



Gainesville  
Band Handbook  
2025-2026

Mrs. Myra Walker, Director



Dear Band Member and Parents,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! My name is Myra Walker and I am in my 17th year teaching music. I am proud to be at Gainesville and look forward to building the band program. I have a lot of enthusiasm about the possibilities for the band and I hope you will work with me to make it the best for our students and community.

Please download the Remind app and text class code 4aah9he to 81010. You can also join Sports You with the code RWNN-AAGA. This will allow students and parents/guardians to keep informed of upcoming events. It is very important communication is used often, so please email, the Remind app, or Sports You for any questions or suggestions you might have.

I want Band to be an exciting and fun activity as well as providing opportunities to train the students musically. There are many ways your child can gain from being part of the band family.

Please take the time to read this handbook and refer to it as needed. I reserve the right to amend it as necessary, but I will notify you if any changes are made. I want this year to go smoothly, so guidelines are put in place to ensure organization and success.

Thank you for your support of the band program!

Mrs. Myra Walker

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS- 2025-2026**

August 18- First Day of School

September 2- Baseball Concessions 3:45 pm (vs. Dora)

September 4- Baseball Concessions 3:45 pm (vs. Bakersfield)

September 5- Baseball Concessions 3:45 pm (vs. Mansfield)

September 13- Seymour Apple Festival- 10 am (Leaving at 7 am)

September 15- Baseball Concessions 3:45 pm (vs. Norwood)

September 20- Hootin' and Hollerin' - 2 pm (Leaving at 1:00 pm)

September 29- Baseball Concessions 3:45 pm (vs. Fordland)

September 30- Baseball Concessions 3:45 pm (vs. Alton)

October 4- Ash Grove Pirate Power Classic Festival- 9 am (Leaving at 6 am)

October 11- SBU Homecoming Parade- 10 am (Leaving at 6 am)

October 17- Parent Teacher Conferences- 12-7 pm

November 24-28- Thanksgiving Break

December 5th - Gainesville Christmas Parade- 7 pm

December 7th- Branson Christmas Parade- 5:30 pm (Leaving at 2 pm)

December TBA- Performance for Nursing Home

December TBA- Christmas Concert

December 19-Jan. 4- Winter Break

\*\*March 6- MSHSAA Solo/Ensemble- West Plains

March 16-20- Spring Break

April 26- Music in the Parks- Time TBD

\*\*The event marked with 2 stars is voluntary; everything else IS mandatory!

## BAND GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Provide a student-centered program in which individual growth in achievement and self-esteem are of the utmost importance.
- Provide equal opportunities to participate regardless of the student's race, creed, class, color, or disability.
- Provide creative opportunities for the student to develop his/her aesthetic potential to the highest possible level.
- Acquire knowledge of man's cultural heritage in music through study and performance of the best in band literature.
- Develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and ideals desirable in becoming a responsible citizen in society.
- Develop individual musical and technical skills to further enhance the student's life-long enjoyment and appreciation for music.
- Share the musical skills and accomplishments of the band with the school and community.
- TO HAVE FUN MAKING MUSIC!

## Rehearsal Standards

1. Be on time with your instrument in good working condition, the proper accessories, your music, and a sharpened pencil.
2. Exhibit a positive attitude; build up, do not tear down!
3. Demonstrate proper playing posture at all times.
4. No food, gum, or drinks beside water in class.
5. No electronics (without director approval)
6. **Talking stops while the director is on the podium.**
7. No foul language or gossiping about others.
8. All woodwind players are to have at least **2** usable reeds, a good quality mouthpiece, cork grease, and an instrument swab.
9. All brass players are to have valve oil, and/or slide oil, tuning slide grease, a good quality mouthpiece, instrument swab, and a straight mute (except for baritones and tubas).
10. All percussion players are to have at least two sets of drum sticks and/or mallets.
11. All music is to be returned to the proper storage slot at the conclusion of each rehearsal.
12. All instruments are to be carefully stored in their cases and put in their proper place at the conclusion of each rehearsal.
13. All members are expected to know their parts- this is an ensemble rehearsal, not a practice session.

## Concert Standards

1. Be on time, in your seat, ready to play (at least 15 minutes prior to the concert). If you are not the first to perform, be in your assigned area, ready to tune.
2. Take pride in your appearance.
3. Make sure you have all the equipment you need and it is in good working order.
4. Demonstrate appropriate concert etiquette by quietly listening to all other groups.
5. Stay for the entire concert unless previously arranged with the director.

Everyone is expected to help with setup and clean-up which includes returning your own instrument, your music and music stand, as well as helping with percussion and other miscellaneous equipment.

## Grade Distribution

40% Tests (Performances)

30% Quizzes (Playing Tests)

30% Homework/Classwork/Participation

## Required Activity points

Daily school rehearsals: (Daily participation grade) 5

Performances: 100

Marching Band Parades: 100

## School Instruments and Equipment

The school owns several instruments that can be loaned to members of the band program. These instruments are issued by the director during band camp. At the time of issue, the member will be asked to sign a Rental Agreement Contract. From that point until the instrument is returned, the member will be held responsible for the care of the instrument. Any repairs to the instrument that are required due to normal wear are paid for by the school district. Repairs to the instrument necessitated by student neglect are the sole responsibility of the student. In a case where percussion is abused, the entire section may be responsible for the cost of the damaged item.

## Music and Folders

Each member is issued a school owned folder for music for the storage and protection of music. If you lose your music, you may be required to pay for it (a fee will be assessed for loss of original parts). Keep a pencil in your folder at all times.

### School Facilities

The Band Room at Gainesville High School consists of a director's office, an instrument storage area, a music library, uniform storage, and a rehearsal room. It is expected that the students will treat this facility with care at all times. If a student is caught damaging or defacing the facility or its contents in any way (INCLUDING MUSIC STANDS), he/she will be responsible for the cost of the repair or cleaning the item.

### Band Uniforms

Each student will be issued a band uniform. The director will record the numbers of each part of the uniform. A garment bag will be issued with the uniform to keep all of the uniform together. The band member is responsible for the uniform and garment bag until it is checked in at the end of the season. If any part of the uniform is missing, the student will be charged accordingly. If the charges are not paid by the time the student graduates, the student's diploma will be withheld.

### Video/Audio Recording and Photography

There may be instances where the group will be recorded, whether by video or audio, for rehearsal purposes. The recording will be made by the director or a specified adult. Students are not allowed to make recordings unless approved by the director. There may also be instances where your child will be photographed for media acknowledgement or for the end of the year Awards banquet powerpoint.

### Communication

Good communication is essential for our Band. We are a family. Students, parents, and the director should maintain communication for the organization to run smoothly. When there is a change to be made, I will either send a letter home with students, update Google Classroom, or send a message via the Remind app. We are all busy, but we must take the time to communicate. There are a large number of students in the entire band program so I have arranged to send messages through the Remind app. It is very helpful and a free service (your carrier may assess a texting fee). To sign up, text @4aah9he to 81010. Sports You code is RWNN-AAGA.



Instrument Rental Information

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Print)

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ (Type) (Model)

Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_

Rental Period \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ (Fall/Spring) (Year)

Instrument Condition Inspect the instrument and document any damage to the instrument and/or case below. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I understand and take responsibility to maintain and care for the rental instrument and case to the best of my ability. I have noted the current condition of the instrument above and will, to the utmost of my ability, maintain and care for the instrument and return it in the same condition as noted at the time of rental.

I further understand that upon return of the instrument an inspection by the band director will determine, based on the condition comments above, if any damage found is beyond the normal wear and tear of either the instrument and/or case. If it is deemed that the damage is beyond such wear and tear, I understand that I am responsible for the cost of repairs necessary to return the instrument to the condition in which I rented the instrument. I further understand that if the instrument requires repair due to negligence that a replacement instrument may or may not be made available for use.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature) (Date)

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature) (Date)