

Athens High School

Band Handbook

2011-2012



Aaron Backes, Band Director

Brandon Lias, Assistant Band Director

# Band Communication

Athens Band Website: [www.ahs-band.org](http://www.ahs-band.org)

## Band Staff Directory

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## Band Booster Officers

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Band Booster Address  
Athens High School Band Boosters  
P.O. Box 725  
Athens, OH 45701

## *Marching Band*

### *“Marching Green and Gold”*

The Athens High School Marching Band has a rich tradition of excellence performing for football games, competitions, and parades within the Athens area, throughout the state of Ohio, and select performances in venues such as Walt Disney World and New York City. It is the mission of the Marching Green and Gold to strive to maintain and improve this outstanding record of musical and marching performance. The students of the marching band are expected to show class in providing school spirit and representing Athens High School and the city of Athens.

The Athens High School Marching Green and Gold is an extracurricular ensemble that meets after school from 3pm to 5pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from the first week of the school year until early November. Students are permitted to participate in Marching Band and participate in a sport. Scheduling can be worked out between coaches and the directors that will allow participation in both groups. Marching Band begins with pre-band camp rehearsals the week of July 25<sup>th</sup>. All students in the marching band are required to attend band camp in Ripley, West Virginia from July 31-August 5. Rehearsals between band camp and the start of the school year will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 6pm-9pm and are required for all students. The marching band calendar includes a **TENTATIVE** performance schedule for the marching band season. **All Marching Band Rehearsals and Performances are required.** The times and dates of additional competitions and other performances will be established well in advance and required of all students.

#### **Marching Band Attendance Policy**

##### Excused Absences

Absences to rehearsals or performance may be excused if they are accompanied with a note from the students' parents. Any advanced noticed of absences should be given to the directors with a parent note. **AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE**

- Excused absence from school
- A performance, meet, or game of another school group that has been cleared through the director beforehand
- Death in the family
- Sickness with doctor's excuse
- Special circumstances cleared through the director with a note from the parents

Any absence from a rehearsal or performance that does not fit the above descriptions will be considered unexcused.

All performance and practice schedules are established well in advance. As a result, **work will not be a valid excuse for missed rehearsals or performances.** Please also schedule doctor's appointments and ACT/SAT tests around the established performance and rehearsal schedule.

Because credit is given for marching band on a pass/fail basis, the following policies are in effect for attendance.

#### Rehearsals

One unexcused absence  
Two unexcused absences  
Three or more unexcused absences

Field Duty  
Loss of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Privileges  
Suspension from next performance

#### Performances

One unexcused absence

Director's discretion- consequences could include but are not limited to a make-up assignment, loss of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter privileges, and possible failing grade for marching band

### **Marching Band Grading Policy**

Students must pass all three categories to receive a passing grade in marching band.

Daily Participation- This includes attendance at rehearsals and performances, behavior, bringing materials/equipment to class, and contributing in a positive manner

Music Memorization- Students must memorize the contest show and check it off with a director, band camp staff member, or drum major. Students should make every effort to memorize the contest music by the end of band camp. Pre-game music (fight song, alma mater, SSB) should be memorized no later than the first football game and can be checked off with a section leader, drum major, or director. Section leaders will perform music checks for the director.

Dot Book/Flip Folder Upkeep- All students will purchase a mini-notebook that they will use when they are on the field. This notebook will include a page for each coordinate on the coordinate sheet and other information that will be described at band camp. Section leaders will check the dot books of members in their sections. Section leaders will have their dot books checked by the directors. **NEW FOR THIS YEAR: All members except guard and percussion must have a flip folder and lyre appropriate for their instrument. This must include music in the folder for the show, pre-game, and stand tunes. This will be checked for a grade as well, and must be with students at all rehearsals and football games.**

### **Band Camp**

All students in the marching band are required to attend band camp in Ripley, West Virginia from July 31-August 5. Band camp will focus on learning music and marching fundamentals that will be important for the duration of the marching band season. A large portion of band camp will also be dedicated to learning the music and drill for the competition show.

At band camp, students must comply with all rules and regulations present in the Athens High School Student Handbook. Students will be under the supervision of parent chaperones and band camp instructional staff throughout the week. Any behavior in violation of the Handbook will be

referred to the Athens High School administration. Any serious incidents will require not only disciplinary action, but may also result in the student being sent home from band camp and possible removal from the band. Any violation of the Student Handbook will be handled at the discretion of the directors and Athens High School administration.

### Packing List

Here are the suggested items to bring to band camp with you. **Please label everything** with your name! Larger items should include your school name, address, and phone number, in the event they get left somewhere. Neither the camp nor the band staff can guarantee the security of your possessions; **WHAT YOU BRING IS AT YOUR OWN RISK.**

#### **Musical Equipment**

- Instrument**
- Music**
- Dot Book**
- Flip folders and Lyres
- Wire folding music stand -- optional, but helpful.
- Accessories -- extra reeds, grease, valve/slide
- oil, extra sticks/mallets.

#### **Clothes/Gear**

- Sleeping Bag/Bedding
- Shirts
- Shorts
- Socks
- Athletic Shoes (2 pr)
- Flip flops (for shower)
- Rain Gear
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Watch

#### **Food or Drink**

- Water or Water Bottles
- Small protein high snacks (crackers, granola bars, etc.)
- NO Energy Drinks**

#### **Toiletries**

- Towels/Beach Towel
- DEODORANT.**
- Shampoo**, conditioner, and other hair care products.
- Soap** for body and face.
- Toothbrush** and **toothpaste.**  
Orthodontics: Wax for braces (particularly horn players), retainers/retainer cases, or other orthodontic care products.
- Facial care products.
- Shaving supplies, if needed.
- For girls, feminine hygiene products.
- Any needed medications** (medications needing adult supervision will be handled by chaperones)
- Additional Toiletries
- Sunscreen** (SPF 15 or *higher*)
- Bug spray** (10% DEET)
- Lip balm** (Chapstick, Blistex)

**Do Not Bring items that will cause undue emotional stress if lost. Items such as favorite or expensive electronic devices, jewelry, or clothing tend to top this list. If you don't want it lost or broken, please leave it at home.**

## Rehearsal Procedures

For indoor rehearsals it is extremely important that we begin on time. You are expected to be in your seat ready to play when the rehearsal is scheduled to begin. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in consequences for each occurrence. During rehearsals it is very important to follow directions the first time given. These directions will come from the director, or will be on the board at the beginning of class. Respecting others is very important in the study of music. When a section is being rehearsed there is to be no laughter or talking from those who are not playing.

### General Rules:

1. No food, gum, or drink at any time in the rehearsal.
2. Remain **seated and quiet** at all times unless given permission to do otherwise.
3. Do not touch others' instruments. **This includes all percussion instruments.**
4. The room must be kept neat after rehearsal, so please leave instruments in their proper locations. Keep your instrument lockers clean. Keep your instrument in its case.

### Consequences:

1. Warning
2. Extended School
3. Extended School with call to parents
4. Conference with High School Administration

\* There are offenses that require an immediate removal from class and visit with the High School Administration. When someone is addressing the band they need your full attention. Failure to pay attention will result in the above consequences. The zero tolerance policy is in effect for the use of cell phones and other devices during rehearsal. A failure to observe these guidelines will result in any of the above consequences. Rehearsals, both indoor and outdoor, conclude when the director says, "dismissed." There is to be no moving, packing up, or talking before being dismissed.

## Outdoor Rehearsal

Most fall days we will be rehearsing outside. It will be written on the board whether we are starting inside or outside. If we are starting inside, you must be in your seat ready to play at **3:00pm**. If we begin outside, you will be required to be in your spot on the field ready to start at **3:00 pm**. You are expected to come to rehearsal dressed for the weather and wearing proper footwear (tennis shoes, no boots, sandals, flip-flops or other opened toed shoes). Outdoor rehearsals will end at 5:00 each day. All students are required to attend stay until the conclusion of rehearsals. Athletic contests (games or matches) are arranged with the coaches and directors. If you are in a sport, a schedule of attending practices will be established between the student, coaches, and directors at the beginning of the season.

## **Behavior Policy**

All rules of the AHS Handbook apply while at band rehearsals, performances, and during trips to games and competitions. It is important that you are respectful to others and the different environments on trips. Remember that you are representing yourself, the band, our school, and our community. Make choices that will be a positive representation of everyone involved.

For football games, the marching band will perform at pre-game (home games only), halftime, and in the stands during the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. In the stands, we will be seated in a block where all students must remain for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters and be ready to play at all times during the game. The band block in the stands is for band members only, not outsiders will be permitted in our seats. Students must be back in our block in the stands with one minute remaining in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. You must be ready to play when the clock hits 0:00. If you are not in the stands at 1:00 or ready to play at 0:00, you will lose 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter privileges for the next game. The zero tolerance policy for cell phones will be in place during games and competitions.

## **Symphonic Band**

The Symphonic Band is an instrumental music ensemble of 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders designed to further your musicianship in the Athens High School band program. The Symphonic Band is a year-long course that meets 9<sup>th</sup> period. The band rehearses during school but performances are outside of the school day. There will be at least 3 evening concerts, 1 contest performance, and a performance at graduation. Students that participate in symphonic band will have the opportunity to participate in solo and ensemble, honor band festivals around the state. It is important that you are in that room with your instrument on time once the bell rings. You must be seated and ready to play two minutes after the bell rings. Tardiness will not be tolerated. All rehearsal procedures will mirror the above section on indoor rehearsals for marching band.

Symphonic band members pay a \$35 fee which includes use of a band uniform for concerts. Concert Dress will be the Athens High School Marching Band uniform without the removable front cover. It is important that non-marching band members are fitted for a uniform well before the first concert of the year. In addition, Symphonic Band members must wear their own black shoes (available for purchase from the boosters for \$25) and black socks.

## **Seating**

Seating within the symphonic band will be determined by **required** auditions that will be held during the first few weeks of school. Audition music and instruments will be given to you well in advance. **Failure to audition will result in a significant grade penalty, and automatic last chair.** Challenges will be held during the year for chairs in the band. Challenges will be held on the music performed and will happen only at the discretion of the directors. Students must notify the directors and student being challenged.

## Symphonic Band Attendance Policy

The symphonic band attendance policy for all rehearsals and performances will be the same as the marching band attendance policy described above.

## Symphonic Band Grading Policy

Grading in symphonic band will consist of several components:

### 50% Daily Participation

Students will be given a daily participation grade of three points per day. Each day a student will receive a point for having appropriate materials (music, pencil, instrument, reeds, etc.), a point for behavior and participation, and a point for preparation of music. Failure to meet these requirements on a daily basis will significantly lower a student's grade.

### 25% Playing Evaluations

At various times throughout the year, students will be required to perform playing tests for the directors. Students will be required to play parts of their performance music as well as assigned scales, rudiments, and rhythms. Each playing test will be worth 25 points.

### 25% Written Assignments

Students will also be required to complete written reports, music history, theory, and musical analysis assignments throughout the school year.

Attendance at each performance will also make up a significant portion of the grade. **An unexcused absence will result in a two-letter grade deduction from the final nine-week grade.** Students will be required to write a make-up assignment for an excused absence from a performance. Students will be given the guidelines for the assignment by the directors. **Failure to complete a make-up assignment for an excused absence from a performance will result in two-letter grade deduction as well.**

## *Jazz Band*

The Athens High School Jazz Band is a volunteer organization that will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays after school starting after the marching band season. No credit is given for jazz band. Interested students play in swing, Latin, funk, and rock standards in a big band. This ensemble performs at AHS concerts and other jazz events.

## *Pep Band*

Pep Band is an extracurricular ensemble that plays at the basketball games. It runs from December through February and plays at all the home games for the boys' varsity unless it occurs during winter break. We play the same pep music that the marching band plays and play the same quarters (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Halftime, off 3<sup>rd</sup>, and play 4<sup>th</sup>). Attendance is by per game sign up. Come join us to cheer the boys' basketball team to another great season.

## Uniform/Music/School Instrument Usage

Each student that is a member of the marching band or symphonic band will be issued a uniform. This is the required attire for all marching band and symphonic band performances with the exception of select marching band performances in summer uniforms. Each student is responsible for the care and condition of their uniform. Students are expected to comply with all expectations set by uniform booster parents. Any problems with a uniform should be directed to the boosters immediately. The following uniform guidelines must be followed:

1. Keep your garment on your assigned rack with all nametags facing the same direction
2. When changing for a performance, return your garment bag and hatbox to the rack before getting a plume.
3. Do not put personal items in your garment bag, as the uniforms will be locked during the week.
4. Raincoats will be distributed from the trailer when needed and must be returned when you board the busses for the return trip.
5. Do not eat or drink while wearing your uniform jacket.
6. Do not place your jacket on the ground, be respectful and handle with great care.
7. Pants should be hung by the crease.
8. The jacket should always be zipped.
9. Zip garment bags when hanging on the racks.
10. Do not put pants on while you are wearing shoes for this will tear out the hem.

The following additional materials must be purchased by all Marching Band members:

1. Black shoes (you purchase these through the boosters for \$25)
2. Black socks
3. Gloves (you purchase these through the boosters for \$25)
4. Summer Uniform Shirt (you purchase this through the boosters for \$10)
5. Summer Uniform Shorts (you provide yourself, the shorts must be plain khaki in color and be no shorter than your fingertips when your arms are at your side and no longer than your knees)
6. Mini Notebook
7. Pencils
8. Lyre
9. Flip Folder
10. Instrument in proper working condition and all necessary accessories (reeds, valve oil, sticks, etc.)

The following additional materials must be purchased by all Color Guard members:

1. Shoes (you purchase these through the boosters for \$25)
2. Gloves (you purchase these through the boosters for \$25)
3. Summer Uniform Shirt (you purchase this through the boosters for \$10)
4. Summer Uniform Shorts (you provide yourself, the shorts must be plain khaki in color and be no shorter than your fingertips when your arms are at your side and no longer than your knees)
5. Warm-Up Suit (you purchase this through the boosters for \$75)

Each student will be given a folder and music at the beginning of the season and concert cycle. Students will be responsible for their music and returning it when it is collected. If a student losing their music, they will be responsible for paying the cost of replacing the music.

All those who need to use a school instrument must fill out and sign a school instrument loan form. On that form, condition of the instrument and the make, model, and serial number will need to be recorded by the director. Regular care and maintenance of school instruments is the responsibility of the borrowing student. The student is responsible for all repairs necessary due to use in the school year. This is why an accurate assessment of the condition of the instrument is important at the beginning of the year. If the instrument is not returned in the same condition it was issued fines will be charged.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Handbook Agreement

This is to certify that I have received a copy of the Athens High School Band Handbook. I have read and understand that I will be bound by all of the information contained within.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I have read all of the information contained in this handbook, and understand that my student will be responsible to adhere to the guidelines contained within.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date