Seaford High School



Band Program

Handbook

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www.seafordband.org

The Seaford High School Band Program Handbook

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FORWARD

The purpose of this handbook is to provide valuable information about the band program. To consistently achieve and maintain the high standard of excellence desired by this organization, members should familiarize themselves with the regulations, procedures and traditions of the band.

Most of the questions always prevalent with the band will be answered in this handbook. If a problem or question not covered in this handbook should arise, the band directors should be consulted for an explanation.

The performing groups of our school are one of the most visible organizations of The Seaford Public School District. Many people throughout the community will hear and see these groups several times during the year.

For a majority of these people, this will be the only contact they will have with the school district and will form opinions of the entire district based on their impressions of the Band Program as well as opinions of the Music Department. For this reason some general rules must be outlined. These rules are to be followed at all times and will apply to all activities in which The Band Program participates.

Remember, our students are representatives of the Seaford School District.

The Music Suite is to be used for practice sessions and will be treated as a place of business conducive to learning.

BAND PROGRAM RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Rehearsal & Band Room Guidelines:

1. **ALL MEMBERS WILL BE ON TIME FOR ALL REHEARSALS**, unless a valid reason is given in advance to the Directors concerning tardiness. Lateness shows disrespect to the directors, staff, your peers, and especially towards yourself.

2**.** When the director/staff steps on the podium, all talking and playing must stop.

3. Talking during a rehearsal is **Not Allowed**.

4**.** Do not handle any piece of equipment that does not belong to you unless told to do so.

5. Chairs, stands, folders, music and instruments must be in their proper places at the end of each rehearsal. Neat and orderly arrangement of these items creates an atmosphere conducive to learning and enjoyment.

6. Do not fold, tear or otherwise mutilate music. It has been carefully put together for your convenience and has been specifically chosen for the Seaford High School Band Program.

7. Only written excuses will be accepted. The excuse must be dated, written and signed by the parent or guardian (or teacher pass), stating the student's name and cause of absence. All excuses should be submitted to the director on the day following the performance or at the next rehearsal the student attends.

8. Every band member should bring instruments, music and proper equipment to every rehearsal or performance. (valve oils, lyres, reeds, drumsticks, mallets, etc.)

9. Every band member **must have a pencil** (not pen) at each and every rehearsal.

10. The Info-Board should be read when entering the band room. Music should be placed in the proper order according to the instructions on the board.

11. No food or drinks are permitted in the band suite and all trash should be thrown in the waste container. Keeping the band room clean will create a clean and positive atmosphere.

Students must follow these rules in a respectful and orderly manner or they will face consequences.

INSTRUMENT/ EQUIPMENT INFORMATION

The Band Program will provide instruments/equipment for those students who play larger instruments (bass clarinet, tenor sax, baritone sax, baritone, tuba, percussion). Each band member is responsible for the proper care, condition and repairs of this instrument for the length of the agreement. Any damages or serious malfunctions should be reported to the director at once. Damages due to the negligence of the student will be charged to the student.

A privately owned instrument is the responsibility of the student who owns it. Students should check with their parents to see that the instrument is included on their homeowner insurance policy. Before purchasing an instrument, students should consult with the band director.

FACILITIES & LOCKERS

Students are welcomed and encouraged to use the music facilities during any free time (lunch, study hall, before or after school, etc.) provided that a music faculty person is present and the area is cared for.

All students will be assigned a locker during the first week of school. They will be responsible for providing a combination lock for this locker. **Band Lockers are for the storage of instruments and music only. Non-music materials are not permitted to be stored in Band Lockers.**

PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

Private lessons are a tremendous aid in the development of a student's musical knowledge and improve the overall quality of the band. Any student interested in studying privately should see the band directors for recommendations.

CONCERT DRESS

It is mandatory that each member be in proper attire for each occasion:
(Improper concert dress will result in loss of credit)
Concert Dress is **all** Black (or unless otherwise told).
NO Sneakers. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Girls	Boys
Black Blouse	Black Shirt (Tie optional)
Black Pants	Black Pants
Black Skirts (Below the knee)	Black Shoes
Black Dresses (Below the knee)	Black Socks
Black Shoes	

COURSE OUTLINE FOR BAND PROGRAM

Concert Band

This is one of two bands in the band program at Seaford High School. This course emphasizes the reading and development of contemporary as well as the standard band literature. Special emphasis is placed upon balance, blend, intonation, articulation, technique and interpretation as well as basic music theory and sight reading. In addition, students are encouraged to participate in the NYSSMA solo festival by preparing individual solos for performance and evaluation by a professional adjudicator. Members receiving a successful evaluation are eligible to be considered for local, county and state festivals. Two school concerts a year as well as touring, in district, at various award ceremonies and graduations, and out of district at various festivals and performances. Students must attend all public performances. The Concert Band will participate in the NYSSMA Majors festival, which is a state-wide festival where the groups scores are posted throughout New York State.

As a course requirement, students are legally excused from one class per week on a rotating basis for lessons. The periods of the day vary as per lesson schedule.

All freshman will automatically be placed into the Concert Band. This band is essentially a high school training ensemble. No audition is necessary for this ensemble.

Symphonic Band

This is one of two bands in the band program at Seaford High School. This course emphasizes the reading and development of contemporary as well as the standard band literature. Special emphasis is placed upon balance, blend, intonation, articulation, technique and interpretation as well as basic music theory and sight reading. In addition, students are encourage to participate in the NYSSMA solo festival by preparing individual solos for performance and evaluation by a professional adjudicator. Members receiving a successful evaluation are eligible to be considered for local, county and state festivals. Two school concerts a year as well as touring, in district, at various award ceremonies and graduations, and out of district at various festivals and performances. Students must attend all public performances. The Symphonic Band will participate in the NYSSMA Majors festival, which is a state-wide festival where the groups scores are posted throughout New York State.

As a course requirement, students are legally excused from one class per week on a rotating basis for lessons. The periods of the day vary as per faculty schedule.

This band consists of selected instrumentalists (grades 10, 11 & 12) usually reserved for those wind and percussion performers who have had previous training. An audition (see audition packet) and a music teacher's recommendation are **necessary** for this elite ensemble. Since this is the elite ensemble of the Band Program, students must exhibit superb musicianship, maturity and dedication, and are expected to participate at all activities and performances. If at any time **any** member of the Symphonic Band does not uphold the specific standards, they will be removed from this ensemble.

BAND GRADING POLICY

Grades are developed as a natural outgrowth of the learning environment within the classroom setting. Many performing groups, however, by the very nature of their environment are called upon to play, rehearse and perform OUT-OF-THE-CLASSROOM. Therefore, some consideration toward each student's grade is influenced by performing requirements. There are four categories involved.

1. Ensemble Setting: Performance/Participation/Musicianship….40%

A. Accuracy in playing individual parts assigned in class

B. Proper Performance at maximum potential in every class (no gum)

C. Preparedness of: set-up time, ready to play when instructed

D. Proper equipment: pencil, music, instrument parts (reeds, sticks, oils) at every rehearsal

E. Attendance: inexcusable absences in rehearsals/band camp
(please see "Excusable Absences List")

2. Lessons: Performance/Participation/Musicianship……...…….25%

A. Completion of method and lesson materials

B. Attendance: Lessons can be made up by the following;

- "Make-up" lessons (Winds - Thurs., Percussion - Friday)
- Same type lesson group

If a lesson is missed, it must be made up by the end of that week.
This is to ensure students are caught up with the content material that is being taught.

3. Tests/Quizzes/Assignments……....15%

A. Playing Quizzes/Exams

- Including music, solos, excepts, scales or rudiments

B. Written assessments (if applicable)

C. Homework (if assigned)

D. Written or performable assignments (if assigned)

**The format of the quarterly or final exam will
be at the teacher's discretion**

4. Performances (see page 10)……..….20%

A. Attendance at all concerts, festivals, parades and other required performances.

B. Percentage of performances may vary depending on the quarter

Equipment not properly put away will result in a
2 point deduction from Final Grade per incident for that quarter.

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra Credit is available for anyone. It will be added to Final Grade for each respective quarter as follows:

Quarter 1

Jazz Band, Pep Band (rehearsals & performances) - 5 points each
Marching Band (rehearsals & performances) - 10 points
Private Lessons - 5 points
Concert Report - 1-5 points (Topics can include: Musicals, chamber groups, classical orchestra, symphonic band, jazz)

- 1-2 pages, must discuss musical elements of pieces performed, any personal opinions must have stated reasons and program must be attached.

Topic Report - 1-5 points (Topics can include: Composers (classical orchestral or symphonic band), instruments, musical literature, musical history)

- 2-4 pages typed, bibliography of all cited information, 3-4 sources (**no Wikipedia),** include at least 1 non-internet source.

Quarter 2

Jazz Band, Pep Band (rehearsals & performances) - 5 points each
Marching Band (rehearsals & performances) - 10 points
Pit (rehearsals) - 10 points
Chamber Ensemble (rehearsals & performances) - 5 points
Tree Lighting Ceremony - 5 points
Private Lessons - 5 points
Concert Report - 1-5 points (Topics can include: Musicals, chamber groups, classical orchestra, symphonic band, jazz)

- 1-2 pages, must discuss musical elements of pieces performed, any personal opinions must have stated reasons and program must be attached.

Topic Report - 1-5 points (Topics can include: Composers (classical orchestral or symphonic band), instruments, musical literature, musical history)

- 2-4 pages typed, bibliography of all cited information, 3-4 sources (**no Wikipedia),** include at least 1 non-internet source.

Quarter 3

Jazz Band, Pep Band (rehearsals & performances) - 5 points each
Pit (rehearsals & performances) - 10 points
Chamber Ensemble (rehearsals & performances) - 5 points
Private Lessons - 5 points
Concert Report - 1-5 points (Topics can include: Musicals, chamber groups, classical orchestra, symphonic band, jazz)

- 1-2 pages, must discuss musical elements of pieces performed, any personal opinions must have stated reasons and program must be attached.

Topic Report - 1-5 points (Topics can include: Composers (classical orchestral or symphonic band), instruments, musical literature, musical history)

- 2-4 pages typed, bibliography of all cited information, 3-4 sources (**no Wikipedia),** include at least 1 non-internet source.

Quarter 4

Jazz Band (rehearsals & performances) - 5 points
NYSSMA Adjudication Participation - 5 points
Private Lessons - 5 points
Concert Report - 1-5 points (Topics can include: Musicals, chamber groups, classical orchestra, symphonic band, jazz)

- 1-2 pages, must discuss musical elements of pieces performed, any personal opinions must have stated reasons and program must be attached.

Topic Report - 1-5 points (Topics can include: Composers (classical orchestral or symphonic band), instruments, musical literature, musical history)

- 2-4 pages typed, bibliography of all cited information, 3-4 sources (**no Wikipedia),** include at least 1 non-internet source.

An "Extra Credit" voucher must be completed and turned in to receive credit before the quarter ends.

"EXCUSABLE ABSENCE LIST"

-0% =Medical, family emergencies, college, pre-approved school events
-15% =Vacations, Family events
-30% =Work
-100% = Forgetfulness and all absences without a signed parent/ guardian note.

Excused absences will only be accepted if a parent/guardian sends in a written and signed note. Student notes will not be accepted. Parental/guardian notes will only be accepted up to three days after the event.

JAZZ BAND, PEP BAND, PIT ORCHESTRA & CHAMBER GROUPS

These are distinct groups that are based on responsibility, maturity and audition. Auditions take place in June of each school year for the following year. Check the website for audition information. Since these groups perform at various festivals, concerts, NYSSMA, county festivals and district events, rehearsals are **mandatory**. Any member who misses ***three*** unexcused rehearsals will be asked to leave. All reasons for absence must be discussed, in advance, with the member (or parent/guardian) and the director. **Since these are extracurricular, work is not an excusable absence.**

MARCHING BAND

The Marching Band consists of the following sections: Band Proper (Winds and Percussion), Drumline (Battery and Front Ensemble), Colorguard (flags, dancers), Drum Majors & Leaders. This group is highly active throughout the year and is in constant view of the school and community. The Marching Band performs with a high standard of discipline, pride and showmanship. **The Marching Band functions are split into two sections:**

• FIELD SHOW:

The Field Show consists of all of the half-time performances during the home football games, as well as the Hofstra Newsday Marching Band Festival. The Field Show portion of the program rehearsal schedule is as follows: Pre-Camp Rehearsal (July 30th, Band Camp (Aug 4th-8th), and eight weekly rehearsals, 6:30pm-8:30pm. Please check the website for all dates.

• PARADE BAND:

The Parade Band portion of Marching Band consists of the following five events: September 11th Ceremony, Homecoming, St. Patrick's Day, Little League and Memorial Day. **Attendance for these five events is mandatory for all members of the Band Program, regardless of participation in the Field Show**. These events will be included under the performance portion of each student's grade for the respective quarter.

Marching Band Guidelines:

1. As an important part of an effective rehearsal procedure, each year it is necessary for the marching band to meet during the summer before school begins. All members of the band are expected to attend camp and other preseason rehearsals scheduled by the directors.
2. At all marching functions, the Drum Majors and Section Captains are the student leaders.
3. Students are expected to be in their position on time, with instruments, music and drill charts.

REMEMBER: WHILE IN UNIFORM YOU REPRESENT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR SCHOOL, YOUR BAND, YOUR DIRECTORS, AND YOUR COMMUNITY.

BAND CAMP

Pre-camp rehearsals will take place at the High School before regular camp. It is necessary for each band member to attend these rehearsals. Marching Fundamentals and memorization of music will take place at this camp.

Band camp is held during the second week of August. Students learn to work together in total dedication as a team. The goal of band camp is to learn the drill and music to the entire show. On the last day of band camp there is a special performance dedicated to all of the parents/guardians and friends.

Students who are employed should make necessary arrangements well in advance with their employers to attend all rehearsals and band camp. **Work is not an excusable absence from Band Camp.**

DISTRIBUTION OF UNIFORMS

1. Uniforms will be handed out during the Pre-Camp Rehearsal to all Band Members.
2. Each student will fill out a Uniform Contract once they have been fitted.
3. Uniforms will be handed back after the Memorial Day Parade. Anything not returned in proper condition will be directly billed to the student, as per the Uniform Contract.

PROPER UNIFORM ETIQUETTE

A formal inspection will be conducted by the Drum Major(s) and Captain(s) prior to every performance. Band members are expected to wear uniforms properly at all times. When the uniform is worn, a band member's personal appearance is to be impeccable. Improper uniform dress will result in loss of credit for that activity. Point deduction for that event will be as follows:
Jacket - 25, Bibbers - 20, Aussie - 20, Shoes - 15, Black Sock - 10

WIND PLAYERS

OUTERLAYER	UNDERLAYER
-Black Shoes	-Underarmor
-Black Socks	-Thermals
-Bibbers	-Sweatpants
-Uniform Jacket	-Long-sleeve sweatshirt/thermal
-White Gloves	-Black T-Shirt

-Aussie
-Long hair **must** be in a ponytail

PERCUSSION

OUTERLAYER
-Black Shoes
-Black Socks
-Bibbers
-Uniform Jacket
-Gloves only if uniform,pre-approved
-Long hair **must** be in a ponytail

UNDERLAYER
-Underarmor
-Thermals
-Sweatpants
-Long-sleeve sweatshirt/thermal
-Black T-Shirt

COLORGUARD

-Black Shoes
-Black Socks
-Unitards
-Long-sleeve, Black Under Armor
-Specified outer-uniform

HONOR GUARD

OUTERLAYER
-Black Shoes
-Black Socks
-Bibbers
-Percussion Uniform Jacket
-White Gloves
-Long hair **must** be in a ponytail

UNDERLAYER
-Same as "Wind Players"

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WEAR OR CARRY ANYTHING NOT INDICATED BY THESE GUIDELINES OR THAT HAS NOT BEEN PRE-APPROVED BY BOTH DIRECTORS.

BAND LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

DRUM MAJOR:

This person should be a Junior or a Senior and is selected through an audition from the band, several judges and the director. The Drum Major is the principle leader of the Marching Band and must display strong leadership and motivational qualities, have knowledge of conducting music and teaching drill & marching fundamentals. He/She is in charge of the band at all marching functions and is responsible only to the Directors. Appearance and confidence are an important factor of this position. The Drum Major is responsible for the attendance at all Marching Band functions.

SECTION CAPTAINS:

Section Captains are selected by the Directors of the Marching Band. These people assist in teaching and rehearsing all Marching Band activities. They must have a thorough knowledge of marching fundamentals, drill teaching techniques and rehearsal methods. Section leaders must display a high level of musicianship & leadership, and have the ability to lead their section while maintaining a positive rapport. They work under the supervision of the Directors and should check daily to see that they are prepared for each rehearsal. In addition, they are responsible for running music section rehearsals, when needed, checking off music at each rehearsal and inspecting uniforms before performances. Section leaders include: Woodwind Captain(s), Brass Captain(s), Percussion Captain(s) & Colorguard Captain(s) (knowledge of dance, choreography and equipment/flag handling techniques must be present for this position).

If interested in any position, please see a Director for the necessary paperwork.

CONDUCT

The Band Suite is a place of business conducive to learning and will be treated as such. This area of the school is designed, built and maintained for our musical organizations. Each member should take pride in our department and each student is expected to perform in a mature and respectful manner. In doing so, teachers and other students should have respect for others. You will find the more responsibility you take for your musical activities, the more you will accomplish. Please conduct yourself in an orderly manner while setting up or breaking down. Please have everything you need and be ready to play on time. If we all do our job and respect each other, we foresee an excellent and rewarding year.

We thank you for taking the time to read these guidelines. If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact us. The band office number is (516) 592-4350. Please check the band website at www.seafordband.org for a schedule of events and other information pertaining to the band program.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Musically Yours,

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High School Band Program
Seaford High School

Signature of Principal, Scott Bersin, _____

Signature of Asst. Principal, Carisa Burzynski _____

Signature of Asst. Principal, Anthony Allison _____