

AMBRIDGE AREA HIGH
SCHOOL BAND

HANDBOOK

2020-2021

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A STATEMENT OF POLICY

In order to support band members and parents in understanding areas of responsibility, a statement of band policy is herein set forth. Becoming familiar with this policy will enable each individual to make the most of this great opportunity to be a member of the Ambridge Area High School band program, becoming a better person and a better musician.

We firmly believe that the student should improve through regular practice. In the Ambridge Area High School band program we feel that when the student has lost the will to improve him / herself, or make a better contribution to the band, he/she is wasting the time and efforts of his / her fellow members and the community by continuing in this 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. We intend to conduct ourselves in a manner that will facilitate all students in learning and bettering themselves.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement of the Ambridge Area High School Band Director:

“As the leader of the Ambridge Area High School Band, I believe in presenting myself with honesty and integrity in everything I do. While maintaining a positive attitude, I will promote enthusiasm, self-discipline, cooperation and respect toward others through an environment of music. Leading by example is a high priority for me. By loving and believing in what I do, I will strive to raise the bar and create a foundation of musicianship and professionalism for the future members of the Ambridge Area High School Band.”

OBJECTIVES OF THE BAND PROGRAM

- To provide a means through which students can express themselves musically, while sharpening and perfecting their talents
- To promote a sense of responsibility, citizenship and a well rounded character for students
- To function as positive representatives of the school
- To entertain with passion and dedication

GENERAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June:	Pre-Camp		
July / Aug:	Band Camp Fall Fantasy Parade School starts / football begins	January:	PMEA District Band
September:	Football/Festival season	February:	PMEA Region Band
October:	Football games Festivals	March:	March Madness Concert
November:	Veterans Day Parade Chair Auditions (Concert Band) PMEA Honors Band	April:	PMEA State Band
December:	Christmas Parade Christmas Concert	May:	Spring Concert Memorial Day Performance
		June:	Graduation

BAND CURRICULUM IN BRIEF

Concert Band

The Concert Band is the principal performing organization in the instrumental music department during the winter and spring. It is comprised of students with the performing ability necessary to perform a minimum of level III music.

Marching Band

Membership in the marching band requires demanding physical exercise and the ability to play the intricate literature that is required in the activity. All students enrolled in the band program are required to march with the exception of students outside of the program who are eligible to audition for the band auxiliary. The marching band performs mainly in the fall.

Jazz Band

Students may elect to participate in Jazz band. The jazz band plays for community events and performs in the Christmas and Spring concerts. Jazz band is a year long class.

Steel Drums

This class creates a distinctive performing ensemble that will enable students to play unique percussion instruments and at the same time learn the cultures of other countries. Students in the performing group will be asked to perform at a variety of functions, both in and out of school, during and after school. A commitment to the program as well as the talent to perform is required. Students must participate in band to be considered for this group.

Band Auxiliary

Students who are interested in dance, choreography, and movement may choose to audition for one of our marching auxiliary units, either the Bridger Belles (dance team) or the Color Guard (flag and rifle team). Auditions for these groups are usually held in May.

Leadership Workshop

The leadership workshop prepares students to become effective leaders within the band program and beyond. A Leadership Workshop will be held at the High School during the summer prior to summer band rehearsals. This workshop is required of all students who wish to be considered for leadership.

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 a teacher monitoring a class of over one hundred. Students are generally more inclined to practice conscientiously for a weekly music assignment and this discipline increases the student's enjoyment with their instrument. The High School Band Director and Band Assistants will be more than happy to assist in the selection of a private teacher.

PMEA All-State, Region, District and Beaver County Band

Members of the band program are eligible to audition for the PMEA Honors, and District Bands, as well as the Beaver County Band. Honors Band auditions are held in November and District and County Band Selections are made in December or January. Participation in PMEA Region and State Bands requires participation in District Band and top audition scores from these festivals.

DEMERIT SYSTEM

Because we are determined to promote a positive atmosphere within the Ambridge Area high School Band, we cannot accept negative behaviors. Therefore, a demerit system will be enforced. Demerits will be issued in the following way: Level I offense = 1 demerit, Level II offense = 3 demerits, Level III offense = 5 demerits

1. Level I offenses can include, but are not limited to:
 - Disrespect issues such as talking during rehearsal during rehearsal, gum chewing, leaving instruments out after rehearsal, sitting anywhere other than your assigned seats, using electronic devices during rehearsals and performances, etc.
 - Unpreparedness issues such as failure to adhere to the uniform code, incorrect footwear (i.e. flip flops), losing music (or not having it at rehearsals and performances), tardiness, etc.
 - Safety issues such as changing seats during games, standing on moving buses, etc

2. Level II offences can include, but are not limited to:
 - Repeated level I offences
 - Disrespect issues such as profane language, disrespect towards the adults in charge, etc
 - Safety issues such as running or horseplay in inappropriate places, leaving before dismissal (if we can't find you, how can we be sure you're safe?), early dismissal without a note, etc.

3. Level III offenses can include but are not limited to:
 - Disrespect issues such as vandalism, profanity directed at adults in charge, etc
 - Safety issues such as leaving the stands without a chaperone, "initiation", etc.

3 DEMERITS = 1 DETENTION

6 DEMERITS = 2nd DETENTION, BENCHED FOR THE FOLLOWING PERFORMANCE

ANY MORE THAN 6 DEMERITS WILL RESULT IN A CONSULTATION WITH THE PARENTS, AND POSSIBLE FORFEITURE OF THE STUDENT'S TRIP PRIVILEGE.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Marching band is unique, in that it is a co-curricular activity. Each student is enrolled in the marching band as a class, even though it often meets outside the school day. Students and parents must understand that attendance at *all* rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Imagine trying to set a field formation with 10 missing members, and you can begin to understand why attendance is critical.

THE ONLY AUTHORIZED ABSENCES ARE PRE-ARRANGED* SCHOOL CONFLICTS AND THOSE THAT WOULD BE EXCUSED BY THE SCHOOL FOR REGULAR ATTENDANCE RECORDS, I.E. ILLNESS, DEATH IN THE FAMILY, RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY.

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

NO SHOWS! = a grade of “0” for that performance

The above policy is cut and dry in regards to what is excused. All performances will be worth 100 points. If a parent writes a note, but the reason for absence is not an authorized excuse (i.e. “other obligations”, “family plans”, etc), the grade for that performance will be 50/100. All excuses must be submitted within one week of the student’s absence, or an automatic grade of “0” will be recorded.

For ALL absences, the following procedure must be followed by the student and parent:

- Director must be notified in advance in writing (email is preferred).
Please use the following email: mdewar@ambridge.k12.pa.us
Please do NOT text, Remind, or Facebook message
- 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 call the band room.
- In extreme cases, a phone message may be left on the band answering machine, with a follow-up email or personal call.
- Follow-up is the sole responsibility of the student!

CONFLICTS WITH BAND

Conflicts between band and other activities or events are the responsibility of the student. Rehearsal and performance schedules are given out in advance so that arrangements can be made. When outside activities create hardships concerning band, unless it is a rare and unusual situation that may only happen

once, the student will need to consult with the director about alternatives that may be possible. Students should have a list of **calendar** dates 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 the band policy. Students are reminded that band is a very demanding activity and that involvement in outside activities should be limited to those that are compatible with the band schedule. All conflicts in regards to **performances** must be worked out in favor of the student's responsibility to band. ***Work is not an excuse for missing any band activity.*** If less than one month's notice is given for any additional performances to the calendar, exceptions may be made to the above policy on a case by case basis. Please discuss these conflicts with the band director as soon as possible.

GRADING POLICY

Grading during each 9 week period will be based on attendance, class participation, and musical skills on which the students will be periodically tested. Participation points will be given for every rehearsal and performance, both during the school day and outside of it. If a student is not present 100% of the time, it is impossible to give a grade of 100%. Therefore, if a student is late to any rehearsal or performance, points will be deducted from the grade for every minute that the student is late. Additionally, if a student is missing any part of the uniform for a performance, 5 points for every missing uniform part will be deducted from that performance's grade, and the student may be required to sit out of the performance. If a student is benched for any reason that student's participation score will automatically be cut in half.

DUTIES OF THE BAND MEMBER

- Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. **EARLY IS ON TIME – ON TIME IS LATE.**
- Upon entering the rehearsal setting, acquire your instrument and go directly to your seat.
- When the director or staff member steps on the podium or asks for your attention, ***all talking should cease.***
- Come to rehearsal with a **GOOD ATTITUDE.**
- There is no excess playing (i.e. horsing around on the instrument); only good solid 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 course work.
- Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you are wrong.
- Have a proper respect for yourself and those in authority.
- Read and play music with insight – have musical expectations.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTITUDE

The greatest single factor that will decide the success of any individual or organization is **attitude**. The kind of person that 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 deep commitment to reach goals. Students should learn to discipline themselves to daily practice on fundamentals. The “right attitude” must be present along with sincerity, attention, and dedication as the basic foundation. Such an attitude makes an artistic performance inevitable and is the difference between a winning organization and a mediocre group. The band can do much for you. Make the most of it in every rehearsal and performance.

THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLINE

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must be strict! Band students and parents must believe in the ideals, principles, and philosophy of the organization. Each member must always be aware of good behavior and think for himself/herself. Any misbehavior casts a bad light on the school, community, and band program. Any member who brings dishonor to the organization by his/her conduct or actions in band, in another class, or on a trip, shall be subject to possible dismissal from the band program or may lose a privilege within the program. This may include the chance to go on the band trip. This decision will be at the director’s discretion.

PARENTS’ RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in the HANDBOOK are followed and that the form in the back is signed and returned. This states that you UNDERSTAND the policies as set within, and that any questions are to be directed to the band director by making an appointment. Each parent IS responsible for the attendance of his/her child at all band functions. It is the responsibility of each parent to see that their child practices his / her instrument daily. The hands of the directors are tied without the help of parents.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

When a “band question” arises, it is important that you get factual information before discussing it with others. We do more harm to ourselves, the band family, when we talk about things that contain one or more “falsehoods” but consider them facts. If questions arise, it is important to remember this axiom: If it is a performance issue or anything dealing with the band proper, contact the Band Director. If it is a fundraising question or anything dealing with parent issues, talk with the booster club president.

- Show an interest in the music study of your child.
- Arrange a regular time for your child to practice.
- Find a quiet place where he/she can practice without interruption.
- Listen to performances of practice material, when asked to do so.
- Help the student keep a DAILY RECORD of practicing.
- Come up with a reward system for DAILY practice.
- Keep the instrument in good repair and keep at least three reeds in the case; get a metronome!
- Be extra-careful with school-owned instruments. Repair costs are high!
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time to each rehearsal or lesson.
- Provide private instruction!
- Make faithful attendance at all band activities important.
- Buy your child a personal planner for marking important dates.
- Keep the Handbook in a safe place and refer to it often.
- Notify the teacher if the student is to be absent for rehearsals or lessons.
- Double-check behind the student to make sure that they have their instrument.
- If student is absent, make sure that their music gets to school, if they share it with someone.
- Visit rehearsals occasionally.
- Attend booster meetings, concerts, games, and contests.
- Turn in fundraising money on time.

STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND

As members of this organization, you have a great deal of responsibility. It is critical to any program that if certain expectations are to be met that they coordinate with the privileges, rewards, and duties of the band program.

TO OURSELVES

YOU have the primary responsibility of developing your own abilities. The benefits of a good instrument and private instruction can never be underestimated. What you put into it is what you will get out of it. The director is ALWAYS available for your guidance and encouragement – just ask!

TO THE SCHOOL

The Ambridge Area School District provides us with the resources for rehearsals, performances, and equipment. The Band Booster Club also provides a support network, both financially and philosophically. WE have the responsibility to provide the best possible services to our community.

TO MUSIC

Music has always been a part of our culture. We must take what we have and use it for the betterment of that culture. No one expects virtuoso musicians, only your very best! The great composer Gustav Mahler once said that only 10% of a piece of music is on the page. If that is the case, then we as musicians have the duty of creating and producing the other 90%. The joy of music is not in everything that is apparent. It must be discovered and created.

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 way to resolve them. Never insult another band member's integrity. The word "band" means that we are banded together and that there is no separation.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

As members of the Ambridge area high School Band, there are no financial obligations to the school district for participation. There are, however, financial obligations to our booster organization, and without their support we could not participate in many of the fun activities that are part of the band experience. A detailed description of band booster fees is detailed in the booster information that you have been given.

MARCHING BAND

CAMP

Pre-camp starts this year on June 8th. The actual “camp” weeks are the following 2 weeks: Aug 3-Aug 6 and Aug 10-13 and it runs from 8:30AM – 3 PM. Camp is taught by the Ambridge Area High School directors, camp staff, and student leadership. Camp is required of all students in the band, and attendance at camp will be included in the first nine weeks’ grade. Approximately “seven weeks” of normal rehearsal time is crammed into the 2 weeks, so attendance is a must. Expect to work harder than you’ve ever worked, but remember if you do that you will feel a great sense of accomplishment at that first Kennywood parade! Make sure that you are wearing closed tennis shoes for all rehearsals, and remember that you will be in the sun for a good part of the time, so wear appropriate sunscreen. Parent volunteers will be in attendance to help out with whatever needs may arise.

REHEARSALS

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. If there is a situation that will prevent this, an excuse must be emailed BEFOREHAND. Additional rehearsals will be on *Thursdays from 6-8PM*, beginning August 20th, and running through the marching season. These rehearsals will also be mandatory.

UNIFORMS

The band will provide the following in regards to the uniform:

- Hat and plume
- Trousers
- Coat and accessories
- Band Raincoats

The student will provide the following:

- Black Viper brand band shoes
(available online)
- Band bag (available from the band booster boutique, or you can provide your own)
- Garment bag (available from the band booster boutique, or you can provide your own)
- White gloves (available from the band booster boutique)
- Band t-shirt (summer uniform, available from the band booster boutique)
- Band **black** crew socks (available from the band booster boutique, or you can provide your own)
- Band summer uniform (available from the band booster boutique)

Uniforms will be kept at school and issued prior to each event and returned after the event. They will be cleaned by the booster club. **THE UNIFORM IS TO BE WORN PROPERLY AT ALL TIMES!** The uniform code includes: having all necessary **CLEAN** accessories (shoes, socks, gloves, raincoat, shoe bag, band tee shirt, and proper pants for under band uniform), the removal of all visible jewelry for **ALL** marching performances (band auxiliary may be permitted to wear uniform jewelry). Any hair hanging over the collar must be put up in hat. Makeup must be limited. Students wearing excessive makeup may be asked to wash their face.

INSPECTION

Prior to all performances of the band, all band members will stand inspection. Any member that does not pass the inspection may not participate in the given performance. Band members will be checked for the following:

- Cleaned, pressed, complete uniforms (including accessories)
- Clean shoes
- Hair correctly worn-all hair will be up off of the collar at all performances

- Jewelry – only watches and own class ring showing (band auxiliary may have other uniform jewelry)
- Clean, lubricated instruments

Do not get your ears pierced during marching band season!

FOOTBALL GAMES

- Roll Call for all games will be announced by Thursday prior to the game.
- Students should wear the full uniform. It is ALL or NOTHING.
- For home games, students will be dismissed following the proper return of uniform and instrument.
- For away games, students may ride home with another individual, but the Band director and the bus chaperone must have a note signed by parents ***prior to departure*** and the said person must make contact with the director at dismissal time.
- When marching to and from the stadium, the band will remain at ATTENTION. When you have class IT SHOWS – when you don't, IT SHOUTS!
- Only uniformed band members are allowed in the band section.
- All members are to remain in their "section."
- There will be no eating or drinking in the stands.
- All members should be alert as to what is going on down front. Be ready to react immediately to instructions given by the drum major or director.
- If a student must leave the band section, a chaperone must accompany him/her and he/she must have permission from the director.

BAND TRAVELING

- If a conversation can be heard in the front of the bus, it is TOO LOUD!
- There will be no hanging out of or talking out of bus windows.
- Please lower the volume level considerably when entering towns or stadiums. This is for your safety, is courteous to the bus driver, and an act of class!
- Please keep the bus clean; pick up after yourselves and always thank the chaperones and driver!

BAND FESTIVALS

Band Festivals are special events where we get to perform for a sophisticated audience and many supportive fans. WE ARE THERE TO DO OUR BEST – NOT TO WIN!! If we do our best, then everything will take care of itself. Specific information is given prior to festivals as to directions, departure and anticipated return time. All parents are encouraged to attend festivals and support the band.

CONCERT BAND

AUDITIONS

In October of every year, there will be auditions to determine chair or band placement. Auditions will be announced well in advance and will consist of scales, technique, a required solo, sight-reading, tone and range. The auditions in October will determine chair placement for the rest of the year, and the scores of these tests will be a large part of the students' grades for the second nine weeks. In some cases, a student on a brass instrument with a higher score may be put on a lower part to achieve balance or to allow a younger student to develop his / her range. If this is the case, the student will be informed of the reason for his / her placement.

CHALLENGES

If a student wishes to advance his/her chair placement, he/she may challenge the student in the seat directly ahead of him/her. Challenges will conclude two weeks before the concert, therefore a student that challenges for the first time must notify the band director four weeks before the concert, so that there will be ample time for the student being challenged to challenge back. If a student wants to sit in a higher position, he/she has the right to challenge as long as it is done within the rules set forth.

1. The challengers must notify the director and the student to be challenged one week prior to the challenge.
2. Both students must select at least eight bars of music from their folder and notify each other of their selection. If the same selection is chosen by both students, the director along with the students will decide upon one other piece.
3. A sight reading selection will be chosen by the band directors at the time of the challenge.
4. The music will be played in an order to be determined by the director at the time of the challenge.
5. The students will play in front of the entire band, the band director and an extra neutral judge (i.e. the principal) and **WILL BE OUT OF SIGHT OF THE DIRECTOR AND THE JUDGE** so that the director will not know who is playing at any given time. The two students will determine between themselves who will be playing first and will alternate in that order until all music is played.
6. Each selection of music will be worth 10 points with the highest possible total being 40. To be considered in judging are the following categories: intonation, notation, phrasing, articulation, and dynamics. The director will total the scores and the highest combined score will win the challenge. In the case of a tie, the seats will remain as they were before the challenge.
7. You may challenge with the same person a total of three times and not more. When challenging the same person three times, it will become best of three. Therefore if a person wins the first two challenges, there will be no need for a third challenge.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Concert attire for Concert Band will consist of black pants and a white shirt (no t-shirts, please). Any student wearing a uniform for another performing ensemble that is performing in the same concert may wear the uniform for that ensemble. Any student that does not comply with the uniform policy may be subject to a grade deduction for the concert.

SUMMER UNIFORM

A summer uniform will be required for smaller performances that do not require the full uniform or concert attire (for example, at the Memorial Day performance), or for a performance in unusually hot weather (as in Kennywood). The summer uniform will consist of the band polo shirt and black shorts (purchased through the boosters).

BAND TRIPS

Trips are a *privilege*, not an entitlement! In order to be considered for a place on the band trip, you must be prepared to earn it. The following behaviors may be cause possible forfeiture of the trip privilege:

- failing any classes
- any band fees that are unpaid
- any paperwork that is not up to date and turned in
- serving a detention or suspension for skipping band class
- multiple tardy or uniform infractions
- accumulating more than 6 demerits
- reaching a level III offense

IF YOU LOSE THE PRIVILEGE OF TRAVELING WITH THE BAND AND IF YOU ARE A SENIOR, ANY MONEY RAISED FOR THE TRIP WILL BE FORFEITED TO THE BOOSTER ORGANIZATION. UNDERCLASSMEN WILL HAVE THEIR ACCOUNT CREDITED FOR FUTURE USE. MONEY THAT IS FUND-RAISED WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO THE STUDENT. ANY PERSONAL MONEY GIVEN TO THE BOOSTERS WILL BE RETURNED ON THE PREMISE THAT THE TOUR COMPANY RETURNS THAT MONEY TO THE BOOSTERS. THE PERCENTAGE OF THE MONEY RETURNED BY THE TOUR GROUP DECREASES AS THE TRIP DATES GETS CLOSER. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT NO FUND-RAISED MONEY WILL BE RETURNED, AND THAT CASH PAID TOWARDS THE TRIP WILL ONLY BE RETURNED UPON DISCRETION OF TOUR COMPANY.

HOTEL SITUATIONS

- Parents and students will be responsible for paying for any incurred charges, including lost room keys.
- Doors are to be propped open at all times when students are spending leisure time in the room.
- Please refrain from playing instruments in the room.
- All school rules will be enforced on trips.

- All students should realize that any personal desires or uniqueness may have to be put aside for the duration of the trip in order to facilitate large group control and management.
- No one is to leave the hotel alone. Any student found leaving the premises without permission will be dealt with severely.
- Profanity is not a part of our organization! Make sure your language is not offensive.
- Band members are expected to be at the right place, at the right time, ready to go!

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

REHEARSAL PROCEDURE

- You must be in the storage room or your seat when the bell rings; a downbeat will be given five minutes after the bell. During the five minutes you should move to your seat, obtain music, a music stand, and a pencil, and begin warming up for the day's rehearsal. Make sure you have extra reeds. Percussionists should set up all equipment and music during the warm-up. Announcements will be made at the beginning or end of class and will also be written on the board.
- Talking will not be tolerated during a rehearsal.
- The purpose of rehearsal is for you to learn **the parts of others and how they relate to yours, not to learn your individual music!**
- If you must leave your seat for any reason, please ask. Restroom breaks should be taken between classes.
- In your individual warm-up, it is important to do each of the following on a daily basis:
 - LONG TONES
 - LIP SLURS
 - SCALES
 - THAT DAY'S ASSIGNMENT

MATERIALS GRADE

Each student should have the following items in class everyday:

- a sharpened pencil
- your instrument (sticks, mallets)
- your music and folder
- at least one extra reed (reed instruments) and water bottles (trombones)
- at least two reeds (oboes and bassoons) and water canisters for soaking.

From time to time during the school year you will receive a materials grade. If you have all the items listed above, you will receive a daily grade of "A." Your grade will be lowered one letter for each item you are missing, but students will be given two days to bring in any missing items. The easiest way to avoid this is to have everything that you need, at all times! After the second day, the letter grade may be lowered.

SCHOLARSHIPS

There are a variety of scholarships available for both music majors and non-music majors on the collegiate level. Many universities grant partial scholarships or a one-time scholarship to students who simply agree to play in an ensemble, and some will waive out-of-state tuition. Information varies at each school. Ask in the band office and we will do all that we can to help in your future endeavors.

INSTRUMENT POLICY

Each student who uses a school-owned instrument is completely responsible for the care of the instrument. If an instrument is damaged due to negligence, the student is responsible for the entire cost. An instrument check-out form must be filled out and on file with the director. All instruments, whether they are school owned or personally owned, must be properly stored when not in use (instruments in their proper cases – closed and in the correct instrument cubby - locked!). Instruments and their care are expensive, and we want to make sure that we take the best care of them possible.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE

All students will be issued an instrument storage locker, and a lock. This space is to be used for storing instruments, music and any other supplies needed for band. Your cubby should be locked when your band materials are in it.

LOST MUSIC

Please make every effort to keep your music safe. Copy costs are expensive, and if replacement music requests get out of control, a replacement fee may be collected from students requesting replacements. See librarians or the director for any problems concerning music.

USE OF THE BAND FACILITY

BANDROOM

The use of band facilities before, after, and during school is a privilege. Students who abuse the facility will be disciplined accordingly. Any abuse or damage will be considered vandalism. **NO OUTSIDE STUDENTS ARE PERMITTED IN THE BANDROOM** except for business with the director. There will be no horseplay, i.e. throwing of things, in or around the band room. All percussion and guard equipment is off limits to anyone not specifically designated to use them. No storing of personal items – **THE BANDROOM IS NOT A LOCKER!**

PRACTICE ROOMS

Practice rooms are to be used for **practice or private instruction**. Keep the room neat with the appropriate music stands in place.

LIBRARY, BAND OFFICE, PHONE

The **library** is private and is to be used only by the library staff. Materials may be checked out through the librarian; this includes Solos, Ensembles, and Etude Books. The **band office** is private and is not to be entered by any student without permission from the director or a staff member. All students should keep in mind that this is a place of business. If the door is shut, knock first. **Telephone** use should be kept to a minimum and is not for personal use. **Ask permission before using.**

PRACTICE

As with any activity, you get out of it what you put into it. Band will not be “FUN” unless you practice! There are many values in the study of music as a discipline that transfer to other areas of life. Although this will not immediately happen, persistent practice will lead to enthusiastic, motivated practice. Remember: “Perfect Practice makes Perfect!” Here is a suggested plan of study:

- Pick a set time each day
- Use a tuner for a portion of your practice session
- Have an acoustically dry place of practice
- Increase dynamic range (work on pianissimo)
- Use our daily warm-up & think “tone”
- Increase endurance (15 minutes of full tone playing)
- Play some form of scales at every practice session
- Increase range (highest note with good tone)
- Take a break every 20 minutes
- Use a metronome for part of the time
- Work on technique (articulations, accents, etc.)
- “I will start with ___ minutes and increase to

- Practice sight-reading

AMBRIDGE AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERSHIP
2020-2021

President – Elisabetta Pucci

Vice President – Kyla Fitzgibbons

Secretary – Amelia Freed

Treasurer – Natalie Garrison

Historian – John Barnhart

Public Relations – Sammy Farah

Librarians –Rhiannon Bosh, Matt Kowalsky, Xander Dowlin,

Section Leaders – Elisabetta Pucci, Sammy Farah, Jaina Ilko, Matt Kowalsky, Amanda Martin, Kyla Fitzgibbons, Fiona Ozenich, and Nick Perza

Bridger Belle Captain –Zoe Setzenfand and Piper Dunlap

Color Guard Co-Captains – Stacia Misencik and Alyssa Kress

Drum Majors – Leah Fritsh and Naomi Husted

LETTER AND PINS

Letters are distributed at the end of the school year to all students that have successfully completed two years of high School band. Silver pins are distributed after three years and gold pins after four. Letters and pins will be distributed first at the Band Banquet, and then during band class to any students that were unable to attend the banquet.

PERCUSSION ACCESSORIES

All percussionists will be required to have their own materials, including but not limited to:

- A pair of marching sticks
- A pair of general snare sticks
- A stick bag
- Mallets (for keyboard mallet instrument players)

A stick deposit of \$20.00 may be collected at the beginning of the year to cover the cost of replacement sticks and mallets (school-owned). If there are no sticks damaged due to carelessness during the year, the stick deposit will be returned.

HAZING

Any form of hazing or “initiation” will not be tolerated during any band activity! All school rules regarding hazing will be strictly enforced.

MISCELLANEOUS ADDITIONAL RULES AND PROCEDURES

- Drinking and drugs are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**. *All school district policies regarding such are in force during any band activity.*
- All school rules, including no smoking, will be enforced.
- Students are required to remain with the band after games and will dismiss as a group.
- Young adults shall not damage property or equipment.
- Students may practice in the band room before school, after school, and during lunch (unless there is a class going on in the room).
- Locks are provided for the students’ instrument storage cubbies. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen personal property that is left unattended and/or unsecured.
- Any student that is suspended for an infraction during a band activity (class, rehearsal or performance) will not be permitted to go on the band trip.

Letter Of Mutual Consent

I, the undersigned student, accept membership in the Ambridge Area High School Band and understand that I am responsible for all the policies as set forth in the Band Handbook. I fully agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my ability.

(Student Signature)

(Date)

Student email address

I, the undersigned parent or guardian, have read and understand the policies as set forth in the Band Handbook. I also grant full permission for my child to be an active member of the Ambridge Area High School Band. In addition, my child has full permission to attend all band functions. Furthermore, I understand that I must meet all financial obligations.

(Parent Signature)

(Date)

Parent e-mail address

Parent Cell#

***I will be using a notification system called "Remind" for mass messages*