



**Handbook
2017 - 18**

Name _____

The Value of Music Education

For centuries, music and art have been recognized as disciplines, on equal footing with mathematics, language, and the sciences as regards the development of mental process. More recent research has shown that the study of music and in particular performance actively involves more of the domains of the brain than any other discipline. Instrumental music, particularly in an ensemble such as band or orchestra, is the purest form of mental activity. It requires more of the brain to be utilized, both right and left brain functions, than any activity we experience in formal education. Dealing with the demands of ensemble performance and individual performance simultaneously requires that the performers manipulate visual symbolic information, interpret visual instructions from a conductor, analyze and synthesize aural information being received constantly, exhibit manual skill with the instrument, regulate their volume level and style of playing in concert with several other performers, and many other factors that all combine to become "making music." I can cite all that information and that's just a band director trying to justify his own existence in many people's eyes. Instead I would like to present what many philosophers, thinkers, and leaders have expressed regarding the value of music.

PLATO: "Music training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul."

SHAKESPEARE: "The man that hath no music in himself . . . let no such man be trusted."

ERNEST BOYER (President, Carnegie Foundation): "Music gives us a language that cuts across the disciplines, helps us to see connections and brings a more coherent meaning to our world."

PAUL HARVEY (Broadcaster/commentator): "Our schools tend to refine intellects but neglect to discipline emotions. For anyone to grow up complete, music is imperative." GREGORY ANRIG (President of Educational Testing Service): "The things I learned from my experience in music in school are discipline, perseverance, dependability, composure, courage, and pride in results. Not a bad preparation for the work force!" JOSEPH M. CALAHAN (Director of Corporate Communications, Xerox Corporation): "Arts education aids students in skills needed in the workplace: flexibility, the ability to solve problems and communicate, the ability to learn new skills, to be creative and innovative, and to strive for excellence."

CLIFFORD V. SMITH (President of the General Electric Foundation): "GE hires a lot of engineers. We want young people who can do more than add up a string of numbers and write a coherent sentence. They must be able to solve problems, communicate ideas and be sensitive to the world around them. Participation in the arts is one of the best ways to develop these abilities."

SHIRLEY YOUNG (VP, Consumer Market Development for General Motors): "The Japanese consider the study of music important for their engineers. Playing a musical instrument involves discipline, creativity, and conceptualization. These attributes, added to engineering talent, help produce results that are not only functional but also harmonious in every way. Music reaches across cultures and needs no translation."

MUSIC IS NOT ONLY IMPORTANT . . .IT'S ESSENTIAL!

Firestone Band Department Philosophy

Music education is a primary means by which an educational institution can transmit to students the cultural heritage of society. Music transcends barriers of ethnic background, economic status, language, and even literacy in its power to reach the depths of the human soul. Experiences with music develop a student's ability to make value judgments, to function logically as well as intuitively, and to utilize one's innate creativity. Participation in performance organizations encourages initiative and leadership in the students, stimulates goal-oriented thought processes, creates an appreciation and respect for the efforts of others, and assists students to develop a sense of responsibility to themselves, the organization, and in a broad sense, society. We recognize that few high school musicians make music a career. However, the mental discipline and thought processes required in the study of music are applicable in all fields of endeavor.

General Objectives

To make participation in instrumental music available to all students at Firestone High School. · To develop musical experiences that enhance students' overall educational experiences. · To provide a suitable background in music instruction for those students who elect to continue the study of music after graduation. · To develop a life-long appreciation for music and continuation of musical activities. · To develop performing organizations that are a source of pride for the individual, the school, and the community.

Membership Opportunities

FALCON MARCHING BAND

The Marching Band is in existence from June through early November each year. Marching band is a required part of the Band course offered by Firestone High School. This ensemble performs at various marching band festivals and competitions, Firestone Varsity Football Games and local parades and events. At FHS, registration for “Band” includes both marching and concert band. Band at the high school requires participation in both marching band concert band.

CONCERT BAND

Open to all students (grades 9 -12) with prior band experience, by placement audition, this class will concentrate on developing basic playing skills such as tone production, rhythmic proficiency, intonation, and technical ability, as well as preparation and performance of fine concert band literature. This ensemble will perform on several concert programs and in concert festivals. There will be out-of school time required for rehearsals and performances. At FHS, registration for “Band” requires participation in both marching and concert band.

WIND ENSEMBLE

Open to students in grades 9 - 12, by placement audition. This ensemble comprises the most outstanding instrumental musicians at Firestone High School, and will have as a primary focus the preparation and performance of the fine literature for the wind band. While students will already possess a high degree of ability, the further advancement of musical skills, both individual and ensemble will be paramount to the success of the student and the organization. There will be out-of-school time required for rehearsals and performances. At FHS, registration for “Band” requires participation in both marching and concert band.

JAZZ BAND

Open to students in grades 9 - 12, by audition. This ensemble meets daily during the regular school day. The ensemble, in big band instrumentation studies and performs the music of the foremost big band composers, past and present. Participation in band is required for eligibility in jazz band, with the exception of bass, guitar, and piano, which are not regular band instruments, but are included in the jazz band. Students who play those instruments will be expected to continue outside lessons to enhance their basic skills. There will be out of school time required for performances.

WINTER GUARD

Winter guard is an indoor color guard activity, derived from the outdoor summer activity that is commonly part of marching band. Winter guard is performed indoors, usually in a gym or indoor arena during the winter or spring season. Winter guards use various equipment, props, and dance moves. Additional fees are required. All rehearsals and performances for this ensemble occur outside the school day. Students must participate in our school guard to be eligible for independent guards.

INDOOR PERCUSSION

This develops performance skills on the instruments of the percussion family, including both melodic and non-melodic instruments. The skills developed in this activity will include but are not limited to intermediate to advanced music fundamentals, music interpretation, aural skills, note and rhythm reading, sight-reading, and visual performance skills. Additional fees are required. All rehearsals and performances for this ensemble occur outside the school day. students must participate in our school percussion to be eligible for independent percussion.

CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

Chamber Ensembles are another performance outlet for instrumental students in the areas of Woodwinds, Brass and Percussion. This extra-curricular performance class is designed to supplement the performance training students receive in private lessons and Band. Performance Ensembles within these areas span from full Woodwind, Brass and Percussion Ensembles all the way down to small ensembles such as Quartets, Trios and Duets. The make-up of these ensembles is dictated by the exact participation of students in the group and the individual needs of the students that do choose to participate. Participation in this group requires a small fee that covers the cost of OMEA events. These ensembles perform yearly in OMEA Solo and Ensemble. There are also ample performance opportunities in the holiday season, and a final yearly spring concert takes place late in May.

Ohio Music Education Association



OMEA is a representation of all the schools in the state of Ohio. The format of their contests are not qualified to one specific style of band. The philosophy of OMEA is a non-placement contest with ratings only. However, over the past years OMEA has gone to some rating and placement format. The bands are divided into 4 classes: C, B, A and AA with AA being the largest class. The class that each band is in is determined by the student enrollment for grades 10-12. Along with placement, there is a rating of I-V with I being the highest achievement. Any band that achieves a I rating is qualified for OMEA State Contest that is held at several locations over the final week of October and first week of November. During the winter months, OMEA offers large group district contest, which is for all concert bands. Each concert band decides which class it will compete for a rating in. The classes range from C being the lowest to AA being the highest and most challenging. For those ensembles receiving a "I" rating, they will be invited to perform in the OMEA State Contest, which will be run under the same guidelines as the district contest.

Mid States Band Association



MSBA is a consortium of High School band organizations in and around the Dayton Ohio area. Membership is defined by participating in any MSBA sanctioned event during the competition season

Bands of America



Bands of America (BOA) is a national organization for high school music programs and students. BOA hosts many contests and symposiums. BOA is probably best known for their marching contests held each fall. There are 14 regional contests held at different professional and college stadiums around the country. Each regional competition consists of a prelims performance, which includes about 30 bands. Then the top 10 bands from prelims are invited back that evening for the decisive finals performance. Along with the regional competitions, BOA also offers Grand National Competition each year that is held at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN. This competition is usually the 1st or 2nd Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of November. The format for nationals is prelims (90 bands), semi-finals (30 bands), and finals (12 bands).

Fee Information

There is a fee for band during the 17 - 18 school year . This fee is listed in the fee packet.

The main things covered in the fee are: staff, transportation, activities, dry cleaning, music, instruments, awards, marching band show, and entry fees.

This fee will be due based on the fee schedule outlined by FHSIMA.

Checks should be made payable to Firestone High School Instrumental Music Association (FHSIMA). Fees may be paid online via paypal.

Grading Procedure

Band is a unique course at Firestone High School. It has curricular requirements, just as any other academic discipline, but it also has out-of-class time requirements. The strength of the band program is the consolidation of these requirements into one performance based, academic course of study. The level of commitment from each individual student is the driving force behind the organization and is reflected in the level of achievement reached by the individual and the program. Band is a learning activity. Rehearsals, whether during or after school, are the means by which students learn, and by their very nature cannot be reproduced or made-up. Therefore it is imperative that students are present unless the absence is absolutely unavoidable. Excessive rehearsal absences will undoubtedly affect a student's performance. Although we frequently function as conductors, we are primarily teachers responsible for the musical and aesthetic education of each student in the band program. This is the reason we are absolutely insistent upon each student's daily participation. Rehearsals are not optional, and are reflected in the student's daily grade. Performances are viewed as major tests: a performance, in addition to being a national standard of arts education, is a learning experience that cannot be duplicated in a rehearsal hall or practice room; the level of concentration required in a public performance assists each student develop an insight into their own level of performance; a performance is an important evaluation tool, allowing comparison of a student's performance in relation to classroom objectives presented and with past performances. Absences from performances are only excused in the event of an extreme emergency: serious illness or hospitalization of the student, death in the family, or other reasons deemed excusable by the band director.

The band director must approve all absences from performance in advance.

The following criteria will be used as students are earning their grades during the marching band season/1st grading period. It is important that all students understand the criteria and are able to clearly see how they have earned their grade. Students will be given a separate criteria list at the beginning of concert band for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th grading periods.

A -Attend Band Camp

-No unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances -Meet playing test standards by the end of the grading period -No disciplinary problems that result in office referrals -No more than 4 excused absences

B -Attend Band Camp -No more than one unexcused absence from a rehearsal -Meet playing test standards by the end of the grading period -Attend all performances -No disciplinary problems that result in office referrals -No more than 4 excused absences

C --Attend Band Camp -No more than 2-3 unexcused absence from a rehearsal -Meet playing test standards by the end of the grading period -Attend all performances -No disciplinary problems that result in office referrals -No more than 4 excused absences

Any student with an unexcused absence from a performance, has more than 3 unexcused absences from rehearsals, or does not take the playing tests, may earn a grade of D or F for the grading period.

Finally, we take our job as a band director very seriously. The band as an organization provides a medium through which students progress academically, musically, and socially. Musicianship, attitude, attendance, punctuality, conduct, and a desire for excellence are absolutely expected from each member of the Firestone Band. Therefore, individual practice and **preparation** are essential. No other discipline in education requires the high level of achievement from all participants as does musical performance. Through the level of commitment required we hope to better prepare our students for the responsibilities encountered throughout their lives.

Summer Activities

Summer Rehearsals – There are scheduled rehearsals during the summer to prepare us for the fall season. These rehearsals provide the basic instruction that will allow us to have successful band camp, and **should not be considered optional if the student is in town and able to attend.**

Camp Attendance - It is imperative that students attend Band Camp. We have a limited amount of time to prepare for our first performance, and we must be able to make the most of the time we have. Students who are unable to make camps may not start the season as a performer.

July/August Rehearsals

Please review the calendar to be sure that you understand the rehearsal requirements.

- Parents are invited to these rehearsals to find out more about how we do what we do.
- School begins the week of August 28– We will have our regular sectional/Wednesday(full band) night rehearsals from 6-9pm once school starts.

Marching Band

The Firestone Marching Band enjoys a reputation for musical excellence aesthetically complemented by vivid visual images and movement reflecting the mood and character of the music. The band is recognized as one of the top programs in Ohio; to continue in this tradition of success requires a high degree of dedication, effort, and pride on the part of each person involved. Membership in the Firestone Marching Band requires that students: 1) attend all rehearsals and performances; 2) pay a band fee; and 3) be enrolled in the band class offered at Firestone High School, and comply with all rules and regulations as listed in the school and band handbook.

The band follows a regular rehearsal schedule; any changes are announced well in advance. This allows students to plan other activities and obligations around the schedule. Plan to arrive well in advance of the beginning of rehearsal...don't try to squeak in at the last second. We have a limited amount of rehearsal time and it is essential that we make efficient use of the time we have. This can only happen when every band member is present and working to improve. The band member that misses rehearsal cannot improve, and the other band members around them have a less effective rehearsal due to the absence. We all depend on each other to "carry our fair share of the load" in order for us to achieve the level of proficiency for which this band has become noted.

Rehearsals are never canceled due to inclement weather. Students should dress for the weather. Not having the proper attire is no reason for having a poor rehearsal. Students should wear low top tennis shoes and socks for rehearsals. This is important in that the style of marching step we use requires that the foot and ankle be permitted to move freely. Shorts are the appropriate attire for rehearsals – once the weather is too cool for shorts, you should wear something that gives freedom of movement in the lower body, like sweatpants. Constricting clothing, such as jeans, will limit your ability to function effectively in the visual part of the program. Each member is expected to have all necessary equipment, in working order, along with all music and dot books at all rehearsals.

Attendance Policy

Attendance, by each musician, at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory, and extremely crucial to the success of the entire group. The attendance system is maintained in fairness to all those who are regular and punctual in attendance. Any absence not only affects the quality of the band as a whole, but also could jeopardize the student's regular membership status. In the rare case that it is impossible to make a scheduled event, please fill out the absence form as noted on the website. A detailed explanation of the reason for the absence must be included. Please note the timeline for approval of absences.

Absences

Absences from band rehearsals or performances are unexcused unless due to (a) personal illness with a note from the doctor, (b) death in the family, (c) an emergency, or (d) special permission of the Director obtained in advance by the parent or guardian. Students must exhibit consistent responsibility in these areas. Excessive absences may result in being removed from performance status.

It is vital to the success and planning of each rehearsal that if an emergency should arise, the band director should be notified immediately. Please realize that communication should occur as soon as the conflict arises.

Missing a rehearsal without an excuse is unacceptable.

Students who are absent from the regular Wednesday evening full ensemble rehearsal WILL jeopardize their eligibility for performance that weekend.

Filing Absence Documents

Reporting an absence may only be done via the website as stated in the instructions for filing an absence. Only the "Official" Absence Doc will be accepted by the director. Please have them completed and turned in no later than July 1 if there is conflict with the 2017 - 2018 performance calendar. In the rare event that a student must miss a rehearsal (for other than another school activity), absence requests must be turned in no later than 14 days prior to the date of conflict. The absence request will be reviewed by the directors. The reason stated on the forms must be specific.

1. Absence Docs must be filled out for all missed performances, rehearsals, and tardies.
2. All Docs must adhere to the timelines as listed above.
3. If an emergency does arise, you must call the band office PRIOR to the event and file an absence doc upon the students return.

Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences are unacceptable and are a detriment to the entire group.

Emergency and Illness Excuses

On rare occasions a band member may become ill on the day of a performance or rehearsal. The member may also have an emergency develop. If this is the case, it is the student's responsibility or the student's parent's responsibility to notify the band director by phone as early as possible. In any case, notice must be given to the band director prior to the rehearsal or performance. At the start of each rehearsal, we attendance is taken, if we do not know that they student is going to be absent; we will start looking for that child. Please help us by communicating your child's last minute emergency effectively.

Tardiness

You are to be on time for all functions. Being on time means that you have all of the correct materials and are in the correct place for the rehearsal to begin. Remember..."To be on time is to be late, to be early is to be on time." If for any reason, you need to be late or have to leave a rehearsal early, an Absence Excuse Doc is to be filled out following those specific guidelines.

Jobs and Drivers Training

The Marching Band schedule for the 2017 season has been included in this handbook. ALL rehearsals and performances are **MANDATORY**. Therefore, all jobs and drivers training must be scheduled around this schedule. Please be sure that you give your employer a 2-week notice of all upcoming events. Employers will work around your schedule. Work and driving related absences are **UNEXCUSED**.

Health Issues

It is critical that each member take personal responsibility for their own well-being in order to be successful in rehearsal and performance. Perhaps the most critical issue is hydration. If you wait until you are thirsty, you are probably already well on your way to a dehydration problem. Students should have had a minimum of 32 ounces of water before starting a rehearsal or performance day, and should drink adequately during the rehearsal or performance day at every opportunity, whether or not they feel thirsty at the time. Adequate water breaks will be taken. Please avoid soft drinks before and during rehearsal or performance days. Of almost equal importance is protection from the sun. All students should wear sunscreen, even on cloudy days, and reapply as needed. Students particularly susceptible to the sun should have light weight “cover-up” clothes to put on should they start to sunburn. Light colored clothes, sunglasses and a cap will make you more comfortable and able to be successful when the sun is strong.

Rehearsal Technique / Rehearsal Etiquette

1. Be present and on time — you cannot reap the benefits of a rehearsal or rehearsal segment you miss. Don't make plans that involve leaving rehearsal early or arriving late. Often some of the most important teaching in a rehearsal happens at those times.
2. Be actively and intently involved in the rehearsal
 - A. Just “going through the motions” during rehearsal is as bad as not being there. Always be **thinking about your performance**.
 - B. Your only focus should be the objectives the ensemble is trying to achieve during that rehearsal. **There is to be no unnecessary talking**.
 - C. Members are expected to give their utmost efforts during rehearsals in the pursuit of excellence in performance — **any less is an insult to your peers, your staff, and yourself**.
 - D. Instructions given by directors and staff should be followed not just to the letter, but also in the spirit of the intent.
 - E. Horseplay, throwing ice or water, or other such activities will not be tolerated.
3. The proper attitude during rehearsal affects the value of that rehearsal
 - A. **An instruction that has to be given twice robs the band of rehearsal time and focus**. Don't cheat us all because you are not paying attention.
 - B. **Be cooperative**. Even if you don't understand the motivation for a rehearsal activity, have confidence that your staff does and execute as you are asked.
 - C. Disrespect towards directors, staff, and student leadership will never make the band more successful; **all students should show the proper respect for their peers, staff, and leadership**, and avoid exhibiting disrespectful attitudes such as eye-rolling, pouting, talking back, being unsupportive of directors and staff or in any way questioning any instruction or direction given.
 - D. **Being negative in rehearsal is a sure way to lessen the effectiveness of that rehearsal**. If you say things like “this will never work” there will probably be people around you that either believe what you say or are at least influenced by your opinion, and in either case they (like you) will be less productive.
 - E. **Offer encouragement to your peers, instead of criticism**. It takes a lot of pats on the back to erase the sting of a kick in the pants.
4. You can't be effective in rehearsal if you are unprepared
 - A. Arrive early enough to be in place, with all necessary equipment and materials, BEFORE rehearsal starting time.
 - B. Know all music/work that is due to be worked on in rehearsal. It is your responsibility to catch up should you be compelled to miss a rehearsal.
 - C. Have your materials organized - music, coordinate sheets or dot books in order and readily available.
 - D. Be certain your equipment is always in good working order.
 - E. Be dressed for the weather. Not having the proper attire is not a satisfactory reason for having a poor rehearsal. Wear low-topped tennis shoes and socks for rehearsals. Caps and sun block are recommended.

The FHS Band can only reach its highest level of success when each individual, each section, and each element are all at their highest possible effectiveness. It is the responsibility of each individual to do everything possible to reach that level and to do nothing that would keep themselves or others from reaching their goals.

Behavior Guidelines

- All band members are expected to follow the instructions of any teacher, staff member or chaperon.
- All school rules and policies are in effect at all band functions.
- Any band member possessing or using any controlled substances, which include tobacco and alcohol, during any band function is subject to immediate removal from the organization, referral to school authorities, and if applicable, the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- Band members will not play on or play with the equipment of others. This practice can lead to potential damage and a general lack of respect for the property of others. If you see someone picking up an instrument or equipment that is not theirs, remind them.
- Electronic devices/phones should not be out as a part of rehearsal. Save communications with friends and family for breaks or after rehearsal.
- Destructive activity will not be tolerated, whether it be something as seemingly innocent as playing on a wall, locker, or door with drumsticks, or bumping things with horns or equipment, or something more overt as deliberately damaging equipment, throwing objects, writing on walls or leaving trash around. An organization with class, mature members, and pride will not permit acts such as this. It is the responsibility of everyone to see that these types of things do not occur. If you see it, stop it. If they refuse to stop, notify a director, staff member, or chaperon immediately.
- The uniform is obviously an essential part of the performance. If you have a problem with your uniform, see the uniform people for assistance. Take care of your own uniform.
- Students often travel to off campus activities by bus. If you wish to ride home from an event with your parents, they must sign you out in person, at the conclusion of the event, and you will be removed from the bus roster. Students will be released only to parents or guardians. Students may be released to their parents by the director, chaperone, or staff. Please be aware of this policy -- it is for your protection as well as ours.
- Band members are expected to use good judgment and show respect for others in displaying affection. An impassioned embrace or more ardent demonstration of feeling is best kept for private moments. Band trips and activities are not "carte blanc" makeout opportunities. Keep your raging hormones in check and don't embarrass your friends or cheapen your relationship by taking things beyond the limit of common decency.
- Any time there is a critical incident involving our people, our people and other band members, our people and "civilians", or any incident involving police or other authorities, the directors are to be notified immediately.
- Any injury that occurs during a band function should be reported to the director without delay.
- At any band contest, festival, trip, or other function, band members should move from place to place in a group. Do not go off by yourself, especially after dark. To leave the site, you must have permission from the director.
- Food and drink are not allowed in the stands at football games.
- Students are to be seated in their sections at all football games. It is important to present the image of discipline and pride at all times. The band plays only as a group, except when the percussion section plays. There should be no individual playing.
- Only Band members are allowed in the Band section of the stadium.
- When the Firestone Band "falls in" to march to or from any location, there is to be absolutely no talking. When we march in formation, we are observed by the public and by other bands, and our tradition of success demands that you exhibit the highest level of personal and ensemble discipline at all times. You are "performing" whenever you are in public, whether you are getting off the bus, marching to the stadium, or on break. Do not embarrass yourself and your friends by acting in an immature manner.
- Following any football game or competition, it is your responsibility to insure that all your equipment is put away correctly. Non-band personnel should wait outside the band room to help limit confusion and expedite dismissal.

Attitude

Those who have a positive attitude, regardless of their individual skills, will always have a place in the Firestone Band. Regardless of your ability, if your attitude is not positive, if you are not doing your personal best to make the group successful, you should not be a part of this band. In fact, students who do not project an attitude that is positive and cooperative will be given the opportunity to change their personal perspective or else leave the organization. Those who have pride in themselves will generally project a positive attitude. Characteristics of a positive attitude include a generally cheerful outlook toward rehearsals and performances, cooperation in the preparation and maintenance of equipment and facilities, and an eagerness to do what is necessary to be successful. In short, the ideal band member is someone who is always willing to give their best for the good of the organization.

Contests and Festivals

Contests, festivals, and other adjudicated events are important features of the Firestone Band program. Through these activities we obtain valuable feedback about our progress as individuals and as a program. Although we never "live or die" by any one judge's or any panel's opinion of our performance, it is important that we learn the value of giving maximum effort and standing by the results as our best possible effort that day. Competitive performances are packed with emotion. Because of the time, work and discipline required to produce award-winning performances, we develop great camaraderie within the organization. We share hardship, discomfort, fatigue, oppressive heat, chilling cold, long bus rides, disappointment, tears, success and joy. Along with these emotions go high levels of tension, which often causes students to react immaturely. We learn to avoid these normal pitfalls and channel our energy and attention toward the goal of performance excellence and the ultimate success that will follow.

The band's image is based on each individual. Our public reputation is based on our appearance, our actions, and our projection of pride and organization. It is the responsibility of each member to insure that we present the best possible image at all times.

Instrument Care

School-owned instruments become the responsibility of the student to whom they are issued. Any damage other than normal wear and tear will be repaired at the student's expense. Please see the instrument rental agreement for school owned property.

Individual instruments must always be maintained in top playing condition. Always show the director your instrument before taking it for repairs.

Remember that horseplay can cause damage to instruments and equipment. Be careful with your own instrument, place it out of harm's way if it is necessary for you to put it down, and never play around with or play on anyone else's instrument.

Marching Band Uniform Information

When you are in uniform, you are no longer just an individual, but a representative of our Band, school, and community. You will receive detailed guidelines regarding the proper manner to wear the uniform, with which you will be expected to conform.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL UNIFORM PIECES THAT ARE ISSUED TO YOU, BUT THE UNIFORMS ARE PROPERTY OF FIRESTONE HIGH SCHOOL

For your information, uniform replacement costs are:

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| Pants | \$100.00 |
| Jacket | \$150.00 |
| Hat | \$55.00 |
| Gauntlets | \$35.00 |
| Plume | \$15.00 |
| Raincoat | \$75.00 |

Students will be required to purchase the following uniform parts for the season:

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Marching Shoes | \$35 |
| Colorguard Shoes | \$35 |
| Black Gloves | \$3 |
| Band Member Shirt | \$18 |
| Gig Bag | \$30 |

In Uniform:

When you are in full or half uniform of the Firestone Marching Band, the following rules apply:

- o No public displays of affection
- o Be extra careful while eating. Accidents will occur unexpectedly that may dirty, stain or permanently damage your uniform.
- o Running and yelling in uniform is strictly prohibited: it is out of character and shows a lack of respect for the uniform and the Firestone Marching Band.
- o Appropriate language, attitude and respect is expected at all times.

The Firestone Marching Band a very special look and approach. This image is created by **YOU** and how you approach the responsibilities involved with being a part of this very special group. The general rule is – if you have concerns as to whether you should be doing something, **DO NOT DO IT!** People who see you “behind the scenes” will form their opinions of the entire band from their opinions of **YOU** and how **YOU** behave in uniform.

Physical Appearance

Men – Hair should be neat. If a male member has long hair, it must be worn up in the same fashion as a female member, and appear to be short when the hat is worn; no hair should be touching the top of your collar or be popping out anywhere.

Women – Your hair must be pinned up, in a bun of some sort so there is no hair showing outside your hat. Make up should be worn conservatively.

These requirements are by no means a comment on any member’s personal appearance, but rather to **create a look of uniformity throughout the band.**

- You may not wear any jewelry or nail polish while in uniform (watches, rings, necklaces, bracelets, etc). You should give specific thought before getting a new piercing to be sure you can remove it for any performance; simply covering it is not an option. Again, the idea is uniformity – not making a fashion statement.
- You must wear proper undergarments while in uniform. Even though these items are supplied by you, they are a required part of the uniform. These items include: long black socks, member t shirt, black uniform shoes, and cotton underwear (briefs) or compression shorts. The uniform pants are tight and the briefs or compression shorts prevent the visibility of undergarment lines through the material of the uniform pants. Believe it or not – you can tell.
- Your uniform has a few separate pieces and they should be worn in the following manner:
 - o Hat should be worn so that you can fit only two fingers between the brim of the hat and the bridge of your nose, flat on top and right above your eyes.
 - o Plumes will be passed out prior to each performance and collected immediately after the performance. The plumes are extremely fragile and might get damaged if not kept in the appropriate manner.
 - o Gauntlets and gloves should always be worn while the uniform jacket is on.

The uniform should never be worn in parts, hanging open or in a sloppy fashion. It will either be all the way on or all the way off. The drum majors or staff will notify you as to whether we are in half (member shirts, socks, shoes and bib pants) or full uniform.

Above all, be constantly mindful of one important rule, there is a special way to look and to **ACT** as a member of the Firestone Marching Band, and it is your responsibility to foster this appearance.

Remember you are constantly being watched by spectators, other bands, other directors and parents. **Their impression of the Firestone Marching Band is created by what they observe from YOUR behavior both in and out of uniform.**

You represent FIRESTONE – past, present and future!

The way you wear your uniform reflects the pride you have in your band. Our uniform, when worn properly, projects an image of pride and dignity. It is everyone's responsibility to see that all members respect and care for the uniform and that the uniform is worn properly at all times.

Parents

Parents are an important part of the Firestone Band, and have a vital role to play. Without the assistance and cooperation of Band parents, there would be no chance for the level of success we want the band to reach.

There are many things parents can do:

- Attend Band Parent meetings.
- Volunteer for parent committees. There are many different tasks with which we need your assistance, and everyone can find the niche that suits them best: chaperon, uniforms, transportation, equipment handling (pit crew), sewing, meals and publicity are just a few of the areas we need filled for the marching season alone.
- Be supportive of the band program and your child's participation by:
 - o Assisting your child to be prepared and punctual for every rehearsal and performance.
 - o Notifying the director if your child is to be absent or late for performance or rehearsal. This should be done in advance unless in absolute emergency situations.
 - o Encouraging your child to practice at home and help them find a quiet place to do so.
 - o Showing your interest and support in your child's music study by enthusiastically attending every performance possible.
 - o Discussing with directors and staff anything that will help them understand and better serve your child.
 - o Arranging for private lessons for your child, if at all possible.

Staff and Chaperons

Everyone on the staff of the Firestone Band has been selected due to the skills and qualities they possess and for the benefit they can bring the band program, and should be considered an extension of the directors. They are to be treated with the highest level of courtesy and respect.

Chaperons are also extensions of the authority of the directors. Without the dedication of our chaperons and other adults that assist with the band, we could not travel or perform in the way we do. These people work hard, and the only payment they receive is our appreciation. Be respectful, polite, cooperative, and remember that the words "Thank You" cost you nothing but are highly valued by the recipient. If you disagree with something a chaperon asks you to do, you **are not to argue** with the chaperon. You are to do as you are asked and then inform a director as soon as possible.

Bus Rules

- Buses are loaded in an orderly fashion. No pushing, running, or crowding the band room doors will be tolerated.
- Remain in seat while bus is moving. Do not kneel in seats or sit facing backwards.
- No loud talking or profanity. No horseplay. No playing of instruments on the bus. This includes drumming on the seats.
- No switching buses. Ride in the same seat returning, unless change is by mutual agreement.
- Do not yell from the buses. Hands, arms and other body parts inside the bus at all times.

Travel Tips

1. Whenever we travel, whether to a football game, a competition, or an overnight trip, band members are to be at the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment.
2. Follow all instructions of directors or chaperons. If you don't understand, ask.
3. No unnecessary moving around on the bus. No standing in seats, sitting on backs or arms of seats on the bus.
4. Do as the bus driver asks when on the bus.
5. Be quiet and cooperative during roll call on buses.
6. Use the restroom prior departure for an event.
7. No alcoholic beverages, or any controlled substances (which includes tobacco and alcohol) are to be taken, bought, or consumed during the trip. All prescription and non-prescription drugs you need to take must be listed on your medical release form.
8. No changing buses or rooms without directors' permission.
9. Leave non-essential valuables at home.
10. Watch your belongings. If you put something down unattended, there is an excellent chance it won't be there when you return.
11. Profanity is not a part of this band. Make sure your language is never offensive.
12. Personal electronic devices (e.g. headphones only...no speakers) are allowed on the bus, but for your own hearing the volume level should not be loud enough to be heard outside your head.
13. Behavior of students will be exemplary at all times. There is no excuse for rude, obnoxious acts.
14. All school rules are in effect throughout the duration of any trip.
15. Kindness and courtesy work miracles in almost every situation. Remember that PLEASE and THANK YOU cost you nothing, and yet are highly valued, especially when received from a teenager.
16. **There Shall Be No Action For Which An Explanation Is Necessary.** (Translation: If you think someone might ask you "Why did you do that?" then don't do it.) Think BEFORE you act and DON'T DO IT! Violations of these rules will result in disciplinary action.

Detailed information sheets (FACT SHEETS), showing reporting, departing, and estimated arrival times, are distributed prior to any trip. Please have transportation available at the designated ETA.



Akron School of the Arts students regularly participate in local, state and national competitions, contests, festivals and exhibits. The students are exposed to and educated about all art forms through collaborative projects, guest artist forums and departmental presentations.

The Music students emphasize in Band, Orchestral and Vocal music. Music Ensembles available to students include: Marching Band, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra, String Quartet, Cello Ensemble, String Choir, Concert Choir, Women's choir, Men's chorus, Symphonic Choir, Madrigal Singers, Vocal Jazz Ensemble. The activities of the performing arts at Firestone High School are generously supported by an active Band Boosters Association, the FHS Instrumental Music Association, and the FHS Vocal Music, Theatre and Dance Association.

ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

1. Entrance to Akron School of the Arts program is based on an application and an audition process which begins during the Akron Public Schools' Open Enrollment timeline. The Open Enrollment applications are available at any of the Akron Public Schools and APS Administration Buildings as well as all branches of the Akron-Summit County Public Library.
2. Please follow the instructions on the form and mail to the address on the form. Upon receipt of the Open Enrollment Application, applicants will be mailed the audition criteria as well as the audition schedule.
3. For students attending Litchfield whose home school is Firestone, a separate application is available at Litchfield during the Open Enrollment time frame. Please ask in the office for this application. Likewise, for a student attending a private or parochial school whose home school is Firestone, a separate application is available in the office of Firestone High School.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

1. During the audition process, the applicant must demonstrate proficiency in an arts area based on prepared work as well as assigned tasks given during the audition. Eligibility is based on the applicant's talent, potential, abilities, and evidence of commitment to education based on the student's most current report card (academic ability, tardy and sick day pattern). At the time of audition, the applicant will be given a contract which explains the expectations of the program.
2. Formal notification of acceptance will occur during late May, and upon acceptance the student and parent/guardian must sign a contract which secures the commitment of the Student and the Family to abide by the rules and procedures of the visual and performing arts' program.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL AREAS

1. The most current report card. (this may be a copy)
2. Two letters of recommendation from adults who are familiar with the student's talents.
3. A resume listing accomplishments, honors, school and community involvement from 6th-8th grade.
4. A recent school photo or other picture.

ASA STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

In accordance with the Akron School of the Arts student contract, the Akron School of the Arts' stresses achievement in both art and academics. To this end, students are expected to maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 by the end of the each semester.

If a student's GPA falls below a 2.0 , the student will be dropped from the program. In such cases, the student and the student's parents will be advised of this status well prior to being dropped from the program.

Should this situation occur, the following will apply: The student will be dropped from the magnet arts' program and he/she will not be able to receive the Fine Arts Endorsement on their diploma or transcripts. If Firestone is not their home high school, they would return to their home school. If Firestone is the home school, the student would schedule other appropriate classes with the guidance counselor.

It is not appropriate that a student in this program receive any grade below a C in an arts class. Should this situation occur following the first semester grade reports, the family will be notified in writing that the student may be dropped from the program.

MUSIC EXPECTATIONS

Participate in a pre-contest jury of peers.

Participate as a soloists in the Ohio Music Education Associations Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event

Honor all requirements outlined in specific ensemble handbooks

Participate for a minimum of one year in one of the following areas:

- Pit Orchestra

- Musical Stage Role

- Contribute 15 hours on crew as assigned

- Fulfill this obligation by the end of the junior year

Participate in music lessons during each year of the contract. Students are expected to continue through the entire school year, even if they must financially contribute to complete that commitment.