

**Starr's Mill High School
Band Program
Member Handbook
School Year 2009-2010**



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Starr's Mill High School Band Program – where we are “learning life-skills through band”. You are now a member of one of the largest and proudest organizations on campus. As a member of this organization you will invest more time and energy, go more places, entertain more people, have more fun, and reap more rewards than any other student organization at this school! It is no coincidence that some of the highest achieving and most successful students belong to this band program!

We strongly believe that music has the ability to enrich a person's life, both in high school and beyond, and in unique and powerful ways. Consequently, our primary goal is to foster the development of a life-long relationship with music in every student. Whether our students go on to be symphony musicians, doctors who play in a community band or orchestra one night a week, or simply music fans, we want them to have a love and appreciation of music and music making.

Given all of this, we are not in the business of producing only “conservatory players” who have ambitions to pursue music as a profession. We are very much in the business of developing a life-long relationship with music in every student and of providing and encouraging positive interaction, group and personal dynamics, and personal and group progress through the medium of music. The road towards these goals is extremely rewarding, yet very challenging when put in a large group setting. Only through positive effort on the part of each individual involved in the program can true excellence be achieved.

Experiences with music develop a student's ability to make value judgments, to function logically as well as intuitively, and to utilize one's innate creativity. Participation in performance organizations encourages initiative and leadership in the students, stimulates goal-oriented thought processes, creates an appreciation and respect for the efforts of others, and assists students to develop a sense of responsibility to themselves, the organization, and in a broad sense, society. We recognize that few high school musicians make music a career. However, the mental discipline and thought processes required in the study of music are applicable in all fields of endeavor.

General Objectives

- To make participation in instrumental music inviting to all qualified students at Starr's Mill High School.
- To develop musical experiences which enhance students' overall educational experiences.
- To provide a suitable background in music instruction for those students who elect to continue the study of music after graduation.
- To develop a life-long appreciation for music and continuation of musical activities.
- To develop performing organizations which are a source of pride for the individual, the school, and the community.

This handbook will provide you with important information that you will need as a member of the Starr's Mill High School Band Program. Read this handbook, and make sure you understand the material it contains. Refer to it if you have any questions about our band program. **You are responsible for knowing the information contained in this handbook.** If you have any questions about the content, it is your responsibility to seek clarification from one of the directors. Keep this handbook in a safe place and do not lose it. When necessary, updates to this handbook will be issued.

NOTE: The band directors reserve the right to amend any rules or policies as needed.

EXPLANATION OF UNITS

The following is an explanation of the individual units that compose the Starr's Mill High School Band Program. In this section are the purpose, requirements for membership, and other special information.

MARCHING BAND – This outdoor performance ensemble is the most visible entity of the band program and possibly the school. The marching band is an integral part of the full high school band experience. This unit includes the wind and percussion players as well as those students who are members of the Auxiliary. The Panther Pride Marching Band is an extra-curricular activity but all instrumentalists must be in concert band, symphonic band, or wind ensemble in order to participate. There are no auditions for this ensemble but each student will be expected to work hard, be dedicated, be physically active, and have fun through the process of succeeding.

The Marching Band is active from late July for mandatory band camp until late October through the football season (later if there are playoff games). Attendance at all of Band Camp is **mandatory**. Percussionists and auxiliary will also rehearse one week prior to band camp. The Panther Pride performs at all varsity football games, three marching competitions, pep rallies, standstills, and parades. To be an instrumental performer, the student must have completed the previous semester as a member of one of the band classes at Starr's Mill High School (exception is made for freshmen and new students) and be currently enrolled in an appropriate band class. Members are expected to commit themselves to band class for the full length of the school year. Students who play a woodwind instrument or trumpet must provide their own instruments. In other cases a school-owned instrument is provided (maintenance fee charged, see additional form). Also, percussionists (except bass drummers) will be expected to provide their own mallets and sticks.

WIND ENSEMBLE – This is the band program's premier concert ensemble, comprising the most outstanding instrumental musicians. All students in this ensemble will be expected to participate in all local, state, regional, and national performances. The ensemble will have as a primary focus the preparation and extremely high level of performance expectations of the finest literature for the modern wind band. While students will already possess a high degree of ability, the further advancement of musical skills (both individual and ensemble through private lessons, etc) will be paramount to the success of the student and the organization. Admission is by audition, being selected to the Georgia high school all-state band for the current year, or being selected as a principal player in the middle school all-state band (as an 8th grader). Admission in this ensemble is per semester only; therefore, the second semester of participation is based on the student's contribution, test grades, and participation during the first semester. A student could be moved to another band class accordingly. The audition will consist of 12 major scales/arpeggios, chromatic scale, 1 prepared etude, and 1 sight-reading. Membership in this band is limited to a certain number of instruments per section. The Wind Ensemble rehearses daily during the school year and has after-school rehearsals as needed. These dates are given well in advance; rehearsals are mandatory for students to perform at that concert and remain in this ensemble. Students in this ensemble are expected to perform at least 6 full band concerts, occasionally for civic functions either as a large band or as chamber ensembles, possibly in full orchestra ensemble as well as audition for various honor bands. Grading will be: **35% Performing, 25% Tests/Homework, 25% Class Participation/Rehearsals, and 15% Exam**. All performances and rehearsals are **mandatory** and must be attended in its entirety in order to receive full credit.

SYMPHONIC BAND – This ensemble will have as a primary focus the preparation and high level of performance expectations of fine concert literature for the modern wind band. While students will already possess a strong degree of ability, the further advancement of musical skills (both individual and ensemble through private lessons, etc) will be paramount to the success of the student and the organization. Students in this band have completed an audition and have been placed according to their abilities. Admission in this ensemble is per semester only; therefore, the second semester of participation is based on the student's contribution, test grades, and participation during the first semester. A student could be moved to another band class accordingly. The audition will consist of 8 major scales, chromatic scale, 1 prepared etude, and 1 sight-reading. The Symphonic Band rehearses daily during the school year and has after-school rehearsals as needed. These dates are given well in advance; rehearsals are mandatory for students to perform at that concert and remain in the ensemble. Students in this ensemble are expected to perform at least 5 full band concerts and occasionally for civic functions either as a large ensemble or as small ensembles as well as strongly encouraged to audition for various honor bands.

Grading will be:

35% Performing, 20% Tests, 15 % Exam, and 30% Class Participation/Rehearsals. All rehearsals and performances are **mandatory** and must be attended in its entirety in order to receive full credit.

CONCERT BAND – This ensemble will concentrate on developing playing skills such as tone production, rhythmic proficiency, intonation, and technical ability, as well as preparation and performance of fine concert band literature. Students in this band have completed an audition and have been placed according to their abilities. Admission in this ensemble is per semester only; therefore, the second semester of participation is based on the student's contribution, test grades, and participation during the first semester. A student could be moved to another band class accordingly. This group has a moderate level of performance expectations. The Concert Band rehearses daily during the school year and has after-school rehearsals as needed. These dates are given well in advance, and the rehearsals are mandatory for the student to perform at that concert. Grading will be: **35% Performing, 25% Tests (playing & written), 25% Class Participation/Rehearsals, and 15% Exam.** All performances and rehearsals are **mandatory** and must be attended in its entirety in order to receive full credit.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE – This ensemble's primary focus is the exploration and performance of many types of jazz literature. This ensemble meets before and after school based on a set schedule. This unit performs approximately 4 concerts as well as for school and civic functions, including the Night of Starrs. Participation for the entire year is expected.

CHAMBER ENSEMBLES – These groups are organized for the study of certain literature and will involve performing at school and civic functions. Since these musical groups are excellent vehicles for teaching intense individual musical responsibility, the first two chairs of each section in each band are expected to be in a "premier" ensemble. Wind Ensemble members are expected to perform in a chamber ensemble sometime during the school year.

In all band classes, a full ensemble or chamber ensemble will be rehearsing. We encourage each student to reach his/her highest performance level possible through team work at school and individual practice at home. Any individual practice must be done before or after school hours. We are maintaining a superior band program, not a conservatory.

AUXILIARY – The Auxiliary performs to provide a visual representation of the music performed by the Marching Band. The auxiliary is part of the marching band so all full marching band activities as well as separate auxiliary rehearsals (including auxiliary camp in July) should be attended. Participation in Auxiliary is based upon an audition held during the spring of each school year. Auxiliary members must provide the necessary funds to purchase all required items for this group (i.e., uniform, equipment, etc). There will be additional handouts concerning specific money needed, etc.

WINTER GUARD – This is an auditioned unit of the most dedicated Auxiliary students. Winter Guard takes place from November through the first of April. This program helps the Auxiliary students continue to develop throughout the year. The program involves extra expenses and is not mandatory for participation in fall Auxiliary.

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE

Each member of the band is expected to put in practice time on his/her instrument at home. This is the only way you can become a better musician. Playing your instrument only during band rehearsals will result in little improvement and a poor sounding band. How much time should be spent practicing at home? A good rule is to practice at least 45 minutes daily. **It is the daily practice that makes you better, not every other day, or once a week.** Make practice a daily habit. Find a time that is free from distractions and get in a good session. Set goals for yourself so you will accomplish a certain amount of music preparation during each practice session. Brass players are required to practice 4-5 hours a week.

Private lessons are the key to developing an outstanding musical organization. **Students who study their instruments privately with a professional musician show rapid improvement in individual musicianship.** As these students improve, their excitement towards practicing increases, they continue to improve, and they become a stronger contributor to the overall success of the band. Private instruction has a great impact on the individual student and on our band program both this year and in the future. The key to satisfactory results from private instruction is to start as soon as possible ... **SO START NOW.**

Finally, we take our job as a band director very seriously. The band as an organization provides a medium through which students progress academically, musically, and socially. Musicianship, attitude, attendance, punctuality, conduct, and a desire for excellence are absolutely expected from each member of the Starr's Mill Band; therefore, individual practice and preparation are essential. No other discipline in education requires the high level of achievement from all participants as does musical performance. Through the level of commitment required we hope to better prepare our students for the responsibilities encountered throughout their lives.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

One of the goals of the Starr's Mill High School Band Program is the development of leadership qualities in students who possess the potential to be good leaders; therefore, each year students will be appointed to various leadership positions. Being a student leader is a service position and not a position of power or glory. There are auditions for all section leaders and band officers. Student leaders are expected to encourage and help as well as to befriend those within their section. They must have good musical or auxiliary skills to lead their group to a high level of performance. Because good leaders lead by example, student leaders are expected to be members in good standing. Since the public associates the leaders as representatives of the band, a high level of behavior, maturity, and responsibility should be maintained even when not with the band. All officers/section leaders should monitor each member so the band functions smoothly. The Directors reserve the right to remove any student from his/her position if any problem cannot be resolved or is warranted in any way. Below is a brief listing of our leadership positions – some exist only during marching season.

DRUM MAJOR – The Drum Major is the top leadership position in the Marching Band. Responsibilities include leading the band during performances, conducting rehearsals, overseeing the duties of the section leaders, filling in for any absent section leader, and being one of the student representatives from the band to other organizations. Auditions are held in the Winter or Spring and the position is filled using a group of qualified judges from outside the school as well as the directors. Candidates for Drum Major must have completed at least one full year in marching band and must be currently enrolled in a high school band class. The Drum Major uniform will be decided by the Band Directors. A summer conducting/leadership camp is mandatory for new drum majors and strongly encouraged for experienced ones. The Drum Major is expected to remain active on his/her instrument during the marching season in band class.

BAND CAPTAIN – Band Captain is a student, who is a senior, elected by the band members. He/she should work very closely with the Drum Major. Leadership duties should be shared with the Drum Major but also include assessing the effectiveness of each section leader. This student is elected to be the students' representatives to other organizations as well. While the Drum Major is the leader in front of the band during rehearsals, the Band Captain is the leader among the band. This leadership should show in the way the Band Captain conducts himself/herself with pride, enthusiasm, maturity, and excellence. A summer leadership camp is strongly encouraged.

SECTION LEADERS – In marching band, Section Leaders are students that are strong players and excellent leaders in an instrumental section. These leaders are appointed by the Band Director based on a leadership/responsibility audition and from teacher observations. They are responsible for seeing that the students in their section know their music, routine, and drill. Section Leaders must be able to conduct productive sectionals, assist in drill instruction, and perform other tasks as necessary. It is very important that the section leaders encourage their sections as a team in order for all players to feel comfortable. Section Leaders are responsible to the Band Directors, Drum Major, and Band Captain. A summer leadership camp is strongly encouraged.

In band classes, Section Leaders are the first chair players. Student auditions will be used as a basis for chair placement. Concert Section Leaders will be asked to monitor the needs of their sections, run sectionals, communicate reminders to members, and any other needed task in order for the ensemble to run smoothly.

SECRETARY – The Band Secretary is elected by the band members. He/she is organized, accurate, and articulate. He/she has the responsibilities of keeping an accurate roll of rehearsals/performances, keeping minutes of any student band meeting, reminding students of upcoming events, ensuring paperwork is turned in by students, corresponding with guest clinicians/businesses/instructors, and any other statistical work as well as monitoring students who are tardy to rehearsals/functions/3rd quarter break, etc. The secretary can elicit help from other officers and section leaders and should work closely with them.

LIBRARIANS – Students who keep the library in good condition and are very knowledgeable of our music and its location/availability. There will be one librarian per class (plus jazz band) with a “head librarian” designated by the directors. These students are also in charge of distributing, copying, and collecting music as well as any other duties related to our music.

BAND FACILITIES

Starr's Mill High School has one of the best facilities in the state of Georgia. We are very proud of what we have, and we work hard to maintain our rooms and equipment. Therefore, each member of the band program is expected to help keep the band facilities clean and in order. **NO FOOD, DRINK, OR CHEWING GUM IS ALLOWED IN THE BAND FACILITY** without permission. Detention for 20 minutes will be assigned for the first infraction, 30 minutes for the second, and a discipline referral for the third. Also, for liability reasons, we cannot permit non-band members in the band room at any time.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

We expect students to behave in a mature manner so that the band can rehearse and perform to the best of its ability and represent the band's goals. Students are required to follow the Fayette County Board of Education's policies on Student Conduct and Discipline at any and all band related functions.

Below is a list of ways you can make the band program the best possible!

- **Have a Great Attitude.** As a Starr's Mill performer, you will likely put in more hard work (while consequently having lots of fun achieving common goals) for this organization than any other during your time in high school. The better the band wants to be, the harder it has to work. Being a superior band comes with a price. Therefore, you will need an attitude of dedication, hard work, pride, spirit, patience, teamwork, and love. No one expects you to be perfect, and you will certainly make your share of mistakes. The way to success is to learn from each mistake so that it is not repeated. All the hard work will seem a small price when you experience the enjoyment of a great performance. This enjoyment is what makes band fun as well as an experience with memories that will last a lifetime.
- **Be Responsible.** This is probably the biggest life lesson the band experience can teach each student. Responsibility for your contribution to each rehearsal/performance: prepared with all equipment needed, music learned/memorized or routine learned, drill learned, and a great attitude. Responsibility for your actions: acting mature and appropriate in all situations, being positive about various situations, having fun, representing the band to the fullest, being early for activities, budget your time so grades in other classes stay strong, and coordinate other activities with band so conflicts could possibly be resolved. Responsibility to the band program: making decisions that do not adversely affect the band and its members, working as a team and getting along even if you don't like someone, and be encouraging.
- **Be Respectful.** Whether its holding your tongue when its easier to gossip or say hurtful comments toward someone, giving one another enough "space", acting appropriately even though it would be easier to do the opposite, valuing another's educated opinion even if it doesn't match yours, or treating everyone well regardless of age, grade, position, band, intelligence, or ability, respect each other in order to build the tightest family you can. Create positive interpersonal relationships that foster a proper learning environment.
- **Pay Attention.** During rehearsals, listen and **do not talk**. If the Director said it, it was important! If he or she has to repeat it, the band has lost precious rehearsal time. If you have a question, raise your hand. Also, be aware of your surroundings. Rarely will we be in a situation where we are the only ones there. Be a good representative for teenagers to show the public that you can be respectful and courteous.
- **Be On Time.** You are expected to be on time to any performance, rehearsal, or meeting. Always be a few minutes early so you will be ready when it is time to start. "Early is on time, on time is late."
- **Monitor Each Other.** Take ownership of your band and use peer pressure to remind your fellow performers to act appropriately. Whether in the band room or out in public, people judge the band on how well each of you acts and performs.
- **Be A Good Representative.** There Shall Be No Action For Which An Explanation Is Necessary. (Translation: If you think someone might ask you "Why did you do that?" then don't do it.) When in uniform, you are expected to show your best behavior. Watch what you say and do; people are watching you and will judge the band and the school by the way you behave. Remember you are representing everyone in this band, school, and community when you put on that uniform. Public Displays of Affection are prohibited by the Fayette County Board of Education's policies on Student Conduct and Discipline; therefore, they are prohibited at any band program function. Failure to do so will result in assigned seating, extra monitoring by chaperones, etc.

- **Speak Well.** Band members should not use words, phrases, or symbols that are profane, obscene, or otherwise inappropriate in the band room or at any band function.
- **Be On Duty.** During all band events including football games, concerts, parades, contests, rehearsals, and pep rallies always keep your attention toward the Band Director or Drum Major so you can be ready to play at a moment's notice. At football games, you may not move around the band block. Visitors are not allowed in the band block. All band members must sit in their assigned places. Always keep your instrument ready to play.
- **Stay Drug Free.** All members of any part of the Starr's Mill High School Band Program are expected to refrain from the use of alcohol and other illegal drugs. Failure to do so may result in dismissal (according to Fayette County Board of Education policy concerning code of conduct for extra-curricular participation).

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Infractions, not major incidents, may be dealt with by assigning time in the band room for detention. If this does not help a student correct an inappropriate behavior, a parent contact will be made. Each action is dealt with on an individual basis and any/all extenuating circumstances are taken into account. Any questions concerning this discipline policy may be directed to a Band Director. Major incidents will result in loss of privileges, awards, position, and/or dismissal from class or band program.

BAND PARENTS

Parents are an important part of the Starr's Mill Band, and have a vital role to play. Without the assistance and cooperation of Band parents, there would be no chance for the level of success we want to reach.

There are many things parents can do:

- Attend Band Parent meetings.
- Volunteer for parent committees. There are many different tasks with which we need your assistance, and everyone can find the niche that suits them best: chaperone, uniforms, transportation, equipment handling (pit crew), sewing, meals and publicity are just a few of the areas we need filled for the marching season alone.
- Be supportive of the band program and your child's participation by:
 - Assisting your child to be prepared and punctual for every rehearsal and performance.
 - Notifying the director if your child is to be absent or late for performance or rehearsal. This should be done in advance unless in absolute emergency situations.
 - Encouraging your child to practice at home and help them find a quiet place to do so.
 - Showing your interest and support in your child's music study by enthusiastically attending every performance possible.
 - Discussing with directors and staff anything that will help them understand and better serve your child.
 - Arranging for private lessons for your child, if at all possible.

BAND REHEARSALS

Our band rehearsals are important to the quality of our performance. In order to present an outstanding performance, students need to be at each rehearsal on time and ready to work and have fun.

In order for any organization to run efficiently, a set of policies must be established. These policies are fair to everyone in the organization and must be enforced for the protection of the organization as a whole and for the individuals within the organization. A band program cannot operate efficiently on excuses – only results; therefore, the following guidelines must be followed:

AFTER SCHOOL – There will be a semester-long schedule for after-school band rehearsals given out months in advance and will be updated as needed. These rehearsals are very important and are mandatory graded rehearsals. **The band directors must be notified by email, telephone, note, or in person** when checking out of school, for illness, on a day when a rehearsal is scheduled. **Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence**. Students are also expected to be at rehearsal if at school.

Please schedule appointments (doctor, dentist, orthodontist, etc.) on alternate dates and times to avoid conflict with rehearsals, performances, and any other events that are scheduled. It is the responsibility of each parent (because you schedule these appointments) and student to be at their full potential for a successful performance. All rehearsals will end promptly at the scheduled finish time. Please pick your child up at the scheduled ending time of rehearsals.

Marching rehearsals are held to improve upcoming performances. Too many rehearsals missed (at the discretion of the directors) will result in the student not participating in the upcoming performances. Even though these absences could be excused, this should not be considered punishment, but due to the student missing too much information. A first offense of an unexcused absence of a marching band rehearsal will result in the student not participating in the next performance or performances of the same weekend (which could diminish the other performers' ability to perform at their best) and loss of any privileges, status, and/or position. The second offense will result in the dropping of the student from the marching band and parent notification and conference.

During rehearsals students should wear shorts, a light colored t-shirt, **white** tennis shoes with socks, and any type of hat or sunscreen to keep the sun off of them. On Tuesday nights, the instrumentalists wear a white T-shirt and auxiliary where a designated bright T-shirt. A water bottle is also **required** for proper hydration. Jeans are not permitted.

Concert rehearsals will be announced well in advance and are mandatory graded rehearsals. An unexcused absence for a concert rehearsal during first semester will result in dismissal from the ensemble (and into the next one below) for the second semester. There will be a chance to move up based on the audition for the next school year. An unexcused absence for a concert rehearsal during second semester will result in dismissal from the ensemble (and into the next one below) for the first semester of the next school year. There will be a chance to move up based on the student's contribution, test grades, and participation during the first semester.

Should a student be involved in another school activity which conflicts with rehearsal or performance time, an arrangement between the director, the other activity's sponsor, and the student must be discussed as soon as the conflict is discovered. **It is the responsibility of each student who is in more than one school activity to coordinate all activities**. This will allow enough time for students involved in more than one activity, and their sponsors, to coordinate their schedule. Please communicate your commitment to band to any coach or sponsor of an activity in which you are involved. Illness is excused but only if the student has an excused absence from school that day. If a student is at school, he/she is expected at rehearsal. Any other emergency situation should be discussed with the Band Director.

BAND CAMP

The Starr's Mill High School Band Program has band camp each year at the end of July and beginning of August (depending on the school calendar). It is two weeks of rehearsals, drill practice, and show preparation for the purpose of preparing the Marching Band and Auxiliary for the upcoming competitive season. **Band camp is a requirement for being in the Marching Band** with the exception of any upcoming 10th, 11th or 12th grade student participating in a summer musical activity such as GHP, drum and bugle corps, or summer music camps. These activities should be directly related to the educational benefits to the student and cannot be scheduled at a different time. The dates for the camp are announced prior to the end of first semester. Band members and auxiliary group members must plan their work and vacation schedules around band camp. The fee for belonging to the Marching Band changes yearly and is dependent upon the number of students who participate.

BAND PERFORMANCES

Each and every member is important! Think of yourself as important as a soloist or the drum major – the performance would be greatly diminished without them (and you!) All performers are “first string” players; therefore, are missed greatly when not performing and cannot be replaced. It is every member's (and his/her parents') duty to be responsible by attending all functions.

All performances are required with the exception of some emergency situations (to be determined by the directors). An unexcused absence from a public performance will result in the dropping of the student from the current band (marching band or band class into another one) and assigning the appropriate grade. For marching band, all games, contests, exhibitions, and most play-off games will be required regardless of any other functions, or events.

In all cases of absence from a public appearance, a written statement from the parent is necessary on the day the student returns. **The directors will determine if the absence is excused or not.** Students leaving school on the day of a performance must notify the Band Director(s) before they leave.

If you have a personal conflict of importance (determined by the directors) on a performance date, you will notify the director in writing at least two weeks in advance of the performance date to have your request considered. This will give others ample time to learn their new marching assignment or give the director time to make instrumentation changes in concert music. Please provide the director with enough information to make a fair evaluation of the situation. The decision will be at the director's discretion.

In the event that a member belongs to another performing organization that is performing at the same time as the band, the school band will take precedence. This is standard procedure and accepted as such by all community bands, drum and bugle corps, etc.

Some guidelines on what is considered a permissible excuse:

- Illness to the point that participation would be harmful to student's health: Excused
- Important religious observances conflicting with rehearsal or performance: Excused
- Weddings or funerals of immediate family members: Excused

BAND TRIPS

During the school year, the band program travels to many different places to give performances. Most of these trips are during marching season as the band travels to each varsity football game to perform during half-time and contests. During the rest of the year, the band travels to give performances at places such as District Festival, other schools, parades, etc. Occasionally, we try to take a major trip to an out-of-state location to spend a few days performing and sightseeing. During any trip, each member of the band program is expected to demonstrate proper behavior at all times, and be a good representative of the Starr's Mill High School community. Since all band trips are an extension of the school, all school rules concerning dress and behavior apply. During any trip, it is very important to listen to any and all directions given so the trip will go as planned, and all will have fun. Students may be barred from participating in a band program field trip if they are not eligible or in good standing. **Students that have quit band during the school year may not go on any band program trip. If a student is not registered in a band class for any reason, the payment for the trip will not be refunded for the student or their parent. Any student that has had ISS or OSS will not be eligible to attend the "band trip" (fall or spring) due to possible behavior problems.**

BUS TRIPS

It is our policy that any student traveling with the band program must ride the bus to and from the destination. Students are not allowed to ride with other parties back to the school. Should a parent have a need to transport their child from a band event, permission must be obtained from the director, a note must also be submitted stating that their child will be riding home with them. This note must be submitted by **3:30 (end of school)** the **day of** the performance and must be signed by the parent. Requests are approved by the director. **Students are prohibited from leaving football games, competitions, and other events until the end of that event (i.e., awards, the end of a game)** without director permission. A student cannot leave with anyone other than a legal guardian.

Be Safe On The Bus. During bus travel, all school bus rules apply to band trips. Keep noise levels to a minimum. No radios, tape players, or CD players may be used without earphones. NOTE: playing tapes or CDs containing obscene, profane, or otherwise inappropriate lyrics will not be tolerated. Chaperones are instructed to confiscate any questionable materials (recordings, magazines, etc) that are brought on the bus.

Change Clothing Only In Appropriate Places. During a band trip, performers may only change clothes in a place where it is appropriate to do so. This may not be done on buses or cars or in hallways or other places deemed inappropriate. Always check with the Band Directors and head chaperone for the location of the appropriate place and time to change.

STAFF AND CHAPERONES

Everyone on the staff of the Starr's Mill Band has been selected due to the skills and qualities they possess and for the benefit they can bring the band program, and should be considered an extension of the directors. They are to be treated with the highest level of courtesy and respect. Chaperones are also extensions of the authority of the directors. Without the dedication of our chaperones and other adults that assist with the band, we could not travel or perform in the way we do. These people work hard, and the only payment they receive is our appreciation. Be respectful, polite, cooperative, and remember that the words "Thank You" cost you nothing but are highly valued by the recipient. If you disagree with something a chaperone asks you to do, you are **not to argue** with the chaperone. You are to do as you are asked and then inform a director later. This policy will be strictly enforced. If a chaperone has to report a student for being uncooperative or for any other reason, that student is subject to a disciplinary action.

FUNDRAISING

Most band members are not aware of the very high cost of operating a high school band program. The state of Georgia and the Fayette County Board of Education provide only a small amount of financial support. The rest of our operating budget must come from the band program members in the form of "Performance Fees" and the Starr's Mill Band Booster organization that earns money for us through fundraising. Students and parents are expected to participate in all fund raising efforts we sponsor. All parents are strongly encouraged to be active members in our booster organization. All bands need money to exist. The best bands need an operational budget, and a reliable means to raise funds. **Funds raised benefit EVERY student, not just the Marching Band.**

STUDENT ACCOUNT POLICY

Student accounts give every Band family opportunities to offset some of the cost associated with participation in Band activities. By participating in fundraisers, a portion of the profits will be deposited into individual student accounts.

1. Student and parent participation in fundraisers is voluntary.
2. Fundraisers held for the benefit of student accounts will be clearly identified in advance.
3. Balances in student accounts may only be used to pay for those activities and expenses approved by the Band Booster Board of Directors. Funds can not be used on items that may become the personal property of the student. (shoes, gloves, jackets, etc.)
4. A student account statement may be requested at any time by parents and will be distributed after each fundraiser is completed.
5. For each designated fundraiser, the student accounts will be credited when all payments for the fundraiser have been turned in by the student, audited and provided to the Treasurer for deposit.
6. Student accounts carry over from year to year as long as the student is in the Band program.
7. A student account balance may be carried forward for use by a sibling currently enrolled in the SMHS Band program. If no future sibling utilization is possible, then the unused account balance reverts to the Band General Account. Unused account balances are never paid out to students.
8. According to the By-laws, Disbursements from student accounts will be made as expenses occur. Disbursements will be made first from money raised by fund raising activities before funds are paid from direct contributions. After funds from the first source are depleted, funds will be paid from direct contributions.
9. At no time will disbursement from a student account exceed the balance.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

Being in the band program means you are responsible for several items you will use to make music. Below is a listing of most of the items you will come in contact with during the year.

INSTRUMENTS – Each band member is responsible for having his/her instrument at each rehearsal and performance and keeping it in top playing condition. Do not allow others to touch/play your instrument and do not touch anything that does not belong to you. All instruments (except certain percussion and tubas) should be stored in the instrument room during the day, and should be taken home at the end of the school day for practice. Reed players should have plenty of spare reeds, a good reed case, cork grease, swab, and polishing cloth. Brass players should have plenty of valve oil, slide grease, cleaning supplies, and a polishing cloth. Percussionists must provide their own concert snare sticks, yarn mallets, xylophone mallets, general timpani mallets, and stick bag. All wind players must have a music lyre for use during marching season.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS – Starr's Mill High School Band owns many instruments for use by band members. They are mostly instruments that are very expensive and therefore a hardship for students to purchase. Students may use these instruments with permission. Students must sign an Instrument Maintenance Agreement before any school-owned instrument may be taken home. Students using school-owned wind instruments will be assessed a yearly fee to cover all normal maintenance costs of that instrument. Percussionists will be assessed a yearly fee to cover all percussion equipment used during the school year (excluding mallets/sticks). Students are responsible for any abnormal damage that occurs to their school-owned instruments – this includes marching battery equipment damage due to improper playing, neglect, and/or any other misuse. Once checked out, instruments may not be used by anyone except the person who signed for them. The user is expected to take the utmost care of a school-owned instrument and return it in the same condition as it was issued.

MUSIC – You are responsible for bringing your own music to each rehearsal and performance. You are also responsible for keeping it in good condition. You must pay for any lost music.

PENCIL – Each band member is required to have a pencil on his/her stand at each rehearsal. Store it in your folio or instrument case so you will always have it when you need it.

MUTES – Great care was taken to select the best mutes possible. Any damage makes them ineffective so be very careful when handling your mute.

BAND ROOM ITEMS – Each band member should maintain items such as music stands and chairs. Treat these items well, for they are expensive to replace.

UNIFORMS: Marching

Marching – Each Marching Band member will be fitted for a uniform (jacket, “bibber” pants, and hat) during band camp. We differentiate one uniform from another by numbers. Each uniform, garment bag, hat, and poncho is numbered to match. The student will “pull” his/her uniform and all additional items by number; therefore, each student must remember that number. The student will be shown how to “pull” his/her uniform and its related items during band camp. After use, it is the responsibility of each student to replace his/her uniform and additional gear back to its original position in the uniform closet. The marching uniform, garment bag, hat, and poncho remain at Starr’s Mill High School. You are responsible for maintaining this uniform throughout the school year.

Uniforms are cleaned several times during a marching season. If a student spills or soils the uniform in any way, immediately inform the “Uniform Mom” so it can be treated before the stain sets in. We do not allow the students to eat certain foods, drink certain drinks, or bring certain foods and beverages into the stadium seating area in order to help keep our uniforms looking sharp and reduce the chance of staining. Parents, please help us by encouraging your child to respect the guidelines put into place. Uniforms are expensive so our goal is to make our uniforms last as long as possible in good condition.

When traveling with the band, you must keep your uniform in its protective garment bag. Band uniforms are very expensive to replace. Treat your uniform well because any damage that occurs to it will be your responsibility. Hemming of the jacket sleeves and pants legs will be taken care of during band camp by the uniform mom and her committee. **DO NOT CUT THE UNIFORM OR USE FUSIBLE WEB TAPE!** This will result in you having to purchase the entire uniform at a cost of \$300.

During band camp each student will also be fitted for shoes, show shirts, gloves (auxiliary and percussion do not need band gloves), and a competition jacket. These items are ordered through the band in order to maintain uniformity. These items are the student’s responsibility and must be brought to and taken from performances. It is recommended that two pairs of black and white gloves be purchased because students tend to misplace these. It is also a good idea to put the student’s initials on the tag of his/her T-shirt and shoes. This will help ensure their return if they’re lost.

For modesty issues, form fitting shorts are **required** to be worn under the “bibber” pants. Jeans and bulky pants cannot be worn. A bulky garment under the uniform pants shows and binds and spoils the uniform’s clean lines as well as making it difficult for the student to march properly. Spandex or thin material that doesn’t bunch up is suggested. During the warmer months, sport shorts are suggested. When it is cold, long underwear is suggested because it is form fitting (as long as it doesn’t prohibit fluid movement). Coats and blankets can be used in the stands but only approved uniform attire can be worn on the field.

After each game or competition, it is expected that your student will remove all personal items from uniform pockets and garment bags. Socks, gloves, “show shirt” and competition jackets should be taken home to be washed or cleaned for the next game or competition.

In order to march in ANY performance, each student must be in complete uniform. A complete uniform is:

- Clean, black, uniform marching shoes
- Solid black socks, longer length (no ankle socks)
- Pair of “bibber” uniform pants
- Sport shorts
- Show shirt (the uniform jacket might be taken off in the stands)
- Uniform jacket
- Pair of marching black and white gloves
- Assigned hat
- Carry garment bag containing poncho
- Hair will be hidden under the hat for a uniformed look. This can be done in a number of ways such as braiding, covering, cutting, or any way else to create a uniformed look. This must also pass inspection before being able to march.

Please note, if a student does not pass inspection, he/she will not march in the performance. Additionally, other “reminders” will be given the student so he/she is prepared in the future.

Before a performance, each student will need to be in his/her designated spot, in full uniform, by the required time (“on time is late, early is on time”). Remember, each student must have time to pull the uniform and all its accessories and change by this designated time; therefore, it is strongly suggested that the students arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the inspection time.

Clothing Attire for Competitions:

Since our students represent our school both on and off the field and while sitting in the stands, this is the attire students will wear traveling to and from the competitions as well as sitting in the stands at the contest. To keep our students looking uniform and professional, students are required to wear the following to all competitions:

- A clean show shirt.
- Well kept, hemmed and correctly sized blue denim jeans at their waist. Belted if necessary. (“Well kept” means no holes, rips, or frayed hems or patches)
- Nice sneakers or marching shoes with socks (no flip flops, slippers, sandals, boots, clogs, etc)
- Competition jacket. (sized during band camp)

No part of the uniform (except hats and gloves with permission) may be removed while you are in a public place. This includes any place you could possibly be seen by people outside the band. When in uniform, band members may not wear items that are not part of the uniform design. Variations in the uniform will not be tolerated. Use of unnaturally colored hair dyes or bleaches is not permitted. Natural colors include: blonde, brown, auburn, black, red (not crayon red). We are trying to present a uniform appearance and persons with unusual hair color are distracting to the audience and the judges. It is also possible for hair dyes to damage the uniforms for which band members are responsible. **No jewelry, bracelets, watches, etc of any type will be worn while in uniform** (including colored fingernail polish). Hair must fit in the hat or a black, sheer covering be worn. Pit performers must wear their hair “fixed” appropriately.

UNIFORMS: Concert

All Bands at Starr's Mill High School are required to wear "Concert Attire" to all performances. Jazz Band could be an exception to this and is determined for each performance.

Our Gentlemen are required to wear a complete black tux ensemble, including white long sleeve tux shirt, black cummerbund and black bow tie, black dress shoes, black socks, black tux pants and matching black jacket. It is the responsibility of each male student to have all of his correct concert attire for a performance. Complete tux packages are available at JC Penney, Men's Wearhouse, After Hours Formalwear (TUX in The Avenue), J&R Clothing, or you may seek out another supplier as long as the specifications are met. It is the parents' responsibility to take your son to a formalwear shop to be measured and tux ordered. Parents are responsible for payment of tux ensemble to the formalwear supplier.

Our young ladies are required to wear the long black dress, patent leather type black dress shoes (no sandals, flip flops, or clogs), and black hair attire. Dresses will be ordered through the band program in the fall. Parents are responsible for measuring your daughter, returning the order form by the due date, and paying the Starr's Mill Band Boosters for ordering of the dress. It is the responsibility of each female student to have all of her correct concert attire for a performance. It hurts the group when a student is not able to perform because she is not dressed appropriately. The dress comes un-hemmed and it is the responsibility of each parent to have it hemmed. We do not purchase shoes or hair attire for the students. Use of unnaturally colored hair dyes or bleaches is not permitted. Natural colors include: blonde, brown, auburn, black, red (not crayon red). **Only specified jewelry will be worn while in concert uniform** (including colored fingernail polish). Hair should be out of the eyes (haircut for gentlemen). Not only does it match the concert attire, the visual communication from director to student is greatly increased.

Orders will be placed during the first week of September for the ladies dresses in order to allow ample time for shipping.

- It is each student's responsibility to return this order form promptly during the **first week of school**.
- We will place **only one order** for concert attire. Please be sure your form is turned in to ensure that your daughter will be in the correct attire and be able to perform.

Not dressing appropriately will result in the student not being allowed to perform and will be detrimental to the group and student. The group's balance, blend, etc., is affected as well as the student's grade.

Please contact the Uniform Chairperson if you have any questions concerning the ordering of concert attire or any other uniform related question.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT

Must Be Returned to Band Director for Student to Participate

In becoming a member of the Starr's Mill High School Band, I agree to do my personal best to carry on the tradition of excellence and success both musically and personally. I realize that conscientious attendance and preparation for rehearsals and performances are essential for the Starr's Mill Band to operate successfully. I fully understand the conditions set forth in the band handbook, and agree to abide by them.

I also understand that once the student commits to an organization (i.e., marching band, concert ensemble, jazz band, winter guard, etc), the commitment must be fulfilled to the fullest. This is also important due to money spent on budgeted items, importance of the individual student to the group, learning the task of commitment, etc. The commitment to wind ensemble includes all local, state, regional, and national performances.

(Both student and parent must sign this agreement.)

I, the parent of _____ have read, understand and agree to abide by the policies stated with the Starr's Mill High School Band Program Handbook.

Student's Printed Name

Student's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

**STARR'S MILL HIGH SCHOOL
INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT
FOR SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS**

Student Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

CONCERT INSTRUMENT

MARCHING INSTRUMENT (if different from concert)*

Instrument _____

Instrument _____

Model _____

Model _____

Serial Number _____

Serial Number _____

**ALL FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF A SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENT
ARE LISTED ON THE FEE SHEETS (Marching Band and Concert Ensemble),
AND WILL BE COLLECTED WHEN THE MANDATORY FEES ARE COLLECTED.**

Notes:

1) *Trombonists will use a school instrument during marching season. If the student chooses to use that instrument for the entire year in band class as well as while marching, he/she need only pay the \$60 yearly fee. If the student uses his/her own instrument during concert season, he/she should pay the \$30 Marching Instrument maintenance fee.

2) All percussionists are required have own personal snare sticks, mallets, and stick bag. (See director for details.)

PLEASE SIGN

I understand that my child is responsible for the proper handling and care of the school-owned instrument assigned to him/her for the 2009 - 2010 School Year. I further understand that I am financially liable for any damage caused to the instruments in my child's care.

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____

**MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO SMHS BAND BOOSTERS AND
RETURN THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT and the APPROPRIATE FEE SHEET(S) BY
July 20, 2009 (Marching Band) or Aug 21, 2009 (Band Class only)**

**STARR'S MILL HIGH SCHOOL
BAND PROGRAM**

193 Panther Path
Fayetteville, GA 30215