



# Sanderson High School Bands

## Marching Band Policy Manual

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The Marching Band program at Sanderson High School can be very time-consuming and demanding. The rewards of being a member of this group, however, can far exceed your expectations. Adjustments must be made by all if we hope to achieve goals in any walk of life. A good place to learn to work with people, accomplish goals, and establish a good work ethic is in band. Although we have the following policies and regulations in place, we must all live by this “rule” – **Don’t do anything that is detrimental to yourself. Because if it’s detrimental to you, it’ll be detrimental to our program and to Sanderson High School.**

#### **Why Marching Band?**

Band is intrinsic. As with all art, it is about expressing oneself via a different and unique language. Much of academia is impressionistic, which requires a definitive skill of following instructions. Band adds to that requirement the option of self-expression.

Band is a group effort. Members must shift from an I/Me reasoning to a We/Us concept. This means extending oneself beyond the normal considerations of everyday life. The values of cooperation, communication, concentration, correlation, and completion come into play at each rehearsal and performance.

Band builds positive self-worth. Although we share many similarities with our athletic counterparts, BAND is a place for everyone. Rarely is a person serving as an alternate or substitute. Everyone in the band plays a starring role.

Band is preparation for life. Through the discipline of music, we are developing a consistent understanding between the intellectual and emotional thought process. Band allows the person to create formulas that are directly transferable to other facets of life.

Although these four points may seem lofty in character, they make up the fundamental framework of a band program.

## **What is Expected of You?**

The policies and procedures come from twelve basic expectations that we have for each band student. Band students are typically some of the finest young people in our school. As such you are expected to be:

1. Disciplined - Understand the importance of practice and make time for it on a daily basis. Attain academic excellence.
2. Punctual - Always be on time for class, rehearsals, and performances.
3. Persistent - Understand that becoming a good musician is a process. It takes time. Work to improve on a daily basis.
4. Positive - Attitudes are contagious. Be sure yours is worth catching. Smile and be a part of the solution not a part of the problem.
5. Honest - Admit your limitations and mistakes. Take full responsibility for your actions. Do not lie, cheat, or steal.
6. Responsible - You are young adults. Do not wait to be told the obvious. Do your part.
7. Well-Behaved - Follow instructions the first time they are given. Be quiet, attentive, and in control of yourself. Respect your school.
8. Prepared - Bring all materials to class, rehearsal, and performance.
9. Committed - Realize the impact your individual attitudes, actions, and performances will have on the group. Think of the band first. Meet financial obligations.
10. Polite - Treat each other, teachers, and administrators with kindness, courtesy and respect.
11. Mature - Think before acting.
12. Proud - Remember who you are and where you are from. Take pride in yourself, your band, and your school. Celebrate success together.

## REHEARSALS

**For the Marching Band program to be successful, it is necessary for all students to attend all rehearsals.** Even one person absent can take away from the progress of the entire group. When we perform, there will be other performers depending on each other to contribute to the efforts of the ensemble. In band there is no bench we can call on in the event of absence. The only excused absences from a rehearsal or performance are the following:

- 1) **serious** personal illness or
- 2) family emergency (such as death in the family)

**Work or lack of transportation are not excused absences.** The director should be contacted in advance whenever possible. A written note from a parent or physician should be presented in all situations. Only the director can excuse an absence, not a student leader.

There is a direct link between the amount of quality practice time and the quality of our performances. Rehearsals are not social gatherings. The band will determine the amount of practice time after school. Please refer to the calendar for performance and rehearsal schedules.

Every student and parent must understand the importance of being committed to attending all scheduled band events. Please be sure to continue to refer to your rehearsal calendar.

**Should a conflict arise, please contact the director as soon as possible.**

Tardiness to rehearsal can also affect the progress of the band. On occasions when tardiness is inevitable, please communicate this to the director in advance. The rehearsal schedule is established weeks in advance. This is done so that you can coordinate personal schedules with rehearsals. Should continued conflicts arise, a conference with the director may be in order. Students may not begin practicing or participation with another school athletic team or club which overlaps with after school marching band rehearsals. All students are expected to fulfill their commitment to the ensemble for the entire season before beginning other activities.

**We do remember that there is life outside of the band and want to support you in other endeavors. Communication is the key to avoiding any conflict!**

## PERFORMANCES

Attendance is **MANDATORY** at the following events:

### **Football Games:**

The Marching Spartans provide musical entertainment throughout the game. **The musical energy and enthusiasm we provide in the stands is just as important as our half-time performance.**

Please be prepared to play, cheer, etc. as much as possible so we may bring the crowd into the game. Once we complete the half-time performance, you will be able to rest part of the third quarter. **You are expected to be back in the stands with two minutes left in the third quarter.**

**Should we have problems getting students back at the assigned times, this break may be eliminated.** We will organize bathroom breaks as needed. Some other reminders:

- > No food or drink will be allowed in the band section.
- > Instruments are to be played when the **entire** band is playing together only.
- > Once the musical cheer/selection has been announced, be ready to play at any moment.
- > Students are responsible for getting music to the music box before the game.
- > Percussionists should be prepared to load and unload equipment before and after the game.
- > Students should avoid jumping when the team scores a touchdown to avoid any possible damage to the instruments.
- > The band will enter and exit the stadium as a group.
- > When the band has returned to the band room after the game, students should wait to be dismissed by the director.
- > You will stay in your section. This will avoid playing problems, communication problems, and possible damage to the instruments. **Only current band members will be allowed to sit in the band section. Please help us avoid the situation of asking friends to move by communicating this rule to others.**

### **Travel To Away Events:**

Only current band members will be allowed to ride on the bus on any band trip. The only exception will be siblings of band members whose parents are also going on the trip. All students must ride the bus to and from all band events. If parents drive separately and wish their child to return with them in their private vehicle a written note must be presented in advance. Students will only be allowed to ride with their parents. Please do not ask to ride in someone else's car.

### **Parades:**

We participate in several parades during the fall and Christmas season. These performances are just as important as any other band event, particularly due to the fact that most parades are within our school attendance zone and many of them are televised.

**Competitions:**

During the fall we participate in several marching band competitions. This is an opportunity to perform and be evaluated on the basic elements of our competition show. These competitions are held at various high schools and colleges throughout the region. Most of these are on Saturdays.

**Media/Public Relations Events:**

There may be some special occasions where the band is asked to perform at a function or special event. These performances will sometimes be on short notice due to the date of the request. Please make sure you have a flexible schedule concerning these events - anything that helps promote our band program will be considered.

**EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES**

We are very fortunate at Sanderson to have extremely nice rehearsal facilities. There are very few high schools in North Carolina that have a band room like we have at Sanderson. We must not take what we have for granted and take care of our rehearsal space. In order to maintain our facilities, the following guidelines are in place:

- > Students should not be in the director's office unless they have permission to enter. Students are not to be in the office in the absence of the director.
- > Do not write on or deface any walls, chairs, or stands in the band room.
- > No food or drink will be allowed in the uniform room.
- > Do not leave personal items in the band room, or instrument storage room. Any item left in the band room is at the student's own risk and may result in the items being disposed of after a reasonable amount of time and fair warning.
- > Only Booster Uniform Committee volunteers and appointed students are allowed in the uniform room.

The band provides instruments and equipment for certain sections within the band. These items have been purchased with county and band booster funds, as well as donations. Every student has the responsibility to make sure these items are not abused in any way. If a student does not take proper care of school owned items, he/she may have to pay for replacement or repair of the equipment. We must remember that school owned instruments must last for several years and proper care and maintenance is extremely important. Students will receive information on proper care, use, and maintenance of instruments/equipment.

## UNIFORMS

Take pride in your appearance as a member of this organization! A sloppy appearance is not reflective of our commitment to excellence.

### *Uniform – Marching Band*

1. Uniforms are provided for all band members by the school.
2. Uniforms, jackets and hats will be stored in the band room at all times.
3. The uniform must be clean and pressed at all times, and work in a completely prescribed manner while in public.
4. All uniforms should be cleaned regularly. This activity will be coordinated by the Uniform Committee.
5. The Show Shirt must be worn under the jacket at all times.
6. Each student will be fitted for a pair of black marching shoes. The Uniform Coordinator will order the shoes through a supply company and the student's fair share account will be charged accordingly. Often, the shoes purchased will last multiple marching seasons, so it is usually not necessary to purchase shoes more than once or twice over a 4 year period.
7. Each student will be given one pair of white gloves, and will be charged for any additional pairs.
8. Students must wear "long" black socks with their shoes so that legs are covered for different movements during the performance.
9. Uniforms are to be worn as a full uniform at all times.
10. At no time should you appear in public with only a portion of your uniform on. The only exception to this will be at performances where the temperature is high. In this case the jackets may be removed. The suspenders on the pants may not be taken off the shoulders.
11. Each student will be held financially responsible for the loss or damage to any part of the school's uniform.
12. All uniform parts, when not on the body, will be hanging in a uniform bag. All bags will be hung at all times. Strewing the uniform bag creates unnecessary wrinkles.
13. Uniform bags are not to be hung on the back of the uniform collar at any time.
14. Uniform inspection will be held before various performances. All areas of the uniform inspection must be passed.

### *Marching Band Inspections Rules*

1. All hair must be worn above the collar.
2. All shoes must be polished and appropriate socks worn.
3. No jewelry or make-up may be worn. (Color Guard may use costume make-up.)
4. All equipment must be clean, polished, and in working order.
5. All uniforms must be wrinkle-free for each performance.
6. All band members must wear appropriate undergarments, which will be outlined by the uniform committee.
7. Additional apparel such as bandanas or hats are not to be worn while in uniform.
8. Sunglasses are not to be worn with the uniform.

## **DISCIPLINE/CONDUCT**

A band's performance can only be as good as their best rehearsal. To say, "we'll get serious at the contest" is not a realistic statement. **Learning simply can not take place in a noisy, unstructured environment.** We must never forget the power and potential of doing the little things well, especially in class or during after school rehearsals. Hopefully, our student leaders will help with getting this important area under control. With that in mind, our classroom and Marching Band rehearsal conduct must continue to improve. If a student cannot cooperate during a rehearsal, the director has the option of removing the student from the rehearsal and the concert or performance. Parents will be notified as soon as possible to assist in any discipline matter. The director will make every effort to be fair and consistent with behavior and performance expectations.

## **GENERAL RULES**

All rules and regulations of the Sanderson High School handbook covering school policies will apply to all band members. This specifically includes any trips made off campus. All band members must remember that we are representatives of our program, school, community, and county.

Mutual respect by all band members is **mandatory**. The band boosters provide financial support as well as moral support for the band. At no time are parent volunteers to be solicited to do menial tasks that the students are capable of themselves. This includes polishing shoes, hanging uniforms, cleaning instruments, taping flags, putting instruments away, etc.

**A positive approach to band is all we can afford to have here at Sanderson High School. Hard work and frustration certainly are part of the experience, but when everyone is willing to work together, we can overcome anything.**

**Our main philosophy is to be the best we can be and have a good time.  
We accept people who will work at both of these.**