

## Note from the Director

Band Student and Parents,

I hope you all have enjoyed your summer and are excited to be a part of the most dynamic band program in Cherokee County for the 2013-2014 school year. We have scheduled many musical opportunities for you to explore and showcase your musical talent. Please take the time to read through this handbook thoroughly, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. All parents and students will need to sign the information sheet found at the end of the handbook. I look forward to working with you this school year and hope this year excites your musical interest for years to come.

Sincerely,

Billy Asis

Gaffney High School Director of Bands

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## Introduction

The band program of Gaffney High School provides a unique opportunity for the personal enjoyment of life. The band program is structured to provide every student with an opportunity to discover his or her talent in music and to develop this talent and interest to whatever level of achievement he or she desires.

It is the objective of this band program to offer every student who wishes to play a musical instrument the opportunity to do so. The band is not an exclusive club to include only the “gifted” students, nor do we believe that playing a music instrument is for everyone. We realize that what may interest one student may not be important at all to another student. We believe that, for the musically receptive child, playing an instrument can bring many rewards- musically, socially, and scholastically.

The purpose of this handbook is to introduce the band students and their parents to the band program at Gaffney High School and to establish guidelines for a successful band program. It is hoped that this handbook will inform the students and parents as to what is expected of them in the band program (and what you can expect from the director) and of the many opportunities the band program at Gaffney High School offers to each student to share and improve their musical skills.

## Band Information Form

The band information form is to be filled out by all band parents. Please complete all information requested. You will notice that this contains information similar to what the school already requires, but due to the nature of band activities, it is also necessary for the band director to maintain this information for communication purposes, as well as to have all phone numbers immediately available should an emergency arise. All students and parents are to sign the band registration form and return it to the band director.

## Director Contact and Office Hours

**Band office number:** 864-206-2078

**Director’s email:** [billy.asis@cherokee1.org](mailto:billy.asis@cherokee1.org)

**Planning Period:** 7<sup>th</sup> period 12:43-1:33

The best way to contact Mr. Asis is by email. An email response will be returned as soon as possible. If you do not have access to email you may try to contact him through the school office during his planning period. Please keep in mind Mr. Asis is very busy during school hours and after school hours teaching during rehearsals or private lessons. Please be patient while awaiting an email response or return phone call. **No phone calls will be taken during any rehearsals.**

## **Ensemble Descriptions**

### **Marching Band of Gold**

The Gaffney High School Band of Gold (BOG) is the most visible and active ensemble in the band program. Membership in the BOG is open to any 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grader interested in marching as well as color guard. Any 8<sup>th</sup> grader participating in a feeder school's band program may participate with the band director's approval. All members of the BOG are expected to fully participate in all football games, competitions, concerts, and parades. **(Please refer to the Required Performances section)**

### **Football Pep/Parade Band**

The football pep band is an extension of the Band of Gold. All students who are registered for a band class at Gaffney High School are expected to participate with this ensemble for performance credits. Although all students do not have to march in the halftime show, they will be expected to perform at the following events: Home football games, and community holiday parades. **(Please refer to the Required Performances section)**

### **Pep Band**

This optional ensemble will represent the program at any small community functions or sporting events such as basketball games and pep rallies. Membership is open to any band students, but space is limited. Membership is first decided by seniority and then by director approval.

### **Jazz Band of Gold**

The Jazz Band of Gold membership is strictly by audition only since there is limited instrumentation for the ensemble. The Jazz Band will perform at contest, concerts, community events, and any other special functions the band director deems necessary.

### **Wind Ensemble**

This 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade concert ensemble will perform at concerts and contests beginning in November and will continue through the rest of the school year **(Please refer to the Required Performances section)**. 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students may participate in this ensemble pending instrumentation needs, and director approval.

### **Concert Band**

The concert band will consist of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students and will focus on improving student musical ability and knowledge. This ensemble will perform in concerts and contests beginning in November and will continue through the rest of the school year **(Please refer to the Required Performances section)**.

### **Winter Guard/Indoor Percussion**

These ensembles are strictly by audition only. The director and instructors will hold auditions late in the fall semester, and participation/contests will be from November through March.

## **Classroom Conduct Expectations**

During all classes and rehearsals students are expected to:

- A. Be on time to class.**
- B. Enter and leave the classroom in a respectful manner.**
- C. Play instruments together or individually when directed to.**
- D. Remain seated during rehearsals unless given permission to get up.**
- E. Stack chairs and stands before leaving the room.**
- F. Respect the rights and property of others.**
- G. Properly care for their instruments and school property.**
- H. Have all materials for class: instrument, music, pencils, etc.**

## **Discipline Policy**

All students are responsible for following all rules and expectations stated in the **Gaffney High School Student Handbook** and the **Cherokee County Schools Student Code of Conduct**. Failure to adhere to the following rules of class participation can affect the student's daily comprehension and improvement as well their overall grade. The following are minor violations that will be documented and reported to parents and administration:

- A. Excessive talking or disruption while the director is teaching or giving instructions.**
- B. Playing instrument out of turn while the director is teaching or giving instructions.**
- C. Consistently not bringing required materials to class: music, instrument, pencil, etc.**
- D. Failure to keep hands, feet or personally objects to oneself.**
- E. Touching instruments that do not belong to the student.**
- F. Bringing food, drinks, candy or gum into the band room. (bottled water is allowed)**
- G. Excessive tardiness to class. (more than 3)**

Before any disciplinary steps are taken, the band director will make every attempt to solve situations with non-punitive consequences and will document any disruptions for parent/administration conferences. Continuous minor disruptions will be handled with the following steps:

- 1. Phone call to parents and documentation of disruption.**
- 2. Office referral, phone call to parent, and documentation of disruption.**
- 3. Office referral, conference with administration/parents.**

If all non-punitive consequences, parent contacts, and administration conferences fail to produce adequate behavior, then the student may have the consequence of removal from the band program.

## Grading Policy

The bands at Gaffney High School are all group based courses and the participation of each student not only affects that individual, but the learning experience of everyone else in the class. While it is not expected that each student will exceed as a musician, **each enrolled student is expected to participate fully in all activities.** There should be no need for disciplinary action or reprimand in a musical class such as band if students fully participate. Please remember that band is optional. No student is required to be in this class and it is expected that all students choose to a part of this outstanding performing group. The following grading policy will be used for this year:

### **Required Performances/Tests**

**40%**

This portion of the report card grade will be graded on attendance by the student to all required performances with in each grading period. Band will be graded as a performance based course, and students should consider all these performances as tests. Students with preapproved excused absences may receive full credit for the makeup assignment. Students with unexpected excused absences may receive a makeup assignment only by request from the student. **All students with unexcused absences will be given an automatic grade of zero with no opportunity for a makeup assignment.** There will also be at least one written vocabulary test during each grading period.

### **Daily Class Participation**

**50%**

Participation and effort are as important as any other factor in success and may, in fact, be of greater significance than any other single aspect of the grading procedure. This grading category includes: having instrument, band notebook, music, pencil, and all other necessary accessories (such as reeds) at every class meeting. A high premium is placed on the student's best effort, regardless of the performance skills demonstrated.

### **After School Rehearsals and Practice Quizzes**

**10%**

Throughout the year there will be a number of mandatory after school rehearsals. Students are expected to attend these rehearsals in their entirety. All students will receive a 1 week notice for unscheduled rehearsals. Students will also be expected to practice all music from class. To grade practicing efforts, students should expect at least one playing quiz and one vocabulary quiz each grading period.

## Required Performances

While public performances are not the main objective for many instrumental studies, they are, however, an important aspect for the proper development of musicianship. It is also important that each student realize that they are a part of a musical ensemble, and every part and instrument is important for a performance. **Therefore no excuses, short of extreme illness or emergency, will be granted for any required performance absence.** The 2013-2014 required concerts/contests are:

All Gaffney High School band students are expected to attend all home football games.

Away Football games/Marching contests – Marching Band students only

2013 Fall Concert – Wind Ensemble and Concert Band

2013 Holiday Parades – All Band Students

2013 MPA Festival – Wind Ensemble and Concert Band

2013 Spring Concert – All Band Students

Winter Guard/Indoor Percussion – Guard and percussionists only

## Non-Required Performances

Regional Band Auditions (Audition)

All State Band Auditions (Audition)

Regional Band Clinic (Pre-Audition Required)

All State Band Clinic (Pre-Audition Required)

## Uniforms/Concert Dress

Marching Band (summer) – Band of Gold T-shirt, khaki shorts or pants, and tennis shoes.

Marching Band (fall) – Band of Gold T-shirt (under shirt), black socks, marching shoes, band jacket/bibbers, shako, and plume.

Concert Band (fall) - Band of Gold T-shirt (under shirt), black socks, marching shoes, and band jacket/bibbers.

Concert band (winter/spring) – Black dress shirt, black socks, black pants, black dress shoes, and a black belt. The band program will supply gold ties for concerts.

Fall/Winter Guard and Indoor Percussion - TBD



Band Information Sheet

Student Name:

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Parent/Guardian Name:

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Contact Number:

Contact Email:

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Instrument:

Instrument Serial Number:

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Student's Homeroom Teacher:

Student's 1<sup>st</sup> period Teacher:

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\*By signing this registration form:

*The student agrees to abide by all expectations in the band handbook. Also each student is expected to commit to the following expectations for themselves: 1. Always expect greatness for your band, 2. Strive to perform excellence in every performance, and 3. Never settle for a second best effort.*

*All parents/guardians have read and understand all expectations explained in the band handbook. The above parents/guardians also are committed to supporting their band student in all their musical endeavors.*

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Band Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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