

GREEN HOPE BAND HANDBOOK



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OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Green Hope High School Band is to educate young people through performance. Students are motivated through teamwork, performance objectives, and evaluation to mature as a musician, a performer, a student, and a person. The curriculum is varied and cyclical in nature. The comprehensive program encompasses four year of high school study. Individual development of character, esteem, teamwork, and group accomplishment can be additional rewards of the program.

Curricular ensembles

Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band

These ensembles meet during the school day. Students enroll in one of these courses for academic (elective) credit. The curricular band program is the core of the Green Hope Band. Students develop necessary skills in music performance in the curricular band ensembles, and these skills are applied toward the success of the extracurricular band ensembles.

Brass, woodwind, and percussion members (except keyboard/synthesizer, bass guitar, drumset) must be enrolled in at least one semester of a band class in order to participate in marching band or indoor percussion. Extenuating exceptions may be granted by the director. It is the preference of the director that students are enrolled in both semesters of a band class. Students who do not participate in both semesters of band may not be considered for the advanced bands. Exceptions may be considered by the director in the case of schedule conflicts, graduation requirements, etc.

In order to maintain success in musical performance in all aspects of the band program, students should choose one main instrument to focus on throughout high school. If a student chooses to play a secondary instrument in one of the extracurricular ensembles (including guard), they should be sure to master the first instrument and to take care of all responsibilities for the class on that instrument before committing to playing a secondary instrument.

At times, a student will be asked to play a secondary instrument or to switch instruments completely by the director. This is either because the director feels that a student would be more successful on another instrument, there is a shortage in another instrument section and/or a surplus in the student's current section, or both.

Reference course syllabus in class portion of band website for more information.

Extracurricular ensembles

These groups meet outside of the school day and are sponsored by the Green Hope Band Boosters. The bulk of this handbook covers information relating to extracurricular ensembles, especially Marching Band, Indoor Percussion, and Winter Guard. There is a cost associated with extracurricular ensembles.

Marching Band: This is the largest and most visible component of the Green Hope Band program. Auditions are in May, a mini-camp is held in June, and the main part of the season runs from July with the start of camp through November with the last competitions. The marching band also marches in 1-3 Christmas Parades in November and December. The marching band practices three times per week and performs at all home football games (5-6) and 5-6 local, regional, and national competitions. There are weekend obligations, including most weekends in October and early November. (Reference *season calendar* for specific days and times)

Indoor Percussion: This is an extension of the percussion section in the marching band. Membership is open to any band student. Auditions are in November and the season runs from November-April. If enrollment allows, there may be a second concert percussion ensemble. Middle School students are also allowed to participate in this second ensemble. The Indoor Percussion ensemble practices 3 times per week and performs in 5-6 local, regional, and national competitions. Weekend obligations include camps and competitions. (Reference *season calendar*)

Winter Guard: This is an extension of the guard section in the marching band. Membership is open to any student enrolled in GHHS. Depending on enrollment, there are 2-3 Winter Guards (Varsity, Junior Varsity, Junior). Membership in the fall colorguard is required to participate in the Varsity Winter Guard. No experience is required, but dance/guard experience is a plus. Middle School students are also allowed to audition for and participate in the JV and Junior Guards. Auditions are in November and the season runs from November-April. The Winter Guards practice 2-3 times per week and perform in 5-6 local, regional, and national competitions. Weekend obligations include camps and competitions. (Reference *season calendar*)

Jazz Band: There are 1-2 jazz bands, depending on enrollment. Instruments in the jazz band include saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano/keyboard, drums, guitar, and bass. Auditions are in November and the season runs from November-May. The Jazz Band rehearses 2 days per week after school and has 3-4 performances in the community.

Musical Pit Orchestra: Instrumentation is dependent upon the show selected. Rehearsals generally begin in January-February with performances in mid-March.

Pep Band: This student-led group performs at some home basketball games from December-March.

ATTENDANCE POLICY (also reference *season calendar*)

Overview: *Rehearsals and performances are only 100% effective if there is 100% attendance.* The success of every performing arts ensemble begins in rehearsal. A performance is only as strong as the rehearsals that precede it. In order to achieve success in rehearsal, the attendance of every member is essential. Each individual absence affects the progress of the entire group.

If you must miss a rehearsal, it is best not to miss an entire rehearsal, and it is best not to miss the full band rehearsals (usually on Thursdays), as opportunities to rehearse with the full band are limited to one day a week during the regular season.

Any absences from rehearsal that, in the director's judgement, jeopardize the success or safety of the performance for the student or for others will result in the student being pulled from the performance. This includes excessive absences or the last rehearsal before a performance.

Performances and band camp: Attendance at performances and band camp are mandatory. This includes Christmas parades. If there are conflicts with any of these dates, please indicate on your registration paperwork. Membership is probationary until approved by the director. The student may be enrolled as an alternate. Extenuating circumstances for last minute absences include death in the immediate family or extreme illness or injury (contagious, prevents member from being able to perform, etc.) and may be excused. An unexcused absence from a performance or camp date will result in probationary membership or dismissal from the group.

Communication: In the event that an absence from a rehearsal is unavoidable, an absence form (found on the website under "Forms") should be submitted as early as possible and no later than *48 hours in advance* (but as early as possible) unless there are extenuating circumstances. For last-minute absences or tardies when submitting an absence form is not possible, a parent note or email will suffice (or a note from the teacher). *Please be sure to let Mr. Myers know, even if the student was absent from school.* If a student misses any portion of rehearsal, he/she may be asked to make up the time after rehearsal by completing extra duties or responsibilities. It is not acceptable to send a message about an absence with another member.

Absence from school: If a student is absent or leaves early from school due to illness, he/she is not required to attend rehearsal. A parent email to Mr. Myers is required in order to excuse the absence. However, every effort should be made to attend rehearsal (even if he/she must sit on the sideline) if possible. If you attend school, you are expected to attend rehearsal.

Student-scheduled sectionals: There will be times when a student leader schedules a rehearsal. He/she will consult all members of the section before scheduling a time with the least amount of conflicts. Students should make every effort to attend these. If a student is unable to attend, he/she must communicate with the section leader.

Excessive absences: If a member has excessive absences, he/she may be asked to make up the time by attending rehearsals outside of the schedule or completing extra responsibilities. If a member is unable to complete the time, they may be asked to stand on the sideline for the following performance(s) at the director's discretion. In some events, a student's standing in the group may be reviewed.

Excused Absences or Tardies

- Illness, injury, or quarantine
- Death in the immediate family*

- Wedding of immediate family member*
- Medical appointments* *Please try to schedule on days you do not have rehearsal. In any case, a student should attend part of the rehearsal (they should not miss an entire rehearsal for an appointment).*
- Court or administrative proceedings*
- Religious observances*
- Other pre-approved educational opportunities*
- Other school-sponsored events which, in the opinion of the school, take precedence*
- Staying after with a teacher (for extra help or otherwise): *Please try to schedule these on days that you do not have band. Bring a note.*

* *Submit an absence form in advance.*

Unexcused Absences or Tardies

- Work/Job
- Drivers' Ed
- Transportation Issue
- "I forgot."
- Too much schoolwork

It is expected that all members are responsible for completing their academic course work independently from their commitment to the ensemble. By committing to an extracurricular activity, you are agreeing that you will manage your time appropriately in order to honor all commitments. Under no circumstances should rehearsal or performance be used as an excuse for failure to complete assigned coursework. Conversely, at no point should school work be used as an excuse to miss scheduled events with the ensemble. It is well within each member's abilities to handle the responsibilities of their academic courses as well as their commitment to the ensemble. Time management is an important skill, and one that each student will find invaluable in their college and professional careers.

BEING AN "ALTERNATE" FOR MARCHING BAND

After auditions, a student in any section may be named as an alternate. This means that they are a member of the marching band, but they do not have a full-time spot in the field show. They are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances and perform with the band at home football games. They participate in all fundamental exercises in music and movement, and they learn the field show (music and choreography). They may be incorporated into the field show if appropriate.

A student can be named an alternate in any of the following scenarios:

- *The staff believes the student does not yet have the skills necessary in order to be successful in the field show.* They will be given the opportunity to develop these skills through attendance and participation at rehearsals.
- *There is a surplus in the section of which the student is a member.* The director and staff would make the decision about which students receive alternate positions. The remaining students may be given the option of switching instruments if there is a shortage in another section.
- *The student cannot attend band camp or a significant portion of the season.*
- *The student has missed too many practices or has not upheld the commitment needed in attitude and work ethic in order to be successful in the field show.*

An alternate may be asked to “shadow” another member meaning they would share a spot, or an alternate may receive a permanent spot if someone else becomes unable to participate permanently. Either of these circumstances would be up to the director’s discretion based on time constraints and the skill level required for the position. This spot may or may not be in the student’s section; in other words, the student may be given the opportunity to march another instrument in order to accept the spot.

MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

General Expectations

- **Professionalism:** *Members act with a level of professionalism consistent with the GH Band standard, both in and out of performance.*
 - No “PDA” (public display of affection). The most allowed is holding hands.
 - No profane or inappropriate language.
 - All equipment should be handled with care and respect and stored in an organized and professional manner.
 - Equipment and Instruments are stacked or lined up neatly in rows and unified as directed by student leaders.
 - Only you are to touch your own instrument. Never leave your instrument unattended (especially on the ground or on the bleachers).
 - Musicians never play their instruments in public unless it is organized (“We all play or we don’t play.”).
 - We clean up after ourselves. We leave a place better than how we found it, both on and off campus (practice field, gym, buses, cafeteria, etc.).
 - We use our inside voices when inside other schools.
 - We are respectful and supportive of performers from other schools. Students remain seated and quiet while watching other groups (no getting up or moving around during a performance). *Every group is deserving of a standing ovation and our applause.* As audience members, it is generally considered rude to have conversations or use electronic devices or have headphones in during a performance.
 - We always look presentable and wear appropriate attire (show shirts or GH approved SpiritWear).
 - We do not goof off or horseplay in public.
 - We always move as a group in two lines. People from outside of our group should not “break rank.” If someone tries to break rank, the closest student leader should politely ask them once to go around. When in formation, students are quiet and orderly.
 - If we are in uniform, we follow the awards protocol detailed below.
 - We stand during awards.
 - During the awards ceremony, we stand at “parade rest” with your heads up. There is no talking.
 - If our band is called by the announcer, the representatives from the leadership team will call you to the position of Attention. There is no talking.
 - In the occasion that we do not follow awards protocol (if we are in the stands around a lot of other people, if we are out of uniform, etc.), we clap politely for other groups as well as our group. You should respect and support all other performers. There is no excess and unprofessional celebratory behavior, just as there is no unprofessional behavior if we do not “win.”
- **Social Media.**
 - Any posts about the Green Hope Band or that can be connected in any way to the Green Hope Band will represent the program positively and professionally. Negative comments about other programs or any other statements do not represent our program’s philosophy are not acceptable.
 - No video clips of the performance should be posted online without the permission of the director.
 - No pictures of the uniforms/costumes or props should be posted online before the first competition performance.

- **Respect.**
 - *Chaperones:* The instructions they give are an extension of the director. Use “sir” and “ma’am” and show appreciation to them for giving their time and energy for you. Do not let them move equipment and props if you are not doing anything. This is *your* ensemble, not theirs.
 - *Staff:* Their expertise is crucial to our success. Listen and apply their feedback. Respect their decisions, even if you don’t understand or agree at the time. Never take instructional corrections personally.
 - *Student Leaders:* The hierarchy of student leadership is also vital to our success and the normal operations of our program. If you feel that someone is out of line, do not take matters into your own hands; follow the chain of command (section leaders, captains, drum majors).
 - *Other members:* Any team activity requires support among its members. Be kind to one another. Encourage your fellow team members to do their best for their own sake and for the success of the group. Compliment their improvements and keep them motivated when they seem to feel they can’t go any farther. Bullying in any form will not be tolerated in the Green Hope Band program.
 - *The program and school:* You are an advocate and representative for the director, the program, the school, our town, and sometimes even our state. This tremendous responsibility should not be taken lightly.
 - *Other schools:* We will demonstrate good sportsmanship by supporting other schools and groups, encouraging them, and celebrating their successes.
 - *Yourself:* Behaving in a professional way means you take yourself and your organization seriously. Taking yourself seriously allows for mutual respect with others.
- **Nutrition and Health.** *Members take care of themselves by practicing proper nutrition.*
 - Drink plenty of water throughout the season. Stretch before and after rehearsal. Do not skip meals before rehearsals. Bring a water bottle to EVERY rehearsal and competition. Avoid sodas, fruit juices, and dairy products before rehearsals (especially camp days) and performances.
 - Do not share water bottles. This helps prevent the spread of colds and viruses.
 - Should a student acquire an injury or illness within the season we will do our best to accommodate them within the show. If it is a long-term injury we may have to pull them out of certain parts of the show. We will do our best to work around these types of situations but there is the risk that you may not end up in the entire show.

Rehearsal Expectations

- *Members PRACTICE individually at home. We REHEARSE together.* Do your part to contribute to the group by working outside of rehearsal on the things that you need to in order to perform them at or above standard.
- *All members sign up for a committee and complete responsibilities as delegated by the committee chair.*
- *Members come to rehearsal prepared and with proper attire.* Rehearsal attire consists of comfortable and athletic clothing (no excessively baggy clothing and NO JEANS) and athletic sneakers with socks. Marching band members wear white shirts on visual days (normally Mondays). Long hair needs to be pulled back. Visible jewelry is not allowed. Guard members and some brass members are required to have gloves. Because our practice areas are normally very visible, following school dress code is also important.

Always wear appropriate length shorts and shirts that do not expose midriffs, stomachs, ribs, or nipples, etc.

- *Members are prepared to begin rehearsing at the designated start time of each rehearsal.* Members are present and participating in organized warm-up activities at the moment they begin. Plan to get to rehearsal in time to begin any necessary stretching and set up before rehearsal starts. "To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late."
- *Members do what they need to do to be mentally prepared for rehearsal as well as physically prepared.* This means there is no goofing off or horseplaying right before rehearsal begins.
- *Members are prepared for rehearsal with all items necessary for an efficient rehearsal, i.e. personal equipment, dotbook, instrument with all necessary supplies, sticks/mallets, music (in a binder with sheet protectors), pencil, etc.* Failure to do such will result in limited participation in rehearsals.
- *Members stay quiet and alert during rehearsal.* When any person of authority is talking, all other talking should cease. Do not talk unless otherwise instructed to help someone around you or an instructor is talking to you.
- *Members respect the rehearsal protocol/process.* There is no talking or moving at the position of attention and there is no talking during a rep. The position of attention is a position of focus and discipline. Likewise, any time you are marching or in a rep, you uphold a level of discipline. Always use proper marching technique and strive to look and sound your best.
- *Members are expected to be working at all times during rehearsal whether it be self-directed or with an instructor.* The only exception will be designated breaks.
- *ALL members are responsible for putting equipment away at the end of each rehearsal.* Rehearsals END at the time listed in the calendar. This does not necessarily mean that students will be able to leave directly at that time. NO student should ever leave a rehearsal without checking out with their section leader or committee chair as appropriate. If every member helps with clean-up, then EVERY member gets to leave earlier.
- *Members make arrangements to make-up anything that was missed due to an absence.* This will be done prior to the next rehearsal.
- *There is to be NO food in any rehearsal area outside of scheduled breaks.* Members take note of areas where no food item is ever allowed, such as the fine arts hallway, band room, main gym, and other areas designated by the staff.
- *Members leave cellular phones and other devices off during all rehearsals and performances unless otherwise specified by an instructor.*
- *Members leave their personal lives outside of rehearsal.* If you had a bad day, do not take it out on your fellow group members.

Trip Expectations

- *Members follow school rules at all times.* All trips are sanctioned events sponsored by Green Hope High School. This means that all school policies (GHHS and WCPSS student/parent handbooks and rules, Green Hope Band handbook) are enforced on said trips, and participants (students, staff, and parents/volunteers) are held to the rules and regulations outlined in each. Any behavior that takes place on a trip that violates school policy must be communicated with school administration immediately following the events. Administration will determine proper disciplinary action.
- *Members are required to travel with the band to the competition.* Students are expected to travel with the band home from the competition. This encourages team bonding and allows for all students to complete unloading and clean-up responsibilities upon return to the school. Parents requesting an exception to the travel policy may request to take their

students home from the event only by submitting a transportation exception form (reference *Transportation Exception Form* from website) at least one week in advance. The student is allowed to leave when the rest of the students are loading the buses or other transportation to return home. The student is required to find another student to complete unloading and clean-up responsibilities on his/her behalf.

- Bus Expectations/Safety
 - When on the bus, students follow the instructions of the driver and other adults.
 - Bus lists are posted prior to the trip. Students may not change buses without the approval of the logistics chair.
 - Students sit in a seat facing forward, feet on the floor, and speak in a normal tone of voice so as to not distract the driver.
 - Food and other items may only be consumed on the bus with approval of the driver and chaperones. Water is the only drink allowed on the buses.
 - Students do not hang body parts or throw things out of bus windows.
 - Students are responsible for picking up their trash and leaving the bus cleaner than they found it.
 - Students thank the driver when entering and exiting the bus.
 - No co-ed or couples seating on overnight or late evening bus trips.

- Overnight Trips
 - Rooming lists are posted prior to the trip. Students may not change rooms without the approval of the logistics chair.
 - For overnight trips, students are to stay in a student room. Exceptions to this rule may be granted by the director.
 - On overnight trips, the director communicates a set curfew each night. The chaperones enforce this time with hallway and room checks as necessary. Students that violate curfew rules will face disciplinary action consistent with their actions.
 - No fraternization between genders will take place inside of a hotel room. Any visiting between genders will take place in the hotel lobby with adult supervision.
 - No congregation of large groups of students inside a single hotel room unless a specific situation has been approved and is supervised by a chaperone or staff.
 - Students may not leave the premises of the hotel unless in an extenuating circumstance (ex. Injury or illness that requires medical care).
 - The only adult allowed in a student hotel room is a chaperone or the band director.

EQUIPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Members are responsible for having and maintaining equipment. Handle all equipment with care and respect. Store in an organized and professional manner. Your equipment is a reflection of the Green Hope Band. It is the students' responsibility to transport, load, and store equipment—not the chaperones or staff.

Brass and woodwinds:

- A working instrument. Larger instruments can be rented from the school (reference *Instrument Agreement Form*). For smaller instruments, some families may choose to purchase a secondary instrument to use for marching band and use their primary instrument for Concert/Symphonic Band. In any case, the instrument used should be of high quality and in good working condition. Brass/silver instruments should be polished before each performance.
- All necessary supplies. Valve oil, reeds, etc.
- Music (in a binder with sheet protectors). This is printed by each student.
- Dotbook. Provided by the band. Completed as directed by the staff.
- Black marching shoes and black gloves (for performances). Purchased at registration.
- A GH Band duffle bag (for practice clothes). Purchased at registration.
- Some brass members will need rehearsal gloves.

Percussion:

- Sticks, mallets, stick bag. A complete intermediate-level package can be purchased at <https://www.steveweissmusic.com/product/innovative-percussion-fp2-mallet-pack/stick-mallet-pack>. Some sticks and mallets are also provided by the school.
- Earplugs. (Purchased at registration)
- Music (in a binder with sheet protectors). This is printed by each student.
- Dotbook. Provided by the band. Completed as directed by the staff.
- Black marching shoes (for performances). Purchased at registration.
- A GH Band duffle bag (for practice clothes). Purchased at registration.

Guard:

- Dotbook. Provided by the band. Completed as directed by the staff.
- A large GH Band duffle bag (for practice clothes). Purchased at registration.
- "Warm-ups." Purchased at registration.
- Practice equipment. Purchased at registration.
- Show flags and weapons, properly taped. Flags provided by the band.
- Rifle (every member). www.designsbyking.com/king_kong_rifle.php (Specs: 37" rifle with black strap and black bolt)
- Sabre (optional, unless assigned to sabre line):
<https://www.designsbyking.com/sabre%20info.php#ks2> (product code: KS2-39)

UNIFORM/COSTUME PROTOCOL:

Be sure to follow the uniform requirements exactly. The uniform/costume is a reflection of our program. Professionalism, neatness, consistency, and unity are among the core values of the GH Band. The purpose of the uniform is to take the focus off of each individual and place the emphasis on the group as a whole. When you are in uniform you are representing the band and school. Take pride in how you look and act. The uniform committee will inspect prior to performance.

- Never run in uniform. Always walk.
- Do not sit or lay on the ground in uniform (outside of the performance of the show).
- Do not obscure the uniform/costume with a jacket or other covering (even if it is GH Band attire) or wear an article of clothing with the uniform that doesn't belong to the uniform (ex. baseball hat, tennis shoes, wrong color socks, etc.). Specific exceptions may be made for the entire group by the director (ex. guard warm-ups, percussion jackets, etc.). Winds and percussion students may wear a solid black headband under the shako if it helps keep the hair back or improves the fit of the hat.
- No eating or drinking in uniform with the exception of "hands clean" snacks provided by chaperones.
- No PDA (public display of affection) or other personal contact (including horse playing) in uniform.
- Wear the entire uniform or none at all. Wearing just the pants is not acceptable. Always wear every part of the uniform the correct way (hats not backward, coats not unzipped, etc.). Specific exceptions may be made for the entire group by the director (ex. half-uniform for equipment loading, etc.).
- The appropriate way to carry your hat is with your free hand and two fingers on the brim. Do not leave your hat unattended.
- No jewelry unless it is part of the uniform.
- Hair up and inside hat and off the collar. Hair should be of natural color (not purple, green, etc.) unless it is part of the uniform.
- If you have cut-off gloves your nails cannot be painted.
- Do not wear make-up unless it is part of the uniform.
- Your hat should be two fingers above your nose (eyes barely visible).
- Wear the pants so that the hem touches the top of your shoes without breaking the crease of the pants.
- Wear long black socks with your uniform (should not see skin when sitting or walking)
- Our casual uniform may be worn at some football games, the camp informance, Cary Lazy Daze, in the stands at competitions, while to and from competitions, and other events. It includes show shirt, black shorts (or long pants, depending on weather), tennis shoes. Sunglasses may be allowed in certain cases.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THE GREEN HOPE BAND

- **Always do what is best for the group, not necessarily what is best for just you. We are a team and we must work together.**
- **Have full faith in yourself and your capabilities.** Everyone will be learning new things and facing new challenges. Do not doubt yourself for one moment. People are going to learn at different rates; try your best not to compare yourself to others. Even if you are picking up on something quickly or know the task that is being asked of you, allow yourself to take it to the next step. (Consistency, performance, technique). Don't let someone else have more faith in you than you have in yourself.
- **Commit to giving 100%, 100% of the time.** Expect to work hard. There is no first-string and second-string, and when one person gets tired we cannot send another player in as a substitute. Everyone is performing all of the time. *We are only as strong as our weakest member.*
- **Take responsibility for your actions and learn from your mistakes.** *Apologize when you know you are wrong and mean it.*
- **Rehearse as you want to perform.** We are working toward consistency. *Anything that happens in rehearsal will likely happen in performance.*
- **Make efficient use of our rehearsal time.** Take notes in the music of changes, things to practice, and suggested improvements during rehearsal. Listen even when the director may not be talking directly to your section, as it may apply to you later in the music.
- **Take every opportunity to watch other groups perform.** They are doing the same thing that you are and you will learn a lot from watching them (both good and bad). While at a competition at another school, spend as much time watching as possible. Use scheduled breaks to take care of restroom and concession needs.
- **Winning isn't everything.** Competition certainly motivates us, but your primary motivation should be the desire to improve. As long as we get better with each performance, we stay in competition with ourselves. Intrinsic motivation is much more powerful and rewarding than the extrinsic motivation to win a trophy. The performance of others should never determine the quality of your own performance. During awards ceremonies, be proud of our group and our school no matter what the results and if you agree or disagree. *You should not cheer any louder for winning first place than for placing last.*
- **Do not expect exceptions to be made on your behalf.** Making an exception for one would lead to others expecting the same exception.
- **Stay positive and offer and accept help!** Everyone is going to have some form of critique offered to him or her. Please understand that this is how we all grow. If you are experienced at a task, please offer assistance when the instructor has asked for you to do so. We are going to get better by helping each other.
- **Practice!** If you are struggling with a task, don't be upset. Keep working on it. Growth and improvement speak volumes over those who are naturally gifted but don't push themselves to the next level! Never get satisfied with yourself; be the best you can be. Constantly work to improve your performance ability.

HOW TO BE A GH BAND PARENT

Along with the experience of being a band member, parents can become part of the experience too! Here are some ways that you can become part of your son/daughter's rewarding experience as a band parent.

Communication

Communication is the key to the operation of a large organization. A weekly Band Broadcast email will go out with important information, including times, dates, and changes. Please be sure to read all broadcasts. Also, be sure to stay in communication with the band director and/or band chaperones about any extenuating circumstances, conflicts, or requests. While we do support teaching our students how to be independent and self-sufficient, they still need some guidance from the adults on how to develop important skills.

Closed Rehearsals

We have a "closed rehearsal" policy. This means that only designated band chaperones will be allowed to watch rehearsals (with the exception of the last few minutes for the final run-through of the day on a full band rehearsal day). This is both for the students' safety as well as for the students to be able to perform to their highest potential without distractions.

It is the instructors' job to make instructional decisions and corrections. Please never attempt to correct or instruct a student on music, choreography, drill, movement, technique, etc. Please never step onto the field during a rehearsal (including during breaks).

Volunteering

Our program can't run without the help of many, many, many volunteers. Please make every attempt to donate *time, items, services*, or all of the above.

- *Time*: We need chaperones (reference *Chaperone Guidelines*) for practices, football games, and competitions. We will need drivers for students on occasion, particularly in the winter. We will need parents to help load and transport props and equipment.
- *Items*: We need many food and drink items (teenagers like to eat!).
- *Service*: Examples of service opportunities are uniform/costume maintenance, prop building/maintenance/transportation, pulling the trailer, etc.

Fundraising

To operate our organization costs a lot of money, and for the most part we are self-sustaining and raise the money ourselves. We have student-account fundraisers which directly subsidize your own personal band-related expenses, and we have general band fundraisers. While some families may choose to pay out of pocket rather than participating in the student account fundraisers, it is requested that every band family participate in the general band fundraisers. These fundraisers help the entire band program operate. Expenses include new instrument purchase, instrument maintenance, classroom supplies, sheet music, guest artists and clinicians, financial aid, clerical expenses, etc.

Support

In addition to volunteering, there are many other things you can do to support your band student as they learn many important life lessons through participation in the band. Understand how the band operates and the importance of your child's role within the band and support them as such.

- *Time management:* One of the most important things that marching band teaches young men and women is time management. Have conversations with them often about how to balance academics and extracurricular activities so they can be successful and fully committed to both. Remind them about the dangers of procrastination. If academics suffer because of marching band, the student's transcript can see long-lasting effects. If a student's marching band commitment suffers because his/her schoolwork starts suffering, we are all affected.
- *Schedule:* Please help your student fulfill his/her commitment to marching band by planning your family's schedule around rehearsals and performances as much as possible. This includes doctor's appointments, family vacations, etc.
- *Nutrition:* Be sure your son/daughter is taking care of his/her body, particularly during marching band camp. Greasy or salty foods should be avoided, as should soda. Hydrate often.
- *Sleep:* Encourage your marching band student to get plenty of rest so their body can keep up with the demand that marching band places on it.
- *Discipline:* Perhaps the most important thing that marching band teaches is discipline. We strive to maintain a professional and disciplined appearance, both on and off the field. When with the band, students lose their individuality and become a team. All decisions they make should be guided by this principle.
- *Audience:* Be a supportive audience member and come to as many performances as you can! Wear GH SpiritWear so our presence is known. No GH parent or student should ever make negative or judgmental comments about another school or group or their performance. You never know who is within earshot, and such comments reflect negatively on our entire organization. It is certainly appropriate to applaud and cheer in a performance when you see or hear something you like. In fact, the band performs better when they have a receptive and supportive audience. **Many times, the effect on the audience and the judges can be enhanced by the crowd's response.**
 - During a competition or event, the students are under the direction of the director, staff, and chaperones. Parents are asked not to enter student rooms, join in band meetings and meals, participate in the execution of the event, pull their student aside or away from the band at any time. This is for safety and liability reasons and well as to ensure that the students are able to focus on their responsibilities to the band.
- *Philosophy on winning:* Winning and beating others aren't goals for the GH Band. Our goal is for each member to continue to improve from performance to performance and for the program to achieve certain short-term and long-term goals as determined by the staff. We should celebrate a great performance immediately after it happens, and that won't be affected in the awards ceremony by whether or not we beat another group. Contrarily, if our performance wasn't to our standard, we will reflect on what we can do to improve for future performances, and that won't be affected by whether or not we beat another group. Parents are asked not to discuss rankings or placements with other parents or especially with the students. The staff will talk to the students about the scores as we see fit. This will be based on our short-term and long-term goals for the students and the program.

Social Media.

- Any posts about the Green Hope Band or that can be connected in any way to the Green Hope Band will represent the program positively and professionally. Negative comments about other programs or any other statements do not represent our program's philosophy are not acceptable.
- No video clips of the performance should be posted online without the permission of the director.

- No pictures of the uniforms/costumes or props should be posted online before the first competition performance.

CHAPERONE GUIDELINES

Green Hope High School Band Chaperones ensure that band members have sufficient adult supervision at all events. The main objectives of the chaperones are to ensure student safety and to assist with students who become sick or injured.

- All chaperones must be registered volunteers with WCPSS before being allowed to assist as a chaperone. This can be done at the office of any Wake County Public School.
- Student safety is the primary focus.
- Only chaperones may be present during practices unless there is an emergency. All practices are closed with the exception of the last 10 minutes of Thursday practices allowing parents to see the last run through. Keeping practices closed will allow the students to maintain full concentration.
- Chaperones are there to ensure student safety and to assist students who are sick or injured. Chaperones are not to participate in any portion of the rehearsal with the students (ex. stretches, warm-ups, etc.). Chaperones should not enter the rehearsal space (practice field, gym floor, etc.) unless it is an emergency. This is for the safety of the students as well as the chaperone.
- Chaperones are not to distribute any medication of any kind to a student, including OTC or prescription medications. Chaperones are not allowed to be made aware of any medical conditions or needs or hold medication for a student. In emergency situations, chaperones are first to call 911 then alert the band director or other WCPSS employee immediately.
- Generally, students should take the lead on loading, unloading, and transporting instruments and equipment. Students have been trained on how to properly handle equipment, and it gives them a sense of ownership and responsibility. Chaperones should be present to monitor safety.
- Basic First aid kits must be carried with chaperones at all times. If an injury/illness occurs please handle the injury/illness per WCPSS guidelines and do not be afraid to ask for assistance.
- The director sets the itinerary. Chaperones are present to ensure students are where they need to be on time and safely. Please be flexible when changes are made.
- The director sets student behavior. If students are not complying with your direction please take immediate action to solve the problem and if necessary contact the chaperone chairperson (Maressa Mathura 919-608-2922) for assistance. If school rules have been violated please contact the band director immediately. If a law has been broken contact an administrator and the police immediately.
- Chaperones should communicate with the band director/instructors through the Chaperone or Band Camp chairs only. If there is a particular performance/behavioral issue with your student please contact the band director/instructor through e-mail to set up a time to discuss this with him/her. It is inappropriate to try and speak with the instructors/staff during practice/performances/competitions regarding your student unless it is an emergency.
- Always treat students, staff, and other chaperones with respect.

- The purchase and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages and tobacco use is prohibited during chaperoned events. This includes overnight trips where no alcohol or tobacco is allowed in the chaperone's luggage or hotel rooms as well. Smoking in your car during any chaperoned event and consuming alcohol prior to event are not allowed per WCPSS policy.
- At least one chaperone needs to go with each group when the band splits for warm-ups or sectionals. The first aid bag should go with the largest group. A chaperone needs to go with any single student or small group that needs to leave the area for any reason. This includes the bathroom.
- Chaperones are asked to wear Green Hope Band shirts (green or maroon) and black pants for easy identification by students/staff/parents.
- Chaperones walk/ride with the band when traveling from one location to another. Students should be quiet and professional when in formation and chatting with them is discouraged unless direction is needed.
- Hydration/nutrition is crucial to the safety and function of the students. Chaperones will provide water/snacks at designated times. Please understand that there will be times when these items are not permitted unless medically necessary.
- Once the students have begun rotation (getting dressed, section meetings, warm-up, etc.), there should be no further communication with them from chaperones unless it is an emergency. This includes interacting with them, gathering them for pictures, etc. This is the time for the staff to get them focused and ready to performance their best.
- As a chaperone, you are a chaperone for all students, not just your son/daughter. In marching band, it is likely that parents will not be placed with the section to which their son/daughter belongs. In addition, chaperones, should not allow any "special privileges" for his/her son/daughter or other students. Examples include purchasing food when it isn't allowed for the entire group, separating them from the rest of the group, etc.
- Have a positive and flexible attitude at all times! This is an important part of the high school experience for these students. The job of chaperone is to help enhance this by keeping the students safe at all times.

CONTACTS

Brian Myers, Director of Bands
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Carla Wilson, Booster President
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Tobey Lopez, Chaperone Chair
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Carrie Cassidy, Travel/Logistics Chair
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Aaron Tucker, Percussion Director
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Melissa Guard, Guard Director
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FAIR SHARE AGREEMENT/PAYMENT PLAN

In extracurricular ensembles, there is a financial commitment required as well as a participation commitment. Each member is to earn and/or pay his or her "fair share." It is the expectation of this organization that all members will complete their financial obligation to the band in a timely manner.

Student fair share pays for travel (transportation, lodging, meals), show design, instruction/staff, uniform/costume maintenance, props, equipment, truck rental/maintenance, and field maintenance.

Each family has the opportunity to subsidize fair share with student account fundraising. Any amount raised from these opportunities will go into the student's account with the GH Band Boosters and applied toward the next fair share payment.

Any concerns or hardships with paying fair share should be communicated with the Booster president. Any outstanding fees from prior years should be paid or an agreement for payment should be agreed upon with the Band Booster president and treasurer before registering for the upcoming season.

Each student's fair share obligation must be paid in full or according to the following payment option schedule:

A. Full amount (\$_____ paid at registration night)

B. Monthly via Check/Cash/Pay Pal

\$_____ plus any items ordered at registration due at registration

\$_____ due on ___/___/___

\$_____ due on ___/___/___

\$_____ due on ___/___/___

Paypal: <http://greenhopeband.org/students/registration/fair-share-payment/>

*\$5 fee included in monthly payment subscription.

All checks are made payable to *Green Hope Band Boosters* and placed in green box located in the GH Band Hallway next to Band Director's office. On the memo line, please indicate student name, activity (ex. Marching Band, etc.), and payment description (ex. Fair Share payment #1, etc.).

Refund of any money spent out of pocket will be made only if the situation for leaving the Band falls into one of the following four categories:

1. Student has been reassigned to a non-magnet high school over the summer and will not participate in GH Band.
2. A family emergency prevents completing the obligation to the organization (a pro-rated portion will be refunded).
3. The family is relocating to another city and cannot complete their membership in this organization (pro-rated).
4. A written physician note stating the student should not participate in physical activity, including band (pro-rated).

There are additional financial responsibilities including equipment (instruments and supplies, guard equipment, etc.), selected uniform items (ex. shoes, gloves, undergarments, etc.), some expenses on trips (ex. meals), etc.

I understand the financial commitment required as well as a participation commitment. I have read and reviewed the **fair share agreement** and will agree to the financial responsibility as set forth for the members. I understand that each member is to earn and/or pay his or her "fair share." I understand that students are to be held financially responsible for all school owned property that is loaned to them for purposes of participating in the GH Band. All school property is to be returned without damage and at the designated return date. Families will be held responsible for any damage incurred during the season.

COMMITMENT CONTRACT

The GH Band performs at numerous public and school-related events and represents Green Hope High School. The highest level of discipline, commitment, and conduct will be expected of all members. It is important to our success that all members have standards of excellence in commitment, professionalism, performance, and attitude that are consistent with the vision of the program.

Signatures on the attached form indicate the student's intent to join the Green Hope Band. By signing the attached form, the student and parent(s) agree to accept the responsibilities associated with participation and the fees associated with membership.

1. I have received and reviewed the **season calendar** for performances and rehearsals and I agree to follow the **attendance policy** for all rehearsals and performances. We agree to the participation commitment involved in this activity and will make the necessary arrangements in our family's schedule to allow for rehearsals, competitions, and performances.

Please list any known conflicts with camp or performance dates (include reason for conflict). Your membership will be probationary until approved by the director.

2. I have received and reviewed the **member expectations** and will do my very best to live up to the standards of the GH Band.
3. When off campus for a performance or other band trip, I will always represent GHHS with maturity, sophistication, professionalism, and dignity. I understand that school rules apply on band trips.

Any failure to follow any of the guidelines set forth in the aforementioned contract are grounds for one of the following consequences:

1. *Dismissal from rehearsal*
2. *Standing on the sideline (in uniform) for performance(s)*
3. *Removal from portions of the performance (temporary or permanent)*
4. *Dismissal from group*

Student Agreement:

I have read and discussed with my parents/guardians the rules and regulations of the Green Hope Band. As a member of this organization, I agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth on the previous pages and/or online registration as well as the school rules stated in the Green Hope High School handbook. I understand the policies concerning attendance, participation, performance, and discipline. **I fully understand and accept the position I am given and will fulfill my commitment to participating this season.**

Student Printed Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Agreement:

I have read and discussed with my child the rules and regulations of the Green Hope Band as outlined in this handbook and/or presented as a part of online registration. I give my child permission to participate and will help reinforce all rules and regulations of the group. I understand the attendance, participation, performance, and discipline policies of this program and I will encourage my child to honor this commitment.

Parent Printed Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____