are not permitted on the field.

- No food or beverages other than water is permitted on the field
- No spitting on the field

Field Rehearsal will generally proceed in the following manner:

- Stretching
- Marching/Visual Basics
- Equipment Warm-Up
- Field rehearsal

During rehearsal, excess chatter, goofing around, etc. slows the pace of rehearsal and decreases the level of focus required for optimal success.

When staff or the Drum Major is addressing the band as a whole, the command "STANDBY" is given. During STANDBY, there is to be no discussion and attention needs to be given to the front. Instructions and feedback are given during this time. When the band is called to "SET", instruments and equipment will be at the ready or playing position and movement or a repetition is about to commence. When SET is called, the response is immediate.

After a repetition, the band will go to STANDBY to receive feedback and instruction from the front of the field. When the command "FIELD" is given, then student leaders and field staff may give further instruction. Once STANDBY is called, all conversation ceases and new instructions are given.

Marching Band is a fun and rewarding activity for all involved when a culture of excellence and professionalism is fostered. There is a time for work and a time for play. It is incumbent upon all band members to find that 'mental switch' between 'laid-back fun' and 'rehearsal / performance mode'. We rehearse as we perform.

Band Camp Procedures

75% of the progress of our season is accomplished during Band Camp. Camp this year is from August 18-21, 9am-4pm. Band Camp attendance is mandatory for all members except in extreme situations approved of in advance by the Director. Students enrolled in summer Drivers Ed should report directly to camp at the conclusion of their class.

BAND CAMP DAILY SCHEDULE

9-10:30am - basics and fundamentals

10:30am-12pm - Drill (learning our sets and movements for the show)

12-12:30 - Lunch (STUDENTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE SCHOOL FOR LUNCH, BRING IT WITH YOU IN THE MORNING)

12:30-1:15 - Drum-major time (team-building activities)

1:15 - 3:00 - Music Rehearsal/Sectionals

3:00 - 4:00 - Music and drill

FOOTBALL GAME PROCEDURES

Friday night football is an institution, where the band, cheerleaders, and football team form a pyramid of athleticism, entertainment, and professionalism. As representatives of the school and community, band members will conduct themselves professionally at all times.

Prior to the game, the band will eat together in the B-wing hallway. As in band camp, students will not have enough time after practice and are not permitted to leave campus for food between rehearsal and performance preparation.

Part of our responsibility is performing music in the stands. It is expected that we perform this music with the same level of excellence as our field show. When a tune is called, members should have it up and ready to perform within 10 seconds. We can only perform from the stands while the team is on defense so as not to disrupt signal calling from the coaching staff.

The Band will have off for the 3rd quarter of football games. *This is a privilege, not a right.* All band members (including drum line!!) must be back in the stands, in full uniform at the directed time on the game clock. Violations of this procedure will result in the loss of 3rd quarter privilege. At the conclusion of each game, the band will perform the SCHS Alma Mater.

SUMMER REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

The GKMB will have a series of 'mini-camps' during the summer to work on technique and music.

Percussion and Band Front Auditions/Placement: July 8 and July 9 from 12pm-3pm

Full Band Mini-Camp : July 29 and July 30 12pm-4pm

Percussion and Band Front mini-camp is mandatory for all new and returning members, please plan on attending. If there are any serious conflicts, please let Mr. Greeson or Ms. Snarsky know.

If you have vacation planned during the 7/29-30 mini camp, do not change your plans, but please let Mr. Greeson know you will be absent.

BAND CAMP - AUGUST 18-21

FALL REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

The GKMB will rehearse twice weekly, with full band (winds, percussion, and band front) rehearsing Fridays from 3:15-5:45 (or as time permits for always game travel).

Winds and percussion will also rehearse from 3:15-5:15 on Tuesdays. Band Front rehearsal will be coordinated by Ms. Snarsky.

2014 Varsity Football - Band Performance Schedule

Friday 9/12 @ Lake Forest 7:30pm

Friday 9/19 home vs. St. Mark's 7:30pm

Friday 9/26 @ Sussex Tech 7:30pm

Friday 10/3 home vs. Smyrna 7:30pm

Friday 10/10 @ Caesar Rodney 7:30pm

Friday 10/17 home vs. Dover 7:30pm

Friday 10/24 @ Polytech 7:30pm

Friday 10/31 home vs. Cape Henlopen 7:30pm

Friday 11/7 home vs. Indian River 7:30pm (Senior Night)

Should we qualify, the DIAA playoffs will be the following 1-3 weekends with games either Friday or Saturday.

PARADE PERFORMANCES

The band will be performing at the following parades:

Wed 10/29 - Selbyville Halloween Parade

Thu 11/6 - Sussex County Returns Day Parade

Dec: Georgetown, Millsboro, Milton, (and maybe Rehoboth Beach) Christmas Parades

March 14, 2015 - OCMD St. Patricks Parade

March-April 2015 - Walt Disney World Parade Performance (tent)

The band will also be likely attending UD band day in late September and competing in a Tournament of Bands competition sometime in October.

MARCHING BAND FEES

Members are required to remit fees for the following items:

\$20 - payable to the Sussex Central Band Boosters. This covers two uniform cleanings and the 'tour shirt' to be worn under the uniform. This is due at the start of band camp.

Members needing to purchase gloves, shoes, lyres, flip folders, and any other musical equipment may do so during band camp. Please make checks payable to B&B Music.

FUNDRAISING AND SPRING TRIP

We are hoping to plan a trip to Disney World in Spring 2015. Cost estimates will be put out soon, but there will be fundraising opportunities beginning this summer.

Fundraisers are coordinated by the SCHS Band Boosters and are important to helping defray costs of the trip as well as support band activities as a whole.

SCGKMB Member and Parent/Guardian Contract

(Member Name) _____ has read the handbook in its entirety and agrees to adhere to the responsibilities of membership in the SCHS Marching Band.

Member Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Student Email Address: _____

Parent Email Address: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____