

AHS Band Handbook Summary 2014-15

The Complete AHS Band Handbook can be found on the AHS Band website:

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1. Great Bands are not made on rules and regulations. They are made from students, parents, and staff members that want and love the band program.

Follow all ACS & AHS rules whenever you are involved in band activities. More specific expectations related to the band will be explained in the handbook. When in doubt about whether something is right or wrong, ask.
2. Practice a minimum of 30 minutes a day. This will lead you to developing your technique, tone, and other musical aspects. It will also allow you to prepare for playing tests and upcoming performances.
3. **Attend all scheduled and announced rehearsals, sectionals, performances, and special events for the groups to which you belong.** Directors must be given a minimum of two weeks written notice of any scheduled conflicts with a rehearsal for the absence to possibly be excused. **This does not guarantee that the absence will be excused.** Students must **attend all performances including: football games, competitions, concert festival, concerts, solo and ensemble, and All West (Wind Ensemble and anyone who signs up must attend)**, unless approved prior to signing the band contract that was due in June. Failure to be present at a performance may result in an alternate being placed in your spot and/or no points given for your grade. Doctor's or Dental appointments **must not** be scheduled in conflict with band events. Only in case of an emergency will an exception be made to the two-week rule (forgetfulness is not an emergency). In case of emergency, the directors should be contacted prior to the beginning of the event so appropriate plans may be made to cover for the missing student. **Seniors - It is not permissible to schedule a college day visit that conflicts with a band rehearsal or performance.** Please note that students must be picked up from rehearsals within thirty(30) minutes of the conclusion of the scheduled rehearsal.
4. Be respectful - of yourself and others; of equipment belonging to you, the school, or other band members; of the authority of directors, staff, and chaperones; and of other bands that we may have the opportunity to see throughout the year. Use only equipment that you have been given **permission** to use (if it does not belong to you - leave it alone). Leave equipment untouched unless given permission by the directors to do otherwise.
5. All **materials** should be taken home at the end of the day. The school system is not responsible for any instruments, equipment, or property, which is lost, stolen, or damaged. It is also recommended that students lock their cases (and have access to the key when needed) during the school day to prevent unauthorized entry to the instrument. The cubbies are open receptacles and cannot be secured.
6. **Do not** be late to after school band events. Parent conferences will be scheduled to determine consequences in case of two or more tardies or any unexcused absences. Penalties may affect your nine-week's band grade, leadership positions, performance assignments, and other areas. All students should be aware that excessive absences/tardies (excused or unexcused) might result in a student's responsibilities (part, marching position, leadership role, etc.) toward the ensemble being reassigned or rewritten (at the discretion of the directors). When attendance improves, the directors may, if possible, make arrangements to give some or all of the responsibilities back to the student. Poor attendance may also affect future assignment of responsibilities.
7. If you are absent from school (for a majority of the day), you are not allowed to participate in after school activities. On days we have after school practice or performance, please attend school. Our rehearsal schedule is already set at a minimum and we must have all band members in attendance at all events. This will be the only way the band program will be successful and all students will have a positive band experience.
8. Before school each day students may enter the back door of the band room and store their instrument in their assigned cubby. Students who do not have a cubby should not be in the instrument storage room. Band members should stay in the band room (or other acceptable areas of the building) until the bell rings (6:45 am). Friends of band members (if accompanied by the band member) may stay in the band room until the bell rings but they are expected to follow all expectations set forth in this handbook and

those stated by the directors. It is the band member's responsibility to see that their friend does so. Non-band member (friends) have no reason to enter the instrument storage room at any time.

9. No food or drink allowed in the band room area by any students - staff and parents excluded from this rule. Students violating this expectation will be assigned to band detention. Non-band members who violate this expectation will not be allowed in the band room area.
10. If you miss school or an after school band event, make up procedures are generally that you are responsible for finding out (from your section leader and squad leader) what was missed. Approach the directors and ask what must be done to make up the missed activities. This will often require playing music for the directors related to the missed event. Make up's will only be allowed for excused absences. A grade of zero will be recorded until this has been made up. Unexcused absences will result in a grade of zero for that rehearsal or performance, with no opportunity to make up.
11. If you have a problem, tell someone - a student leader, staff members, or the directors. Problems cannot be fixed if we do not know about them.
12. **Grading procedures for band:**
Homework - based on practicing at home and showing improvement on music assigned in class - students should spend thirty minutes a day on music assigned in class) - weekly grade of 100 points.
Playing Tests - based on tone quality, pitch, technique, rhythmic accuracy, musical expression, and scales - each assignment is worth 200 points.
Written Tests - handbook, returning forms on time, and musical terms check – each item is worth 100 points.
After School Rehearsal (preparation) - having all items for rehearsals, example: attendance, music, dot cards for marchers, pencil, mutes, water, etc. - each rehearsal is 100 points.
Weekly participation - having all equipment needed for class rehearsal, example: music, pencil, mutes if needed, proper percussion sticks and mallets, etc. - weekly grade of 100 points.
Performances - based on having all required equipment and being on time - each performance is worth 200-400 points.
13. **Conduct grades:** To receive an "E" or "S" in conduct, band members are expected to refrain from talking during rehearsals and when so instructed; show respect for directors, staff, parent helper's, student leaders, and fellow band members; represent the school to highest level during performances or on trips; demonstrate a positive attitude; refrain from rowdiness; take proper care of all equipment, whether school owned or privately owned; assist in the effective operation of productive rehearsals; follow all rules stated in the AHS Band Handbook; follow all Shelby County Schools rules and those specified by the administration at Arlington High School. Students who do not follow these rules **usually** will receive an "N", and **sometimes** a "U". If a student is referred to the administration for disciplinary problems, an "N" or a "U" will be given.
14. All band members will play in a small and large ensemble for Solo & Ensemble Festival.
15. Band members in Concert or Symphonic Bands will play a solo at Solo & Ensemble festival or audition for All-West Honor Orchestra/Jazz/Band. Students in grades 11-12 must perform a Grade 4 solo at Solo & Ensemble Festival; this will help you prepare for college auditions. Students in grade 9-10 must perform a Grade 3 solo at Solo and Ensemble Festival. Members of AHS Wind Ensemble will be required to perform a solo and audition for All-West Honor Orchestra/Jazz/Band. All students will perform in a small ensemble and a large ensemble at this festival.
16. Band Activity Fee: The band activity fee covers many items (more will spelled out in the band handbook).
Band members: Fee \$680 payable in installments stated in the handout.
17. We have a group of student workers (leaders) who dedicate themselves to the betterment of the band program. Student workers are given the opportunity to develop their leadership and organizational skills. Auditions will be held each spring. If you have a problem with any student worker and how they execute their responsibilities, please inform the directors immediately. The band handbook will specify each student worker position and each of their responsibilities.
18. Special items that you must get which are not covered in your band fee:
mutes (brass), reeds (woodwinds), mallets/sticks (percussion), khaki shorts (marching band season), black marching band shoes, guard shoes, guard wind suits, guard duffle bags, gloves, valve oil/key oil, and various other equipment as stated by the directors/staff.

19. Instrument repairs of personal and school owned instruments are the responsibility of each individual student to maintain proper playing conditions of the instrument. When taking an instrument into the shop, students **must** keep their music/mouthpiece/other supplies for school rehearsals. School instruments may be made available for school use, on short-term bases, while instrument are in the shop.
20. Instrument check out forms, for school-owned equipment, **must** be completed and return to the directors ASAP. Student/Parent are responsible for maintaining schooled owned equipment, the equipment use fee will cover normal wear and tear. Students must treat school owned equipment with respect and care; failure to do so will result in equipment being returned and repairs cost being the responsibility of the individual. Instruments must be returned in the same condition, minus normal wear, any repairs will be the responsibility of student/parent. There is a fee of \$50 for one instrument and \$75 for multiple wind instruments, percussion battery instruments or multiple instruments being used by one individual, for the use of all school owned instrument, this fee is not refundable. Use of school owned equipment is a privilege, failure to treat equipment in proper manner; student/parent will be responsible for providing needed equipment. Individuals are responsible for up keep and care of school instruments, booster will only cover items that are normal wear and tear of instrument and its case. Students/Parents must take care of all repair work and cost on school-owned equipment, recommendation of repair will be made if requested.
21. School sports and other school related activities must be communicated to the Directors prior to conflicts arising. The Directors will work out conflicts with the other school sponsors. Marching Band members are required to be at all events during the marching season. We work with our AHS sports programs but cannot work with outside sports programs that may cause schedule conflicts.
22. Please understand that our practices during the Marching Band season are limited and need to be respected. Attendance is **not** optional. Please schedule all other events around our practices. We are working on refining our show, and attendance is very important as changes or corrections are made on a daily basis. Monday rehearsals are sectionals for Wind and Percussion players. Guard will have sectionals on Saturdays during August and September and Mondays after our first competition. Tuesdays and Thursdays are full band rehearsals. Every Thursday is our dress rehearsal during the marching band season, and students **MUST** be in attendance in order to perform. Failure to respect this rule will result in sitting out on the performance that follows this rehearsal.
23. Please understand that our practices during the Concert Season are limited and need to be respected. Attendance is **not** optional. Please schedule all other events around our practices. The rehearsal schedule for the Concert Band (Freshman Band) will be every Wednesday. Rehearsal schedule for our Symphonic Band (grades 10-12) will be every Thursday. Rehearsal schedule for Wind Ensemble (grades 10-12) will be every Tuesday. Jazz Band will be every Monday. This schedule will begin in November and continue through May, rehearsals will begin at 2:15 pm and conclude at 5:00 pm.
24. If we do not have communication as to why a student is absent, a courtesy call will be made to the parents to inquire about their absence. Please understand that we are responsible for each of our students during rehearsal and must have written documentation if a student is absent for any reason. A parent conference will be set up for students that do not follow this request of attendance. We cannot be as strong if we do not have 100% attendance at all rehearsals.
24. Our number one goal for this year is to provide the best opportunity for our students to be their best. All the rules and regulations will not make this happen, but what we do to support them will make a difference. Our program is successful due to our great students, student leaders, Band Booster Board, and parental support. Please be active and supportive of our program.
25. Our pick-up and drop-off procedures for all rehearsals, performances, and activities at Arlington High School must be followed for the safety of our students. All students must be picked up and dropped off in the **student parking lot**. Students may **not** be picked up or dropped off in the smaller parking lot right outside the band room/fine arts wing. Students may **not** be picked up or dropped off along any part of the street on school property. Please understand that this is a school policy that was implemented to keep our students safe. If this policy is ignored by whoever is picking up or dropping off your child, then we will be forced to remove your child from participating in the upcoming performance or it will be referred to the administration. Please work with us to keep our students safe during pick-up and drop-off times.

**THIS SHEET MUST BE RETURNED TO THE DIRECTORS ON
FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2014**

Class Period/Name _____

Student Name (please print)_____

Student Signature_____

Parent Signature_____

Date Signed _____

Signing and returning this sheet signifies that you have read through the AHS Band Handbook on the AHS Band Website:

www.ahstigerband.com, received the Band Handbook Summary sheet, and are aware of the information contained in both of them.

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