

Orchard View High School Band Handbook

Revised 8-2023



The “Cardinal” Rules of Band Class:

Be On Time

Your Best Ability is Availability

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.
- Phones are used only for tuning or UDP app.

Basic Expectations:

Attendance:

- You must be here
 - With the exception of extreme illness, you need to be in first hour every day.
 - No skipping. With the exception of a doctor's appointment that takes place during first hour, you should not be signing into school after first hour.
 - Please schedule appointments with other school personnel outside of first hour.
 - If you tend to miss large chunks of school, we need to meet with parents/guardians ahead of time to make a plan. If there is a medical or family issue I need to understand what to expect from you.
 - Band is a "co-curricular" activity and you must attend the scheduled rehearsals and performances that take place outside of the school day.
 - Any conflicts need to be reported to the director in the time and manner described in the band handbook.
 - Missing a performance is a huge issue. This should never be taken lightly.

Citizenship:

- Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Vape use will not be tolerated.
 - Using these during **any** school function can result in limiting your participation in band activities and possibly your dismissal from the band.
 - If the use of these substances outside of school negatively impacts your participation in band activities your participation will also be limited and you may possibly be dismissed from the band.
- Represent OVHS and our Band well.
 - You may not use foul or inappropriate language during band activities.
 - Any time we are in uniform or at a band function you are expected to behave with maturity and in a manner that puts our Band in the best light.
 - Consistent negative behavior at any school function could negatively impact your participation in band activities, especially those that involve travel.

Effort, do the minimum, attempt the maximum:

- Basic expectations will be outlined for each activity. These will not be based on talent or ability, but rather on effort. As the word "expectations" implies, you will be expected to do these things. If you feel that these expectations are not part of what you want to do, you may want to consider other educational opportunities instead of band.
- Our program is striving for excellence. Don't worry about if you are good enough, just be prepared to try hard enough.

Attendance Policy\ Every Minute Matters!

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 your school day band class, please refer to that policy. (This includes 7th hour jazz band)

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

To request an excused absence a parent or guardian must email Mr. Merchant. For a rehearsal you must give at least one week prior notice, for a performance you must give two weeks prior notice. Requests for MCBA or MSBOA performances must be given at the beginning of the semester. A schedule for the year will be distributed with this handbook. Check now for conflicts! At the start 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 email bryan.merchant@orchardview.org and report it **BEFORE** the rehearsal or performance. The email 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
- Absence from 1st hour rehearsal -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 1 week after the absence to turn in these recordings. It is your responsibility to make sure the recordings make it to Mr. Merchant. Technology problems are not an acceptable excuse.

There will also be playing tests and written tests, as decided by the director. These points are added to your total.

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.

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.

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 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 calf length or longer.

Band members must always wear their current year show shirt under their marching uniform. .

In cooler weather you may wear an 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:

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.

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.

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.

Contact the director

Bryan Merchant

bryan.merchant@orchardview.org

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“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.

