

**Starr's Mill High School
Panther Pride Marching Band
Member Handbook
School Year 2026-27**



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Welcome to the Starr's Mill High School Panther Pride Marching Band – where we are “learning life-skills through band”. You are now a member of one of the largest and proudest organizations on campus. As a member of this organization you will invest more time and energy, go more places, entertain more people, have more fun, and reap more rewards than any other student organization at this school! It is no coincidence that some of the highest achieving and most successful students belong to this marching band!

We strongly believe that marching band has the ability to enrich a person's life, both in high school and beyond, and in unique and powerful ways. We are very much in the business of developing a life-long relationship with music in every student and of providing and encouraging positive interaction, group and personal dynamics, and personal and group progress through the medium of music. The road towards these goals is extremely rewarding, yet very challenging when put in a large group setting. Only through positive effort on the part of each individual involved in the band can true excellence be achieved.

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. The mental discipline and thought processes required in marching band are applicable in all fields of endeavor.

General Objectives

- To make participation in the marching band inviting to all qualified students at Starr's Mill High School
- To develop musical, visual, and performance expertise which 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 performing in order to foster a continuation of musical activities
- To develop performing organizations which are a source of pride for the individual, the school, and the community

This handbook will provide you with important information that you will need as a member of the Starr's Mill High School Panther Pride Marching Band. Read this handbook, and make sure you understand the material it contains. Refer to it if you have any questions about our band program. **You are responsible for knowing the information contained in this handbook.** If you have any questions about the content, it is your responsibility to seek clarification from one of the directors. When necessary, updates to this handbook will be issued.

NOTE: The band directors reserve the right to amend any rules or policies as needed. These rare changes will be distributed through the many means we communicate.

Finally, we take our job as a band director very seriously. The band 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 Starr's Mill Band; therefore, individual practice and preparation are essential.

MARCHING BAND – The marching band consists of wind players, percussionists, color guard, and drum major. This outdoor performance ensemble is the most visible entity of the band program and possibly the school. The marching band is an integral part of the full high school band experience. The Panther Pride Marching Band is an extra-curricular activity but all instrumentalists must be in concert band, symphonic band, or wind ensemble in order to participate. There are auditions for this ensemble and each student will be expected to work hard, be dedicated, be physically active, and have fun through the process of succeeding.

The Marching Band is active from mid-July for mandatory band camp through early December (through all the football playoff games). Attendance at all of Band Camp is **mandatory**. Percussionists and auxiliary will also rehearse one week before band camp. The Panther Pride performs at all varsity football games, three marching competitions, Fayette County Band Exhibition, pep rallies, standstills, and parades. To be an instrumental performer, the student must have completed the previous semester as a member of one of the band classes at Starr's Mill High School (exception is made for freshmen and new students) and be currently enrolled in an appropriate band class. Members are expected to commit themselves to band class for the full length of the school year. Students who play a woodwind instrument or trumpet must provide their own instruments. In other cases, a school-owned instrument is provided (maintenance fee charged, see additional form).

Entering and maintaining membership into the marching band

Membership into the Panther Pride Marching Band is by audition. Each facet auditions at different times of the school year and has different criteria. Once selected, it is the responsibility of each member to be "in good standing" in order to remain in the marching band. Such things as frequent absences and/or tardies, in-school suspension, out of school suspension, administrative detention, physically and/or mentally unable to continue participation, etc. can jeopardize a student's participation in marching band (and therefore, not receive a letter/pin). Any injury or inability to physically and/or mentally participate in marching band must be accompanied by a doctor's note – with an explanation of injury and approximate date of renewed participation. This policy is to protect the physical and mental health of each student. The timeline/contents of the note and the date of renewed participation and consequently the decision of continued participation will be on a case-by-case basis and determined by the directors. Students must be in good standing (ie, finished the season, no unexcused absences) at the end of the season in order to earn a letter or service pin at the band banquet or audition the following year.

COLOR GUARD – The Color Guard performs to provide a visual representation of the music performed by the Marching Band. The Color Guard is part of the marching band so all full marching band activities as well as separate guard rehearsals (including guard camp) must be attended. Participation in the Color Guard is based upon an audition held during the spring of each school year. Color Guard members must provide the necessary funds to purchase all required items for this group (i.e., uniform, accessories, etc). There will be additional handouts concerning specific money needed, etc. The Color Guard is expected to be a positive representation of the group and band. A positive attitude is also expected in rehearsals, performances, and in public.

The Color Guard also has different attire than the other band performers. In rehearsal, a bright vest is required (labeled with the student's drill number) for better visual clarity. The young ladies will also wear a costume in performance that matches the theme of the show. While not performing at a football game or contest, uniform attire will also be expected.

Since many color guard members are not in a band class, each member should be vigilant in monitoring the weekly schedule. This could be done by checking our website, Remind101, group chat, and/or coming into the band room periodically. The color guard activity requires aerobic conditioning so each performer should do her best to stay healthy. Finally, the color guard aims to present a "uniform" look; therefore, face piercings should be avoided. For the 2022 K-Pop show ONLY, colorful unnatural hair color is permitted. Everyone works very hard in preparation for a performance so don't let any poor personal choices affect your participation.

BAND REHEARSALS

Please see the "Starr's Mill High School Panther Pride Marching Band Attendance Policy" document for full details of our expectations.

Our band rehearsals are important to the quality of our performance; therefore, **attendance is of the utmost importance** (ALL members are "first string" players). In order to present an outstanding performance, students need to be at each rehearsal BEFORE designated time and ready to work and have fun. Please don't use marching band as a "punishment" (missing rehearsal due to bad grades or not doing chores, etc). Attendance is also tied to receiving a band letter at the end of year banquet. In order for any organization to run efficiently, a set of policies must be established. These policies are fair to everyone in the organization and must be enforced for the protection of the organization as a whole and for the individuals within the organization. A band program cannot operate efficiently on excuses – only results; therefore, the following guidelines must be followed:

AFTER SCHOOL – There will be a semester-long schedule for after-school band rehearsals and performances given out months in advance and will be updated as needed. These rehearsals are very important and are mandatory rehearsals. **The band directors must be notified by email** (king.scott@fcboe.org or groover.bert@fcboe.org) when checking out of school, for illness, on a day when a rehearsal is scheduled or for any other rehearsal/performance/event absence. **Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence.** Students are also expected to be at rehearsal if at school.

Please schedule appointments (doctor, dentist, orthodontist, etc.) on alternate dates and times to avoid conflict with rehearsals, performances, and any other events that are scheduled. It is the responsibility of each parent (because you schedule these appointments) and student to be at their full potential for a successful performance.

Marching rehearsals are held to improve upcoming performances. Too many rehearsals missed (at the discretion of the directors) will result in the student not participating in the upcoming performance(s). Even though these absences could be excused, too much information could be missed; therefore, detrimental to the entire ensemble's performance. A first offense of an unexcused absence of a marching band rehearsal will result in the student not participating in the next performance(s) of the same weekend and/or loss of any privileges, status, and/or position. The second offense may result in the dropping of the student from the marching band. If a student is late to rehearsal within 5 minutes (first offense), that student will stay after rehearsal the additional time and work with their section leader on a movement skill. For the second offense, the student will stay after rehearsal in addition to helping with uniforms at the next performance, lose part of 3rd quarter break, help in band room when needed, physical reminders, and/or additional consequences. If a student is more than 10 minutes late to a rehearsal, the consequences will be the same as the above 2nd offense. If the time and/or occurrences are excessive, parent/student conferences will occur.

PICK-UP TIMES - All rehearsals will end promptly at the scheduled finish time. Please pick your child up after he/she has had time to transition to the band room to put items away. Also, all return times from performances will be estimated and communicated in advance to parents and students but please also remain in contact with your child in case of an unforeseen delay. We are responsible for every student so we cannot leave until all students are picked up. We understand that there are occasionally circumstances out of your control but after the second late pickup (30 min or later), we will schedule a conference to see how we can help with your transportation (the student will be able to continue to participate after this conference).

Student Rehearsal Etiquette (including spring, band camp, fall rehearsals)

- Students should plan to arrive 10-15 minutes before the scheduled rehearsal/report time so they have enough time to get their instrument & equipment and head to their rehearsal location.
- Students should always try to “perform” to the best of their ability. By working hard in each rep, sequence, song, etc., the students grow as performers and eventually will be able to engage the audience.
- Students should wear shorts, a light colored t-shirt, tennis shoes with socks, and any type of hat or sunscreen to keep the sun off of them. Jeans are not permitted.
- Cell phones may not be on the student during rehearsal. They must be left on the sideline, in their instrument case, or in their band locker set to ‘silent’ mode or turned off.
- In general, there is no talking during rehearsal unless you are being spoken to by a member of the instructional staff.
- Water is a necessity. Everyone MUST bring an insulated water jug or a Coleman brand type thermos filled with water to EVERY rehearsal. Half gallon or 1 gallon sizes are recommended. Water is not always provided at rehearsal. You can fill up your cooler at the large sink in the band room before rehearsal. Short breaks will be given periodically while we rehearse. Everyone must drink water or Gatorade!
- You should have your instrument, your music, a pencil and your lanyard with drill attached, ready to go when the rehearsal begins.

- SUNBLOCK!! Rehearsing in the sun/heat is unavoidable so please make sure you are prepared by wearing sunscreen of an adequate SPF (30+) and a hat. You may also wear long sleeve “fishing” shirts that have protection from the sun as well.
- Your instrument should be in proper working order at all times. This includes having a good reed (plus back up reeds), valve oil, etc. Repair your personally owned instrument when needed.

BAND CAMP

The Starr's Mill High School Band Program has band camp each year at the end of July and beginning of August (depending on the school calendar). It is a couple of weeks of rehearsals, drill practice, stand tune learning, and show preparation for the purpose of preparing the Marching Band for the upcoming football and competitive season. **Band camp is a requirement for being in the Marching Band.** The dates for the camp are announced prior to the end of first semester. Band members and auxiliary group members must plan their work and vacation schedules around band camp. The fee for belonging to the Marching Band changes yearly and is dependent upon the number of students who participate and the previous year's fund raising. The Student Medical Form must also be filled out by a physician and reflect any “pre-existing conditions” the student might have.

BAND PERFORMANCES

Every member is important! Think of yourself as important as a soloist or the drum major – the performance would be greatly diminished without them (and you!) All performers are “first string” players; therefore, are missed greatly when not performing and cannot be replaced. It is every member's (and his/her parents') duty to be responsible by attending all functions.

All performances are required with the exception of some emergency situations (to be determined by the directors). An unexcused absence from a public performance will result in disciplinary action. All games, contests, exhibitions, performances and most play-off games will be required regardless of any other functions or events.

If you have a personal conflict of importance (determined by the directors) on a performance date, you will notify a director by email as soon as the conflict arises in order to have your request considered. This will give others ample time to learn their new marching assignment or give the director time to make show changes. Please provide the director with enough information to make a fair evaluation of the situation. The decision will be at the director's discretion.

In the event that a member belongs to another performing organization that is performing at the same time as the band, the school band will take precedence. This is standard procedure and accepted as such by all community bands, drum and bugle corps, honor ensembles, etc.

Some guidelines on what is considered a permissible excuse:

- Illness to the point that participation would be harmful to student's health: Excused
- Important religious observances conflicting with rehearsal or performance: Excused
- Weddings or funerals of family members: Excused

In the event that a student is not physically or mentally healthy enough to proceed with the activity, performance, etc., he/she will be under the care of a chaperone and taken to a separate location until their parents/guardians arrive to pick them up. The student cannot later attend the band activity. Only individuals listed on the "Student Information Form" are allowed to pick up a band student. These policies are for the safety and well-being of each of our students.

All students must have all of their uniform accessories, parts, etc and instrument in order to perform. An inspection will be made when possible in order to contact parents in time for missing parts. There will be no extra socks, shoes, bodysuits, etc for the student to borrow. Gloves will be available to purchase if needed. If a student does not have the full uniform when the band needs to depart, he/she will stay with a chaperone in a separate location until their parents/guardians arrive to pick them up. The student cannot later attend the band activity. Only individuals listed on the "Student Information Form" are allowed to pick up a band student.

If a student returns to a band activity, performance site, etc. after being dismissed for uniform, health reasons, etc, a parent conference will occur. This kind of action is disrespectful of the band program, directors/staff, and members. Expulsion from the program is a possibility.

Students are expected to be on time at a designated area. 3rd quarter breaks are a privilege, not a right. For home games, students will be in stands during 3rd quarter with 1:00 left on clock. For away games, the time will be designated since there are many unknown factors involved. If a student is not on time, he/she will forfeit half of the next 3rd quarter break. The student will immediately go to the restroom/concessions with a chaperone and return to the outside of our band area to eat/drink. After finishing, he/she will immediately return to their seat for 3rd quarter. On subsequent tardiness, additional measures will be taken to help the student manage their time.

Cell phones may be used by brass and woodwind players only when performing certain non-memorized music. All other cell phones must be stored away at all other times. This allows the students to be ready to perform well, interact with their band mates, and contribute to the game atmosphere. If a student is on his/her phone at the inappropriate times, the phone will be confiscated for the remainder of the performance.

In the Audience

- Be positive and supportive of all the groups performing.
- Do not talk, text, or use your cell phone during any performance.
- Do not enter or exit the performance venue during a performance.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

One of the goals of the Starr's Mill High School Band Program is the development of leadership qualities in students who possess the potential to be good leaders; therefore, each year students will be appointed to various leadership positions. Being a student leader is a service position and not a position of power or glory. There are auditions for all section leaders and band officers which might include student voting, interview, and survey. Student leaders are expected to encourage and help as well as to befriend those within their section. They must have good musical or auxiliary skills to lead their group to a high level of performance. Because good leaders lead by example, student leaders are expected to be members in good standing. Since the public associates the leaders as representatives of the band, a high level of behavior, maturity, and responsibility should be maintained even when not with the band. All officers/section leaders should monitor each member so the band functions smoothly. The Directors reserve the right to remove any student from his/her position if any problem cannot be resolved or is warranted in any way.

DRUM MAJOR

The Drum Major is one of the top leadership position in the Marching Band. Candidates for Drum Major must have completed at least one full year in marching band and must be currently enrolled in a high school band class. The Drum Major uniform will be decided by the Band Directors. A summer conducting/leadership camp is mandatory for new drum majors and strongly encouraged for experienced ones. The Drum Major is expected to remain active on his/her instrument during the marching season in band class.

- Direct all field rehearsals of marching band
- Enforce rules during rehearsals, trips, events, and performances
- Act as a liaison between students and directors
- Oversee section leaders and keep them on task
- Assign punishments during rehearsals if needed
- Coordinate bleacher activities for football games and pep rallies
- Have the band in the right place, at the right time, ready to do whatever is expected at rehearsals and performances
- Responsible for the shed key

BAND CAPTAIN

Band Captain should work very closely with the Drum Major. While the Drum Major is the leader in front of the band during rehearsals, the Band Captain is the leader among the band. This leadership should show in the way the Band Captain conducts himself/herself with pride, enthusiasm, maturity, and excellence. A summer leadership camp is strongly encouraged.

- Must be a senior
- Attend all (first semester) booster meetings as student representative
- Set up and maintain tutoring program
- Represent the band during awards presentation, honor ceremonies, picture sessions, etc
- Supervise Section Leaders and evaluate effectiveness
- Inspect leadership uniforms prior to full band inspections
- Handle induction of new members (introduce them to others, give them a handbook/schedule, etc)

VICE-PRESIDENT

Vice-President will assume the duties of Band Captain in his/her absence. His/her leadership should show in the way the Vice-President conducts himself/herself with pride, enthusiasm, maturity, and excellence. A summer leadership camp is strongly encouraged.

- Assume the duties of Band Captain in his/her absence
- Maintain instrument inventory/check-out records
- Have appropriate information placed on bulletin boards, school announcements, message board, and school newspaper
- Create and post bus lists for trips
- Copy and arrange materials for clinics, leadership handbooks, and other band functions
- Coordinate middle school recruiting materials and procedures

SECTION LEADERS

In marching band, Section Leaders are students that are strong players and excellent leaders in an instrumental section. These leaders are appointed by the Band Director based on a leadership/responsibility audition and from teacher observations. It is very important that the section leaders encourage their sections as a team in order for all players to feel comfortable. A summer leadership camp is strongly encouraged.

- Keep accurate attendance records for secretary
- Assign punishments during/after rehearsals
- Hold music and marching rehearsals for section
- Learn all parts of music
- Assist with drill rehearsals when needed
- Communicate with members to insure their accountability
- Inspect uniforms within section prior to performances
- Tutor section members individually on a regular basis
- Organize team-building activities for your section

SECRETARY

The Band Secretary is organized, accurate, and articulate. The secretary can elicit help from other officers and section leaders and should work closely with them.

- Create and maintain necessary computer files
- Take attendance at all functions (may be assisted by section leaders). Keep master list of attendance
- Assign band cubbies and create list
- Keep minutes of any student band meeting
- Remind students of upcoming events
- Ensuring paperwork is turned in on time by students
- Handle correspondence with other bands, guest clinicians, businesses, instructors, etc. including: letters of congratulations, announcements of events, sharing information, etc.
- Monitoring students who are tardy to rehearsals/functions/3rd quarter break, etc.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

We expect students to behave in a mature manner so that the band can rehearse and perform to the best of its ability and represent the band's goals. Students are required to follow the Fayette County Board of Education's policies on Student Conduct and Discipline at any and all band related functions.

Below is a list of ways you can make the band program the best possible!

- **Have a Great Attitude.** As a Starr's Mill performer, you will likely put in more hard work (while consequently having lots of fun achieving common goals) for this organization than any other during your time in high school. The better the band wants to be, the harder it has to work. Being a superior band comes with a price. Therefore, you will need an attitude of dedication, hard work, pride, spirit, patience, teamwork, and love. No one expects you to be perfect, and you will certainly make your share of mistakes. The way to success is to learn from each mistake so that it is not repeated. All the hard work will seem a small price when you experience the enjoyment of a great performance. This enjoyment is what makes band fun as well as an experience with memories that will last a lifetime.
- **Be Responsible.** This is probably the biggest life lesson the band experience can teach each student. Responsibility for your contribution to each rehearsal/performance: prepared with all equipment needed, music learned/memorized or routine learned, drill learned, and a great attitude. Responsibility for your actions: acting mature and appropriate in all situations, being positive about various situations, having fun, representing the band to the fullest, being early for activities, budget your time so grades in other classes stay strong, and coordinate other activities with band so conflicts could possibly be resolved. Responsibility to the band program: making decisions that do not adversely affect the band and its members, working as a team and getting along even if you don't like someone, and be encouraging.
- **Be Respectful.** Whether it's holding your tongue when it's easier to gossip or say hurtful comments toward someone, giving one another enough "space", acting appropriately even though it would be easier to do the opposite, valuing another's educated opinion even if it doesn't match yours, or treating everyone well regardless of age, grade, position, band, intelligence, or ability, respect each other in order to build the tightest family you can. Create positive interpersonal relationships that foster a proper learning environment. This includes all social media as well.
- **Pay Attention.** During rehearsals, listen and **do not talk**. If the Director said it, it was important! If he or she has to repeat it, the band has lost precious rehearsal time. If you have a question, raise your hand. Also, be aware of your surroundings. Rarely will we be in a situation where we are the only ones there. Be a good representative for teenagers to show the public that you can be respectful and courteous.
- **Be On Time.** You are expected to be on time to any performance, rehearsal, or meeting. Always be a few minutes early so you will be ready when it is time to start. "Early is on time, on time is late."
- **Monitor Each Other.** Take ownership of your band and use peer pressure to remind your fellow performers to act appropriately. Whether in the band room or out in public, people judge the band on how well each of you acts and performs. In order to monitor each other, students must stay with the group at all times. This could be at a performance site, rehearsal, unstructured time, etc. Remember, we are responsible for students during band activity times. If a student separates themselves from the group, he/she will be assigned a chaperone for the remainder of the activity as well as the next one.

- **Be A Good Representative.** 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.) When in uniform, you are expected to show your best behavior. Watch what you say and do; people are watching you and will judge the band and the school by the way you behave. Remember you are representing everyone in this band, school, and community when you put on that uniform. Public Displays of Affection are prohibited by the Fayette County Board of Education’s policies on Student Conduct and Discipline; therefore, they are prohibited at any band program function. Failure to do so will result in assigned seating, extra monitoring by chaperones, etc.
- **Speak Well.** Band members should not use words, phrases, or symbols that are profane, obscene, or otherwise inappropriate in the band room or at any band function. This includes social media.
- **Be On Duty.** During all band events including football games, concerts, parades, contests, rehearsals, and pep rallies always keep your attention toward the Band Director or Drum Major so you can be ready to play at a moment’s notice. At football games, you may not move around the band block. Visitors are not allowed in the band block. All band members must sit in their assigned places. Always keep your instrument ready to play.
- **Stay Drug Free.** All members of any part of the Starr’s Mill High School Band Program are expected to refrain from the use of alcohol and other illegal drugs. Failure to do so may result in dismissal (according to Fayette County Board of Education policy concerning code of conduct for extra-curricular participation).
- **Social Media.** No student or parent can have an account on social media with “Starr’s Mill HS” or “SMHS” without a teacher monitoring it. Remember that anything placed on social media can be retrieved and used as court documents, etc. What goes on social media is there forever so think twice before posting/texting. If a student or parent places anything deemed inappropriate on social media and/or text message, there will be an immediate conference with students and/or parents. Depending on the severity of the post/message, our administration might be involved. Expulsion from the band program will be a topic of the conference.
- **Injuries & Responsibility.** The success of a marching band is dependent on the full participation of all of its members in every rehearsal or performance. This is an important commitment made by each performer at the start of each season. The student should refrain from activities that have a high risk of injury. This includes, but is not limited to: skateboarding, skiing/snowboarding, and other recreational activities where higher than normal risk is involved. There is inherent risk in doing just about anything in life, so most importantly, we are asking the students (and parents) to always use good judgment so they will be healthy and injury free for the duration of the season.

GENERAL POLICIES

- **Copyrighted Video/Internet/YouTube**
Do not share, distribute, or post videos of our performances on the internet/YouTube or by any other means until after our last contest.
- **Do you have a concern or issue?**
Please send us an email or give us a call to discuss your concern and we will be happy to address it to the best of our ability. Please do not approach our instructional staff before or after a rehearsal as they are very busy at those times.

BAND PARENTS

Parents are an important part of the Starr's Mill 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 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: chaperone, 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:
 - Assisting your child to be prepared and punctual for every rehearsal and performance.
 - 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.
 - Encouraging your child to practice at home and help them find a quiet place to do so.
 - Showing your interest and support in your child's music study by enthusiastically attending every performance possible.
 - Discussing with directors and staff anything that will help them understand and better serve your child.

BUS TRIPS

During the football/marching season, the marching band travels to many different places to give performances. During any trip, each member of the band program is expected to demonstrate proper behavior at all times and be a good representative of the Starr's Mill High School community. Since all band trips are an extension of the school, all school rules concerning dress and behavior apply. During any trip, it is very important to listen to any and all directions given so the trip will go as planned and all will have fun.

It is our policy that any student traveling with the band program must ride the bus to and from the destination. Students are not allowed to ride with other parties back to the school. Should a parent have a need to transport their child from a band event, he/she must meet the chaperone at the buses and sign the student out. **Students are prohibited from leaving football games, competitions, and other events until the end of that event (i.e., awards, the end of a game)** without director permission. A student cannot leave with anyone other than a legal guardian.

Be Safe On The Bus. During bus travel, all school bus rules apply to band trips. Keep noise levels to a minimum.

Change Clothing Only In Appropriate Places. During a band trip, performers may only change clothes in a place where it is appropriate to do so. This may not be done on buses or other places deemed inappropriate. Always check with the Band Directors and head chaperone for the location of the appropriate place and time to change.

STAFF AND CHAPERONES

Everyone on the staff of the Starr's Mill 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. Chaperones are also extensions of the authority of the directors. Without the dedication of our chaperones 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 chaperone asks you to do, you are **not to argue** with the chaperone. You are to do as you are asked and then inform a director later. This policy will be strictly enforced. If a chaperone has to report a student for being uncooperative or for any other reason, that student will have a conference with the directors & parents and possibly face expulsion from the group.

UNIFORMS:

Each Marching Band member will be fitted for a uniform (jacket w/ gauntlets, "bibber" pants, and "shako" hat) during band camp. After use, it is the responsibility of each student to replace his/her uniform and additional gear back to its original position in the uniform closet. The marching uniform, garment bag, hat, and rain poncho remain at Starr's Mill High School. The student is responsible for maintaining this uniform throughout the school year.

Uniforms are cleaned several times during a marching season. If a student spills or soils the uniform in any way, immediately inform the "Uniform Person" so it can be treated before the stain sets in. We do not allow the students to eat certain foods, drink certain drinks, or bring foods and beverages into the stadium seating area in order to help keep our uniforms looking sharp and reduce the chance of staining. Parents, please help us by encouraging your child to respect the guidelines put into place. Uniforms are expensive so our goal is to make our uniforms last as long as possible in good condition. If a student chooses to bring food/drink into the stands, that student will immediately throw away the items, move to the edge of the setup next to a chaperone, and help the uniform parents at the next two opportunities.

When traveling with the band, you must keep your uniform in its protective garment bag. Band uniforms are very expensive to replace. Treat your uniform well because any damage that occurs to it will be your responsibility. Hemming of the jacket sleeves and pants legs will be taken care of during band camp by the uniform mom and her committee. **DO NOT CUT THE UNIFORM OR USE FUSIBLE WEB TAPE!** This will result in you having to purchase the entire uniform at a cost of \$600.

During band camp each rookie will also be fitted for marching shoes, dry fit shirt, dry fit shorts, and gloves (guard and percussion do not need band gloves). These items are ordered through the band in order to maintain uniformity. These items are the student's responsibility and must be brought to and taken from performances. It is recommended that two pairs of gloves be purchased and carried to all performances because students tend to misplace these. It is also a good idea to put the student's initials on the tag of his/her T-shirts, shorts, and shoes. This will help ensure their return if they're lost.

For modesty issues, shorts or form fitting pants are **required** to be worn under the “bibber” pants. Jeans and bulky pants cannot be worn. A bulky garment under the uniform pants shows and binds and spoils the uniform’s clean lines as well as making it difficult for the student to march properly. When it is cold, long underwear is suggested because it is form fitting (as long as it doesn’t prohibit fluid movement). Coats and blankets can be used in the stands but only approved uniform attire can be worn on the field.

After each game or competition, it is expected that your student will remove all personal items from uniform pockets and garment bags. Socks, gloves, shirts, shorts, and “show shirt” should be taken home to be washed or cleaned for the next game or competition.

To march/participate in ANY performance, each student must be in complete uniform. A complete uniform is:

- Clean, black, uniform marching shoes
- Solid black, long band socks
- Correct pair of “bibber” uniform pants
- Sport or band shorts
- Show or dry fit shirt (the uniform jacket might be taken off in the stands) * This will change per performance
- Uniform jacket w/gauntlets
- Pair of marching gloves
- Assigned shako hat
- Carry garment bag
- Color Guard members will need all undergarments and uniform parts including shoes, hair accessories, etc. in order to participate in performances and band activities

Performers with long hair are required to wear their hair high on their head and tucked under their hats (or “pulled back” or wear a black/sheer covering during a performance/rehearsal). Use of unnaturally colored hair dyes or bleaches and/or designs is not permitted. Natural colors include: blonde, brown, auburn, black, red (not crayon red). We are trying to present a uniform appearance and persons with unusual hair color are distracting to the audience and the judges. It is also possible for hair dyes to damage the uniforms for which band members are responsible – so if you dye your hair, make sure it is with an approved dye.

No jewelry, bracelets, watches, etc of any type will be worn while in uniform (including colored fingernail polish). No part of the uniform (except shako and gloves with permission) may be removed while you are in a public place. This includes any place you could possibly be seen by people outside the band. When in uniform, band members may not wear items that are not part of the uniform design.

Please note, if a student does not pass inspection, he/she will not participate/march in the performance. Additionally, other “reminders” will be given the student so he/she is prepared in the future. This decision is at the discretion of the band directors. If the needed items are not delivered at an appropriate time, a parent will need to pick up the student. The student cannot attend the function unless he/she no longer desires to be in the marching band.

Before a performance, each student will need to be in his/her designated spot, in full uniform, by the required time ("on time is late, early is on time"). Remember, each student must have time to pull the uniform and all its accessories and change by this designated time; therefore, it is strongly suggested that the students arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the inspection time.

BAND FACILITIES

We are very proud of what we have and we work hard to maintain our rooms and equipment. Therefore, each member of the band program is expected to help keep the band facilities clean and in order. **No food, drink, or chewing gum is allowed in the band facility** without permission. Detention and/or other disciplinary actions will be taken for offenses. Also, for liability reasons, we cannot permit non-band members in the band room at any time.

INSTRUMENTS – Each band member is responsible for having his/her instrument at each rehearsal and performance and keeping it in top playing condition. Do not allow others to touch/play your instrument and do not touch anything that does not belong to you. All instruments (except certain percussion and tubas) should be stored in the instrument room during the day, and should be taken home at the end of the school day for practice. Reed players should have plenty of spare reeds, a good reed case, cork grease, swab, and polishing cloth. Brass players should have plenty of valve oil, slide grease, cleaning supplies, and a polishing cloth.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS – Starr's Mill High School Band owns many instruments for use by band members. These mostly are instruments that are very expensive and therefore a hardship for students to purchase. Students may use these instruments with permission. Students must sign an Instrument Maintenance Agreement before any school-owned instrument may be taken home. Students using school-owned wind instruments will be assessed a yearly fee to cover all normal maintenance costs of that instrument. Percussionists will be assessed a yearly fee to cover all percussion equipment used during the school year. Students are responsible for any abnormal damage that occurs to their school-owned instruments. Once checked out, instruments may not be used by anyone except the person who signed for them. The user is expected to take the utmost care of a school-owned instrument and return it in the same condition as it was issued.