



Great Falls High School

Band Handbook

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The Band Beatitudes

*Blessed are they who play with spirit,
for theirs will be a band with style.*

*Blessed are they that listen,
for they shall have good intonation.*

*Blessed are they who follow the conductor,
for they shall obtain precision.*

*Blessed are they of pure tone,
for they shall be a credit to their band.*

*Blessed are the sincere players,
for they shall be called artists.*

*Blessed are they who practice righteously,
for they shall achieve perfection.*

*Blessed are they who do hunger and thirst for good music,
for they shall be satisfied.*

*Blessed are ye who play with good posture & deep breath,
for your instruments shall be filled.*

*Blessed are the fine bands,
for they inherit a glorious tradition.*

INTRODUCTION

The Importance of Discipline

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must be strict. Band students and parents must be willing to accept the ideals, principles and rules of the organization.

Because the band members are constantly on display, each must always be aware of the importance of good behavior. The student should remember that he or she represents the organization, school, and community whenever he or she performs or appears in public. Any misconduct casts a direct reflection on Great Falls High School and may well undo the good work of hundreds of loyal students.

The Importance of Attitude

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any group or organization is ATTITUDE.

Students should use the two words - "I WILL."

It takes intense dedication to reach goals. Students should learn to discipline themselves to daily practice on long tones, interval studies, scales, and rudiments in concentrated and routine practice. The '**right attitude**' must be there with **sincerity**, **concentration**, and **dedication** as the basic foundation. Such an attitude makes an artistic performance inevitable and is the factor which makes the difference between a musical organization and a group of people holding musical instruments.

Each Band Member's Responsibility to the Band

1. Be regular in attendance and account for all absences.
2. Make a real effort to learn and improve daily.
3. Be personally clean, neat, and appropriately dressed.
4. Become responsible for and expect to assume the consequences of your actions.
5. Have the proper respect for authority.
6. Follow all classroom rules, school regulations, as well as rules, regulations, and instructions on trips.
7. Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music, and school life in general.
8. Cooperate with fellow members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are a part of the band program.
9. Contribute positively to your music education and that of others to the best use of your talents.
10. Read and play music with insight and expression.
11. Improve your knowledge and understanding of music theory, harmony, and history, and develop good listening habits.

“There must be individual achievement if there is to be achievement in our music ensembles. The progress of each student will reflect in the performances of the bands in which he plays, and they in turn will act as his benefactors in providing him with an outlet for his expressive talent and a basis for the furtherance of his appreciation.”

-Mark Hindsley

BAND LEADERSHIP

Great Falls High School (GFHS) Band Staff

Band Director

A.J. Pace -Director of Bands, Great Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School

Additional Marching Band Staff

Color Guard Instructor: BriAnne Baxley

Percussion Instructor: Kenny Edwards

South Carolina Band Directors Association

GFHS Band Director, A.J. Pace, is a member of SCBDA. The Association sponsors the State Marching Contests, All-State and Region Band Auditions and Clinics, State Concert Festivals, State Jazz Festival, Solo and Ensemble Festivals, the Winter Guard Championships, and the Outstanding Performance Award.

Band Officers

Elected Officers must be active participants during their term of office.

1. President must be a senior with at least two years in GFHS Band.
2. Vice President must be a junior or a senior with at least one year in the GFHS Band.
3. Secretary must have at least one year in the GFHS Band.
4. Treasurer must have at least one year in the GFHS Band.

Appointed Officers are selected by the Director from volunteers or auditions. All must have at least one year experience in the GFHS Band. Students may serve as both an elected and appointed officer.

1. Librarians
2. Equipment Managers, wind and percussion
3. Drum Major
4. Section Leaders – First chair player on each instrument.
5. Field Managers

Duties of Officers

All officers and students leaders are expected to **lead by example**. Being an officer does not grant special privileges to those students. It does demand that a student demonstrate an exceptional attitude toward band, assume the responsibility of assisting others, and contribute more than is expected of other band members.

President

1. Act as a liaison between the members and the Director in all matters pertaining to the band.
2. Serve as the student representative on the Executive Board of the Band Boosters. This is a non-voting position.

Vice President

1. Vice President will assist President with his/her duties.
2. Check-out school-owned instruments.
3. See that each student signs an instrument check-out form.
4. Assist the Director in taking inventory of all school-owned instruments and equipment.

Secretary

1. Responsible for attendance records.
2. Handles band correspondence and letters for the Director.
3. Assist in various office duties.
4. Assist librarians when necessary.

Equipment Managers

1. Oversee loading crew.
2. Notify Director of students not meeting the “Load Truck” deadline.

Drum Major

1. Serve as field leaders during rehearsals and performances.
2. Assume leadership in absence of Director.
3. Have a thorough knowledge of musical scores used on the field and in the stands.
4. Keep record of Top-Dev points.
5. Direct pep rallies.
6. Direct music in the stands.
7. Assist the teaching of marching fundamentals and drills.
8. Have a thorough knowledge of the marching band fundamentals used on the field.
9. Attend all squad leader meetings.
10. Has full authority over band members during marching rehearsals and performances.

Section Leaders

1. Conduct any section rehearsal not directed by a Director.
2. Keep record of Top-Dev points.
3. Bring the Director’s attention to any problems in the music that may have been overlooked.
4. See that each member of his section can play his part correctly.
5. Listen to section members play assigned music “by memory” and report any difficulty to the Director.
6. Make monthly inspections of their sections’ music folders and instruments.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MARCHING BAND MEMBERS

Attendance Requirements

All band members are required to attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances unless excused by the Director. **Coordinate band with school and outside work!** Most band performances are listed on “Calendar,” but occasional extra rehearsals and/or performances may be added during the year. Few exceptions are made in the policy of requiring members to make all rehearsals and performance.

Performances

1. Absence
 - a. **All absences** from performances (except in extreme emergency) must be excused **in advance**. The only absences that will be automatically excused are:
 - 1) Illness of band member.
 - 2) Illness of a close relative that requires the presence of that band member.
 - 3) Death in the family.
 - b. Request for absence because of other events, such as weddings, etc., must be presented to the Director **at least one month prior** to the event for absence to be excused.
 - c. If a student is ill, it is his responsibility to notify the Director by phone personally. **DO NOT** send word by another student. This also applies to rehearsals.
 - d. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in dismissal from participation in band.
2. Tardy: *“To be early is to be on time; to be on time is to be late.”*

There is no excuse for arriving late for a performance. Any student who has an unexcused tardy for a performance or is late from the 3rd quarter break (during football games) will be disciplined.

In-school Rehearsals

Normal school procedures will be followed for absences and tardies.

After-school Rehearsals

1. Absence: If a student is absent from school because of illness, he is still expected to attend after-school rehearsal unless he notifies the Director (803-482-2210). Students will be excused from after-school rehearsals for:
 - a. Illness.
 - b. Illness in the family that requires the presence of band member.
 - c. Death in family.
 - d. Doctor or dental appointments that **absolutely** cannot be scheduled at any other time. These must be approved **one week in advance**. *Try to get appointments on Wednesdays.*
 - e. Other circumstance at the discretion of the Director if notified **one week in advance**.
2. Unexcused absence from after-school rehearsals will result in:
 - a. Permanent alternate status for the remainder of marching season. Second offense will result in dismissal from participation in the band.
 - b. Lowering of grade by one letter grade.
3. Tardy or Early Dismissal: Students may be allowed to arrive late or leave early from after-school rehearsals at the discretion of the Director. Permission must be asked one week in advance and approved. Remember, students should “plan around” band activities.
4. A few after-school rehearsals are scheduled after marching season. Appropriate action will be taken by the Director should a tardy occur during Concert Season.
5. Miscellaneous Attendance Policies
 - a. Students may not miss band class to take a test, help another teacher, etc.
 - b. If you are well enough to come to school, you are well enough to play your instrument. If you cannot play due to a mouth injury, etc., you must have a note from your parent.
 - c. A student who is too sick to perform at an event (i.e. football game) may not show up to watch in the stands. Violation of this rule will result in dismissal from participation.
 - d. In coming to school for a rehearsal or performance, students are expected to allow time for unforeseen circumstances or delays.
 - e. Do not use parents as an excuse for being late.

Behavior Expectations

In-school Rehearsals

1. Get to class on time. Move into the band room quickly and quietly, get out your instrument and music, and take your seat.
2. Students are expected to have their instruments and music at school for every rehearsal. Students receive a daily grade of “F” each time they neglect to bring instrument or music to school.
3. Students are expected to take their instruments and music home on days they do not have after-school rehearsals or a performance (this includes weekends).
4. When the Director or drum major steps on the podium in front of the band, all talking will stop. If you have any questions or comments, raise your hand. Officers, section leaders, and squad leaders are expected to assist in enforcing this rule. Discipline notes will be issued for violations. Continuing violations may result in removal from participation in the band.
5. Instruments will be played only when students are directed to do so by the conductor.
6. Students are expected to have a sharpened pencil with them at all rehearsals. Periodic checks by section leaders will be conducted.
7. Always be alert for instructions.
8. All candy, gum, or food/drink will be placed in the trash can upon entering the band room. Do not take gum or candy to your stand or locker to be consumed after rehearsal. Violation will result in a discipline note.
9. Disrespect or “talking back” to the Director or whoever is in charge will not be tolerated.

After-school Rehearsals

1. Behavior for inside-playing rehearsals or sectionals after school will be the same as for in-school rehearsals. Push-ups and/or laps will be given for violations.
2. Outside rehearsals (marching)
 - a. Disrespect, talking back, or refusing to obey the Director or drum major will not be tolerated. Such behavior may result in laps, alternate status, or removal from participation in the band, depending on the seriousness of the offense. Any such behavior should be reported to the Director.
 - b. Any of the following actions or behavior may result in laps or push-ups:
 - 1) Moving at attention;
 - 2) Talking at attention;
 - 3) Talking when not permitted;
 - 4) Playing instrument out of turn;
 - 5) Gum or candy in mouth;
 - 6) Any behavior deemed improper by the Director.
 - c. Instruments are not to be played to and from practice field.

During Travel

1. Buses
 - a. All seniors without reprimand for the week may board the buses first. This is the only senior privilege granted in the GFHS band.
 - b. Loud yelling, inappropriate language, rough play, or public display of affection will not be permitted.
2. Once students report to the band room for a performance, there will be no eating of food, candy, gum or drinks (except during 3rd quarter break). Exceptions may be made for out-of-town trips.
3. In the stands:
 - a. Students may talk or cheer as long as they are ready to play when the drum major or Director starts a tune, and be ready to end a tune in the middle if necessary.
 - b. Students may not play instruments at any time unless instructed by a drum major or Director.
 - c. Percussion may play cheers or cadences in the stands only at the instruction of the Director.
 - d. A section may play a special cheer after receiving permission from the Director or drum major.
 - e. Band members should support the cheerleaders. The percussion section or band should not interrupt a cheer already in progress.
 - f. Food or drinks are not permitted in the stands.
 - g. Students are to remain in their spot in the stands. You are not permitted to relocate to talk to socialize.
4. The band will be called to attention during the National Anthem performed by another band. Failure to maintain a perfect attention will be considered a serious offense. Do not sing while at attention.
5. Band members are expected to observe the other band's half-time show (when we perform first). Do not walk back to the stands after our performance while the other band is performing: this is extremely rude. Stay, observe, learn, and enjoy the other band's performance.
6. Compliment the other band's members after their performance. Don't make derogatory comments; such immature comments do nothing but harm the image of our band.
7. When entering the stands, band members will fall in at attention until the full band is in the stands.
8. Band members have the 3rd quarter off to go to the concession stand, restroom, etc. Members are expected to be back in their seats **ready to play** with two minutes left in the 3rd quarter.
9. For concerts, band members are expected to be in their place on time and ready to warm up.
10. Even while not taking part in a band activity, students are still known as "band students" and should do nothing that might harm the image of the band.

Policy Regarding Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs

Alcohol

1. Possession or consumption of alcohol in any form will not be permitted. Failure to obey this rule will result in dismissal from the band program for the remainder of the year and appropriate school discipline.
2. If the Director has sufficient reason to believe that a student has been drinking alcohol prior to a performance, the student will be sent home and a conference will be held with the student and the parent(s).

Tobacco

1. Students will not be allowed to smoke or use any tobacco product at any time (rehearsals, performances, bus trips, etc.) while participating with the band.
2. Smoking in uniform is prohibited.
3. Any violation of this rule will result in alternate status for the remainder of the season. A second offense will result in dismissal from the band for the remainder of the year.

Other Drugs

1. A student may not consume, have in his possession, buy, sell or distribute any illegal drug. A student may have medicine if prescribed by his doctor.
2. Any violation of this rule will result in appropriate school discipline and permanent dismissal from band.
3. If the Director has sufficient reason to believe that a student has abused any drug, the student will be sent home, and a conference will be held with the student, the parent(s), and the Director.

Consequences of Behavior: Reward (Top-Dev) & Discipline

Top Dev System

1. Only the Director may award top-cat points.
2. Top-dev points are awarded when an individual or a section does an exceptionally good job, volunteers for extra help, or does something “beyond the call of duty.”
3. A record will be kept of each section’s top-dev points. The top squad (for a given week) may board the buses first (2nd squad 16 boards 2nd, and so on).
4. The Top Dev Award is given at the end of the year to the squad accumulating the highest points.

Discipline

1. Push-ups and laps are assigned to students who disobey band rules or exhibit improper behavior in after-school rehearsals or performances. More serious offenses may result in parent conferences, removal to alternate status and/or removal from the band.
2. The Director may schedule a conference with the parent(s) of any student who constantly receives push-ups or laps for certain offenses.
3. Guide for action to be taken for offenses:
 - a. Tardy for performance or rehearsal - 1 lap or 10 push-ups for each 5 minutes of tardiness.
 - b. Unexcused absence from rehearsal - alternate status for remainder of marching season; Second offense will result in removal from participation in the band.
 - c. Unexcused absence from performance - removal from participation in the band.
 - d. Talking or moving at attention - 1 lap or 10 push-ups.
 - e. Gum or candy at rehearsal - 1 lap or 10 push-ups.
 - f. Playing out of turn - 1 lap or 10 push-ups.
 - g. Disrespect to Director, drum major, section leader, or chaperone at the discretion of Director.
 - h. Playing to or from practice field - 1 lap or 10 push-ups.
 - i. Failure to stand at attention for National Anthem - 1 lap or 10 pushups.
 - j. Late returning to stands for 4th quarter - Discretion of Director.
 - k. Inappropriate behavior on bus - 1 lap or 10 push-ups.
 - l. Uniform problems at inspection - 1 lap or 10 push-ups; If serious, student will fail inspection, be sent home, and be placed on alternate status.
 - m. Lack of effort on field - 1 lap or 10 push-ups.

Alternates

It is necessary to have several alternate band members during marching season. Students must occasionally miss performances because of illness or other (excused) reasons. Alternates make it possible to fill a hole (if sufficient practice time allows) so as not to hurt the effort of the show.

- A. Alternates are regular band members and will travel with the band to all performances. Alternates will play in all pre-game shows and parades. Every effort will be made to allow alternates to march in half-time shows and contests during the year.
- B. When a band member fails to meet his responsibilities, he may be replaced for one or more weeks by an alternate. It is important for alternates to have knowledge of the marching drill, because he may be asked to fill in at any position, on short notice.

Initiations

There will be **NO** initiation of any kind for freshmen or new band members under any circumstances.

MUSIC STUDY

Band Curriculum:

The prerequisites for entering Great Falls High School Band Classes are 1) successfully passing Eighth Grade Band and 2) passing the spring high school band audition.

Music Standards

Adapted from National Standards for Arts Education, K-12

- I. **Singing** Students will sing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
- II. **Instrumental** Students will perform on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
- III. **Improvisation** Students will improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
- IV. **Composition** Students will compose and arrange music within specified guidelines.
- V. **Reading and Notating** Students will read and notate music.
- VI. **Analysis** Students will listen to, analyze, and describe music.
- VII. **Evaluation** Students will evaluate music and music performances.
- VIII. **Music Connections** Students will relate music to the other arts and disciplines outside the arts.
- IX. **History and Culture** Students will relate music to history and culture

Courses

Band (Wind Ensemble) is also a performance-oriented program which includes marching band, concert band and various ensembles. Students in Wind Ensemble will perform even more complex musical selections and perform in competitive events. *This is an embedded course.*

Percussion Techniques drills basic fundamentals of major percussion instruments and provides accelerated instruction, allowing work on the marching band music as well as percussion ensembles and music for the Concert, Symphonic and Wind Ensemble Bands. *Percussion students should sign up for Percussion Techniques in place of Band.*

Objectives for Band and Percussion Tech

These objectives will involve activities which will address Standards I, II, V, VI, VII, VIII.

A. The students will continue a daily routine of fundamentals.

B. The students will improve daily on their ensemble skills, technique, sight reading skills and execution of music for upcoming performances.

Band Grades

- A. Band grades are based on ability and performance in many areas including:
1. Musical ability
 2. Progress
 3. Attitude
 4. Playing tests
 5. Written tests
 6. Auditions and challenges
 7. Extra credit is given for participation in activities such as: Solo and Ensemble Festival; Region and All-state band auditions and clinic; USC band clinic (February and summer); private lessons; and church and community activities.
- B. The following guidelines give an idea of what is expected for grades.
1. **Grade of 93-100** (Superior Achievement)
 - a. Shows positive leadership and interest in his or her particular section; shows independence and resourcefulness in assisting rehearsal procedures.
 - b. Outstanding progress in self-improvement through consistent individual practice, private lessons and outside band activities.
 - c. Strong positive contribution to the band and music department as a whole through participation in all band activities.
 - d. Good scores on band quizzes and playing tests.
 2. **Grade of 85-92** (High to very high achievement)
 - a. Prompt, attentive and alert at all rehearsals and performances.
 - b. Assumes musical responsibility in band, consistent practice to insure satisfactory performance.
 - c. Definite, positive contribution to band activities.
 - d. Exercises good self-control, self-discipline, and cooperative spirit in band group activities.
 - e. Fair to good scores on band quizzes and playing tests.
 3. **Grade of 77-84** (Average)
 - a. Minimum required attendance at band performances and classes.
 - b. No apparent individual effort to improve through practice.
 - c. Minimum contribution to band activities, reluctant to assume responsibility.
 - d. Rehearsal conduct erratic and uncertain, lacking in self-discipline.
 - e. No participation in outside activities (see A7 above)
 - f. Fair to poor scores on band quizzes and playing tests.
 4. **Grade of 70-76** (Below average)

This grade indicates a definite need for improvement in one or more areas.
- C. A student should improve his or her knowledge, understanding, and performance of music over a four-year period with the band.

Private Lessons

The only way to build a truly superior band is for as many band members as possible to take private lessons from a teacher who specializes on that instrument. It is not possible for the Director to give the type of individual instruction necessary with the number of students in the class. All students are encouraged to take private lessons if possible. We will attempt to bring qualified teachers to the high school one time per week. Please contact a Director for more information or names of instructors.

Practice

In order to make sufficient progress on their instruments, students are expected to practice at least 30 minutes per day on days they do not have after-school rehearsals or performances. All students are encouraged to purchase and use one or more method books for their individual instrument. See a Director or a private instructor for suggested methods.

SCHOOL-OWNED PROPERTY

Marching Band Uniform

Students are issued a jacket, bibbers, and a hat. Students must provide black socks, black band shoes, and black gloves.

A. Public appearance

Whenever students appear in public, they should be in full uniform except for gloves and hat. (Coats may be removed on buses.) All parts of the uniform must be in place and fastened.

B. Inspection

1. The uniform will be cleaned and pressed, shoes polished, and gloves cleaned for every performance.
2. Uniforms will be inspected before most games and competitions.
3. Any student failing inspection will not be allowed to participate until he/she meets expectations.
4. It is the student's responsibility to check the uniform (the day before each event) to ensure that everything is ready.

C. Marching Band Uniform Care and Maintenance

1. When you receive your uniform
 - a. Legs should be hemmed one-half inch below collar seam of shoe. (Try on the pants with your band shoes.) **DO NOT CUT OFF pants legs or sleeves of jacket.**
 - b. Uniforms should be stored on one sturdy hanger and in uniform bag when not being worn.
 - c. Shoes and poncho are stored in the bag.
 - d. Hat should be kept in its box.
2. Wearing your uniform
 - a. Wear black socks with your band shoes
 - b. Wear black gloves for performance; gloves can be kept in inner jacket pocket when not worn.
 - c. All hair must be cut short or pinned up under the hat and not touching shoulders.
3. Under your uniform: Always wear a dark T-shirt (no neck) under the uniform jacket and shorts (not bulky) under the uniform pants. This allows students to dress on co-ed buses.
4. Caring for your uniform
 - a. After each performance, uniforms should be checked to see that all parts are in place and in uniform bag, not left on buses nor in band room.
 - b. When you get home, hang properly out of bag, and air-dry overnight so any moisture can dry.
 - c. **DRY CLEAN ONLY**, as needed. Collar insert can be unsnapped and washed by hand.
 - d. Repair uniforms as needed. Wash gloves and clean and polish shoes so everything is ready.

D. Loss or Damage

Students are responsible for any lost uniform parts and for any damage to the uniform.

Concert Attire

Concert Attire is worn during performance by the GFHS Wind Ensemble.

*All concert attire should be nice clothing one would wear to church. (i.e. khaki pants and a dress shirt for boys and dresses for girls).

Use of School Instruments

Students must accept responsibility for any loss or damage (other than normal wear and tear) that occurs to the instrument while checked out to the student.

Music

Each student will be assigned two folders: one for marching season, and one for concert season. Due to the high cost of music (some arrangements cost \$100 or more), students should take extra care to insure that music does not get lost or damaged. Students will be charged for any lost or damaged music.

POINT SYSTEMS

I. Band Letter Point System

A. Band Letter Qualifications

1. Point Requirement: A letter may be awarded to a band member who accumulates the required number of letter points during the school year. On subsequent years, a star is awarded to band members. To qualify for a letter, Band Students must earn 15 points and Color Guard Members must earn 10 points.
2. Attendance Requirement: A band member who misses a band rehearsal or performance without a doctor's excuse will be denied the opportunity to apply for a letter for the year.

B. Points for Band Students

POINTS

1. Top-Dev section winners (for year)	
a. First place	4
b. Second place	3
c. Third place	2
2. 10 individuals with highest number of top-dev points	2
3. Solo and Ensemble Festival	
a. Each rating of I	3
b. Each rating of II	2
4. All-State Band: Count highest of a - e;	
<i>Student must participate to get points, unless excused by Director.</i>	
a. Auditioning for All-State	2
b. Alternate to Region Band	3
c. Region Band	4
d. All-State or alternate to All-State	5
e. Solo Chair at All-State	6
5. Elected Officer	2
6. Appointed Officer	
a. Librarian	2
b. Equipment Manager	2
c. Field Manager	2
d. Drum Major	3
e. Section Leader	2
7. First Chair in band (per semester)	1
8. A average in band (per semester)	1
9. Private lessons (at least 2/3 of semester or summer)	3
10. Each year in marching band	1
11. Senior year	1
12. Performing at church (2 point max)	
a. Perform with group	1
b. Perform as soloist	2
13. Other activities	
a. USC Summer Band camp	2
b. USC Band Clinic	2
c. Governor's All-Star Band	1
d. USC Tuba Christmas	1

e. Help unload or distribute fruit at GFHS	1
f. Work concessions (includes parents)(3 point max)	3
g. Other (as approved by Director)	1 - 4
14. Support Band Ways & Means Projects	
a. Per Participation in Band Fund Raiser	1

C. Points for Color Guard

POINTS

1. Top-Dev Section Winner	
a. First place	4
b. Second place	3
c. Third place	2
2. Captain	3
3. Squad Leader	2
4. Each year in Color Guard	2
5. Senior	1
6. Winter Guard	2
7. Additional attitude/ability points	1
8. A average in band (per semester)	1
9. Three individuals with highest number of top-dev pt's.....	2
10. Any CG member who does not miss a rehearsal or performance	2
(exception - doctor's excuse)	
11. Support Band Ways & Means Projects	
a. Per Participation in Band Fund Raiser	1
12. Other (as approved by Director)	1 - 4

Travel Point System

The Band's Travel Point System is designed to reward those students and band parents who work to support the band each year. Points are awarded to individual students based on student and parent participation in Booster Club activities. When travel assessments are made to cover travel costs, the point system may reduce (or eliminate) an assessment, depending on each student's earned allocation of points.

STUDENTS

All band students may earn points. Students may earn points by:

1. Participating in Band Fund Raising activities (the more items sold or higher the gross, the more points are earned).
2. Participating in Band Booster Committee work such as concessions.

PARENTS

Only Band Parents who are Band Boosters (i.e. who have joined the Booster Club) may earn points for their student(s)*. Parents may earn points by:

1. Participating in any Band Booster Committee activity;
2. Working for Concessions;
3. Serving as a Band Booster Officer or Committee Chair;
4. Assisting students with Fund Raising Sales;
5. Attending Band Booster Meetings.

* Note: Points earned by parents with more than one student in the band will be divided equally between/among the students.

BAND BOOSTER CLUB

Great Falls High School Band Booster Club

This non-profit organization is affiliated with the public school system, Chester County, Great Falls High School and operates under the auspices of the Board of Trustees of this system.

The objectives of this organization are:

- To promote and maintain an enthusiastic interest in the various phases of the instrumental music program of Great Falls High School.
- To provide financial assistance and spontaneous services for the instrumental music program of Great Falls High School.
- To cooperate with those in charge of the instrumental music program and the School Board.
- To work diligently for the success of the Great Falls High School Band Boosters without financial reward.

Membership in this organization is open to parents, faculty, and friends of the Great Falls High School Band. General meetings are held the second Tuesday of most months at 7:00 PM in the Band Room.

Bylaws: The current Bylaws of this organization are reprinted at the beginning of each school year. Copies are distributed at the first several Band Booster meetings.

Band Booster Committees:

- **Budget and Finance** Committee oversees financial activities and presents a proposed budget at the April meeting for the next year.
- **ByLaws** Committee presents proposed amendments to the Booster membership in February for voting at the March Booster Meeting.
- **Chaperone** Committee monitors students during football games and Band Competitions. Chaperones report to GFHS at Call Time, ride buses with students, and remain with the students until returning to GFHS.
(*Note: Siblings and others may not ride the band buses.*)
- **Football Concessions** is a major source of band fund raising. Concessions are provided for Varsity & Junior Varsity.
- **Colorguard/ Winterguard/Drumline** – This committee will assist, organize and coordinate activities associated with Colorguard, Winterguard and Drumline.
- **Hospitality** provides meals and snacks for students during band trips, organizes food fundraisers and arranges for annual Banquet.
- **Nominating** Committee presents slate of officers at the March meeting (and nominees for vacancies as necessary).
- **Publications** Committee publishes the monthly newsletter, *Band Notes*, which is mailed to every band parent.
- **Publicity** Committee coordinates communication between this Club and the public.
- **Spirit** Committee sells spirit items (hats, shirts, etc.) at Booster events and decorates the band room and buses for competitions to enhance the experience of GFHS Band Students and Parents.
- **Transportation & Equipment** Committee works to load, unload, & set up percussion equipment and special effects items for the Competition show. Also constructs show sets & props.
- **Uniform** Committee issues (and collects) marching band uniforms for band students.
- **Ways and Means** Committee is responsible for planning and managing the Fund Raising activities of the GFHS Band.

Acknowledgement

This serves as an agreement indicating that the student and parents have read and understand the Great Falls High School Band Handbook. Please sign and return promptly to Mr. Pace.

As a student in the Great Falls High School Band Program, I have read and agree to comply with all of the set policies, rules, and regulations of the Band Handbook. I will display a positive attitude at all times. I will be present, prompt and prepared for all rehearsals and performances.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

As conscientious parents/guardians, we have read and agree to comply with the set policies of the Great Falls High School Band Handbook. We will ensure our child practices and maintains high scholastic standards in all classes. We ensure our child will be prepared, prompt and present for all band rehearsals and performances. Furthermore, we understand that we must meet all financial obligations.

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

2008-2009 Marching Band Uniform Information

Band uniforms are quite expensive - the parts with their approximate prices are listed below. Each band member will have her or his own unique number marked on all uniform parts and these will be issued to you. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP UP WITH ALL ITEMS AND SEE THAT YOU HAVE EVERYTHING IN YOUR GARMENT BAG AFTER EACH USE.** Band members will be charged for any lost parts at the end of the season.

Gloves must be kept with the members at all times (for rehearsal and performances). **NO shoes, socks or other clothing may be left in the bags.**

PUT YOUR NAME IN YOUR SHOES AS SOON AS YOU GET THEM AND YOU'RE SURE THEY FIT. Every year band members 'lose' shoes because they are not labeled and someone else takes them.

We will take care of cleaning the uniforms at the end of the season. **Normal wear and tear is expected but if uniform parts are damaged through abuse or neglect, or if any items are lost and don't turn up, the band member will be charged the replacement cost.**

For each game and competition you must bring your band t-shirt – clean and unwrinkled – as well as your marching shoes and black socks. We will check uniform bags before all away trips. **IF THE BAND MEMBER DOES NOT HAVE SHOES, SOCKS, GLOVES, AND THE T-SHIRT HE OR SHE WILL HAVE TO ARRANGE FOR THEM TO BE DELIVERED TO SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY SO THAT THERE ARE NO DELAYS FOR THE EVENT.** We **DO NOT** have extra socks or shoes to lend. If you forget yours, it is your responsibility to rectify the situation.

At the end of **EVERY** game and competition, members will return their uniforms, neatly hung and ready for storage into their garment bag. Uniform volunteers will be happy to show you the proper way to hang up your uniform if you need help. **Every person is responsible for his or her own uniform.**

Coat \$185
Black bibbers \$40
Garment bag \$20
Hat \$45
Hat box \$20
Plume \$30

GRAND TOTAL \$340.00

2008-2009 Marching Band Uniform Contract

Great Falls High School will provide the following in regard to the marching band uniform:

- Jacket
- Bibbers
- Hat
- Plume
- Hat Box
- Garment Bag

Each student is required to provide the following in regard to the marching band uniform:

Student to Purchase on Own:

- Black Socks (minimum calf height – **NO ankle or “no show” socks**)

Student to Order through GFHS Band:

- Black Marching Band Shoes (shoes selected by Band Director)
- Color Guard Shoes (shoes selected by Band Director)
- Black Gloves (gloves selected by Band Director)
- Band T-Shirt

Please sign and return

I understand that I am personally responsible for the uniform items assigned to me, and that I will be charged for any parts that are lost or damaged due to neglect or abuse. I also agree to take care of the uniform as directed. At the end of each game or competition I will see that I have all uniform parts assigned to me properly stored in the garment bag. I will report any missing or damaged items immediately. I understand that failure to follow these rules will result in immediate disciplinary action.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Absence Form

This form must be completed and turned in one week in advance of any anticipated absence by a band student.
(Excluding extreme emergencies)

Student Name _____ Today's date _____

Date of anticipated Absence _____

Reason for absence _____

*Please be specific! The policy is quite simple – if the school will excuse it, we will excuse it. If the school will not, we will not. “Important matters” or “family matters” are not considered excusable by the school.

Great Falls High School will excuse for Death in the Family, Religious Holiday, and Illness with a Doctor's Excuse (not regular appointments). The doctor's excuse must be submitted with the school and a copy placed on file with the band director.

Parent Signature

Student Signature

All forms must be submitted to the Director of Bands and will remain on file in the band office for a period of a year.

Director Signature

Date