

# Shoals **Middle/**High School Music Department

The goal of this handbook is to provide parents, students, and school personnel with the guidelines and expectations of every individual involved. Upon reading and understanding all rules and regulations needed to foster a successful music program all students will be able to identify positive behavior versus negative behavior. Every student will need to adhere to the guidelines set aside in this handbook.

## Music Organizations

High School Band consists of:

Marching Band  
Concert Band  
Pep Band

Middle School Band consists of:

Concert Band  
Marching Band (if a student is invited by the director)  
Pep Band (if a student is invited by the director)

6th Grade Band consists of:

Beginning Concert Band

High School Chorus consists of:

High School Chorus

## Required Performances and Activities

High School Band:

Summer Marching Band Camp in June  
All scheduled marching activities, such as parades, IU Band Day, etc.  
All pep band games  
Any pep band contests we participate in  
Christmas and Spring Concerts held here at Shoals High School  
Veteran's Day Program  
Any other concert held at school  
Festival of Bands  
ISSMA contest  
Graduation  
Any other performances/trips not listed

### Middle School Band

Christmas and Spring Concerts held here at Shoals High School

Any other concert held at school

ISSMA contest

Summer Marching Band Camp in June (for those 8<sup>th</sup> graders about to enter High School Band)

### 6th Grade Band

Christmas and Spring Concerts held here at Shoals High School

Any other concert held at school

ISSMA contest

### High School Chorus

Christmas and Spring Concerts

Chorus Festival

Veteran's Day Program

Any performance trips we take

## **Rehearsal Expectations**

1. **Get rid of gum, food, drinks, etc.** - When students enter the band room, they should leave gum, food, candy, drinks, etc. in the trash or in their locker.
2. **Be on time** – Students should make sure they are in the room by the time the bell is finished. Band students should be in their seat with their instrument, music, and a pencil 5 minutes after the bell.
3. **Be respectful during rehearsal** - Students should be aware of what is going on in the rehearsal even if the director is not working with their section. This requires staying focused, remaining in their seat, and *paying attention instead of talking* to the person on the other side of the room, working on other homework, etc. Ipods, Ipads, cell phones, etc. should be kept in their locker so they won't be distracted by them.
4. **Put everything away** - At the end of rehearsal, students should put all instruments, music, etc. away in their proper locations. This includes all percussion equipment. Students should put *only* their instrument in its appropriate locker. Keep the lockers free of excess notebooks, papers, books, etc. Those materials go in the lockers in the hallway. Students' music should be kept in their folder, and the folder goes in the folder slot. DO NOT leave music and folders lying around the room. That's how music gets lost. Keep track of it!

## Grading

Each student will receive 10 rehearsal points for each day we are in class. This is for participating effectively in the rehearsal. If the student becomes disruptive by not behaving up to the expectations listed, the student will receive one warning. After the warning, if the student continues the disruptive behavior, points may be deducted from his/her rehearsal points. Phone calls/emails to parents may be sent as well.

For each public performance, students are given 100 points. Students are expected to attend and participate in every public performance. If a student does not attend a performance, that student will not receive their points for that particular performance unless they have turned in an excused absence note from a parent prior to the performance. If a student is sick on the day of a performance, that student's parents may call or send an email to the director. Contact information is listed in this packet of information. Excused absences include personal illness, death in the family, etc. **Participating in a sporting event will NOT count as an excused absence for any performances except for pep band games. Students receive a grade for Band and Chorus and therefore those classes take precedence over extra-curricular sports.** If there is another situation that has come up in which a student cannot attend and the director feels that it should be excused, he will deal with each situation individually as he sees fit. Examples of performances include: pep band games, concerts, festivals, parades, etc.

If a student is out of uniform in any way for a performance, that student may not be allowed to perform, depending on which performance it is, and/or will not receive credit for that performance (see the dress code section of this handbook).

Every couple of weeks we will have playing tests during class. Materials covered on the playing tests could include passages from music we are working on, scales, etc. Students must play the selected passage, scale, etc. and points will be given based on the students' ability to perform the selected passages of music. They will be graded on elements of music such as note accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, tone quality, dynamics, tempo, articulation, posture, etc.

Elementary Band students will have Weekly Practice Records to fill out. This is their "homework." They will be required to practice their instrument at home for at least 30 minutes each week. This could be five minutes each day or 30 minutes all at once, but it needs to be a total of 30 minutes of practice each week. They should be practicing music that we are working on in class, scales, holding out long tones to work on tone, breathing, etc. Practice records will be turned in every Monday. They must have the student's *and* the parent's signature to be valid.

## Materials Needed

High School Band members will have a marching band uniform provided (marching shoes must be purchased by the student at the beginning of the school year), a pep band shirt which the students will purchase, band polo shirt will be provided, and black dress pants/skirt and shoes

purchased by each student.

**Middle School** Band students will need to purchase a Junior High Band Shirt and black pants/skirt and shoes for concert attire. If a junior high student is asked to participate in Pep Band, he/she will need to purchase a pep band shirt as well.

Sixth Grade Band students will need to purchase a Sixth Grade Band shirt, black pants/skirt, and shoes.

All band students will need their proper instrument, folder, music, books, pencils, reeds, valve oil, sticks, mallets, etc. I can order reeds, valve oil, etc. through Paige's Music for you if you need supplies.

Chorus students will need to purchase a Chorus shirt, and black pants/skirt and shoes. There will be some performance sin which the Chorus will wear the black dresses (for girls) and vests (for boys) that the school owns. They will be provided with those. They will also need their folder and music every day in class.

## Dress Code

Students will wear band polo shirts (**provided**), black dress pants/skirts (**not provided**), and black dress shoes (**not provided**) for concert band performances, with the exception of Festival of Bands. Pep band shirts will be worn for all pep band functions, including all home basketball games, Pep Band Invitational, etc. Marching band uniforms (**provided**) and **marching shoes (not provided but can be purchased through the director)** will be worn for all marching events, including parades, IU Band Day, etc., and Festival of Bands. The director reserves the right to change the dress code for each performance if needed. Dress code for choir performances will be at the discretion of the director.

## Uniform Care

The band department provides a marching band uniform for every High School Band member. Band members are responsible for providing and caring for their own marching shoes. Marching shoes will be ordered at the beginning of the school year.

Band members are expected to observe the following points to present a neat personal appearance:

1. Shoes should be polished
2. Gloves should be clean and white (when applicable). Finger holes cut out for woodwinds

- should not be frayed or ragged.
3. Hair should be properly groomed. Long hair must be worn up under the hat during marching performances.
  4. Girls should avoid wearing heavy makeup.
  5. All buttons should be buttoned.
  6. Suspenders should be adjusted so the trouser length is correct.
  7. Trouser bottoms should be worn no higher or lower than about two or three inches from the ground.
  8. Never wear an incomplete uniform in public.
  9. Sunglasses, medals, rings, and other accessories may not be worn.

## **Equipment Care**

The band department will provide instruments for those students who do not have their own instrument. An Instrument Rental and Care agreement should be filled out and signed by the student and his/her parents at the beginning of the school year. The rental fee is due at the beginning of the school year to the High School Office (ECA-Instrumental Account). Each band member is responsible for the proper care and condition of the instrument for the length of the agreement. Any damages or serious malfunctions should be reported to the band director. Damages due to the negligence of the student will be charged to the student and the bill will be sent to the parents. If the instrument is lost or stolen while away from the band room, the student must reimburse the band for the cost of the instrument.

A privately owned instrument is the responsibility of the student who owns it. Students should check with their parents to see if the instrument is included on their homeowner insurance policy. Before purchasing an instrument, students should consult with the band director.

## **Music**

Do not fold, tear, or otherwise damage sheet music or pep band folders. Due to the expense of music, the habitual loss or damaging of music will call for the student to be charged to replace it. Personally owned music is the responsibility of the student.

Each student will be assigned a slot for their music folder in the music rack. Inspection of the folder can occur for a grade. Do not put your music in anyone else's folder. The student is responsible for his/her own music.

## Fees and Expenses

Instrument Rental (if needed).....	\$20.00
Marching Band Shoes.....	\$26.00
Pep Band Shirt.....	\$10-\$20.00
Reeds.....	varies
Solo/Ensemble Contest.....	\$13 for solo
	\$7 per person for ensemble

## Special Costs

For the trip to Florida or any other large event, students will fundraise for the cost of the trip. However, if students lack a certain amount of money from going on the trip then he/she will need to pay the difference.

For instance, if a trip will cost \$200 per person and a student raised \$150 in fundraising, the student will need to pay the \$50 that is left over. Parents are always welcome on trips, but will need to pay all fees associated with the trip.

## Field Trips

All school rules apply on field trips. Parents may be called to come pick you up if rules are violated. Field trip forms must be turned into the director before the field trip.

## Transportation

All members are required to go and return on assigned buses to all out of town performances. No student will be allowed to drive themselves. A student may return with his/her parents with a note

from the parents or if the parents come to the bus at the performance site.

## **Fundraising**

The Music Department is allowed one major public fundraiser per school year. All students are expected to participate in the fundraiser in order to support the program. Additional funds will be raised by the Music Boosters Organization (Parents, please contact the director for information on how to join the Music Boosters Organization).

## **Awards**

1. The John Philip Sousa Award will be given to a senior high School Band member.
2. The Chorus Award will be given to senior Chorus member.
3. A Most Outstanding Award will be given to one student from each grade level.
4. A Most Improved Award will be given to one student from each performing group.
5. Bars, lyres, and class numbers will be given in the following manner (for letter jackets):
  - A) Bars (Chevrons) – one bar each year
  - B) Class Number – given at the end of the sophomore year
  - C) Lyre – given at the end of the junior year
6. Any other award the director feels is appropriate to give for that particular school year.

## **Challenges**

At the beginning of the year students will be seated as the director sees fit. After the first week of school students may challenge to move up in seating. The director will assign a passage of music

for both students involved to practice and a time outside of class will be chosen for the challenge.