



2022 Marching Band Handbook

Brant Stai, Director

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<http://sherwoodbands.org>

The Sherwood Way

- Start on Time with Instrument, Music, Pencil, Equipment
- Come Prepared & Energized
- Continuous Improvement Throughout Rehearsal (regardless of direct engagement)
- Make Musical Decisions - Articulation, Dynamics, Balance, Shape, Character, Etc.
- Listen & Adjust
- Crave Excellence
- Value Craftsmanship
- Motivated to Rehearse & Practice
- Practice Good Stewardship of Equipment & Environment
- Treat Fellow Musicians & Guests with Professional Respect
- Help Others
- Take Care of the Band Family

#thesherwoodway is a big component to what we do. It is the important cultural ingredient in our musical class room & rehearsals that make the Sherwood Band program special.

CALENDAR DATES

A list of dates was handed out at our Marching Band Info meeting a few months ago. You can also access these dates online:

- Our Marching Band webpage at <https://sherwoodbands.org/marching-band/>
- Check out our calendar dates on our google band calendar link on our band webpage <http://sherwoodbands.org>

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is extremely important. While we understand that you have many responsibilities and other activities, band needs to be high in your order of priorities. You have a responsibility to yourself and the people around you to be at rehearsal and performance on time and prepared to play.

- Rehearsal schedules are posted well in advance and streamlined as much as possible.
- We rehearse to improve ourselves & our ensemble musical product. We do not rehearse for the sake of rehearsal.
- Unavoidable absences will occur but are to be limited if at all possible.
- **Scheduled absences (appointments) are to be avoided during stated rehearsal times.** Remember **rehearsals are your job.**
- The start time for rehearsal is when we intend to start. Plan to be at least **15 minutes early**, have your equipment ready and be in your place ready to begin at the call time.
- **Please keep in mind that employers are required by federal and state laws to allow students to miss work for school related activities.** Show your boss your band schedule as soon as possible and bring questions to the band directors.

Band Director Approved Absences for after School Rehearsal

- **Emergencies.** The band director should be informed before rehearsal if possible.
Typical Emergencies: Illness, Death in the Family, etc.
- An approved activity where the band director has had **2 weeks** prior notice.
Typical Approved Activities: Scheduled Appointment, Religious Holiday, School related activity conflict, Private Lessons, etc.

Typical Absences NOT Excused

- Non-School Related Activities like Scouts, Club Sports, etc.
- Homework
- Concerts
- Overslept
- Forgot

- No ride

Excuse Notes

Excuse notes should include the following:

- Name of the Student
- Date of the Absence
- If you will attend part of the event, time of departure from or arrival to the event
- Reason the absence is excusable. (Be specific)

Unexcused Absence Consequences:

- **1 unexcused absence from rehearsal**
 - The student must practice at school before or after school for a minimum of the time missed within 5 school days or they will miss the next performance – the student will lose their marching spot.
- **2 unexcused absences from rehearsal**
 - In addition to the above, the student will be put on probation, and is not allowed to attend the next performance.
- **Further unexcused absences from rehearsal**
 - In addition to the above, further unexcused absences will result in a parent conference and possible removal from the marching band program.
- **Unexcused absence for a performance**
 - Not attending a performance will be immediate grounds for dismissal from the program. A conference with the student and parent will be scheduled to discuss the student’s future in the program.

Excused absences must be made up by documented practice outside of their regular practice time for the amount of time missed or they will be made into unexcused absences.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

It is in the best interest of the band and the student to incorporate a known chain of command. This following system eliminates most confusion, coordination and communication issues.

- Band Director
- Hired Staff
- Parent Volunteers
- Field Conductors
- Section Leaders and Group Leaders
- Seniors
- Juniors
- Sophomores
- Freshman

COOPERATION

Follow the chain of command. You are expected to cooperate fully with band directors, staff members, and student leaders. Treat them with the respect they have earned, because someday, hopefully, you too will be in a position of leadership and desire that respect. **Most mistakes are made from not listening to instructions.** It is the responsibility of the student leadership to relay important information and make sure instructions are fully understood by their section or group. **Do not put people down for asking questions, they ask questions because they want to improve.**

CODE OF CONDUCT

As a member of the Sherwood High School Band, you will be a member of one of the most exciting and entertaining band programs in the area. The Marching Band has set a standard of excellence that you as a member have a responsibility to uphold. To be a successful member of the SHS band you must have the motivation, desire, and willingness to put in the time and energy to continue this success. Remember the three P’s.

1. **Punctual**

- Be at every event
- Show up at performer call time

2. Prepared

- Have everything you need for class or rehearsal including a pencil, your instrument, mouthpiece, music, dot book, all uniform parts, quality reeds, proper lubrication for your instrument, proper attire & shoes, mutes, etc.

3. Positive

- Be mentally and emotionally prepared to learn.
- Have a positive attitude and be willing to try new things.
- Follow the chain of command (see the band handbook) and bring problems to Mr. Stai's attention.
- Treat the band as a family, respect authority and work together.
- Have fun!!

BEHAVIOR & SOCIAL MEDIA

Even while not in public, you represent the Sherwood High School and the Sherwood High School Band & Colorguard Program. Negative statements about the program, fellow performers, other programs or other schools will not be tolerated. Any Sherwood HS Band & Colorguard members found to be in violation of this standard may either receive a warning or more serious consequences depending on the severity of the behavior. Everything you say online can be traced back to you and Sherwood High School, therefore your words and actions must be of the highest caliber.

Pointers from Mr. Stai:

- Find something positive to say about other band programs (everyone has something positive happening that those students and staff membership are striving toward).
- Find positive things to say about other programs in our school (every team, activity, club, etc. is working hard in some form of athletic/intellectual/artistic prowess that you might not fully comprehend or appreciate; try to understand and appreciate their craft. All excellence requires discipline and effort, regardless of the form of activity it takes).
- Consider not saying anything online at all. Instead, say something in genuine manner face to face with the person you are addressing. Usually in this manner words will not be misinterpreted and clarity will ensue.
- When you don't understand why a decision is made or don't understand something, don't complain online; instead, find someone who can explain the decision. This will either clear everything up or will lead to further questions. Educating oneself on the issue at hand prior to formulating an entrenched position is a wise life path to follow and will typically lead to better decision making and fewer regrets.

Pointers from Mr. Dyer:

Reactions and emotions are temporary. Anything placed on the interweb is forever - FAR outlasting the fleeting thoughts that prompted you. What you posted will remain forever like a bad caption under your mug shot. If you really need to say something to someone take these steps:

1. Write down what you want to say with paper and pencil.
2. Wait a minimum of 24 hours - then read it again.
3. Rewrite it now that you've regained part of your sense of perspective.
4. Wait another 24 hours.
5. Ask for an appointment to meet the person you want to communicate with - in person.
6. Listen. Work just as hard to understand as you will work to be understood.
7. Forget about your paper and be glad you didn't embarrass yourself or the Sherwood Band Family

SHERWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT CONDUCT POLICY

You will be expected to follow the SHS handbook guidelines for conduct at all times. All items, including but not limited to the following, will be expected of band students at all rehearsals, performances, and other band functions. Violations of such codes of conduct will result in the same consequences as with any other school activity.

*Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, or Illegal Drugs will result in severe punishment and **probable** removal from the band program. **Violations will be referred to the HS administration and law enforcement authorities.***

The Dress Code applies to all band activities. **Public Displays of Affection are not permitted during any band function.**

ELIGIBILITY

All SMB members must meet the following requirements for participation:

- Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion: Be a student that is currently enrolled in band at Sherwood High School.
- Colorguard: Be a student that is currently enrolled at Sherwood High School, home-schooled, or in a school that does not offer colorguard
- **Grade requirements** are as follows:
 - Members must currently be passing and able to maintain grades in all classes. Grades will be checked on a regular basis. Members are not eligible to perform if they do not meet the following requirements:
 - Minimum GPA of 2.0
 - No "F" grades
 - Marching Band, Jazz Band I, and Wind Ensemble members must be current on their Career Credit and passing Advisory in order to be eligible to perform in competitions. There is a 5-day turnaround from completion of an assignment and it is input into Naviance.
- **Failure to meet grade requirements** which lead to a missed performance will be grounds for immediate and permanent dismissal from the band.
- Never previously quit or have been dismissed from the team mid-season.
- Knowledge of commitment, all practices, camp dates, fees and team expectations.
- Have a good attitude, and be ready to learn, perform, play music and have fun!

NON-BAND STUDENTS

Only band students are allowed in the following places:

- The Band Room
- The Uniform Room
- Practice Rooms
- On Buses
- The Band Practice Field
- Band Rehearsals
- In the Band Area of the stands during Football/Basketball games

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

- Talking during band rehearsal is unacceptable unless absolutely necessary. Use good professional judgement.
- Every student should have a pencil at all times and use it frequently.
- Moving about during rehearsal should only occur when absolutely necessary.
- Only specified leaders are able to give instructions or corrections, if there is a problem raise your hand – **follow the chain of command** (see above).

FOOTBALL/BASKETBALL GAME ETIQUETTE

- Situational Awareness. It is OK to talk in the stands but stay attentive and be ready to play at any time.
- We move together into the stands before a football game.
- It is unacceptable to change seats or move around the stands during a game.
- It is encouraged that band members cheer and support the team during a game.
- Never switch instruments during a game.
- Be in full uniform throughout a game.
- Students must stay in the band seating area throughout the game unless given permission for a bathroom break.
- Have your own binder & stand.
- Students are representatives of the school and the band program whenever they are in uniform, partial uniform, or a band shirt
- Do not eat or drink anything but water while in uniform.

BUS ETIQUETTE

- When riding the bus, stay seated.
- Students should wait until told before getting up or leaving the bus.

- Buses should be clean, free of trash, and left in the same or better condition as they were.
- Public Displays of Affection are not permitted during any band function.

SHOW ETIQUETTE:

The uniform is a symbol that the members should embody. Their actions in uniform determine how others will view the program; giving the impression of constant professionalism should set the example for other programs.

In Uniform:

- Buddy System Always. No member walks alone in uniform.
- Members walk side by side with another member or in groups of 3.
- None of these are acceptable in uniform:
 - Running
 - PDA
 - Eating
 - Swearing
 - Roughhousing
 - Spitting
 - Immaturity
 - 'If you think it's a bad idea, it's probably a bad idea'.
- Show shirts are to be worn underneath the uniforms. In cold weather a black under armor type long sleeve shirt, no collar is recommended. This gives a sense of uniformity when we are not in uniform.
- Girls & Boys with long hair should wear their hair up in a tight bun or something similar to the third example of this video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dX9kln-kE_0 starting at 4:52. Boys with long hair should do something similar.

Out of uniform:

- Out of uniform, members are still representing the organization with everything they say and do. They represent their team, family, community, school, teammates, instructors, and ultimately themselves.
- No unprofessional or immature activity.
- In stands, be professional and supportive of every other group, clap for everyone and be appreciative of others' success.

MARCHING CONTEST ETIQUETTE (AUDIENCE)

- Comments vs. Conversations. Comments during another band's marching performance is OK as long as it is done softly and is not distracting to those around you. Conversations are distracting and not allowed.
- Keep cell phones put away during performance.
- Give applause when appropriate. It is encouraged at marching contest to clap for soloists
- Be seated prior to the beginning and stay there throughout the performance.
- Do not sing along with the music.
- Do not move about during a band's performance.
- If you arrive to the performance area while a group is performing, stand by the entrance and wait for the performance to end before entering.
- Students are representatives of the school and the band program whenever they are in uniform, partial uniform, or a band shirt.

ITEMS TO BRING IN BACKPACK TO A COMPETITION:

- Rain gear
- Warm Jacket
- Warm Gloves & Hat
- Sunscreen & chapstick (for the sunnier events these are always helpful).
- Sweater/hoodie
- Sweat pants
- Black under armor type long sleeve shirt, no collar.
- Towel
- Umbrella
- Water

- Hand warmers
- Multiple pairs of socks - including black
- Extra snacks
- Spending Money (if you want to buy something)
- Homework to complete during down time.

MARCHING BAND UNIFORMS

- Students will wear as a complete unit at all times when in public unless directed otherwise. Wear your uniform with pride.
- Property of the band and must be returned after each use.
- Students are responsible for upkeep and maintenance of your uniform and all of its parts.
- Must be hung properly after each use.
- If your uniform becomes dirty while in use between cleanings, or becomes excessively dirty you may be asked to pay for its cleaning or replacement.
- Students are responsible for lost or destroyed uniforms
 - \$300 for the jacket and \$150 for the pants
- Students will wear the band t-shirt under the marching uniform. The band t-shirt will be part of pre-performance inspections.
- Students must wear approved black band shoes and black socks.
- Students will not wear distracting jewelry, hair ribbons, colored nail polish, make-up, etc. while in uniform.
- Students with long hair will put it up under their hat or pinned back during performances. Natural hair colors will be the only style of color accepted.
- Consumption of food or drink is strictly forbidden while in uniform without permission. Water is ok.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Field Conductor

- Each year approximately three students are selected to become the primary student leaders in the band. A very stringent audition process is used for their selection. The drum majors responsibilities include being the liaison between the students and the band director, field instruction, conducting the field show, and providing leadership to the band.
- **The Field Conductors at SHS are the executive leaders of the student leadership team** and have all of the responsibilities and respect that comes with that title. Field Conductors are expected to be the first at rehearsals and the last to leave, attend all staff meetings, and lead by example in every way. Only the most respected, dedicated, and talented students should try out for Field Conductor.
- **Field Conductors are expected to attend the same approved drum major camp over the summer.**

Section Leader

- The section leaders are student music teachers. They should be the best players on their instrument or fine player with more seniority. The section leaders, in combination with the band staff, have the final say on musical interpretation and horn carriage. Section leaders are selected by the band director based on playing ability, reliability, the respect of their peers, and experience.

Colorguard Captain

- The Colorguard Captain should be among the best movement and equipment performers with more seniority. Colorguard Captain works closely with staff to relay important information to membership and to serve on the marching band leadership team. The position of Colorguard Captain is selected by the Colorguard Staff and Band Director based on performance ability, reliability, the respect of their peers, and experience.

Student Leader Expectations

- Meet regularly as a leadership team to discuss and set a plan of action on how to best help facilitate needs for the marching band & membership.
- Arrive early to all band rehearsals in order to get rehearsal spaces ready and greet members.
- Stay after rehearsal until all post rehearsal cleanup and business is handled.
- Attend the Metro Capitol Leadership Academy in June.

FALL AWARDS

- Outstanding Brass, Woodwind, Percussion and Color Guard
- Outstanding Rookie
- Outstanding Improvement
- Most Outstanding Marching Band Member – Senior
- Most Outstanding Marching Colorguard Member – Senior

SHERWOOD BAND BOOSTERS

The Sherwood Band Booster Club is very active in helping the band with many of the things that just cannot be done with the limited staff. In addition to organizing fundraising efforts, they do many things to support the band. Volunteers with the band booster club are some of the most active on campus.

The Sherwood Band Booster Club is made up of the families and friends of the Sherwood High School band. The booster club holds meetings about 6 times a year. Please contact Lennae Bishop at president.sherwoodbands@gmail.com for more info. Mailing address for the booster club is:

Sherwood Band Boosters
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<https://www.sherwoodbandboosters.org/>