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Spartan Marching Band Survival Guide

Band Camp:

Marching Band begins for most of the band in August with Band Camp where the students learn and review the basics of marching technique and learn the show they will perform at football games. Band Camp is a required part of the season; if you have health or other serious reasons for not attending camp please talk to Mrs. Wickman prior to the start of camp.

Commitment:

Marching Band is a year-long commitment with the bulk of the commitment during the fall term. Students are expected to participate in all practices and performances. Lack of evident commitment to the marching band could jeopardize a student's letter, band awards, and/or future participation in the ensemble.

Attendance Policy:

If a student needs to be excused from a practice, a parent must contact Mrs. Wickman at least 24 hours in advance. Emergencies and illnesses that prohibit 24-hour notification will be dealt with on an individual basis. *If a student must miss the majority of practices in one week, he or she may not be allowed to march at the Friday game but will be expected to attend unless illness/injury prevents this.*

Students are expected to come prepared to practice. Instruments, coordinate sheets, poker chips, music, lyres, and pencils are required at *all* practices. Students are expected to dress appropriately for weather and activity; flip-flops, dresses, and skirts are not appropriate practice attire. Since marching band is a physical activity, athletic shorts and tennis shoes are appropriate attire and highly encouraged. Jeans are restrictive for movement and should be avoided. A student that comes to practice without an instrument will be expected to attend practice; a loaner instrument may be provided if one is available. A student that comes to practice twice without an instrument will receive an unexcused absence on their attendance record unless there is a legitimate reason outlined in a parent note (i.e. instrument in the shop).

Unexcused absences: (Absence must be communicated directly with Mrs. Wickman to be excused)

- One unexcused absence from practice: Benched for one performance.
- Two unexcused absences from practice: student will not receive letter/award until following year.
- Three unexcused absences from practice: Student will be dropped from Marching Band and can enroll the next year on probation only. (Probationary students may not miss any practices).

Tardies:

- 1-2 unexcused tardy: warning and consequence
- 3-4 unexcused tardies: parent notification.
- Each tardy after four will count as an unexcused absence.
- Students more than 20 minutes late to practice will take an absence.
- Students that need to make up tests in other classes after school are asked to schedule these for non-marching days. If this is impossible, and the student must be late to practice, a note from the teacher will excuse the tardy.
- 7th hour class students must get to practice by 10 minutes after 7th hour ends to be considered on time.

Students are expected to arrange their work schedule around practice.

Students will not be allowed to leave practice early for work without penalty (considered same as a tardy). Occasionally a student must miss a performance for legitimate reasons; as with the other performance ensembles, a parent must contact Mrs. Wickman at least TWO WEEKS prior to the performance for it to be considered an excused absence. An unexcused absence from a performance will be dealt with on an individual basis, but it may result in a student being benched or removed from the Marching Band for the remainder of the season and can jeopardize a student's letter. Unexcused absences are defined as any absence without proper parental notification OR an absence without an acceptable excuse. In most cases jobs, sports, driver's education, and social commitments will *not* be excused so please plan accordingly.

Marching Band chore responsibilities:

- Clean up: On days you are assigned clean up duty, you must clean the band room and field before leaving for the day. All individuals assigned clean-up for the day must check out with the assistant drum major before leaving. Expect to stay at least 15 minutes beyond dismissal. Clean up duty includes picking up the trash, emptying garbage (all rehearsal locations), storing lost and found items, cleaning whiteboards, cleaning any spills, straightening the chairs/stands, and sweeping the room.
- Game Clean up: All members of the band are responsible for clean up after a game, plan to stay an extra 20-30 minutes to straighten and clean the band room, choir room, and bathrooms.
- Equipment Crew: The equipment crew will set up scaffolding, podiums, ladders, and sound equipment for each practice. They will be required to start moving equipment at least 10 minutes prior to the start of practice.
- Drumline and Guard equipment: It is the responsibility of the drumline and guard leadership to make sure individuals in their section move and store equipment properly after practices.

Responsibilities for Games:

Uniforms:

Students will not be allowed to march a performance unless they are wearing the proper uniform.

- Solid black socks (calf height, no flesh should be seen).
- Solid black Pinnacle marching band shoes.
- Shako hats for the band proper, berets for sousaphones.
- Wear the season show shirt and athletic shorts under your uniform. Do NOT wear long pants/jeans under your bibbers.
- Long hair must be completely pulled up under hats in a neat bun or braids.
- Uniform inspection will be performed in block band in the parking lot at 6:00pm on game nights. At 6:00pm you must be in block at attention and will not be allowed to move until inspection is complete. If you arrive to block after 6:00pm you will take a tardy and be assigned a detention. If you break attention during inspection, you will be assigned a detention. Your performance starts at line up and is not over until you return to the band room after the game.
- If you need to get uniform parts from the uniform moms, you need to arrive in time to do so and still get to block band on time.

Game procedures:

- The band marches from the parking lot to the practice field. After a brief practice, the band will march to the stadium where you will be in block band or on the sideline at attention or parade rest until it is time to step on the field for pre-game.
- After pre-game the band sits together in the stands by section to play pep music and cheer on our team.
- When directed by the director of bands or drum majors, ALL band members are expected to participate in the stands play pep tunes in the stands. Eating of snacks must not interfere with the bands purpose of providing encouragement to the team and spirit for the people in the stands.
- You will not be allowed to leave the stands without permission.
- Friends or family members not in the band will not be allowed to sit with the band during the game.
- Band members will not be allowed to visit concessions.
- Uniforms stay on and buttoned/zipped in the stands, but hats may be removed at the direction of the drum majors.
- Hair must be completely up in a neat bun or braid and completely under your hat. Be sure your hair is tidy, as you will not wear your hat in the stands.
- Do NOT eat in uniform unless the director grants permission.
- Never leave your instrument or hat unattended in the stands.
- Use the restroom before uniform inspection.

Marching Band Code of Conduct:

Students in marching band are expected to represent Stevenson High School with professionalism, discipline, and spirit. These ideals should be exhibited at all marching band practices and events. Foul language, disrespect towards others, or undisciplined behavior is not tolerated. Any individual who chooses to display inappropriate behavior (ie: not follow direction, talk back to student leaders and/or staff, excessive talking, demonstrates a lack of respect toward others or the band facilities/equipment) will be required to serve a 15 minute detention before or after practice. Continued inappropriate behavior will lead to removal from the marching band.

Uniforms:

Uniforms will be assigned to each student at the beginning of the season. Students are expected to return their uniform at the end of the season. Failure to do so will result in diplomas or fall schedules being held until the uniform is returned or a fine is paid. The uniforms are expected to be returned in good condition with all parts intact. Any damage beyond normal wear and tear and/or any missing parts will be billed to the student. All students are expected to provide their own black Pinnacle marching shoes. Students that show up to a performance without the proper uniform will not be allowed to march.

- UNIFORMS should never be left at school!
- Store uniforms at home on a sturdy hanger.
- Allow uniforms to air out after every performance, especially if they get wet.
- Never cut your uniform. If alterations to your uniform are needed, see a uniform mom for assistance.
- Never wash a uniform in the washing machine; they must be dry cleaned only. See a uniform parent for ANY uniform cleaning needs.
- Do NOT eat in uniform unless the director grants permission.

Music:

Each marching band member needs to purchase a marching lyre and flip book. The marching music will be checked out to each student and does not have to be returned.

Please sign and return by _____

Student name: _____ Grade _____

Parent name(s): _____

Parent Phone: _____

Parent e-mail: _____

Address: _____

Student e-mail: _____

Student phone (if different): _____

Please sign below to signify...

- ◆ we have read and understand the contents of this handbook
- ◆ we have written practice/performance dates on the calendar
- ◆ we understand and will abide by attendance policies outlined
- ◆ we understand that it is our responsibility to maintain our practice schedule and to give appropriate notification for conflicts

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date