

Orchard View High School Band Handbook

Revised 5-2019



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The “Cardinal” Rule of Band Class:

Be

On

Time

Being on time shows that you respect the ensemble, the director and fellow students. While it is understood that many band members do not drive themselves, it is expected that arrangements will be made so that all students will follow this rule. If you need help arranging rides for any event please contact the director.

Band Room Guidelines

- No food or gum in the band room at any time. Clear water only.
- Always have a pencil.
- The band room is to be kept clean at all times.

Attendance Policy

More than any other class, it is critical to have each member in attendance at all rehearsals and performances. During marching season, it is impossible to clean drill or have a good-looking performance if there are holes in the form. During concert season, it is impossible to adjust intonation and balance with a person missing. Your absence hurts the ensemble. It is understood that things do come up, and here is how they will be handled:

In-School Absence or Tardy

During the regular school day we will follow the attendance policies outlined in the school handbook. So, if you are going to be late or absent from 0 or 1st hour band class, please refer to that policy.

Absence or Tardy to after school rehearsals or performances

Absences are considered either excused or unexcused. An unexcused absence means you are penalized as per the grading policy and may not make those points up through any means of extra credit or make-up work. If your absence is considered excused, you still lose the points, but you are allowed to make them up by completing the make-up work assigned by the director.

Absences will only be excused for certain reasons. These include:

- Illness
- Family Emergency
- Other unavoidable conflicts as confirmed by the director

Absences that are **NOT** excused include:

- Work
- Parties
- Routine appointments that could be scheduled at another time
- Any absence that is not handled by the procedure listed below

See the director for an absence form. Fill it out and have your parent or guardian sign it. For a rehearsal you must give at least one week prior notice, for a performance you must give two weeks prior notice. A schedule for the first trimester will be distributed with this handbook. Check now for conflicts! At the starts of each new sports season and semester, check again for conflicts. The director will let you know if your form was excused.

If an illness comes up, a parent or guardian must call 760-1510 and report it **BEFORE** the rehearsal or performance. The voicemail must be time-stamped prior to the call time for the illness to be excused. Note: You still must call in even if you were absent from school that day.

Grading Policy

In any Orchard View High School Band, each student starts every marking period with 100 points, or an 'A' letter grade. Points are deducted and grades are lowered for the following:

- Absence from performance -30 points
- Absence from after school rehearsal -15 points
- Incomplete or dirty uniform at performance -10 points
- Unexcused in-school absence -5 points
- Tardy for Call Time (after school) -5 points
- Unprepared for rehearsal -5 points
- Chewing gum or having food or drink Detention
- Inappropriate behavior -5 points
- Tardy for rehearsal (after school) -5 points

Note: Excused absences will still result in points being deducted from your grade, but you will be allowed to make those points up. **No points may be made up for unexcused absences! There will be no extra credit available. Please refer to the attendance policy to make sure you are excused!**

Make up work for excused absences will be completed in the form of practice recordings. See Mr. Merchant for details.

If you have turned in an excused absence form, these recordings are due BEFORE the missed performance. If you have missed due to illness, you have 2 weeks after the absence to turn in these recordings.

There will also be playing tests and written tests, as decided by the director. These points are added to your total. To view your grade use the internet viewer from home or from any computer at school.

Band Travel

All students must ride the bus with the band to any away performances. After a performance has been completed a parent or guardian may sign their student out instead of riding the bus home. Phoned in permission cannot be accepted.

Performance Policy

One of the main reasons a school music program exists is to perform. Performances are the cap on everything that has been worked on in the classroom or on the practice field. All performances are considered equal from a football half-time show to MSBOA State Festival. As was stated in the Attendance section of the handbook, you are required to attend all performances. To avoid losing any points, here is what you need to do:

Call Time:

Each performance will have a call time. This is the time where you need to be completely ready for any pre-performance activity, such as warm-ups. The director will let you know well in advance where to meet, if you need to be in uniform, and what you need to have for each call time. **You must be in your spot at the call time to not be considered tardy!** Being in the hallway, instrument storage room, or even a few feet from your spot does not count. Missed call times result in lower grades as described in the Grading Policy. Also, the director may choose to move future call times earlier for the entire band if missing call times becomes a problem.

Sports Vs. Band:

We all want you to have a well-rounded high school experience and will try to work out as many conflicts as easily as possible. Your responsibility is to know your schedule and bring up any conflicts as soon as possible. Notify your coaches and band director early in the season and keep surprise conflicts to a minimum. Coaches and directors only get frustrated when you realize you have a conflict too late to work out a solution. It is your responsibility to get all conflicts resolved. Any missed band rehearsals or performances will still need to be made up for your academic band class grade.

Above All:

For any absence to be excused you must let the director know in advance. If you are not where you are supposed to be and we don't know about it, you are unexcused. No matter what kind of excused absence you have, you must make up the points. There are no free points in band class.

This attendance policy is much the same as you will find in any serious job you take. Develop the responsibility to maintain your schedule now and you will use those skills your entire life.

Uniforms

Our uniforms reflect the pride we have in our performance. It is your responsibility to make sure you are wearing the proper uniform to all performances. Failure to do so will result in either a lowering of your grade or, if your uniform is unacceptable, you will not be allowed to perform and it will count as an Unexcused Absence.

Marching Uniform:

Each band member will be fitted for a uniform. These uniforms will be stored at the middle school. Band parents will hand out the uniforms prior to each performance and collect them back after each performance. It will be the responsibility of the students to hang the uniform neatly prior to turning it back in.

We will also fit each student for black marching shoes. All band members are required to wear the black marching shoes. No other shoes will be acceptable.

Band members will also need to provide black socks that are longer than ankle length.

Band members must always wear their current year show shirt under their marching uniform. Students who did not attend camp will need to purchase their show shirt for \$5.

In cooler weather you may wear extra layer underneath your uniform to stay warm. Please note that these may not show at any time unless they are black in color.

Color Guard:

You will be provided a uniform at the beginning of the marching season. It is your responsibility to keep this uniform clean and turn it back in at the end of the season. You will be responsible to wear this uniform at all times the marching band is responsible to wear uniforms.

Concert Band:

Concert Uniforms were purchased new for the 2017 season. Just like marching band each student will be issued a tux shirt, pants, bowtie and cummerbund. These will be passed out before each performance and collected back after. Students will need to provide a white undershirt, black socks and black dress shoes.

Jazz Band:

You will be expected to dress nicely to all performances. If we are performing in conjunction with the concert band, it may be necessary to wear concert uniforms. The director will explain in more detail before each performance.

Football Games

The Orchard View Marching Band will attend each home football game and also any playoff game held at home or at a neutral site. We will stay in the stadium for the entire game. All students are expected to stay in full uniform for the entire game - from call time until we return to the band room after the final quarter. Note: For the Homecoming game, we will also stay for the ceremony after the game.

The entire band will sit together at the football game in our own section. Your friends are not allowed to sit with us or come into the band section. All members will sit by section and be prepared to play at all times. In addition to our pre-game and half-time performances, we will be playing pep tunes during time-outs and the Fight Song when the team scores. No band member may leave the band without permission from the director. Only organized playing is allowed, and only a director or drum major may start a song.

You may not use cell phones or other electronic devices during the game, with the exception of a break.

Note: You may only wear additional clothing under your uniform if it cannot be seen. You may not wear a coat, non-band hat, or mittens without permission from the director.

Note to Color Guard: You are considered part of the band and will be held to all of the above rules. Except for the time given to you to warm up for the half-time show, you will sit with the band - in the row behind the percussion. You will stay in uniform for the entire game. If the season's uniform is not fit for cold weather, you will be given the option to wear a sweat shirt over it while in the stands.

Any member of the band not following the above rules will lose all or part of the points associated with the performance.

School Instruments

Band members borrowing instruments from the school (including percussion) are expected to keep them in great shape. This includes protecting them from damage as well as regular maintenance while the instrument is in your care. If any school instrument is to be transported in a vehicle, it must be in its case. Any damage to a school instrument that the repair shop does not deem to be from normal use will be charged to the student using the instrument.

Pep Band **(jazz kids only)**

Again this year the band will perform at a select group of “double header” games. All students will be expected to be at all games, and will need to follow the procedures in the attendance section of this handbook if they need to miss or be tardy to a game.

Varsity Cheerleaders: You will need to arrange to play both halftime segments, but will be excused during the games and from the in-between set.

Varsity Basketball: Please see Mr. Merchant as soon as possible to work this out.

The pep band calls in the band room for practice, plays pre-game for the first game, halftime for both games and in-between the two games. You will be dismissed at the beginning of the 3rd quarter of the second game.

Schedules will be posted in the band room and on the band web site as soon as they are released.

Contact the director

Bryan Merchant
bryan.merchant@orchardview.org

(231) 760-1510

**Follow us on Facebook by searching for
“Orchard View Bands”**

ovbands.com

OV Band Parents

These “band boosters” are crucial for providing opportunities to our bands that we would not have otherwise. With only one band director for our district 6-12 help is needed in many areas including:

- Fund raising
- Uniform hand out
- Equipment moving
- Chaperones

We will also need some new officers for the group as many of our current officers are ‘aging out’ as their kids get ready to graduate.

If you have a student in band, then you are a band parent. Even if in real life you are a grandparent, uncle, step parent or foster parent. Please consider joining us for a meeting.

Band Accounts

Through the band parents we also maintain a set of accounts for band students. These accounts may be used to purchase small items needed to participate in band class such as reeds or valve oil. These accounts can also be used to save up money for our biggest expense, band camp. Students may earn money in their accounts by participating in our three fund raisers each year. Parents can earn money for their student’s accounts by working in the concession stand that we run during football season. For more information please contact the director.

Please detach and return

Due by Friday September 6th

I have read and understand the *Orchard View High School Band Handbook*. I am familiar with the procedures outlined in said handbook, and how they affect the grade a student will receive in the class.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Band Member Signature: _____

___ I am interested in working the concession stand to raise money for my student's band account. Please forward my contact information to the concessions chair. Phone # _____