**Sonoraville High School**

**Marching Band Handbook 2012**

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**Mr. Matthew Loyd**

**Director of Bands**

**Mr. Sam Ruggiero**

**Asst. Director of Bands**

**Mrs. Heather Roberts**

**Auxiliary Director**

**Sonoraville High School**

**A Statement of Policy**

Becoming familiar with this policy will enable each individual to make the most of this great opportunity to be a member of the Sonoraville High School band program, becoming a better person and a better musician.

I firmly believe that the student should improve through regular practice. In the Sonoraville High School band program, I believe that when the student has lost the will to improve him/herself or make a positive contribution to the band, he or she is wasting the time and efforts of his/her fellow members and the community by continuing in the program. The HAPPIEST student is the one who is improving through regular habits of practice and daily progress. He/she must not only know right from wrong, but must be able to stand for principles. He/she must develop a high sense of purpose toward which he/she is willing to work. RESPONSIBILITY is the focus behind any level of achievement within this program. I intend to conduct myself in a manner that will facilitate all students in learning and bettering themselves as the future of our community.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE BAND PROGRAM**

* To educate functionally literate, independent musicians
* To teach music through performance
* To develop performance skills of various wind and percussion instruments as well as techniques of contemporary color guard
* To provide for the musical needs of the school and the community
* To acquaint students with music theory/history and how history and musical composition relate to student’s current life and musical experiences
* To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self-expression, and a healthy social experience
* To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of the group, and enhance interaction with peers
* To foster leadership skills within each student

**BAND CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

**Symphonic Band**

The Symphonic Band is the top performing organization in both the fall and spring semesters. Membership is by audition only.

**Concert Band**

The Concert Band is a fundamental performing organization in both the fall and spring semesters. Membership is by audition only.

**Marching Band**

Membership in the marching band involves sometimes-strenuous physical exercise and the ability play the difficult literature and perform physical movements encountered in the activity.

**Chamber Ensembles**

During the fall and spring semesters, chamber ensembles will be formed. ALL band members will be encouraged to perform in a chamber ensemble. Possible groups would be woodwind quintet, brass quintet, saxophone quartet, horn ensemble, trombone quartet, low brass ensemble, flute choir, clarinet choir, percussion ensemble as well as additional small groups.

**Concert Band Camp**

Concert Band Camp is two days of intensive training with nationally recognized clinicians. It will be held on campus and will feature a performance at its conclusion.

**Private Lessons**

As one might expect, private lessons on a musical instrument are the best way to improve performance skills. The one-on-one approach allows the student to benefit from the individual attention as opposed to an instructor monitoring a class of fifty or more students. A recent survey of the All-State Band revealed that approximately 80% of the students in the band studied privately. Students are generally more inclined to practice diligently for a weekly music assignment and this discipline increases their enjoyment of the instrument. I will happily tutor any serious student, or help find an alternative person at a moment’s notice.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

THE ONLY EXCUSED ABSENCES ARE PRE-ARRANGED\* SCHOOL CONFLICTS AND THOSE THAT ARE EXCUSED PER COUNTY DISTRICT POLICY FOR REGULAR ATTENDANCE (ILLNESS, DEATH IN THE FAMILY, RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY).

*\*Individual needs will be addressed as they occur. This system is subject to modification by the director.*

For ALL absences, the students and parents must follow the following procedure:

* Directors must be notified in advance via the Sonoraville High School absence request (online or paper form)
* The absence request must be properly filled out and approved
* For illness, a parent note or doctor’s excuse must be submitted
* Although cleared by the school office, absences from a band activity that same day must be cleared with the director as well-please, please e-mail or call
* In extreme cases, a phone message may be left on voice mail, with a follow-up personal call
* **Follow-up and obtaining of missed information is the student’s responsibility**

The filing of an absentee request form does not constitute an excused absence. The policy above applies in all but the most extreme cases. Unexcused absences will result in removal from performance.

**ACTIVITY CONFLICTS**

Conflicts between band and other activities or events are the responsibility of the student. Rehearsal and performance information is given out well in advance, and posted on the Charms Office Website (www.charmsoffice.com) so that proper arrangements can be made. When band activities are missed, the entire group is at an instant disadvantage. Students should be careful not to become involved with activities that may directly conflict with band activities. Students should have a calendar book and be aware of all band dates well ahead of schedule. It is the policy of the band to assist students when conflicts occur within the scope of band policy. The band schedule is demanding and involvement in too many activities usually reduces the enjoyment and worthiness of each one. Remember that work is not an excuse for missing any band activity.

**Students missing only ‘part’ of a rehearsal for a club meeting or other related conflict (tutoring, etc…) must make up that time prior to the next performance to be eligible to march.  For example, if a student missing 30 minutes of rehearsal for tutoring, he/she must stay after rehearsal with a student leader or staff member and make up the time they missed.  Students must also bring a note from the teacher in charge of the club/tutoring for verification purposes.**

**DUTIES OF THE BAND MEMBER**

* Be on time to all rehearsals and performances:

**BE PREPARED, IN PLACE, ON TIME!**

 Upon entering the rehearsal setting, acquire your equipment and go directly to your position

* When a director, staff member, or student leader asks for your attention, all activity will cease
* Come to rehearsal with a GOOD ATTITUDE
* All independent playing (if authorized) should consist of solid, fundamental material
* Make a real effort to improve on a daily basis and establish a good practice routine
* At the end of rehearsal, put all materials in their proper place
* Maintain a strong academic standing in all coursework
* Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you are wrong
* Have proper respect for yourself, your peers, your instructors and the facility and equipment
* Always exceed your expectations

**THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTITUDE**

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is **ATTITUDE**. The kind of person you are is an individual choice and how we feel about something, which involves attitude, is one of the few actual independent choices that we have in life. It takes intense dedication to reach goals. Students should learn to discipline themselves to daily practice on fundamentals. The ’right attitude’ must be present along with sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the basic foundation. Such an attitude makes an artistic performance inevitable and is the difference between a professional organization and a mediocre group. The band program can do much for you. Make the most of every moment together.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLINE**

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must be all encompassing and firm. Band students and parents must believe in the ideals, principles, and philosophy of the organization. Everyone must be aware of behavior and the behavior of those connected to our organization. Any action intentional or unintentional that projects unfavorably on the school, community or band program, whether it be in band or outside of band, could result in dismissal or exclusion from activity.

**THE ROLE OF PARENTS**

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook are followed and that the *Statement of Understanding* is signed and returned. This states that you understand the policies as set within and any questions are to be directed to the band director by appointment. Each parent is responsible for the attendance of his/her child at all band functions. It is also the responsibility of parents to make sure that their child practices DAILY. Being involved with your child’s development in this activity is a reward that has far-reaching benefits. An active parent is aware and receives the gift of healthy participation and growth.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY**

As members of the Sonoraville High School Band, you have a great deal of responsibility. It is important that if expectations are to be met, the privileges, rewards and duties must align properly.

**TO OURSELVES**

You have the primary responsibility of developing your own abilities. The benefits of a professional-quality instrument and private lessons should not be underestimated. In order to reap reward, consistent and constant effort must be put forth at all times.

**TO OUR SCHOOL**

The Gordon County School District provides us with many of the resources for rehearsal, performance and equipment. The needs of our program reach far beyond what the district is able to provide. The Sonoraville Bands Booster Association also provides a support network, both financially and by being your biggest fan. We have a responsibility to be the best possible example for both of these entities.

**TO EACH OTHER**

We must always do what is best for the welfare of the group. There can be no selfish acts solely for the benefit of the individual, but for all. Respect each other. If there are conflicts, find a peaceful way to resolve them. Never insult another member’s integrity. We are here to grow and learn together.

**MARCHING BAND**

**BASIC PROCEDURES**

* Shoes and socks must be worn at all times. Inside and out. No exceptions
* Food, drinks and gum are not permitted during rehearsal. Water/snack breaks will be given by staff, and are to be consumed in designated areas only
* BE PREPARED, IN PLACE, ON TIME
* All District Policies regarding curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities will be strictly enforced
* No exposed jewelry will be worn while in uniform.
* All school rules are enforced at all times.
* Students are to remain in place until dismissed

**REHEARSAL**

Students are expected to be at all rehearsals and performances. If there is a situation that will prevent this, an excuse form must be requested and submitted before the absence is to occur. If a student is absent from school on the day of a rehearsal or performance, they are ineligible to participate that day and we ask that you contact the director to verify absence. Any student assigned disciplinary action by school administration will also be ineligible to participate during the period of punishment (ISS, OSS etc.). Students with disciplinary infractions will not be eligible for student leadership.

**ALTERNATES**

One of the most important groups of members of the marching band is the alternates. Due to the absence of others or inability to work out their part, it is necessary to ’fill-in’ drill positions. Alternate members must be enthusiastic and willing to learn new material at a rapid pace. The chances of an alternate working his or her way into a spot if the alternate participates, works hard, learns the music and does it with a good attitude are very good. They are full-fledged members and will have a role in all marching band activities. Some will elect to work in the logistics crew, run sound, or be on the metronome crew.

**UNIFORM/CONCERT ATTIRE INFORMATION**

Uniforms (marching band and concert attire) are either ’on-loan’, or ’rented’ by the students.  As such, it is the student’s responsibility to keep the uniform/concert attire complete and in good condition while it is in their possession.

**Checking Uniforms/Concert Attire In and Out**

Uniforms and Concert Attire will not go home with students.  The uniform committee will check out the uniforms before and after each event.  Gloves and Shoes will not be picked up.  It is the student’s responsibility to keep up with his or her own gloves and shoes.

Once the uniform has been checked out to the student, it is their responsibility to keep up with the uniform and all parts associated with it while it is in the student’s possession.  Any lost parts should be turned into the uniform lost and found in the uniform room.

**Uniform alterations:** Some alterations may need to be done to your child’s uniform.  Do not make alterations without first informing the uniform committee chair and receiving permission.  Do not cut or remove material from a uniform.

When turning the uniform in, make sure that the pockets are empty.  Also notify the uniform committee if there is a need for any repair.

**Replacement Cost for Uniform and Concert Attire**

The Department of Education, State of Georgia, (JS 160-5-1.12 Student Fees and charges/required student equipment and materials) states that Students may be charged for replacement/repair costs due to loss or abuse of school system property.

Replacement costs for uniform parts is as follows.  Repair costs will be determined based on actual cost of repair.

**Uniform:**

**1.  Jacket                                            $150**

**2.  Bib Pants                                      $50**

**3.  Plume                                            $20**

**4.  Shako Hat                                    $40**

**5.  Gauntlets                                      $30 (pair)**

**6.  Hat Box                                         $20**

**Uniform Rules**

1. Unless instructed to do so by a band director, students may not remove any piece of their uniform.  This includes the Shako.
2. No eating or drinking anything other than water while in uniform
3. Do not touch plumes without gloves
4. Solid Black Crew Socks are to be worn with the uniform
5. Under Armor is to be worn under the jacket
6. No blue jeans or pants are to be worn under the pants (long johns are acceptable for cold weather)
7. No jewelry.
8. Clear nail polish only
9. Facial hair is not allowed in the band uniform.
10. **Students with long hair (male and female) must be able to tuck all hair into the Shako.  Hair may not touch the collar.**

**FOOTBALL GAMES**

* Report times are firm. Be Prepared, in Place, on Time!
* Students will be in **full uniform** unless instructed by a director or drum major
* Students are to remain standing in the stands, unless instructed otherwise. All cheers, and played pieces of mandatory. We are there to support the football team and EVERYONE will participate to earn his or her grade.
* If a student needs to leave the stands, they must be escorted by a chaperone
* Students will be dismissed from the band hall following home games. Following away games, students must ride the bus to Any name, unless a note is given in advance to a director, and the student and parents must check out with a director before departing.
* There is to be no eating or drinking in the stands. The band booster association will provide water. There is to no food eaten while in uniform. Students should plan to eat before departure, or once they arrive home. Medical situations will be addressed individually.
* All members are to be alert and ’focused on front.’ Be ready to react immediately to instructions given by the drum majors or directors.

**INSPECTION**

Prior to leaving for a performance, all band members will stand inspection. Any band member that does not pass inspection will not participate in the given performance. The following will be checked:

* Cleaned, polished shoes
* Hair correctly worn-all hair will need to be pinned and fit inside the shako at all performances. No exceptions. Staff will determine specific colorguard hairstyle.
* No Jewelry.
* Clean, properly lubricated instruments and all accessories
* Shako must be worn at all times, at two finger-widths above the bridge of the nose.

Gloves will be inspected for cleanliness, holes, or tears.

**TRAVELING**

* Students are to be silent proceeding to and boarding and exiting the bus. We have begun to perform at this point. Students are to remain silent until given instruction by a director, drum major or captain. Once talking is permitted, volume must be kept at a minimum out of respect and for safety
* Busses must be left absolutely clean.
* Proceed immediately to your designated location. Walk with purpose.  **NEVER run in uniform unless safety is jeopardized.**

**HOTELS/OVERNIGHT TRIPS**

* Rooms will be locked at all times
* There are never to be members of the opposite sex in your room other than a chaperone at ANY TIME.
* All school and district policies are in effect
* We are guests and represent the Sonoraville Bands and our school. There will be no disruptions to hotel operation or other guests at any time.
* Violation of rules on Band Trips will result in the student being sent home immediately, at the Parents’ expense.

**FESTIVALS/COMPETITIONS**

These events allow the organization to perform for an informed audience and receive pertinent feedback from professional educators and designers in our activity. The purpose is not to win trophies or compete with other groups. We only compete against a standard. It is important for both students and families to realize this. We will only put our best foot forward by being supportive of other groups as well as our own. Negativity will not be allowed from students OR parents. Negative comments or attitudes toward another group undermine every principle on which our program is built.

**SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENT POLICY**

Each student who uses a school-owned instrument will be completely responsible for its care. The band will pay for yearly maintenance. Damages are the responsibility of the player. The band directors will check out instruments to the student and parents.

**Band Hall**

The use of the band facilities before, after, and during the school day is considered a privilege. Students who abuse, or use the facility in an improper manner will be disciplined accordingly. Any abuse or damage will be considered vandalism. NO NON-BAND STUDENTS ARE PERMITTED IN THE BAND FACILITY except for business with the directors. There will be no horseplay in or around the band facility. All equipment is off-limits to anyone not specifically designated to use it (i.e. percussion or guard equipment). Band lockers are for band equipment only. Lockers are to be kept locked with a band-issued lock at ALL TIMES. The band will not be responsible for any personal items left in the band area.

**PRACTICE**

As with any activity, you get out if it what you put into it. Band is only ’fun’ when it is of a high quality. We will work hard and play hard. There is ’getting-good’ fun and ’beach-party’ fun. We will have the former in rehearsal and the latter afterward. There are many values in the study of music as a discipline that transfer to other areas of life. Although it is a slow process, persistent, correct practice will lead to success.

**’Only Perfect Practice Makes Perfect’.**

* Pick a set time each day
* Use the daily warm up and think ’SOUND’
* Play scales in every practice session
* Take frequent breaks
* Work on technique (fingerings, articulation etc.)
* Practice sight-reading
* Use a personal tuner AND metronome
* Work dynamics, especially extremes
* Increase endurance
* Increase range (highest note with good tone)

**SONORAVILLE MARCHING BAND**

**SPRING TRAINING AND SUMMER CAMP**

**SPRING TRAINING**

Although the main purpose of Spring Camp is to introduce incoming freshmen to marching techniques, the full band is required to attend.  The older members are a tremendous help with the teaching process while building camaraderie with the new band members.  The camp is held in the days immediately following school dismissal to prevent any disruptions in vacation plans.  If you anticipate any problems with attendance, please contact one of the directors, ASAP.

Statement of Understanding:

We have read the Sonoraville High School Marching Band Handbook and understand what is expected of each student in the program. Furthermore, we understand that the Director of Bands for a violation of any Band Department Rules may dismiss a student from the program at any time.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The following people/persons may check out my student from any band function:

Name: Relation:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

I understand that my child can leave with the persons listed above. I will not hold Sonoraville High School, Sonoraville High School Band Program, Mr. Matthew Loyd, Mr. Sam Ruggiero, Mrs. Heather Roberts, or Gordon County Schools responsible for any accidents that may transpire after the student has been checked out from the band program director. Also, I understand that these persons must show a state ID in order to check out my student.

Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(**Give this form back to Mr. Loyd)**

Sonoraville High School Band Department

Media Release Form 2012-2013

The Sonoraville Band Department has a webpage that shows many of the band activates of Sonoraville High School. We will upload pictures of our students at various events, so during the yar your student may be chosen to have his/her picture and/or name on the web site. If you wish your student’s picture and/or name to appear, please sign and date this form.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I desire to have my picture and/or name on the web site.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I give my permission to include my student’s picture and/or name on the web site.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, please do not include my student’s picture and/or name on the web site. I understand that they will still be included in group shots, but please do not identify them.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(**Give this form back to Mr. Loyd)**