BAND HANDBOOK

It is helpful to have a clear understanding between the students, their parents, and the music department concerning the policies and procedures for operating a fine band program. This booklet has been produced with the effort that everyone clearly understand what it takes to continue a fine program and to make it successful.

Our key words for the year are:

***Respect & Responsibility***

With these "keys" in everyone's hands, we will accomplish many things over the course of the year. Without these "keys" we will stumble and struggle throughout the year.

**PERFORMING GROUPS**

The Fraser High School Band is comprised of four performing ensembles: Symphony Band (audition only), Jazz Ensemble (audition only), Concert Band (grades 10-12) and Varsity Band (grade 9). The commitment and results expected from all performing groups are identical. The only difference between the ensembles is the level of literature being performed.

Students with special needs will receive appropriate assistance as deemed necessary at all band levels. All students have equal opportunity for growth in the Fraser band program.

**Symphony Band:** Open to any band member in grades 9-12. Selection for the class is by audition only. **An audition date will be posted.** Students have the opportunity to audition **one time per year.** Auditions are held in the spring of the year for the following fall. Second semester information on the web site will include a statement of the audition dates. ***Auditions will consist of playing all 12 major scales memorized and sight-reading.***Each student must demonstrate the ability to attain the desired technical skill to enter Symphony Band and must maintain the desired technical skill from year to year to ensure selection for the ensemble. A student who has been accepted into Symphony Band, but does not continue in the class consecutively from year to year will need to re-audition to be accepted back into the class. The quantity of players selected is based upon instrumentation needs and band balance as determined by the director.

**Removal from Symphony Band: These steps define due process for removal:** a symphony band player who has attained the desired performance level and maintains that level would not be replaced solely because a better player becomes available. Students who do not maintain an A-B grade in band and/or display behavior that is counterproductive to the ensemble may be asked to re-audition for the following school year. In addition to grades, the band director will notify the parents in writing that the student is being put on a probationary status and must re-audition to continue in Symphony Band.

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Jazz Ensemble: Open to any band member in grades 9-12. Selection for the class is by audition only. **An audition date will be posted.** Students have the opportunity to audition **one time per year.** Auditions are held in the spring of the year for the following fall. Second semester information on the web site will include a statement of the audition dates. ***Auditions will consist of playing all 12 blues scales memorized, a short prepared selection, and sight-reading.***Each student must demonstrate the ability to attain the desired technical skill to enter Jazz Band and must maintain the desired technical skill from year to year to ensure selection for the ensemble. A student who has been accepted into Jazz Band, but does not continue in the class consecutively from year to year will need to re-audition to be accepted back into the class. The quantity of players selected is outlined in the *Program of Study* book.

**Removal from Jazz Band:** **These steps define due process for removal**: a jazz band player who has attained the desired performance level and maintains that level would not be replaced solely because a better player becomes available. Students who do not maintain an A-B grade in band and/or display behavior that is counterproductive to the ensemble may be asked to re-audition for the following school year. In addition to grades, the band director will notify the parents in writing that the student is being put on a probationary status and must re-audition to continue in Jazz Band.

Concert Band: Open to any band member in grades 10-12. No audition necessary. Students must maintain class requirements to remain in Concert Band.

Varsity Band: Open to any band member in grade 9. No audition necessary.

**MARCHING BAND: *Marching band will consist of all Symphony and Concert band members.* Volunteers are accepted from members of the Varsity band.**

**ATTENDANCE**

Band is an academic class and attendance is **required at every performance and rehearsal.** The exceptions are:

1. **School-related function that is cleared or approved in** **advance**. It is the student's responsibility to inform **all** parties involved when excused absences are requested. Those involved in athletic activities are **not** excused from a rehearsal or performance unless we are **notified and approve** of the absence, **nor** will those students always be excused from their class commitment.

2. Death in the family or involvement in wedding. A written advance notice of participation in a wedding must be provided to the band director.

3. Illness or surgery. **If a student is ill at the time of a performance, it is his or her responsibility to call or email the band office at school.**

4. Other considerations will be on an individual basis.

**Absences without prior notification will be considered unexcused.**

***Items which are non-excusable:***

1. **Work/Babysitting.** Students are to arrange their work and/or babysitting schedule around the school schedule unless a rehearsal or performance is scheduled "at the last minute."

2. To make up work in another class, unless the reason for making up the work is due to band and it is **cleared in advance**.

Each unexcused absence from a performance and/or rehearsal will result in the lowering of the student’s grade.

**REHEARSALS**

Rehearsal time is at a premium. Therefore, certain understandings must be had by all to ensure effective rehearsals.

**All** band members are to be in their respective places **by** the assigned time. This means that the student **must** have his or her instrument out and be ready to go **before** the assigned time.

**UNIFORMS**

**Marching Band** (Marching Season):

The regular marching uniform consists of bibbers (pants), jacket, hat and plume, hatbox, and a garment bag, all of which are provided by the school. Tuba and percussion players will need to purchase a beret (purchased through the band). It is the responsibility of the student to obtain **navy** socks to wear with the marching uniform. **White gloves and white marching shoes** are also needed (at the student's expense-purchased through the band). These items are ordered when the marching season begins. Parkas are available when weather dictates. When uniforms are issued each student pays $10.00 to cover *end of the year dry cleaning.* A summer uniform consisting of t-shirt and shorts is also purchased through the band for $25.00 per set. Color guard will purchase their uniform and shoes through the color guard coordinator-costs vary from year to year.

The Homecoming Pep Assembly uniform consists of a theme T-shirt (**purchased** **by the student** through the school), blue jeans, socks and tennis shoes.

Proper care of the marching uniform will be taught to each band member at the beginning of the school year**. All long hair (male and female)** **must** be put up underneath the hats for performance. **The summer marching T-shirts are to be worn under the jacket.** **No** jewelry is to be worn...leave it at home so nothing happens to it**. If you have pierced ears, wear only plain silver or gold studs. All other types of earrings are not permitted.**

**Each student** is responsible for their marching uniform and their appearance. ***Anyone who is not in the required*** ***uniform may not march, and their grade will be affected***. The uniform will need periodic cleaning through out the season in addition to the end of year cleaning done by the band. Any stains should be cleaned immediately. **Bibbers (or pants), jackets, hats, hat boxes, and garment bags are to be returned in the spring. Plumes and parkas will be returned after each use. *Items not returned on time will result in fines charged to the student's account.***

**CONCERT UNIFORM**

The concert uniform for the Fraser Bands consists of the following:

Ladies: Black short-sleeved jumpsuit (**purchased** by the student at the cost of approx. $61), pearl necklace (provided by the band), black hose and black shoes (provided by the student). Measurements and fittings for the jumpsuits will be taken in late September of each school year to ensure delivery of jumpsuits before our Holiday Concert. A small number of used jumpsuits are generally available each year at approximately half the cost of a new one. Students interested in used jumpsuits should mention this when fittings are taking place. Jumpsuits are machine wash and dry. A material usage fee of $5.00 is paid in the fall to cover costs of fixing and replacement pearls. **Pearls are returned each year in the** **spring. *Pearls not returned on time will result in fines to the student's account.***

Men: Black tuxedo and bow tie (provided by the school), white wing collar tuxedo shirt (**purchased** by the student at the cost of approx. $20), black socks, and black dress shoes (provided by the student). Measurements for shirts and tuxedos are done in the early fall. A $10.00 fee is collected in the fall to cover the end of the year cleaning. A $5.00 material usage fee is collected to cover replacement of ties. **Tux pants and jackets are returned in the spring. Bow ties will be returned after each performance. *Items not returned on time will result in fines to the student's account.***

**You** are responsible for your concert uniform and for your appearance. ***If you are not in the required*** ***uniform you may not perform and your grade will be affected***. Keep your uniform clean. Any stained uniforms should be cleaned immediately (at your expense).

**COSTS Some costs are charged every year-please note.**

Female marcher $10 cleaning fee marching uniform (every year)

$ 5 material usage fee (every year)

$ 3 gloves (as needed)

$10 beret (as needed-percussion/tuba players)

$30 marching shoes (as needed)

$61 new jumpsuit (as needed)

$25 summer marching uniform (as needed)

Female non-marcher $5 material usage fee (every year)

$61 new jumpsuit (as needed)

Male marcher $10 cleaning fee marching uniform (every year)

$ 5 material usage fee (every year)

$ 3 gloves (as needed)

$10 beret (as needed-percussion/tuba players)

$30 marching shoes (as needed)

$10 cleaning fee tuxedo (every year)

$20 tuxedo shirt (as needed)

$25 summer marching uniform (as needed)

Male non-marcher $10 cleaning fee tuxedo (every year)

$5 material usage fee (every year)

$20 tuxedo shirt (as needed)

#### STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Each of the band students has an account that is kept by Mr. Rodgers & Mrs. Fiedler. All profit from individual fund-raisers is deposited directly into their account. Parents/guardians do not have access to the accounts. Account totals are available to students/parents at any time; just contact Mr. Rodgers or Mrs. Fiedler by phone or e-mail.

Some students make regular deposits into their accounts in addition to fund-raising. Money not used this year is automatically carried over to next year. Funds in the band account can *only be* *used for band related items* such as: band trips, uniform fees, band supplies (reeds, flip folders, etc.), marching band camp, and solo and ensemble fees.

***Deductions to accounts*** will be made when a student does not turn in school assigned items (uniforms, tuxedos, pearls, instruments) or money owed for items such as: fund raisers, band camp, marching shoes, homecoming t-shirts, band trips, tuxedo shirts, jumpsuits, etc. ***Student accounts that are in the negative will be forwarded to the school bookkeeper***. ***Funds owed by the student will then be posted on Power School by the bookkeeper. Students cannot receive books or purchase tickets for school dances until accounts are paid up.******Seniors******will not receive their cap and gown or diploma until their account is paid up. It is the******responsibility of each student to check on the status of his or her band account periodically during the school year.***

Please see the band booster booklet for descriptions of band fundraisers.

**MUSIC**

Music is distributed in during class periods. Everyone should have a copy of his or her own music and should bring it to class daily. **THE STUDENTS** are responsible for their music, both for learning it and for keeping it in good shape. Students are expected to turn in all music when it is requested. Music should be prepared at home so productive rehearsals may take place during class time**. Music left in the band room randomly may be collected and will result in the lowering of the student’s grade.**

**INSTRUMENTS**

All students are responsible for their instruments whether they be personally owned or borrowed from the school. All students are expected to have proper equipment (reeds, valve oil, etc) at all times. No instruments are to be left in the band room. Instruments should go home on a regular basis to encourage and remind students to practice. **All students who continually forget to put instruments away will have their grade affected.**

**ATHLETICS**

The band department will gladly work with students in resolving conflicts with practices and games (meets), when done in **advance.** The calendar of performances and activities for the band is available early in the year. It is the **student's** responsibility to work out all conflicts with us and with coaches. Please remember that band is an **academic class** for which students receive credit. We are willing to work out a "shared-time" agreement with athletics; we are not willing to always release students.

**IN CONCLUSION**

The band program strives for excellence in all aspects. We truly believe in the ten two-letter words to live by: ***"If It Is To Be, It Is Up To Me!"***

Band is one of the few academic classes that rely totally on the combined output of **all** students for the end result. There are no "bench" players in band. All students must perform with everyone else and strive to achieve. All actions by an individual (whether good or bad) affect everyone.

The secret to success is communication. We need to keep the communication lines open between parent, student, and teacher. With all of us working together and with good communication between us, we will have a positive educational experience.

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