

GEORGE WYTHE HIGH SCHOOL
SCOTT MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
Band Handbook



*To Develop an Understanding of
Music's Important Role in the Enrichment of the Human Spirit*

2016-2017

GWHS/SMMS MUSIC ENSEMBLE MISSION STATEMENT

The George Wythe High School / Scott Memorial Band Programs seek to provide all members with a quality education in instrumental music and band related activities. The following objectives are held:

1. To give students the experience of performing in an ensemble that requires the self-discipline and group discipline that will be beneficial in academic life, and in the work force after formal education is completed.
2. To develop an appreciation and love of many varieties of music through utilizing correct performance and behavioral habits.
3. To foster a sense of pride in being a student musician at George Wythe High School & Scott Memorial Middle School.
4. To develop an understanding of music's important role in the enrichment of the human spirit.

STRATEGIES FOR MEETING THE MISSION STATEMENT

1. Each member should be present and on time for all rehearsals and performances.
2. Each member should have all equipment needed at the band activity.
3. Once rehearsal begins, each member should concentrate on the music and objective being rehearsed; and use their listening skills as the primary means of communication. The more intensely each member listens and responds to the music around them, the higher the performance level of the band. There also needs to be clear communication between the conductor and the ensemble. Musicians should watch the conductor closely and listen to directions at each cut-off. Make practical use of you pencils. By making judicious markings on your music, you save valuable rehearsal time and contribute to the quality of the rehearsal and the performance.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Each member is expected to attend all band activities during the school year. This includes in school and after school rehearsals and performances, including HS graduation. Extra-curricular and co-curricular activities in the Fine Arts at GWHS / SMMS are extensions of the classroom. This is in accordance with the student handbook and the Standards of Learning for instrumental music as set forth by the Department of Education of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Excused Absence:

1. During the school day this will be decided by the school attendance officer.
2. For an after school activity to be considered excused it must:
 - a. Be approved in *advance* by the Director of Bands.
 - b. Be for sickness or death in the family.
 - c. Extenuating circumstances approved in *advance* by the Director of Bands.

Unexcused Absence/Tardies

1. During the school day this will be decided by the school attendance officer.
2. After school events will be considered unexcused if:
 - a. It is not excused in *advance* by the Director of Bands.
 - b. It does not fall under section 2C of the *Excused Section*.
3. The Following are considered Unexcused Absences or Tardies:
 - a. Suspension
 - b. After School Detention
 - c. Making up Work/Extra or not required from another class.
 - d. Club, Team, Homecoming, S.C.A., Et Al. Meetings.
 - e. Vacation, Family Reunion, Birthday, Etc.

MARCHING BAND AND CONCERT BAND ATTENDANCE

1. Excessive Unexcused Absences will result in the student being removed from the performing ensemble. (3 or more)
2. Unexcused absences from a performance will result in being removed from the performing ensemble. (1 or more)
3. Attendance at Band Camp is mandatory for all students wishing to be a part of the GWHS Marching Band. Band Camp dates are listed on the band website & are available in printed form from the Director of Bands.
4. Students must be on time for all band events.
5. Absences and tardies will affect the Student's grade. (Concert Band)
6. Two tardies equal one absence.
7. Work, vacation, clubs, reunions, birthdays, social events etc. are not excused absences.

*Being a member of the performing ensemble is at the sole discretion of the
Director of Bands.*

BAND UNIFORM

Each member of the Marching Band will be assigned a uniform during August. Uniforms are housed in the band storage area. Any uniform abused or lost by a student will be replaced by the student. The current cost of one band uniform is \$600.00.

Students should not put articles in their uniform bag or hat box except the uniform and hat.

Gloves must not be stored in the hat box.

When in uniform the student must wear the entire uniform with the coat zipped. The band director, at his discretion, may alter this due to circumstances (weather, travel, etc.).

DRESS CODE

Concert Dress

Students should dress appropriately for concerts. Concerts are cultural events that express the value of fine arts in our society. Musicians should dress to maintain the dignity of the occasion. Specific Requirements will be announced three weeks before performance.

Girls: Black Dress, black skirt or black dress slacks and white blouse, black shoes and dark hose.

Men: Black Pants, white button long sleeve shirt, black tie, black dress shoes, black socks.

Rehearsals and Other Band Events: Students should dress in a way that maintains the honor of the organization. Modesty is the best policy. School Dress Code will be enforced. No sandals or flip-flops are allowed at Marching Band Rehearsals.

DISCIPLINARY POLICY

Discipline-The Art of Doing the Right Thing at the Right Time.

Concert Band:

Any student impeding the educational process will be given a verbal warning, on the second offense the student may be referred to the office for disciplinary assistance.

Marching Band:

Marching Band is a co-curricular activity. Students must be in acceptable physical condition to participate in this program.

Any student that quits Marching Band during the Marching Season will not be allowed to rejoin the Marching Band during the Marching Season. Future participation may be curtailed.

Major Disciplinary infractions may result in the removal from Marching Band.

Being a member of the performing ensemble is at the sole discretion of the

Director of Bands

INTER-STUDENT RELATIONS

The design of this handbook is intended to help the band run as smoothly as possible. No rule, as such, can dictate that all members live together in harmony; but all students are expected to treat other members with the respect given to a fellow member of the species. This includes respect to those that are not your best friends and those that are your closest allies.

In plain English, the George Wythe High School / Scott Memorial Middle School Music Ensembles are not the place to have hostilities with those that you disagree nor is it the place to display intimate emotions (Eros) of love with those you admire. There are to be no public displays of physical affection (public displays for band purposes start when you arrive on school grounds and end after the group dismissal from the band activity and departure from school grounds have taken place). Holding hands is permitted except when in uniform or on the bus.

On a school field trip, any location, be it on public or private land or on the method of transportation is considered school grounds by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in any sub-ensemble of the George Wythe Instrumental Program (Marching Band, Jazz Band, Pep Band, etc.) requires membership in the High School Band Class or Band Class at Scott Memorial during the current school year. Any scheduling problem should be addressed to the Band Director for assistance or waiver of this policy.

Middle School participation will be by invitation only. An audition may be required during the end of the previous school year. Membership is at sole discretion to the Director of Bands.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Marching Band:

- **Band Camp Fee - \$120.00**

This helps to cover the show T-shirt, uniform cleaning, instructional staff and costs to run Band Camp. This fee is only for members of the Marching Band. (A fundraiser will be used in the spring to help students with cost.)

*****A Deposit of \$50 is due by May 18 *****

- **Friday Band T-Shirt – approx. \$18 Optional Total Wind Suit - TBD**

All members will to have a Friday t-shirt (same shirt as 2014 and Carowinds). You do not need to order an additional shirt if they already have one. The wind suit includes jacket and track pants, and is optional.

- **DCI Ticket- approx. \$20-30**

This ticket is for the DCI show in Winston-Salem on July 31. The band will be attending this show the Sunday after Band Camp.

WINDS\PERCUSSIONIST

- **Marching Band Shoes - \$35**

Returning Members will only need to purchase shoes if they have outgrown or lost current pair.

- **Marching Gloves (Winds Only) - \$6.00**

- **Marching Flip Folders - \$6.00 to \$12.50**

This price varies depending on which instrument.

- **Extra Sleeves for Flip Folders - \$0.60**

- **Supplies, Reeds, Oils, Grease, Drum Sticks, Etc.**

Prices will be posted on Band Room office door at the beginning of each new school year, as prices do change from year to year.

COLOR GUARD

- **Guard Shoes - \$30 to \$55**

(2013 Price) This price varies depending on shoe used. These shoes are for Color Guard Members Only.

Parent\Guardian Initials

MEDICAL INFO & RELEASE FORM

Student's Name: _____ Birth Date: _____ 16/17 Grade: _____

Address: _____ City/Zip: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Known Allergies: _____

List Any Prescriptions Being Taken: _____

Cause for Prescription: _____ Family Physician/Phone #: _____

Insurance Company: _____ Name of Insured: _____

Insurance Policy Plan/Group Number: _____

PHOTO RELEASE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

From time to time, articles and photos are published in local newspapers, photos are included on the band website, and videotapes, brochures and pictorial displays are produced about the GWHS/SMMS Band activities, awards, and honors. If you are unwilling to allow your child's image in any of these publications please contact the Director of Bands.

MEDICAL & TRAVEL RELEASE FORM

I give my permission and consent for my child to be given the medical treatment, aid, or care they need by a medical doctor or hospital as required on an emergency basis, in the event that the said student become ill or be injured while participating in any Band event or excursion. I am aware that this is in the event of a non-life threatening injury if I cannot be reached. My child is permitted to attend all excursions approved by the Music Department during the current school year. My son/daughter has assured me that he/she will conduct himself/herself in such a manner that that reflects positively on the Band. Both my child and I understand that all GWHS/SMMS Band & WCPS policies and guidelines are in place during any band event regardless of its location or time. I hereby release Wythe County Public Schools & the GWHS/SMMS Band Staff from any Liability related to such travel with the band.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

2016 MARCHING BAND COMMITMENT FORM

In Marching Band the competitive halftime show is designed months in advance of Band Camp and orchestrated and choreographed to fit the number of students in the band in each section. The show design cost the band thousands each year. When a member decides to quit the show must be rewritten and often at an additional cost to the band. If a member quits during the season after the drill has been learned then the student's spot will remain vacant and become a liability for the band during competitions. If a student quits they will not be allowed back into the program.

Understanding the information listed above I am signing this stating that I will commit to be a member of the Mighty Maroon Marching Band for the full length of the season (Pre-Camp in July to Christmas Parades in December). I also understand that there is a \$120 fee to cover Band Camp cost, uniform cleaning, and other marching band related items. The \$120 DOES NOT cover shoes, gloves, the DCI Show, and other personal marching band items.

Print Parent/Guardian's Name

Parent's Signature

Print Student's Name

Student's Signature

Important Dates

BAND PRE-CAMP– July 18-21 (See Calendar for Section Times)

BAND CAMP– July 25-29 – 8-6 PM (*Mandatory*)

AFTER SCHOOL PRACTICE – Every Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday from 3:30-5:30 PM

ALL HOME & SELECT AWAY FOOTBALL GAMES – Dates are listed on the Calendar

ALL BAND COMPETITIONS – Possible Dates include each Saturday from the end of September until the last Saturday of October

WYTHEVILLE CHRISTMAS PARADE – Date in December T.B.D.

Calendar is available online at <http://www.georgewytheband.com>