

# FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL BANDS



*Continuing the Tradition...*

## Band Handbook 2010–2011

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[www.patriotbands.org](http://www.patriotbands.org)

# INDEX

Cover Sheet.....	1
Index.....	2
Letter from the Director.....	3
Purpose of the Band Program.....	4
Objectives of the Band Program.....	4
Fundraising.....	5
Band Fees & Expenditures.....	6
Performing Ensembles.....	7-8
Other Class Offerings.....	8
Performing Ensembles Discipline/Grading Policy.....	8-9
Marching Band Schedule.....	10
Attendance Requirements and Procedures for Absences.....	11-12
Director/Staff Information.....	12
Leadership Information.....	13-14
Band Officers & Duties.....	13
Chain of Command.....	15
Philosophy of Practice.....	15
Code of Conduct.....	15
Uniforms, Music, Instruments and Equipment.....	16
Medical Information.....	17
FHS Band Picnic.....	17
Merit Points.....	17-18
Trips.....	19
Band Trip Rules.....	19
Bus Rules.....	19
Band Calendar & Announcements.....	20
Required Forms.....	20
2010-2011 Handbook Acknowledgement Form.....	21
Freedom High School Medical Release Form.....	22-23

Parents and Students:

Welcome, to what will be another wonderful year at Freedom High School! I hope you have all enjoyed a relaxing summer break as I have and are ready to get back to work in continuing the tradition of excellence that has been set before you.

Please remember that by signing the handbook/ discipline form at the end of this handbook, you indicate that have read over its contents. Students will be held accountable for their actions in line with the rules and regulations of this band program.

Finally, I would like to encourage the parents/ guardians of each student to become involved in the band booster organization. The success of our band program can never be fully reached without the involvement of you. Even if you are unable to perform any "manual labor," we can still find something for you to help us with. We are always in need of more parent volunteers. The band only gets better with more support, and I can speak as a former band member myself to tell you that having parents/ guardians involved in a child's life is more important than anything. The students need your support and must know that you are involved in one of their favorite activities! Please consider this! At the end of band camp, we will be having a picnic for everyone and at that time you may sign up to volunteer your services with our booster organization. You can also attend band booster meetings held every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm in the band room.

Thank you for your time and attention. I'm sure you will find this handbook to be very informative. Please refer to the website for any dates, times, or other information you may need - [www.patriotbands.org](http://www.patriotbands.org). Good luck this year! Let us continue the tradition together...

Jason C. Hoyle  
Director of Bands, Freedom High School



# FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is one of the many activities the band participates in to pay for its expenses. Each student will be asked to participate in several fundraisers throughout the year. Although fundraising is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged because it not only helps your band, but also helps YOU in paying for expenditures. Students will not be excused from any fees or necessary expenditures due to the fact that so many fundraising opportunities are given to them - all they must do is participate. If they do not participate, students/parents must pay their fees completely at their own expense. This includes one of the biggest costs for the students, the spring trip. In case of extreme financial distress, payment plans can be worked out between the parents and the band director.

Each student will be given a "Band Account." The starting balance in this account is \$0. In this account, the student can place fundraised money into it and use that for band-related expenses. **Please note:** *The student can ONLY use this money for band events or band needs, i.e. Spring Trip (payment for the trip itself), band shoes, gloves, or marching band fees. Any other use of money will be determined as legitimate or not BY THE BAND DIRECTOR. This money cannot be used for personal needs, and it is illegal to do so. When money is raised, it is raised in the name of Freedom High School and its band program, not in the name of that individual.*

When a student graduates, their remaining balance cannot be taken out. Instead, that money must be either be passed down to a younger sibling currently in the band at FHS or placed in the general band booster account to be used by the band director and boosters at their discretion. The rules of this account are non-negotiable.

There are three types of fundraisers we do. The band director and the band booster organization determine the type of fundraiser the band participates in. These are described below:

- 1.) **Percentage-Profit Fundraiser** - Student is given a percentage of the money raised and the band boosters are given a percentage of the money raised. The band director and the executive board determine the percentage.
- 2.) **100% Band Profit** - All money raised by the students is given placed directly into the band booster general fund for support of the band program (e.g. purchase of a new instrument).
- 3.) **100% Student Profit** - All money raised by the student is placed directly into that student's band account.

*Note:* "All money raised" is determined after all the supplies are bought to run the fundraiser. If a student were to sell \$500 worth, that does not necessarily mean \$500 would be placed into their account.

*Examples of fundraisers: Raffles, Fruit Sale, Pepsi Sale, etc.*

When turning in fundraised money, please make all checks payable to: "**FHS Band Boosters**". Paying by check is the preferred method of payment, as the canceled check becomes your receipt. Please place all payments in a sealed envelope with the student's name clearly marked on it. Payments may be dropped in the blue box located in the music office - please do not hand payments to the director (unless he specifically requests you to do so). Funds may also be mailed to the following address:

**FHS Bands, 511 Independence Blvd., Morganton, NC 28655.**

# BAND FEES & EXPENDITURES

As stated earlier, to maintain and up keep such a large organization certain fees are necessary. This year, for marching band members, there will be a required membership fee of \$40 per student. This fee is due by the last official day of school for the following marching season. This fee is to help pay for marching band expenses such as new marching instruments, music, t-shirts, field supplies and other such needs. If a student has prior money in their band account, this may be used to pay for this fee. Fees are non-refundable; if a student should quit or be expelled from the band, this money is lost.

Please note that some bands require their band members to pay hundreds of dollars simply to pay for their students to participate. Fortunately, in the FHS band program, this has not become a necessity. The band boosters try to keep all fees reasonable so anyone that wishes to participate can and will not be held back simply because of financial reasons.

*For marching band members, there are also a few more expenses. A list is below:*

1. 1 pair of White Leather Band Shoes - purchase through Mr. Hoyle. Must be ordered by end of band camp!
2. 1 pair of White calf-high socks
3. Flip-Folder and Lyre - Winds only. Purchase through Music Center.
4. 1 pair (minimum) of White Marching Band Gloves - purchase through Mr. Hoyle
5. Percussionists - will purchase their own mallets/sticks through Mr. Mabry.
6. Color Guard - will purchase their own uniforms. The guard instructor will choose special gloves and shoes.
7. Brass Members - will purchase their own valve oil, mouthpieces, etc.
8. Woodwind Members - will purchase their own reeds, cork grease, etc.
9. Drum Majors - will purchase their own uniform.

# PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

## Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble is an auditioned ensemble (4th period, 2nd semester) made up of brass, woodwinds and percussion students that play music of the highest difficulty at Freedom. They perform an average of three major concerts per school year and the students participate in local, district, state, and national concert festivals and contests. ATTENDANCE FOR ALL REHEARSALS (In-Class and After-School) AND PERFORMANCES IS MANDATORY. Wind Ensemble leaders will be determined through chair auditions. After-school rehearsals/performances are considered the "lab" portion of band class and are very important to the success of the entire ensemble and will be graded.

Chair auditions: After marching season, students will have chair auditions to determine their placement in the Wind Ensemble. This audition will consist of sight-reading, select major scales, and a prepared selection.

## Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is a non-auditioned ensemble (1 period, 2nd semester) made up of brass, woodwind, and percussion students that performs music on a difficulty level of that below the Wind Ensemble. Students who are not placed in the Wind Ensemble through audition or chose not to audition will be a part of the Symphonic Band. They perform an average of three major concerts per school year and the students participate in local, district, state, and national concert festivals and contests. ATTENDANCE FOR ALL REHEARSALS (In-Class and After-School) AND PERFORMANCES IS MANDATORY. After-school rehearsals/performances are considered the "lab" portion of band class and are very important to the success of the entire ensemble and will be graded.

## Patriot Marching Band

The Marching Band (4th period, 1st semester) is made up of brass, woodwinds, percussion, and color guard. They perform at all football games, pep rallies, and parades as well as several band competitions (between 3 and 4). This ensemble is co-curricular so it will be a portion of the student's grade as well as involve after school activities. Marching band is open to all dedicated students grades 9-12. The marching band meets only in the fall semester. ATTENDANCE FOR ALL REHEARSALS (In-Class and After-School) AND PERFORMANCES IS MANDATORY. After-school rehearsals/performances are considered the "lab" portion of band class and are very important to the success of the entire ensemble and will be graded.

## Percussion Ensemble

The percussion ensemble is an in-class ensemble (3rd Period, 1st and 2nd semesters) made up of percussion students. This class will cover the fundamentals of percussion for the less experienced percussionists while highlighting advanced topics for the more experienced percussionists. In the fall, all marching percussion and front ensemble will be enrolled in the class. During the spring, the percussion ensemble will be made up of those percussionists that do not place (through audition) into the wind ensemble or symphonic band. The percussion ensemble will perform at school concerts, Solo & Ensemble Festival, and community functions.

## Jazz Band

The FHS Jazz Band is made up of band students who audition and are placed into the after school group. Practices are once a week, beginning in November, for two hours. Practice schedule varies on student schedules. The instrumentation needed for the Jazz Band is Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax, Trombone, Trumpet, Piano, Bass Guitar, Guitar, Piano, and Drum Set/ Auxiliaries. Students are highly encouraged to participate in this fun ensemble! This is also a good way for a flute, clarinet, bassoon, or oboe player to learn how to play another instrument.

## BRASS AND WOODWIND ENSEMBLES

These are otherwise known as Chamber Ensembles. These ensembles will be organized based on student willingness and dedication. These ensembles might perform at solo and ensemble festivals within the district (during the spring).

\*\*\*Other ensembles may be formed during the course of the year.\*\*\*

## OTHER CLASS OFFERINGS

### MUSIC APPRECIATION

The Music Appreciation class (1st period, 1st semester) offers students a chance to study the origin and development of art music through music history, music theory, and aural recognition. This course will cover composers, musical styles/ genres, and social/ political factors that affect the development of art music from 500 A.D. to the present. Students who are planning to pursue a music degree after high school should take this course but it is open to all students at Freedom High School.

# Performing Ensembles Discipline/Grading Policy

At Freedom, students are disciplined and rewarded based on their behavior/attendance with the Merit Point system. Although we will still use a merit system, most of the discipline/attendance issues will be reflected in the student's grade. See below for details:

**MERIT SYSTEM:** Merits will be rewarded to students who display outstanding behavior, attendance, attitude, etc. The band director, drum majors, and section leaders may issue merit points only. Students must earn the required number of merit points through attendance and behavior to letter in marching band at the end of the year.

**GRADING POLICY:** *Since Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble and Marching Band are performing ensembles that requires student participation for success, ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY; and it will play an important role in the grading policy. See below for details:*

Evaluation for any performance-based class will be determined by an average of this criterion:

1. Weekly Effort, Conduct, and Participation Grades
2. Preparation for Class (Having materials, etc.)
3. Attendance and Tardy Grade for Rehearsals
4. Written Evaluations (including Semester Exams)
5. Level of Musicianship and Improvement
6. Playing evaluations (at least all 12 major scales + chromatic are required for High School ensembles)
7. Care of Equipment
8. Performance Attendance & Attendance at District/County Festivals

Attendance Grading Policy:

\*Grading policy for in-class rehearsals will be the same as FHS' policy on Attendance.

\*Absence from After School Rehearsals (without school or parent approval): Unexcused Absence: Student will be deducted merit points for each unexcused absence and will be further away from lettering.

\*Absence from Performances (without approval by director): Unexcused Absence: Student's grade will drop by one letter grade for each unexcused absence.

\* Students who miss rehearsals or performances may also be excluded from marching in the next few performances as an alternative form of disciplinary action. The student's grade will still reflect this.

Each 9 Weeks' Grade will be determined by the following:

25% - Practice and Effort - Students will be evaluated on their practicing. There will be no written record given by the band director to the students concerning practice, so evaluation will be strictly aural. The director will be able to tell if the students are giving enough time toward practice because improvement will either occur or not occur. Students should practice an average of 30 minutes, 3 times per week.

25% - Rehearsal/Performance Preparation - Students are expected to have all materials. Students start with 100 points per 9 weeks in this category. A lack of required materials during any class will result in a deduction of points by the director.

25% - Grade Level Mastery - Students will be given a grade by the director at the end of the 9 weeks based on their mastery of the Grade Level objectives. This grade will be based upon their level of achievement on Scales, Technique, Tone Quality, Pitch, Musical Expression, Rhythmic Accuracy, and everything else outlined by these standards. An evaluation to test these skills may be administered at the Director's discretion.

25% - Playing and Written Tests - These assignments will be assessed through announced tests. They will be performed during band class and will be graded by the band director. Playing assignments will be announced in advance so students will have ample time to prepare at home.

# 2010 Freedom High Marching Patriots Tentative Calendar of Events

Tues., Jun. 1	3:30-5:00	Rookie Camp, after school (Leadership and 1st year marchers)
Wed., Jun. 2	3:30-5:00	Rookie Camp, after school (Leadership and 1st year marchers)
Wed., Aug. 11	9:00-3:00	Leadership Workday (Drum Majors, Section Leaders/Captains)
Aug., 12-13	8:00-4:00	Full Band Camp
Aug., 16-20	8:00-4:00	Full Band Camp (*On Aug. 20th we will stop at 12 noon)
Tues., Aug. 24	*see below	Afternoon/Evening rehearsal
Fri., Sept. 3	5:00-11:30	Away Game at East Burke
Fri., Sept. 10	5:00-11:30	Home Football vs. Draughn
Fri., Sept. 17	5:00-11:30	Home Football vs. McDowell
Fri., Oct. 1	5:00-11:30	Away Game at Burns
Sat. Oct. 2	Time TBA	Possible Contest Date
Fri., Oct. 8	5:00-11:30	Home Football vs. RS Central
Sat. Oct. 9	Time TBA	Possible Contest Date
Sat., Oct. 16	Time TBA	FREEDOM CLASSIC
Fri., Oct. 22	5:00-11:30	Home Football Game vs. East Rutherford
Sat., Oct. 23	Time TBA	Contest - East Burke
Fri., Nov. 5	5:00-11:30	Home Football vs. Patton
Sat., Nov. 6	Time TBA	Contest - Newton-Conover
Tues., Nov. 30	Time-TBA	Morganton Parade
Thurs., Dec. 2	Time-TBA	J. Iverson Riddle Parade
Sat., Dec. 4	Time-TBA	Valdese Parade (AM) & Glen Alpine Parade (PM)
Sat., Dec. 11	Time-TBA	Rutherford College Parade

\*After August 20th (the last day of band camp), we will have a mandatory afternoon/evening marching band rehearsal every Tuesday and Thursday from 4-6pm\*

\*\*\*ALL SCHEDULED REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY for all Marching Band members. All event times, with the exception of Band Camp and Tuesday/Thursday evening rehearsals are approximate. Any needed additions or deletions to this scheduled will be announced as soon as they are arranged so that personal schedules can be adjusted.\*\*\*

# ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR ABSENCES

Each FHS Member needs to understand that the success of these ensembles depends upon each members' attendance! We cannot have members missing or being tardy and expect to be successful. For each ensemble there are certain requirements. *Note that an unexcused absence from a performance will result in a zero for that grade, disciplinary action, and merit point deductions.*

## **ABSENCE PROCEDURE FOR A REHEARSAL:**

Attendance is required for each rehearsal and every performance. *For necessary absences, leniency will be granted on an individual basis and by grade/merits of the student.* The procedure for being excused from a **rehearsal** is as follows:

1. Contact the band office at (828) 438-4295 to leave a message.
2. Bring a note describing the reason for absence and signed by your parents/guardians prior to the absence or after the absence for a merit point deduction.

If at all possible, please inform the director at least 48 hours before a scheduled rehearsal if you know you must miss.

## **ABSENCE PROCEDURE FOR A PERFORMANCE:**

The procedure for being excused from a performance is as follows:

1. Submit a request to miss a performance to the Director for consideration at least two (2) weeks in advance of the performance (also signed by parents).
2. In case of illness, follow the same procedure for missing a rehearsal.

Note: Failure to give proper notice will be considered unexcused and will result in the lowering of your letter grade for the semester (wind ensemble, symphonic band, percussion ensemble) and the issuance of demerits (marching band).

## **TARDINESS:**

*" To be early is to be on time . . . To be on time is to be late . . .  
And to be late is to be left!"*

*- Dr. Benjamin Caton*

Tardiness should be avoided at all cost. Each band member is expected to arrive at every rehearsal and performance with music, instrument/equipment, pencil, drill, and any other special item that might be called upon for the event. The Attendance Requirements list exists to provide ample time for performance preparation.

EXAMPLES OF UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:

- Work
- Going out of town
- Church events (schedule is open to accommodate people on Wednesday and Sunday nights)
- Non-emergency doctor or dentist appointments. These should be scheduled around band events
- Shopping or hair appointments
- Claiming someone "made you late"
- Other school and after school related activities (unless arrangements have already been made between the band director and coach/sponsor)

EXAMPLES OF EXCUSED ABSENCES:

- Extreme illness
- Sudden emergencies
- Death in the family

\* Unforeseen events may arise; these will be dealt with on an individual basis by the director.

## DIRETOR/STAFF INFORMATION

Jason Hoyle Director of Bands	438-4295	jhoyle@burke.k12.nc.us
Robert Johnston Associate Director of Bands	439-3413	rjohnston@burke.k12.nc.us
Carmi Litterini Colorguard Instructor	803-1621	carmilia.moose@yahoo.com
Justin Mabry Percussion Instructor	540-521-9832	jmabry85@gmail.com

# LEADERSHIP

## Band Officers and Duties

Each year the band director selects section leaders, captains, and other offices to provide student leadership to the band. Student leadership is a valuable asset, which can make or break a band program. Leadership should not be abused by any means. Always remember that respect is not demanded, it is earned. Being in a leadership position does not give one the right to degrade another member of the band. In addition, leadership is often seen as serving, not giving orders. Think about it!

Below is a list of band officers with their responsibilities:

### **Drum Majors**

The director chooses the drum majors after an audition process and interview.

The drum majors act as the field leaders of the marching band. In addition, the drum majors will have these primary responsibilities:

- Help maintain a sense of discipline during rehearsal
- Leads stretching exercises at beginning of rehearsals
- Help instruct basic marching fundamentals
- Acts as the link between the band director and the band on the field
- Conduct the entire field show from memory with a coherent routine
- Perform duties for the director (i.e. make copies, run rehearsals, etc.)

### **Band Captain**

The section leaders at large choose a captain through a vote. The primary responsibility of a captain is to be a role model and inspiration to the rest of the band. The captain will also have responsibilities including:

- Record Attendance
- Help maintain the band's discipline during rehearsal
- Setup marching blocks and sometimes lead marching fundamentals
- Band liaison to the band boosters
- Run/organize student led meetings

### **1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant would be an assistant to the Band Captain and a representative for the FHS band. In addition, the 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant will also carry out these duties:

- Fill in for Band Captain
- Double check equipment for rehearsal
- Lost and Found items. Aid in cleaning up band room and practice field
- Organizing any full band rewards

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants would be assistants to the Band Captain and a representative for the FHS band. In addition, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants will also carry out these duties:

- Bathroom/dressing room/restaurant monitors. Facility management.
- Coordination of publicity in media

### **Section Leaders**

The director chooses a section leader (or two, depending on section numbers) for each instrument after an interview. The section leader's primary responsibility is to keep up the morale and attitude of their individual section while also being an inspiration and role model to the rest of the band. In addition, the section leaders will also carry out these duties:

- Report attendance to band captain
- Help their sections in the memorization of music and drill
- Call members of their section if they are absent (not to interrogate them!)
- Make sure their section members are learning their music and passing off their music by the dates designated by the director
- Call sectionals and run sectionals
- Lead marching fundamentals
- Inspect instruments of their respective section weekly
- Check equipment and uniforms of section before each performance, also to make sure that everything is loaded on to the trailer or bus.

### **Field Crew**

The field crew is a volunteer group that is responsible for taking care of the practice field in preparation for rehearsals. In addition, the field crew will also carry out these duties:

- Make sure the practice field is properly lined and ready for practice
- Take chips and megaphone out every practice
- Take field markers out every practice

### **Trailer Crew**

The Trailer crew consists of individuals appointed by the band director to help load and unload the trailer when the band travels to any event. They are the only ones allowed on the trailer at any time. They are responsible for making sure all instruments get loaded properly and are secure for travel.

### **Uniform Crew**

The Uniform crew consists of individuals appointed by the section leaders and drum majors. These students would consistently check the uniform room for cleanliness and organization. They would aid in the dispersing of the uniforms at the beginning of the season and the collection of the uniforms at the end of the season.

\*\*\*At awards ceremonies, the representation of the Freedom High School Band will consist of the following: Drum Majors, Band Captain, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants, Field Battery section leader, Front Ensemble section leader, and Color Guard section leader(s).

# CHAIN OF COMMAND

The purpose of the Chain of Command is to avoid overloading one or two people with the job of solving minor problems or concerns. Most things can be taken care of within your own section, but in those cases when that is not adequate, the procedure will be as follows:

1. Speak with your Section Leader first.
2. If you are not satisfied, speak with your captain (Brass, Woodwind, Color Guard, Percussion)
3. If you are still not satisfied, speak with the drum major or a staff member.
4. If you are still not satisfied, speak with Mr. Hoyle.
5. If you are still not satisfied, then Mr. Hoyle will speak with the principal.

# PHILOSOPHY OF PRACTICE

Students should practice a minimum of 30 minutes 3 times per week on their music. This means every student must take his/her instrument home on a regular basis if they do not have another instrument at home. *Students who consistently leave their instruments at school every night may receive a demerit or have their grade reduced. Some students will be given special consideration due to bus regulations and as the need arises.*

There is no way you can master all the skills needed to play the music we perform in any ensemble by only playing it during class time. If you make a commitment to be a part of this band program, you make a commitment to practice at home and carry your own load.

# CODE OF CONDUCT

Each member is here by choice and will be treated as an adult. In return he/she is expected to act as an adult at all times and to avoid those situations that would cause one to compromise himself/herself or the school. It is advisable for all band members to realize that they are members of one of the most visible organizations on campus and serve as liaisons of FHS. Any conduct which is not exemplary or which reflects poorly on FHS will result in dismissal from the organization. If this kind of behavior occurs while on an off-campus trip, the student(s) will be sent home at their own expense.

The conduct of any student will be evaluated by the "merit/demerit" system as stated above for marching band in addition to the student's grade.

The conduct of any student will be a factor in their grading only as stated above for wind ensemble, symphonic band, and percussion ensemble.

# UNIFORMS, MUSIC, INSTRUMENTS, & EQUIPMENT

## **Uniform Requirements:**

For marching band, some expenses are expected of the students. For uniforms, these items are required of the students:

1. Students will be responsible for providing their own marching band shoes, white gloves, and white socks. There are shoes and gloves specifically designed for marching band that need to be purchased before marching season begins. White tennis shoes are not acceptable. These items must be solid white; they must be clean!

2. Drum Majors and Guard members are required to obtain a special kind of shoe and uniform. Please see Mr. Hoyle or the Guard Instructor for the correct style.

## **Proper way to wear a FHS Band Uniform:**

Uniform coat over band t-shirt or section shirt. White socks and shoes will be worn with white pants.

For concert season, uniformity is also essential for performances. A detailed list of items to be purchased will be distributed to these students within each ensemble.

## **Music Requirements:**

All students are expected to have music in their folders at every rehearsal as well as coordinate sheets for marching band rehearsals. They should also plan to come to each rehearsal, indoor and out, with pencil and flip folder (with music and coordinate sheets).

## **Instrument/Equipment Requirements:**

The school will provide percussion instruments to percussion students. Percussionists are required to provide their own stick tape, mallets, and sticks. Band instruments will only be distributed to students based on cost of item or need of student (i.e. tubas, euphoniums, horns, etc.).

## **For Band Camp, students will need to have these items purchased:**

- Flip Folder
- Lyre
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen/hat/sun protection

## **Policy on School-Owned Equipment:**

School owned properties, instruments, and equipment can be distributed for use with school band personnel only; however, certain obligations must be accepted by the student before a loan can be given.

1. The student will follow proper procedures in securing property:
  - Sign an Agreement form and Check-Out form
  - Return property at the end of each semester (instruments cannot be taken over the summer unless approved by the Director)
2. The student will accept full responsibility for the property while in their possession. This will include:
  - Repair of any damage from the result of negligence or misuse.
  - Replacement of lost or stolen articles of property or instruments while in the student's possession.
  - Compensating the school for any lost or stolen property at the current price as established by the Director.

# MEDICAL INFORMATION

Students are required to have a medical form properly filled out and signed by the parents and/or guardians before he/she will be allowed to participate in band activities. If the student is not covered under some type of hospitalization insurance policy, the parents will be required to attach a letter stating the school will not be held responsible for charges incurred due to medical emergency and the parent will be legally responsible for all charges incurred while securing medical treatment.

## FHS BAND PICNIC

The FHS Band Boosters would like to invite you and your family to the Band picnic on Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm on the visitor's side of the FHS Stadium. Parents will have a chance to get a first glimpse at the 2010 field show: *From the New World!* Please indicate on the Handbook Acknowledgement Form at the end of this handbook an approximate number from your family that will attend the band picnic this Thursday.

## MERIT POINTS

**In order to receive a marching band letter, bar, star or medal, a student must do the following:**

- Earn at least the minimum number of merit points listed below that applies to their section by the end of marching band season.
  - 625 - Winds
  - 725 - Percussion & Color guard
- Be enrolled in and maintain a B average or higher for the semester in the 3rd or 4th period marching band class.

**Points may be earned for:**

- Summer percussion & color guard rehearsals (6 x 5 pts)
- Each day of band camp (7 x 10 pts)
- Evening rehearsals (24 x 10 pts)
- Each football game (6 home, 1 away, possible playoffs x 20 pts)
- Each marching contest (4 - including Classic x 20 pts)
- Mandatory sectionals (winds = 2 x 10 pts; percussion & guard = 11 x 10 pts)
- Optional sectionals (5 pts each)
- Parades (4 x 20 pts) (Valdese/Glen Alpine is considered one parade)
- Recognition by director, instructor, drum major, or section leader for exemplary behavior, marching technique, or musicianship (1-10 pts)

**Points may be deducted for:**

- Tardy (1-5 mins. = -2 pts)
- Tardy (6-15 mins. = -4 pts)
- Tardy (16+ mins. = -7 pts)
- Unexcused Absence from rehearsal or performance (-10 pts)
- Talking or disruptive behavior during rehearsal (-2 pts per infraction)
- Chewing gum, candy, or food during rehearsal (-2 pts per infraction)
- Wrong shoes worn to rehearsal (-2 pts per infraction)
- Forgetting instrument, guard equipment, music or coordinate sheet when needed (-5 pts per infraction)
- Not properly storing instrument, music, guard equipment (-5 pts per infraction)
- Not properly storing marching band uniform (-10 pts per infraction)
- Conduct unbecoming of a band member (-10 minimum deduction; up to discretion of directors, based on severity of incident)

All deductions will increase by 1 point for each repeated offense (ex. The second gum offense = -3 points, and the third = -4 points.)

Written excuses for absences from rehearsals or performances must be turned in and approved (by Mr. Hoyle) at least 48 hours prior to the absence.

- Excuses that are turned in and approved less than 48 hours prior to the absence will result in a 2-point deduction.
- Excuses that are returned in and approved after the absence will result in a 5 point deduction.
- Last minute illnesses and family emergencies will be taken in to consideration before any decisions about deductions for excused absences.
- Work is NEVER an excused absence. Don't even bother bringing a written excuse.

Once a student has accumulated 40 points in deductions throughout the course of the marching band season, they will be ineligible to perform with the marching band at the next scheduled performance. This will also be considered an "unexcused absence" from a performance, which, as stated above, will incur an additional 10-point deduction. Ineligibility will again occur after a student has accumulated 80 points in deductions, 120 points, etc.

## HONOR CORDS

Honor cords are given to students who elect to participate in a band class all 8 semesters they are at Freedom High School. These students have made music a priority in their high school career and they will be recognized for it when they graduate. It is too difficult to consider those students who may have class conflicts with classes they elect to take rather than the classes they must take. There is increasing difficulty in scheduling classes for students and Mr. Hoyle will be as creative and helpful as possible; but in order to be fair and consistent, this is the policy that must remain in place for students receiving their honor cords at graduation.

# TRIPS

When distance prohibits one-day trips, adequate housing for each band member will be arranged by the band office and provided by the band booster organization (through fund raising or payment of individual trip cost by the parent/guardian). Detailed information will be provided when trips are being planned.

Below is a list of trips the *MARCHING BAND* may take (One-Day):

1. Football games
2. Competitions
3. Parades

Below is a list of trips the *CONCERT ENSEMBLES* may take:

1. All-County, All-District, All-State, Solo & Ensemble Festival, or Honor Band Trips (One-Day & Multi-Day)
2. Spring Trip, i.e. Florida, New York, St. Louis, etc. (typically 3-7 days long)

## BAND TRIP RULES

1. A complete schedule and rules for the specific trip will be issued to each band member prior to the trip.
2. Don't **EVER** be late!
3. No one is to leave the group formation for any reason whatsoever until properly dismissed by the director.
4. Special care should be taken to see that all personal and school property is taken care of:
  - a. Pack and pad instrument.
  - b. Hang uniform neatly when not in use.
  - c. Place proper identification on baggage and instrument.
5. Notes must be received and approved before a student can be released to parents or others on all band trips. Also, the band director must see the parent before the student is allowed to leave. **NO NOTE, NO CAR RIDE HOME!**
6. Students may not ride home with anyone but their parents/guardians unless approved by the director.
7. Medical forms must be on file with the band director.

## BUS RULES

1. There should be at least 4 (four) chaperones per bus.
2. Only our students, school personnel, and designated chaperones are allowed to ride on the buses. No friends, relatives, or previous band alumni/parents are allowed to ride the bus - no exceptions!
3. Students should return on the same bus they arrive on. Adhere to bus lists!
4. Students may return home with a parent **IF** they have arranged to do so. A note from the parent is required and must be approved before they leave with the parents/guardians. The band director must see the guardian before releasing the student.

# BAND CALENDAR & ANNOUNCEMENTS

For long-term planned activities, a band calendar will be issued to all students participating in any ensemble. This calendar will be sent home via the students at the end of each year or when more activities and dates become organized. In addition, the calendar will also be posted on the band website: <http://www.patriotbands.org>.

Announcements will be read each day before and after rehearsals/performances. It is the student's responsibility to keep him/herself aware of all information. Announcements will also be posted on the website. It is the student's responsibility to read these announcements on a daily basis. If a student has any other minor question, they should follow the chain of command to receive an answer.

Since calendars come out so early, it is the responsibility of each member and parent to make sure their schedule works around all the rehearsal and performance dates. (We do realize that things come upon short notice though). Remember that jobs are not an excuse.

## REQUIRED FORMS

The following pages are forms that the student needs to print, fill out, and return to the band director as soon as possible. All forms must be in before the student can attend any off-campus trip. Please read over all the information and return these forms immediately.

# 2010-2011 HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

511 Independence Boulevard  
Morganton, NC 28655

\*I have read this 2010-2011 Handbook and I fully understand all the information given. Furthermore, I agree to abide by all the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook.

\* I have read the Performing Ensembles Grading Policy as outlined on Pages 8-9 of this handbook (2010-2011). I completely understand this portion of the handbook and realize that my actions could result in negative consequences as laid out in this policy. Furthermore, I completely understand the use of Merits and the Grading Policy to warrant my actions. I will follow all guidelines and procedures as determined by this handbook.

\* I have read, understand, and accept the merit point and lettering/honor cord system for the 2010-2011 school year. We have also been made aware of the Band Picnic that is on Thursday, August 19 at 6:00 pm.

Student Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I will be attending the band picnic with \_\_\_\_\_ family members attending.

I will not be attending the band picnic.

# FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL BANDS MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

All information provided will be on file with the band director and remain confidential.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
(last) (first) (middle)

Student's Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Students Cell # \_\_\_\_\_ Student's email \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

If parents are not legal guardians, guardian's name and address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Father's Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

## INSURANCE/EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Under whose insurance is the student covered? (Circle which applies)

Father          Mother          Both          School

Name of Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_

Agent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Agent's Address \_\_\_\_\_

List two people to notify of in an emergency if parent/guardian cannot be reached:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to Student \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to Student \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete the next page of this form*

Please provide the following information or circle all that apply:

ALLERGIES

Food: \_\_\_\_\_

Medication: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Notes Concerning Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of last Tetanus shot \_\_\_\_\_

Does student take medication on a regular basis? Y or N

If yes, list medication and dosage \_\_\_\_\_

Family Physician \_\_\_\_\_

Office Address \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Over-the-counter medications which I DO NOT wish to be administered to my child are:

\_\_\_\_\_

As parent/guardian of the named child/student, I hereby give permission to the supervising teachers to request usual and customary medical/safety services for my son/daughter if needed on this trip. It is understood that I will be responsible for all costs not covered by my insurance. I relieve the Burke County Public School System and Freedom High School of any liability concerning my child while he/she is on this trip.

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_