

# Walter Hines Page High School



## Band Program Handbook

August 24, 2019

Dear Page Band Parents and Students:

My name is Eddie Deaton, and I am the band director at Page High School. First let me extend a warm welcome to all of our new students, as well as a welcome back to all of our returning members. The band program at Page has developed a reputation for excellence, a tradition that I look forward to continuing with your help.



As you are no doubt aware, music presents a special opportunity for students to learn, grow and express themselves in a way not possible through any other medium. I appreciate your interest in music, and hope that this year we can continue improving as performance ensembles and growing as musicians.

This handbook provides information on procedures, grading criteria and rubrics, contact information and performance opportunities for the upcoming year. This is to ensure that everyone is aware of the expectations of the band program, and to hopefully avoid any future miscommunication. Please read all sections of the handbook carefully.

The Band Boosters is a wonderful organization for getting involved with your student's musical interests at school. For further information about joining the boosters, please contact any of the organization's officers listed later on in this handbook.

Please feel free to call or email any questions you may have using the contact information below. I look forward to seeing and hearing from all of you throughout the year.

Sincerely,

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### **Mission Statement**

The primary mission of the Page High School band program is to provide students with an education that allows them to better understand the musical language, to experience the joys of creating music in rehearsal and performance, and to lay the foundation for understanding and appreciation of music throughout their lives. It is also the goal and purpose of this program to provide students with a social education given through leadership opportunities, group and personal discipline, and a sense of cooperation and accomplishment.

## ***Page High School Marching Band Policies and Procedures***

### **Philosophy of the Marching Band**

The marching band plays a vital role in the band program's growth and success, and is the band program's primary link to the community at large. For many people, the marching band is the band program at Page. With this in mind, we have rigorous policies and procedures. These policies are designed to represent the band program in the correct way, maximize group effort, promote safety, and ensure that all members of the band enjoy their experience to the fullest.

### **A Note Regarding Policies and Procedures**

Please notice that all policies and procedures are in this handbook for a reason. Repeated infractions not only put the safety of students and chaperones in jeopardy, but also may result in the student's dismissal from the marching band. Please read this information carefully and completely.

### **Attendance**

Attendance for members of the Page High School Marching Band is required at all rehearsals, performances, and community events that the marching band participates in. Absences affect not only the individual who is absent, but also the entire ensemble. An absence necessitates repeating educational instruction when the student returns as well as eliminating the opportunity to develop blend, balance, and precision with the other students in the ensemble.

There are times when a student's absence from rehearsal is required. The general rule is, "If the school will excuse it, we will excuse it". Excused absences include: personal illness, death in the family, weddings for an immediate family member, and religious holidays. Excused absences other than the ones listed will be addressed as they occur by the band director. If you anticipate an unavoidable absence from rehearsal, you must fill out and submit an absence request form to the band director seven (7) days before the absence occurs. All illness excuses must include a written note from a parent or guardian within three (3) days after the student returns from the absence. An absence request form can be found online at [www.pagepirateband.com](http://www.pagepirateband.com).

Any student receiving an unexcused absence at a rehearsal may be held out of the next performance of the marching band. Any student receiving three or more unexcused absences from rehearsal may be dismissed from the marching band. Any unexcused absence from a performance will be considered grounds for dismissal from the marching band.

Students must be on time for all band functions. On time does **not** mean walking into the band room or onto the field just as rehearsal starts. A student will only be counted on time if they are in their seat or field position with all necessary equipment and music at the given start time of a rehearsal or performance. Students must make a habit of being early in order to be ready to participate in the rehearsal. **Any student who arrives late and is marked tardy more than twice during the marching band season may be held out of performances of the marching band. Any student marked tardy more than four times may be dismissed from the marching band for the remainder of the season.**

### **Conflicts with Band**

When a conflict arises between band functions and other activities or events, it is the responsibility of the student to inform the band director ahead of time and make any necessary arrangements. Rehearsal and performance schedules are included in this handbook at the beginning of the school year. When outside activities create hardships concerning band, unless it is a rare or unusual situation that may only

happen once, the student will need to consult with the director about alternatives that may be possible.

Students should be aware of all band dates well in advance. It is the policy of the band program to assist students when conflicts occur within the scope of band policy. Work is not an excuse for missing any band activity.

### **Band Camp Requirements**

Band camp is a hard, strenuous activity and requires careful planning on everyone's part. It is important that you heed these precautions and take measures to ensure your own safety as well as the safety of others.

1. Wear lightweight, comfortable clothing—Athletic shorts, a white t-shirt and athletic (tennis) shoes are recommended. Do **not** wear jeans, dark shirts, or anything that will hold heat in
2. Bring a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and a water bottle that you can keep on your body— we will be out in the sun often during camp
3. Lunch is not provided, so be sure to bring your own lunch with you to camp
4. Make sure you have inhalers or other medical needs with you at all time
5. We will take frequent water and rest breaks, but be prepared to work hard
6. Make sure you have a pencil, all music, equipment, drill charts, and other accessories required for a marching performance with you at all times
7. Wind players should own a lyre and a flip folder and bring them with you to camp

### **Extreme Weather Uniform**

During the marching season, the band occasionally finds itself in a position where the normal band uniform is not appropriate. Each student will be required to purchase a Page Marching Band t-shirt during band camp that will be worn for performances when the weather is expected to be hot, as well as a Page Marching Band jacket for rainy and/or cold weather games where full uniform would not be appropriate. Students will also be required to purchase completely black shorts (no stripes or borders), and black socks to wear during these performances, along with their regular marching band shoes.

*When in doubt, show the director what you plan on wearing prior to a performance.*

### **Rehearsal Guidelines**

*For indoor and outdoor rehearsals:*

All rehearsal guidelines for concert band rehearsals apply to indoor and outdoor rehearsals. This means no talking, no playing out of turn, and no gum, food or drink (except water). Further, the Guilford County and Page High School dress codes apply at all times (with the exception of hats and sunglasses for outdoor rehearsals). When in doubt, don't do it and don't wear it.

### **Football Game Guidelines**

1. Games have start times of 7:30PM. The Marching Band will march to the stadium just before 7:00PM in order to arrive in time to perform the national anthem before the game
2. Students should plan to remain at school for a short rehearsal before home games, starting at 4:00PM and ending by 5:30PM for dinner and uniform change time
3. Students are responsible for making sure they have music for pre-game, stands and halftime performances
4. No band member is permitted to leave the band without permission, or go to the restroom

- except when given permission by the director or a chaperon
5. No one is allowed in the band seating area except band members, chaperones and staff
  6. We will only play as a group while in the stands. Solo or small group performances are prohibited unless authorized by the director
  7. No inappropriate cheers are allowed (vulgar, unsportsmanlike, etc.)
  8. The band will enter and exit as a unit to a drum cadence to all football games. Chaperones may enter with the band as long as they are providing chaperon services
  9. Once arriving at the band room after a game, students will wait to be dismissed by the band director before leaving
  10. Students will put away instruments, uniforms, hats, and clean the band room before leaving for the evening
  11. You are in a high profile position by being a member of the band: no rude language (profanity), no rude gestures, and absolutely no unsportsmanlike conduct will be permitted. **Any student who violates this policy will be subject to immediate dismissal from the marching band for the remainder of the season.**
  12. Make sure that after the game you have a parent or guardian waiting to pick you up, or have made other arrangements for transportation
  13. The band will have a portion of the third quarter off to rest and relax. Students are to remain in uniform and must be back in their seats by the time designated.
  14. Pay attention, watch the game, and always be ready to play

## Uniforms

1. Uniforms will be distributed by Band Booster personnel and no student should ever take a uniform or any uniform accessory with them unless authorized by the band director
2. Plumes will be distributed on the way to the stadium and should be returned to the Band Boosters in charge of uniforms after halftime
3. Do not attempt to alter the uniforms yourself—the Band Boosters will handle all alterations
4. Students must always provide black socks and black marching band shoes that may be purchased through the band boosters at the beginning of band camp
5. While the band is in uniform, we are all in uniform—do not unzip or alter the uniform in any way unless authorized by the director. This includes removing baldrics, gloves, plumes or hats.
6. Students are required to wear the marching band shoes ordered at the beginning of the year as well as crew length, all black socks whenever we wear our full uniforms. **No student will be allowed to march with incorrect shoes or socks.**
7. Students will be held financially responsible for any damage incurred to the uniform beyond normal wear and tear
8. Students should wear a pair of shorts and their band t-shirt underneath their uniform—exceptions will be made for cold weather
9. All dry cleaning will be handled by the Band Boosters and no one should attempt to clean the uniform themselves

## Student Leadership

Student leaders are integral to the success of the band program. We need strong, dedicated, and hardworking individuals to assist in rehearsal and performance. Below is a list of student leadership positions for the Page Marching Band.

## **Leadership Positions**

### **Drum Major**

The drum major is the most visible student leader of the Page Band program. This person must exhibit fine leadership, musical skills, and serve as a role model for the rest of the students in the band program. The responsibilities of the position include:

- Conduct the marching band during performances and rehearsals
- Demonstrate an understanding of the content of all musical and marching materials performed throughout the season
- Lead group exercises, assist with marching warm-ups, assist in clearing the field, storing equipment, cleaning the band room, etc.
- Assist staff in maintaining focus and good discipline at all rehearsals and performances
- Constantly promote a positive group spirit and pride throughout the band
- Provide a positive example for other members of the band by attending all rehearsals and performances, arriving early to all events, and helping to finish with any cleaning and putting away equipment following all band functions
- Assist section leaders with marching and musical instruction
- Assist with uniform and instrument inspections
- Practice conducting, marching, and musicianship

### **Section Leaders and Drum Captain**

Section leaders are responsible for sectional music and marching rehearsals. Section leaders are expected to provide a positive example for their entire section during full band rehearsal, and are required to arrive on time for all band functions. During sectionals, the section leader organizes time, focuses the group on particular passages or marching fundamentals, and provides instruction and positive examples. All section leaders are also squad leaders (see below). Section leaders will make sure that all members of their section have necessary music, equipment and follow the dress code for performances. Section leaders will help them acquire replacement parts or items when necessary.

### **Librarian**

The librarian will be in charge of organizing and distributing music from the library for the Marching Band. Responsibilities include organizing and filing scores and parts, and copying and distributing new music. The librarian will also be required to develop and implement an organized system for use in requesting, copying and distributing replacement parts for band members.

### **Squad Leaders (to be assigned during band camp)**

Squad leaders will be assigned to sections based upon enrollment in the marching band and drill considerations. Typically, a squad leader will be assigned for every four students marching. Squad leaders are responsible for making sure that every member of their squad has a drill chart or coordinate sheet, and that before every move the entire squad knows where they are going and how to get there. Squad

leaders will assist in dressing forms during drill rehearsal and directing their squad during pre-game formations.

## **Responsibilities of Student Leaders**

Student leaders are critical to the success of the band program, both during the marching band season and throughout the academic year. As a result, the opportunity to fill a leadership position comes with a great deal of responsibility. All student leaders are expected to adhere to the following standards. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from any leadership position.

1. Student leaders must follow the attendance policy of the Marching Band, as detailed in the band handbook.
2. Student leaders must be on time to all band functions, rehearsals and performances.
3. During the marching band season, student leaders will sometimes need to stay after rehearsal for brief meetings to discuss a variety of topics. Attendance at these meetings is crucial to ensuring their effectiveness at aiding the operations of the band.
4. Student leaders will be responsible for ensuring that all rehearsal and performance areas are maintained and clean following each rehearsal and performance.
5. At no time should student leaders represent the band in a negative fashion through inappropriate words or actions. These include anything directed toward peers, student athletes from Page or any other school, referees, teachers, administrators and parent volunteers. **Failure to adhere to this rule will result in immediate dismissal from any leadership position.**
6. Student leaders should constantly promote school spirit, as well as a positive attitude toward all band functions among the members of the band.

## ***Concert Performance Class Policies and Procedures***

This section is designed to give parents and students an idea of what is required of students enrolled in band classes at Page High School. These policies govern Percussion Ensemble, Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Band.

### **Lockers**

At the beginning of the year, students will be assigned individual storage lockers for personal and school-owned instruments in “the cage.” While at school, instruments should always be stored in the proper locker. This will not only ensure their security, but also provide for easy locating if a student is absent. Any personal items of value (such as electronics, wallets, purses, etc.) should be kept in a locker during class, after-school rehearsals and performances. The Page High School band program is not responsible for the safety of your personal belongings during these times.

### **School-Owned Instruments**

The Page Band owns instruments that students may use. These school-owned instruments are expensive and are available for use so long as students agree to maintain the instruments and pay for any damages incurred beyond normal wear and tear. Each student wishing to use a school instrument will fill out an online request form, available at [www.pagepirateband.com](http://www.pagepirateband.com). The student will need to return a printed, signed copy of the issue form before taking the instrument for personal use.

## **General Rules and Procedures**

The following are general rules and procedures for band classes at Page High School:

1. All Page High School and Guilford County School System rules, guidelines, health and safety protocols apply during class and after school at rehearsals or performances.
2. You are considered late if you are not in your seat, completely prepared for class two (2) minutes after the tardy bell rings.
3. Do not play on an instrument that does not belong to you or is not your primary instrument (this includes percussion equipment and keyboard instruments).
4. Show respect toward yourself, your peers, the band room and the director at all times.

## **Supplies Needed**

1. At least two sharpened pencils. Pencils are to be used for all assignments, musical markings, etc. **At no time should you mark any music in pen.**
2. Loose-leaf notebook space for assignments, papers, etc. This may be shared with other classes.
3. Music folder (provided), including all sheet music/method books assigned.
4. Your instrument, including all of its required parts and accessories.
5. All equipment necessary to perform on and properly maintain your instrument, including:
  - Flutes: Cleaning rod and cloth
  - Reed Instruments: At least 3 usable reeds, cleaning swab and cork grease
  - Brass Instruments: Valve oil and slide grease, any necessary mutes
  - Percussion: All required sticks and mallets

## **Attendance & Performances**

Any student counted absent for 15 class rehearsals OR 50% of all class periods during a concert cycle (the time from the start of rehearsals for a concert to the concert date) will become ineligible to participate in the graded performance. The band director will assign the Performance Make-Up Assignment found below to account for the performance grade for that quarter.

For the purpose of concert eligibility, students who do not have necessary equipment for rehearsal (instrument, reeds, mouthpiece, music, sticks, etc.) will be calculated as “absent” for however many days they are unable or unwilling to participate in rehearsal.

## ***Grading Criteria***

### **Class Participation 30%:**

- Class Preparation - Student has all necessary materials for class and is ready at the assigned time
- Engagement with Lesson - Student asks relevant questions in class and actively participates in all activities, lessons and rehearsals, including the rehearsal of any and all assigned parts
- Students will be assessed weekly on class participation. Deductions to participation grades will be noted by the Band Director and emailed to students and parents as they occur

### **Homework/Classwork 10%:**

- Students are expected to take their instruments home and practice for 30-45 minutes each week
- Students will receive a variety of short assignments each quarter, including post-performance assessments

### **Playing Tests 20%:**

- Students will be assessed on the performance of musical selections twice each grading period



**Scale Tests 10%:**

- Students will be assessed on the performance of scales twice each grading period

**Performance Attendance 30%:**

- All scheduled performances are required of students as an extension of the class unless otherwise noted. Performances are the product of work within the class and provide the best means for an authentic experience with music
- If there is a conflict with the schedule, arrangements must be made with Mr. Deaton a minimum of five days before the event, accompanied by an online absence request submission (found at [www.pagepirateband.com](http://www.pagepirateband.com)). After the absence has been excused, the director will give a make-up assignment to count for the student's performance grade. An example make-up assignment can be found in this handbook, but students should check with Mr. Deaton for specific details
- Emergency situations, such as illness, injury, family emergencies, etc. will be taken into consideration when they occur

**Tardiness to Concerts**

Students arriving after the appointed call time, as established by the director, will have points deducted from their concert grade using the guidelines below:

10 minutes late:	10 points deducted from the concert grade
15 minutes late:	20 points deducted from the concert grade
20 or more:	30 points deducted from the concert grade

**Concert Attire**

The Page Band has required concert uniforms for all members. These will be assigned by the Band Boosters during the first few weeks of school. Concert Band students are expected to provide appropriate shoes and socks. Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band students are expected to provide appropriate shoes and socks, and male students must bring a white button-down shirt. Percussion Ensemble students will perform in all black attire. Students not dressed appropriately will not participate in the concert and will receive a zero (0) for the grade.

# *Page Band Performance Make-up Project*

Students receiving an excused absence from a graded performance of the Page High School Band will be required to complete the following make-up assignment as a replacement for their performance grade. This project will count as 30% of the student's grade for the quarter, just as participation in the performance would have. This form must also be turned in with the project. Prior to working on the project, see the band director to receive a due date for completion:

Due Date \_\_\_\_\_ Band Director Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## **Guidelines**

The make-up project will consist of a research paper that must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Between 1500 and 2000 words (roughly 6 – 8 pages).
- Side margins set to 1.25 inches, top and bottom to 1 inch.
- Double-spaced.
- Size 12, Times New Roman font.
- Must include a title page, containing the topic chosen as well as the name, address and home phone number of the student submitting the paper. The student and a parent/guardian must also sign the cover page.
- Citations for all material must be included within the paper, using MLA format.
- Must include a bibliography/works cited list including at least five (5) different sources. Only two (2) sources can be used from the internet, and at least three (3) sources must be from published books or academic journals, not including dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc. N.B. internet websites that are user-generated (such as Wikipedia) cannot be used for this research paper.
- Any works appearing in the bibliography must have a corresponding citation within the research paper. Any work appearing on the bibliography without a citation within the paper will not be considered for grading purposes.

## **Topic**

Choose one of the following composers/performers to write your research paper on:

Antonio Vivaldi	Franz Liszt	Louis Armstrong
George Frideric Handel	Richard Wagner	Duke Ellington
Johann Sebastian Bach	Antonín Dvořák	Miles Davis
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Claude Debussy	
Franz Joseph Haydn	Gustav Holst	
Ludwig van Beethoven	Ralph Vaughan Williams	

Your paper must address the following aspects of the composer/performer you choose:

- Basic biographical information (birth and death dates and locations, nationality, major events in their personal life such as marriages, major appointments as a conductor, etc.)
- Genre and style of their compositions, including a description of the genre/style from a musical and historical standpoint as well as examples of other composers writing using that style
- Musical aspects that set them apart and gave them a lasting legacy as a composer/performer
- At least 4 Major works by the artist, including brief descriptions of them and their importance

Make sure that you address each aspect clearly and provide sufficient depth and detail to cover each topic. You will be graded on the content of your paper, the clarity of your writing, observance of standard rules of grammar and spelling as well as adherence to the guidelines stated above. Late papers will be accepted, with a 15 point overall deduction per day that the paper is turned in late.