

2014-2015 Member Handbook



FAIRHOPE BAND

DIRECTORS:

Wayne Fillingim & Chad Faison

COLOR GUARD:

Phillip Davis, LaVon Adams

PERCUSSION:

Joe Fant, DJ White, Conner Currier

PRINCIPALS:

**Mr. John Cardwell, Ms. Darla Litaker,
Mr. Josh Howell, Mr. John Helms**

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Purpose

Many times a misunderstanding of the rules and regulations or a lack of knowledge can cause problems on the part of the student, the parent/guardian, and/or the Directors. This handbook was written under the direction of the Directors and School Administrators for the purpose of acquainting each new and returning band member with his/her obligations and responsibilities to the Fairhope High School Band. It was written to be a supplement to the Student Code of Conduct of Baldwin County Schools, and at no time does it take precedent over or overrule school policies.

Given the complexity of human behavior, no publication of this nature can completely cover all situations which impact the learning environment. Thus, the Directors will reserve the right and responsibility to address any student behavior which adversely affects the learning environment.

Great band programs are built on a foundation of traditions. Traditions become a reality through pride, involvement and commitment from both students and parents. It is the responsibility of every member of the Fairhope High School Band to honor, uphold and build upon the traditions of the band and its various music ensembles.

We are a “CLASS” organization and students will be held to stricter rules than those of the general student population.

Director’s Letter

We welcome each of you to the Fairhope High School Band. This will be a great year, full of new beginnings. We challenge you to develop and possess a positive and cooperative attitude in everything you do this year. With your best effort, we can enjoy working towards our performance goals together. As we continue the fine tradition that is the Fairhope High School Band, it is our hope that you can take some wonderful memories with you as you grow personally and musically. Together we can experience excellence through perseverance and determination.

Go Pirates!

Fairhope Band Staff

Membership Requirements

Prerequisite: *Must have participated in the middle school band continuously unless approved by Band Director*

Fee: \$400 plus front office fee of \$30.00 The purpose of band during marching season is to march at varsity football games, attend pep rallies, compete in marching contests, participate in local parades, and any other activity approved by the school administration and the band director. A required pre-school marching camp is held to teach students marching and musical fundamentals to prepare for half-time performance. Attendance is required even if extra rehearsals are deemed necessary by the band director. This class meets every day during the term with required after school rehearsals and performances.

Marching Band

To be a member of the Fairhope HS Marching Band, the student must be enrolled in the proper Marching Band period during the fall semester and meet all financial obligations. He/she must have fulfilled academic requirements per school policy: NO PASS, NO PLAY. Each student must comply with all band rules and regulations. Membership is open to everyone, but final approval is made by the band directors. The Marching Band performs at pep rallies, football games, parades, civic functions, special events, marching contests, and festivals. MB membership is a requirement for Concert Band (exceptions through directors' approval only) and Concert Band is a requirement for Marching Band. We are on a full seven period day now, which means **BAND IS A FULL YEAR COMMITMENT**. All students enrolled must be present for any and all performances associated with marching band for the entire year. The Marching Band rehearses everyday during school and one day a week after school. The student agrees to attend all rehearsals (including sectionals) and all performances. (Exceptions are through director approval only.) The color guard will meet twice a week after school, Tuesday and Thursday, and the percussion section and drumline will meet twice per week on Monday and Thursday. The term "FULL BAND" means percussion section, drumline, color guard, brass, and woodwinds; or ALL members of the band in its entirety. FULL BAND rehearsals will be on Thursday evenings from 5:30pm-8:30pm.

Pit/Percussion Section, Drumline is audition only.

Concert Bands

To be a member of the two Concert Bands, Wind Ensemble and Symphony Band, the student must be enrolled in the proper band period during the spring semester and must meet all financial obligations. Prerequisites include membership in the **Marching Band**

Each student must comply with all rules and regulations for that particular organization. The student agrees to attend all rehearsals (including sectionals) and all performances. (Exceptions are through director approval only.) The Wind Ensemble is available through audition only, and students must be enrolled in both the fall and spring semesters. The performance dress will be tuxedos and black dresses for BOTH ensembles. We will have ONE black dress for performance. This will eliminate differences in opinion with regard to appropriateness of an outfit.

Jazz Band

The Jazz Band is a select group with membership through audition only. The jazz band is often called upon to be an ambassador for the school and community at various performances. The student agrees to attend all rehearsals and performances. Students not currently enrolled in a band class will be assessed a \$30 class fee. Students will be required to purchase the necessary equipment needed for this ensemble (ex. Mutes, etc.) Any exceptions to the requirements above must be approved by the directors. Ensemble attire will be decided upon by the director.

Color Guard

Membership is by audition (Spring) and approval by the band directors and CG instructors. The CG rehearses during school day, as well as one rehearsal a week after school. The CG is a section of the

marching band. See marching band performance requirements. All Color Guard members are expected to participate in Mardi Gras parades whether or not they are in second semester band. Winter guard audition will be in November, prerequisite is membership in marching band. Student must sign up for Winter Guard class second semester and must be able to attend ALL rehearsals, camps and competitions.

If you quit any class during the semester, **YOUR SCHEDULE CANNOT BE CHANGED**. You will receive a letter grade “F”. **UNDERSTAND YOUR COMMITMENT TO THIS PROGRAM!!!**

Fees

Band Class Fee: \$30 per semester (to be paid in the front office)

Jazz Band: \$ 30 per sem. – Non-marching musicians (to be paid in the front office)

Marching Band: \$400

Winter Guard: TBA

The above amounts include registration for district and state contest, marching band competitions, music purchase and copyright procurement, uniform care, school owned instrument purchase/maintenance, bus transportation, one band t-shirt, adjunct staff, etc. It covers everything except band shoes, gloves, tuxedo/dress, some uniform cleaning and spirit wear. A large percentage of the money we spend for activities has to be paid up front, please make sure and pay at the designated times. Please keep all cancelled checks to insure proper credit for payment. For your safety and proper accounting records, we will not be accept cash for payments.

Payment Procedures

There are several different ways to fulfill your Individual Student Account. You may pay out of pocket or have your child fundraise to deplete the amount. Should you choose to make a payment, please place all money in an envelope with detailed information, including student name, purpose, amount, phone number and AL DL #. All ISA monies should be turned into the FHS band office.

* Any extra trips taken will be of extra cost individually. Students will be given fundraiser credit towards trip should that amount exceed their individual student account.

Note: Any equipment ordered for you (shoes, color guard uniform, etc.) must be paid for in advance, even if you quit band before band camp starts and have never used it. Students who are sized for something and decide to quit band before it gets used will still be responsible for payment.

Fundraisers

During the school year we will have several fundraisers with which students can impact their ISA (Individual Student Account) and to help the band program. You will get more information regarding these specific events when applicable.

General Rules

Student behavior is very important to the success of everything that we try to accomplish throughout the year. It is very important that students understand that they are not only representing themselves but the community as well. We are truly one of the most visible ambassadors of the Fairhope Community. Therefore, the following guidelines shall be followed:

Students will present themselves at all time with proper dress, language and actions. Students should always keep in mind that they are representing themselves, our school, and our community whenever they are in a rehearsal or in a performance in the community. Proper clothing, language and actions are expected at all time.

Unacceptable clothing:

Sports bras, Midriff showing, with or without movement, Spaghetti strap shirts, Shorts or pants with holes (especially in inappropriate places), Undergarments showing at any time, Clothing that has suggestive or dual meaning, any clothing that does not represent the school or community to the highest standard; shorts, skirts, or dresses of inappropriate length.

Unacceptable language:

Vulgarity of any kind, demeaning or putting down of another person, disrespectful language towards another person, or any language that does not represent the school or community to the highest standard is considered unacceptable.

Unacceptable actions:

Being disrespectful to another student, staff or parent; inappropriate gestures, any sexual intended action, and any action that does not represent the school or community to the highest standard.

Standards of Behavior

1. The use or possession of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, or drug products will not be tolerated. Failure to comply with this rule will result in expulsion from the band as well as school and legal consequences.
2. Proper respect for all teachers, administrators, parents, chaperones, and other band members will be shown at all times. As a band member you represent the entire program and school as well as yourself. You should act in a way that demands respect.
3. Profanity is not a part of this band.
4. No fighting, weapons, fireworks, lighters or explosives.
5. No offensive or inappropriate clothing.
6. No inappropriate posting (pictures/comments/status) on Social Media Sites (Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, etc.)

Band Room rules

1. The band room is to be treated with the highest respect. Any abuse or vandalism of it will result in expulsion from the band program.
2. No food, drink, or gum is allowed in the band room without express permission from a director.
3. Only band members are allowed in the band room.
4. “If you don’t play it, don’t touch it.” You are responsible for anything you break! This will help to insure that we perform on the highest quality instruments.

Rehearsal/Performance rules

1. When being addressed by a director, administrator, parent, or student leader, talking is prohibited.
2. Always look at the person who is addressing you.
3. Always come prepared. This means instrument (in working order), music, drill (fall), and any necessary accessory equipment.
4. Your absolute BEST effort is expected at all times.
5. If you are unable to participate in rehearsal during class you must bring a signed note from a parent stating the reason why you are not able to participate, OR a parent must call the band room to speak with directors, OR a parent must send an email to one of the two directors with details of the absence.
6. During Marching Season you will be required to dress out for class.
7. CELL PHONES MUST BE OFF during rehearsals, no calls unless it is an emergency.
8. No gum during rehearsals.
9. Students must wear lace up athletic shoes with socks for marching band rehearsals (NO Sandals, Boots, or Bare Feet)
10. Please bring a water bottle to all rehearsals
11. Restroom breaks will be given and students should wait until a break to leave rehearsals
12. Do Not Bring distractions with you to rehearsals (books, electronic devices, etc.)

Directors reserve the right to remove a student from performance duties upon repeated offenses or negligence of FHS Band policies

Grading Procedures

Band is a unique course at Fairhope High School that has both curricular and extracurricular requirements. Band is also a performance-based activity, meaning if you are not there to perform you are not learning and your grade will be affected. Final Averages will be computed from Rehearsals, Pass-offs, Performances, and Participation.

Final Grade Percentage Break Down: Rehearsals = 20%, Pass-offs = 20%, Performance = 30%, Participation = 30%

Performances will be graded on the following:

Attendance, uniform (band shoes, black socks, band t-shirt, black gloves, proper fit, etc.), and materials (i.e. flip folder and working order instrument)

Pass offs will consist of the following:

Music, marching dot check, instrument inspection, and Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band Audition, concert music performance, and various other performance based assessments.

Participation policy

Absences are only excused for the following reasons:

Personal illness with a doctor's note; Being present at school (day of rehearsal and day after a rehearsal) but absent from the evening rehearsal due to not feeling well is not allowed. If a student is well enough to be at school they must attend the rehearsal that evening!!!

Family emergency communicated with directors before event.

Prior approved school activity conflict. All require communication with the directors in advance of the absence.

All rehearsals are mandatory and will be posted on the band website (fairhopeband.org) Members are expected to give 100% at all rehearsals. "Work" is never an excused absence!

STUDENTS RECEIVING A GRADE OF "F" IN BAND WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CLASS

Instrument Care

School-owned instruments become the responsibility of the student to whom they are issued. Any damage other than normal wear and tear will be repaired at the student's expense. Failure to keep one's instrument in excellent working order will affect your grade. An instrument checkout sheet is to be completed for use of any instrument that belongs to the Fairhope Band.

Personal instruments should be maintained to remain in playing condition at all times. If your instrument is not working properly, please notify a director and make sure it is taken or sent to a repair shop to be fixed. Some minor repairs may be done by the directors.

Attitude

Those students who have a positive mental attitude, regardless of their individual skills, will always have a place in the Fairhope Band. A positive attitude is expected at all times. Your membership in the organization depends upon it.

Characteristics of a positive mental attitude include a generally cheerful outlook toward rehearsals and performances, cooperation in the preparation and maintenance of equipment and facilities, and an eagerness to do what is necessary to be successful. In short, the total band member is someone who is always willing to give his or her best for the good of the organization.

What we expect of students is pretty simple...Show up on time, work hard, keep a great attitude, keep quiet during ensemble time and have fun.

Recommended Instruments

Please consult the band directors before purchasing a new instrument.

Football Stands Procedures

1. Sit only where you are assigned in your section. NO ONE is allowed to go into the other sections of the band.
2. Be prepared to play at all times with required materials.
3. No food will be allowed in the stands.
4. Students needing to use the restroom during the game must be accompanied by a chaperone
5. No individual playing in the stands. Any changes, etc. must be approved in advance by the directors. Get permission before starting.
6. No Cell Phone Use once we arrive at the stadium. It is absolutely NEVER acceptable to use a cell phone during a game at any time. If seen, it will be taken up until the students are dismissed.
7. No NON-Band members are allowed in the band stands area at any time.

Bus Procedures

1. You must ride the same bus to which you are assigned.
2. You may bring a music player, but you must use earphones. NO SPEAKERS! 3. On charter busses with a DVD player, you will be allowed to bring movies. NO RATED R or PG-13 MOVIES ALLOWED! Only G or PG
4. On school buses, try to keep noise to a minimum. No loud screaming, etc.
5. Remember your appearance (clothing, etc.) reflects the band.
6. Make arrangements for parents to pick you up within 1/2 hour of returning from a trip. If you drive, please leave ASAP.
7. Please keep bus clean at all times.
8. Leave valuables at home.

Travel Procedures

1. Follow instructions of directors or chaperones at all times. If you don't understand, ask.
2. No boys in girls' rooms, no girls in boys' rooms — EVER!
3. Each bus will have a first-aid kit on board. Ask chaperones for help.
4. Remember: Shoplifting, vandalism and stealing are crimes and will result in expulsion from the band, and likely from school.
5. Make no calls between rooms after lights out, unless you are calling a chaperone to report a problem.
6. Curfews will be announced and strictly enforced.
7. All school rules are in effect for the duration of any trip.
8. Kindness and courtesy work miracles in almost every situation. Remember to say PLEASE and THANK YOU
9. There shall be no action for which an explanation is necessary. If you think someone might ask you "Why did you do that?" then don't do it.

10. When walking around at competitions, you must always think of how you are representing the group!! Be Seen and NOT HEARD!
11. Students must always conduct themselves in a professional manner when scores are announced and congratulate those groups with whom you competed at the conclusion of the event, if given the opportunity.
12. Students must pay attention to all check-in times and be at the specified locations on time (which means early!!)

Band Uniform Guidelines

1. The uniform is to be regarded with the highest respect. Any abuse of it will result in expulsion from the band.
2. The uniform is worn only as a complete unit. Never wear only a part of the uniform, unless otherwise instructed.
3. A band shirt is required under the jacket.
4. Students must furnish TALL solid black socks and specified band shoes.
5. Clean your shoes before every performance.
6. All long hair must be worn tucked in the hat. No excessive make-up and no jewelry shall be worn. (unless you are in guard and regulations will be given).
7. Always hang up the uniform CORRECTLY in its proper place when it is not being worn.
8. When being transported, the uniform must be in a garment bag.
9. The hem of the pants should be between shoe top and sole.
10. Students failing uniform inspection will lose their 3rd quarter break.
11. On days of performances, all band students should wear gym shorts under their uniform pants to make it easier when changing clothes.

Contests & Festivals

Contests, festivals, and other adjudicated activities are important features of the Fairhope Band program. It is through these activities that we obtain valuable feedback about our progress as individuals and as a program. Although we never “live or die” by any one judge’s or any panel’s opinion of our performance, it is important that we learn the value of giving maximum effort and standing by the results as our best possible effort that day.

The band’s image is based on each individual. Our public reputation is based upon our appearance, our actions, and our projection of pride and organization. It is the responsibility of each band member to insure that we present the best possible image at all times.

Student Leaders

The Band Council is a group of leaders who work with the directors in an advisory capacity. The students will also be called on for special presentations on behalf of the band. To be eligible for office, candidates must be full participants in the band program, exemplary in attitude, loyalty, dedication, and willing to give of their personal time for the betterment of the Fairhope Band. One of the primary assignments of all officers will be the band’s morale.

Section Leaders

Section-leaders are selected by the band directors and staff on the basis of musical ability, marching ability, service, dedication, loyalty, and leadership qualities. They must have completed the Leadership Training Workshop. The number of section leaders for each section may vary from section to section and year to year.

All student leaders will carry out the policies of the band, band directors, school, and school administrators to the best of their abilities. Any time you question or disagree with specific instructions from a student leader, please avoid confrontation and discuss the problem with the directors at your earliest convenience. Student leaders do not handle money or fund-raising merchandise for any other student and cannot be responsible for either. Student leaders cannot give you permission to; miss a rehearsal or performance, be tardy, or leave early.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are the key to developing an outstanding musical organization; Students who study their instruments privately with a professional show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As these students improve, their excitement towards practicing increases, they continue to improve, and they become a stronger contributor to the overall success of the band. Private instruction has a great impact on the individual student and on our band program both this year and in the future. Directors will assist you, if needed, in selecting a private instructor. The key to satisfactory results from private instruction is to start as soon as possible.... **SO START NOW!**

Staff and Chaperones

Anyone on the staff of the Fairhope Band has been selected due to the skills and qualities they possess and for the benefit they can bring the band program and should be considered an extension of the directors. They are to be treated with the highest level of courtesy and respect. Chaperones are also extensions of the authority of the directors. Without the dedication of our chaperones and other adults who assist the band, we could not travel or perform in the way we do. These people work hard, and the only payment they receive is our appreciation. Be respectful, polite, cooperative, and remember to use "Please" and "Thank You" as often as possible. If you disagree with something a chaperone asks you to do, you are not to argue with the chaperone. You are to do as you are asked and then inform the directors as soon as possible. This policy will be strictly enforced. If a chaperone has to report a student for being uncooperative or for any reason, that student is subject to removal from the group.

Tips for Parents

Rehearsals begin and end at the listed time on the schedule. If you are dropping off or picking up your student please allow 5- 10 minutes for them to gather/put away their equipment.

Please review the schedule and the attendance policy. It is important that you are helping students adhere to the policy.

Please come and support the marching band (we need chaperones too – please volunteer – it is vital to our group!) Wearing FHS colors and sitting as a group; show unity and strong support to both your student and the other groups and parents.

While at a competitions, please do not speak poorly of other groups. This reflects badly on our group. Cheer enthusiastically for other teams – all of those students work hard and deserve recognition!

If your student has any questions or concerns about anything as the season progresses please let the staff know. It is best to approach directors and instructors after rehearsal, call, or send an email.

During all rehearsals/contests there should be no scheduled conflicts with other appointments. Please check your calendar and arrange all appointments outside of rehearsal/contest days.

Please assist in insuring that your child is always prepared for the event as well as not allowing him/her to violate any of the rules expressed in this handbook.

MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

In becoming a member of the Fairhope High School Band, I agree to do my personal best to carry on the tradition of excellence and success musically and personally. I fully understand the conditions set forth in this handbook and agree to abide by them. I also understand that my attendance is mandatory to be a part of this program. I also grant to the Fairhope High School Band the right to use, publish, and reproduce for publicity, historical, and/or fun purposes excerpts from interviews, articles, essays, letters, photographs, video and audio recordings, and any other still or moving images of me taken during my participation in the band program, to be used in, but not limited to, the Band newsletter, the Band web site, Band video, newspaper articles, etc., and to use my name in this connection. I understand I shall not be paid for such use.

Both Students and Parents need to initial below (if applicable)

____ ____ I have read and understand all Band Uniform Guidelines and understand that not following guidelines will result in grade reduction.

____ ____ I have read and understand all School Owned Instrument Guidelines (replacement value, maintenance and repair)

Student Name _____ (print)

_____ (sign)

Date _____

Parent Name _____ (print)

_____ (sign)

Date _____