

2009 Blue Regiment Rule and Policy Changes

As we aim to grow and mature as a band, the policies and procedures that govern us must also grow to help alleviate problems which were common during the last two marching seasons. To that end, we have identified several areas that we need to modify for the coming marching season. Please read these carefully as they will be strictly enforced.

1. Attendance at rehearsals and performances

Attendance is non-negotiable. You must be at EVERY function in which the band participates. It is impossible to clean drill with holes, fix musical issues when not everybody is there to learn the corrections, or to find the time to “catch you up” on what you missed. This problem has plagued us for two years and it must come to an end.

Once the school year begins, each marching band member will receive two excused absences. If the school excuses it, so will we. Excused absences are not work, other club activities, movies, vacations, etc. When you make a commitment, you must honor it. On the third absence, you will be removed from the band with NO REFUND OF ANY DEPOSIT MONEY. Please make sure your parents are aware of this rule so they can schedule all doctor appointments, etc on Wednesday afternoons, or on “off days” as noted on the schedule. True family emergencies will, of course, be handled on a case by case basis. If the emergency is valid (i.e. death in the family, etc) and causes the student to miss more than two days no penalty will be issued.

If you must miss a rehearsal, you must fill out the absence form TWO DAYS IN ADVANCE and submit it to Mr. White. Failure will result in the absence be unexcused and you may be placed on alternate status or removed from the band.

If you miss a rehearsal for any reason, excused or otherwise, you will not have a third quarter break at the next football game. Instead you must remain in the stands during the band’s break.

If you miss a performance (exhibition, football game, competition, parade, etc) without prior approval, you will be immediately removed from the band WITH NO REFUND OF ANY DEPOSIT MONEY, and you will not be allowed to participate in future marching seasons. In addition, you will still be responsible for paying all fees owed up to the point of your removal. No exceptions. Don’t tell me you didn’t know there was a performance scheduled. There is a list attached (and it’s still May!).

2. Rehearsal Etiquette

All rehearsals will begin on time. If you are tardy, you lose the third quarter break that week. In addition you will be required to make up the time you lost during a break or at the end of rehearsal. Because we do exercises at the beginning of rehearsal, your “make-up” time will be spent exercising since that is what you missed. Don’t argue.

Two tardies count as one absence. And yes, we will be making it a point to check this regularly this year.

Rehearsals will be silent and productive. Unnecessary talking or other disruptions will not be tolerated. Such behavior will result in loss of third quarter break, loss of performance opportunity, removal from leadership status, or removal from the band. There is a time and place to have fun. During rehearsal we will rehearse with the proper mentality. This is the only way to improve.

3. Required Equipment

This year each student will be asked to wear solid white t-shirts to each rehearsal. This is an attempt to unify us, but it also helps give a “uniformed” look at each rehearsal. White contrasts with the black asphalt of the bus lot and will make the cleaning process much easier. Please remember this is not a fashion statement, just an attempt to make your rehearsals more productive and lead to better results. Our visual score has been the worst in our class at just about every show for the last two years, so we have to do something different to try to resolve this. I think this small sacrifice on your individual part will pay huge dividends for the group.

Sunglasses. Each student must wear them at every rehearsal.

One gallon water bottle, labeled with your name. We will be doing physical activity (i.e. exercising, marching at fast tempos, etc.) for three hours in the heat. You should have your water bottle with you at every rehearsal so you can have it as needed. This way you stay properly hydrated and healthy. This change is in direct response to everyone coming and assuming we will have water and cups at every after school rehearsal. Don't assume. Come prepared.

Dot books. You must have them around your necks at every rehearsal. No exceptions.

Please understand that if you show up to rehearsal without these items, you will be asked to go home and get them. Then you will be tardy, and will lose third quarter privileges. It isn't that hard to remember three or four things. Be responsible.

4. Personal Responsibility.

Students must be able to pass off their music AND have their dot books completed in a timely manner. All music should be memorized by the END OF BAND CAMP IN AUGUST! Failure to pass off music or to have an appropriately completed dot book will result in sitting during third quarter break. A band is only as strong as its weakest member.

Any infraction of disrespect will cause you to lose third quarter break, or in extreme cases, be immediately removed from the band without any refund of your commitment fees. You will still be responsible for any fees that you owe up to the point which you are removed.

Each member should arrive early for all announced rehearsals and performances. If a rehearsal begins at 5:00, walking in the door to assemble your instrument at 4:59 is NOT on time. Walking into the bandroom at 4:55 with a bag of food and expectations of sitting down and eating it is not on time. If you are not in your stretch block when the drum major call attention, you are tardy, will make up your time during break or after rehearsal, and your tardy will count toward your absences. Be responsible.

Be silent in rehearsal unless you are solving a problem. Have a good attitude at all times. Make a real effort to improve. Have respect for yourself and for others around you.

Resolve all conflicts with band activities now. You have the list of every rehearsal and performance from now until the end of November. Failure to resolve conflicts is not my problem. If you commit to band, you need to plan ahead.

Now, I realize you are going to read these and say wow I'm not sure if this is going to be any fun. Maybe I don't want to be a part of this. Let me assure you, these rules are put into place in direct response to issues we have had in the first two seasons. Was it fun to come to rehearsal when 20% of the band was missing and you had to be out in the heat and didn't really get anything accomplished? (Thus, the new attendance/tardy policy) Was it fun to want water during a break but couldn't get it because people had used 4-5 cups or had wasted the water in the cooler by throwing it on others? (Thus, the requirement of bringing your own water bottles). Is it fun to constantly have to remind people where they are supposed to be because they "lost" their dot books? Is it fun to waste time cleaning the same thing over and over for the same unprepared people? (Thus the rule of passing off your music and bringing all of your materials to every rehearsal). Was it fun to lose when you know you weren't performing at your best?

Let me assure you that marching band is hard work. But, it can be tremendously fun and rewarding when everyone shares the same expectations. This is what I am trying to accomplish...not make it a dreadful activity in which to participate.

-----cut along dotted line-----

I, _____ (student name) understand these rules and agree to comply. I understand failure to do so may result in removal from the band with no refund of any funds.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____