

Atlantic Community High School Band Handbook



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Table of Contents

Introduction	Page 1
To the Parents.....	Page 1
Program Offerings.....	Page 3
Marching Band Information	Page 4
Concert Attire.....	Page 6
Attendance.....	Page 7
Academic Requirements	Page 8
Respect for School and Personal Property.....	Page 8
Code of Conduct	Page 8
The “Fair Share” Financial Responsibility	Page 9
Final Statement	Page 9

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Atlantic Community High School music Program. We are eagerly anticipating the coming school year and continuing a tradition of excellence. The goal of the music program is to provide students with opportunities for learning and growth, both musical and non-musical. Participation in a band program is known to build character and discipline, alongside the mental development that has been proven many times to help students improve academically.

This handbook and syllabus includes information important for every band member. **Please take the time to read this information in full.** This will help ensure everyone understands the expectations and needs associated with band activities. This is a team effort. Your success is linked to the success of everyone. Please don't hesitate to communicate your questions, concerns, and needs. Your fellow parents and students, staff, and I are all excited to bring on a new school year with you in our company.

-Mr. Bowman

To the Parents

Your child's participation in this activity will be one of the most rewarding experiences in their high school experience. They will develop friendships that will last throughout college and even longer. They will learn vital skills such as time management, organization, dedication, and self-discipline, which they will use in the lives they choose in the future. I ask that you assist the staff and me in providing them with support, guidance, and anything they need.

You can show support as well by attending our competitions and football games. I also invite you to actively participate in our Band Boosters parent association. Our goal is for every student's family to be involved with their music experience. There are opportunities to work as chaperones, equipment helpers, fundraising, seamstresses, and anything you feel could benefit the organization. I encourage you to speak with our Band Booster president, volunteer coordinator, or any active booster parent to learn how to become involved and support the students. The Band Boosters Association meets once a month to discuss business. **We send e-mails as reminders so please make sure we have your e-mail address. We also update the website www.achsmusic.org frequently so please visit it regularly to keep up with information.**

Adding Yourself to the Atlantic Email List

This year the Atlantic High School Band Boosters have changed their method on how parents, students, and friends of the band add and remove themselves from our email lists. Everyone needs to sign up for our new system. Please visit www.achsmusic.org and find the newsletter subscribe form on the home page. Fill out the form and submit. You will receive an email with a link to verify your subscription. Our old system will be discontinued early in the school year.

Adding yourself to the Remind 101 texting system

We also utilize a mass text message program called Remind 101. It will send a text message to your phone of updated band info. We use this system to send immediate information such as times for late-night bus arrivals or rehearsal cancellations. Please text @achsmu to [\(424\)400-7082](tel:4244007082) to subscribe.

Atlantic Band Boosters Association

The Atlantic Band Booster Association is the support organization for the band program. All parents of band members are automatically members. We have a lot of fun working hard to support our students.

- Anyone who volunteers for the band needs to complete the district VIPS registration process on a school computer each year
- For all of our events and trips there will be opportunities to sign up, usually through our website. For off-campus trips, it is necessary to let us know you wish to chaperone in advance.
- Please review the “Guidelines for Chaperones and “Information for all Volunteer Parents” documents available on the band website for the procedures used at each event.

Among its many activities, the association runs many fundraisers in the fall to help students earn their fair share funds. It also provides the band with the chaperone support necessary for band activities to take place.

When busses are not provided to off-campus band events, such as parades, honor band auditions, and certain performances, parents are responsible for transporting and supervision of their own child at all times. Please make sure all arrangements are made accordingly.

Program Offerings

The band program is one of the strongest and most active organizations at Atlantic Community High School. Students from ACHS have received honors at district and state levels. It represents a comprehensive curriculum that consistently provides quality music education opportunities through these performing ensembles. The ACHS band program is a great experience for students and parents alike and we are proud to have you as a part of our family.

Marching Band

The “Marching War Eagle Band” is the most visible and active band in the music program and is a voluntary extracurricular ensemble. The function of the group is to participate in local parades, school pep rallies, football games, adjudicated marching band festivals, and competitions. Membership in the marching band is voluntary. With the exception of color guard members, students must be enrolled in a music class to be a member of the marching band. Students in this ensemble have mandatory after-school rehearsals in the fall. There will also be rehearsals before performances that occur during the remainder of the school year, such as parades. Other expectations are to attend the band camp during the summer and all performances as scheduled.

The Color Guard is the auxiliary unit to the marching band. Its primary function is to visually enhance the music on the field. Rehearsal and attendance expectations are the same. Participation in marching band as a color guard member is a great option for students who do not play an instrument, but still wish to be involved in the marching band. After the marching band season, students can also participate in Winter Guard, which is an indoor, competitive performance group that works during the winter season.

Wind Ensemble

Membership in this group is by audition only. These students are the premier performers at Atlantic. This class meets during the school day for a grade. Attitude, maturity, and dedication are key ingredients for participation in this ensemble. Private lessons are encouraged. All Wind Ensemble members are required to participate in district Solo and Ensemble, encouraged to audition for the All-District and All-State bands, and to give back to the band by helping students in other bands.

Symphonic Band

Membership in this group is based upon previous performance experience on an instrument. This class encourages and develops individual practice skills and large ensemble rehearsal techniques. Symphonic Band performs at all required Atlantic concerts as well as at the district Music Performance Assessment.

Beginning Band

Membership in this group is for students who want to learn to play an instrument, and are willing to put in the practice and dedication to succeed. The class teaches students the fundamentals of music making from the beginning. Beginning Band performs at required school concerts. It does not attend district Music Performance Assessment. Success in beginning band provides students to opportunity to enroll in Symphonic Band or audition for other ensembles.

Jazz Band

Membership in this class is based upon audition and teacher recommendation only. Jazz Band is a unique performance opportunity that explores the world of jazz, improvisation of solos, and building a well-rounded jazz musician. Outside practice is required to keep up with the demanding pace of the ensemble as well as schedule of performances. Jazz band performs at district FBA performances as well as multiple venues throughout the school year. All students must be willing to perform frequently at various locations year-round to be in this ensemble.

Percussion Class

Percussion class is reserved for percussion students in Marching Band. This class will focus on marching drum line as well as the front ensemble. All students enrolled in this class will perform in Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble in addition to percussion ensembles during concerts. Every student enrolled in this class is expected to perform at district Solo and Ensemble.

Marching Band Information

Band Camp

Band Camp is a two week period where marching band members work on learning music for the upcoming marching show as well as learning and enhancing marching skills. During these last two weeks before school, students make friends and begin being an active member of the War Eagle Marching Band. Students learn how to properly march and read drill while continuing to develop on their instrument. Here students begin learning the show music, practice marching formations, and in every way prepare for the new marching season. During Band Camp new students meet their fellow band members and become familiar with the marching band lifestyle. By the end they are prepared to begin the football season which starts the first Friday of the school year.

Each day of band camp students need to bring

- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Show Music/Stand Tunes
- Light clothing
- Pencil
- Reusable water bottle, filled with cold water
- Lunch
- Sneakers/shoes to march in (no vans, flip flops, etc)
- Instrument
- Flip book and lyre
- Sunglasses

On the last Friday, we have a 'Friends and Family Show' to showcase the band's progress over the camp. Afterwards band families have dinner together at the school. During the dinner is also a great time to purchase band apparel and music supplies!

Football Season

Football season begins the first Friday of the school year. The marching band attends most games, supporting our football team by playing music in the stands and performing our show during halftime. There will likely be some extra rehearsals on Fridays before games. Students generally stay afterschool on Fridays during this and practice in the band room, etc. Report times for football games vary based on whether it is an away game or home game. Report times will be scheduled and reported prior to the event. On Fridays students are asked to wear their band polo and jeans to school. At report time drum majors and the band captain will check all students' uniforms to make sure all is in order.

During football games, the students play stand tunes through the first and second quarter. During the second quarter the band prepares for their marching show by tuning, doing warm ups, etc. The show is performed during half time and after the show students have time to rest during the third quarter. During the fourth quarter stand tunes are played and the band supports the football team through the final quarter of the game. Football games are usually from 7-10pm. During away games the return time varies but is usually later. During football season it is helpful to keep a pair of practicing clothes in your locker in case you wear clothing that is improper for marching, such as heavy jackets, jeans, or loose shoes; as well as a personal copy of your music and drill spots in case you lose your original on the field or elsewhere.

Marching Uniform

All band uniforms purchased through the fair share are property of Atlantic Community High School. There is no rental fee for marching band uniforms. All Marching Band students are issued a uniform and will be responsible for the appropriate cleaning of the uniform at home. Students must return all assigned uniform parts by the deadline date specified in May. Students who do not return any portion of the uniform will be placed on obligation until the property is returned.

Students are expected to follow all guidelines for the marching uniform in order to perform. Please note this year we are using black shorts (not green as previous years. Hair for boys and girls must be tucked into the shako and cannot be seen hanging over the marching uniform. Hair also cannot be sprayed with coloring or glitter. With the exception of color guard members make-up should be avoided.

To be prepared for football games makes sure your uniform is in order prior to report time.

Full uniform includes:

- Marching Jacket
- Bibbers (pants)
- Black socks
- Dinkles/black marching shoes - Please put your name on the inside tongue of both shoes. The shoe order form is located in the forms packet.
- White gloves
- Shako (hat)
- Black shorts
- Show shirt - Put your name on the tag

- Instrument
- Lyre/ flipbook
- Rain Ponchos will be distributed when necessary

Most of these items will be in your locker or the quartermaster room. Not being in uniform can result in disciplinary action or not being allowed to perform.

Parades

Parades are mostly discussed around the time of the event. The two parades the band participates in each year are the winter parade in December and the St. Patrick's Day parade in March. Usually a week or two before the parade we will have a couple of rehearsals to learn and prepare for the parade. Both parades are out of the marching season therefore may have different scheduling than practices during the marching season. In this way marching band is a year round commitment. Parades are mandatory like any other performance.

CAS Hours and Community Service

Not only is marching band a great experience but also helps your school career. For freshmen and sophomores in the MYP program, marching band can meet up to 40 community service hours for your 75 total hours at the end of sophomore year. For juniors and seniors, marching band can fulfill creative or action hours for the IB diploma. There are also other school programs with similar requirements that band participation helps fulfill. Getting credit for these hours is usually taken care of towards the end of the marching season. One of the band leaders will be able to provide all the dates and hours over the marching season.

Concert Attire

Gentlemen: Black shirt, Black Dress Pants, Black Belt, Black Tie, Black Socks, Black Shoes. These we ask you to purchase on your own.

Ladies: Atlantic will rent you a concert dress for \$25. It is your responsibility to care for this dress all year and return it at the conclusion of the year. Beginning Band ladies we may ask you to purchase a black long dress for concerts depending on availability of concert dresses.

Attendance

Attending all rehearsals and performances ON TIME is required of all members. Our success depends on every single member being present ON TIME to perform their part. Please read your emails regularly, and always check the Band Calendar when scheduling other activities. Students must be responsible and plan ahead with their parents!

To Be Early Is To Be On Time, To Be On Time Is To Be Late, To Be Late Is Unacceptable.

Excused/ Unexcused Absences

Many related band and satellite group activities occur after school, evenings, and weekends. Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances for all bands. If a student fails to pull their own weight their participation in future performances may be denied. Absences from required activities are handled in two ways:

Excused Absences

- Students and parents should check dates immediately upon notification to determine if there is a conflict with a previously scheduled event. If a conflict cannot be rearranged and is excusable, the student should immediately provide the director with a parental note explaining the conflict and requesting an excused absence.
- In case of last minute illness or family emergency, the director should be notified through parental contact (phone message on the band phone) or note, 2 days in advance of the activity if possible. If advance notice is not possible, the student should provide the director with a parental note immediately upon his or her return to school.
- In order for a student's absence to be excused, the director must be apprised of the conflict **IN WRITING**. The director will make the ultimate decision as to whether an absence is excused or unexcused.
- The following reasons are examples of an **excused absence**: Death in the family, personal illness, religious holiday. When a leave (L) form is signed by the director students may participate in sporting or academic events that represent Atlantic Community High School.
- These absences will be assessed beginning the first mandatory band camp date until the conclusion of our performance schedule.

Note: Festivals and Concerts are considered a priority over other school activities

Unexcused Absences

- If a student fails to attend a required activity without following the above guidelines for an excused absence, the student's absence will be considered unexcused.
- A student's participation may be affected by unexcused absences.
- Absence from a rehearsal due to detentions is unexcused and will be treated accordingly.
- Work, babysitting, homework, doctor's appointments, forgetting things, transportation and parents out of town are reasons that will not be excused for missing a band function.

When an excused absence from a performance affects a class grade, a make-up assignment will be provided and must be completed by the deadline given. Please demonstrate your commitment

to our program by arranging personal obligations AROUND rehearsals. When Band members are absent, the rest of the ensemble suffers significantly. Even after a person returns, the ensemble is negatively affected until the person gains back what was missed.

Academic Requirements

A minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average is required by the district in order to participate in any evaluation performance (festivals, assessments, and competitions). The Atlantic Band prides itself on maintaining one of the highest overall GPA averages of any organization on campus.

Respect for school and personal property

It is a privilege to be a member of the Band. Our band room is a special place, which only band students have earned the right to enter. Students that are not in our band are not allowed in the band room, and all band members are responsible for helping to enforce this rule. The way you enter and treat this room, and everything in it, should demonstrate your respect for our high standards. Cleaning up is EVERYONE'S JOB! You must show respect for your fellow band members by leaving their personal property alone. Do not use storage shelves as your personal locker. Finally, Keep all food, drinks, and gum out of the band room!

Code of Conduct

All students are required to follow all the rules and regulations set forth by the Atlantic Community High School. Every student is expected to conduct themselves like ladies and gentlemen during any school related event. Misbehavior not only looks bad upon you but looks bad for the band and the school. Remember, in and out of uniform you still represent our organization. Even if off campus at other schools or competitions, the band is an extension of the school and must act appropriately at any band related events.

The “Fair Share” Financial Responsibility

All band members are asked to fund-raise. This helps cover many expenses which are not funded by the school district. Money fundraised helps the band pay for expenses such as new instruments, trips, and equipment. Every student will be responsible for a “fair share” amount of the band budget each year, which can either be fundraised or paid directly. Students should participate in all fundraisers, even after they have completed their “fair share.” The amounts listed below outline the obligation per student. Please understand the band also relies on funding from local sponsorships and other means to keep these costs down. Extra fundraising in addition to these costs is a necessity. If you have an idea for a fundraising opportunity, please don’t hesitate to talk to the band director or Band Boosters leadership. Your support is what makes this band program able to function.

Projected “Fair Share” cost per student for 2014-2015 School Year

Students in Marching Band/Color Guard	\$500
Students only in Band/Percussion classes	\$200
Students only in Winter Guard	\$200

If a student quits band or transfers to another school they are still responsible for the entire band fee unless other arrangements are made with the band director. If a student still wishes to participate in band, but is unable to meet these fundraising obligations before the deadlines during the school year please contact Mr. Bowman. By signing the “Handbook Receipt” from the forms packet, you indicate that you understand and accept the applicable financial obligation of being part of the Atlantic Community High School Band Program.

Student Accounts

Individual accounts are generated for each member of the program in order to facilitate the tracking of fair shares, fundraising, and trip fees. Certain fundraising activities such as football program ad sales and cheesecake sales distribute a percentage of the profits into the students account. Students who do not participate in these activities will not earn credit. Best effort is made to email account balances monthly prior to each booster meeting. At the end of the year all remaining funds are automatically rolled over into each student’s account for the next school year. If a student drops out or graduates from the program the money remains in the programs’ funds. The student may request to have the money transferred to another family members’ account or into other funding resources designated by the band director.

Final Statement

We are glad to have you as a part of The War Eagle band program and we appreciate your time and dedication in making it a successful and fun experience for all. We look forward to seeing you throughout the year and hope you have a wonderful year learning music with us, making friends, and putting on exceptional performances!