



JOHN DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL BAND

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BAND HANDBOOK

This handbook includes the following:

- Schedule for the 2008-2009 School Year
- Attendance Policy
- Performance make-up opportunities/obligations
- Grading Policy
- Uniform Requirements/Code
- Substance Abuse Policy

To be filled out, signed and returned by Monday, September 8, 2008

- Handbook Signature Form

It is **REQUIRED** that you and your child read this information together.
The designated form must be filled out, signed, and returned by:
Monday, September 8, 2008.

JOHN DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL BAND - ATTENDANCE POLICY

NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCES FROM A REHEARSAL OR SECTIONAL

- Parent **MUST** call or present written notice stating the specific reason for any absences or tardiness from a rehearsal or sectional **at least** 24 hours before the rehearsal or sectional.
- Illness, school functions, or special problems may be excused, provided notification is given in a timely manner.
- Avoidable conflicts are unexcused (work, babysitting, lack of planning, etc).
- Unexcused absences or tardys will negatively impact your grade (see grading policy).

NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCES FROM A PERFORMANCE

- Major concerts, festivals, and marching band performances (including football games and parades) are required. All of these are equivalent to a major test in band.
- An absence from a performance requires a **TELEPHONE CALL** from a parent **at least** one week prior to the event. A calendar of the year is included.
- It is the parent's and student's responsibility to ensure events that conflict with band performances or rehearsals are avoided. Please try to schedule flexible events (driver's training, dentist/doctor visits, etc) to avoid conflict with band events.

Excused Absences from events will be granted as follows:

- Death in the family - Parents contact the director by phone or in person as soon as possible before the absence.
- Student Illness - Parents contact the director by phone or in person **BEFORE** the absence. Even if the student is sick during the school day, the parent must call.
- Participation in a John Dickinson High School Event - ALL Students must communicate with the director for each event. Please do not assume that the director knows your schedule.
- Other reasons for absence will be handled on an individual basis. Parents contact the director when problems arise.
- **NOTE:** *Excused absences from performances must be made up to receive credit (see attached).*

Unexcused Absences from events, resulting in a lowered grade are as follows:

- Work conflicts are **UNEXCUSED**. Communicate with your employers **well in advance** so work and band do not conflict.
- Special parties and dinners for birthdays, etc. are unexcused.
- Students visiting relatives are unexcused.
- Written notes will not excuse a student from a **performance**, a phone call is required.

Remember :

COMMUNICATE! *Any known conflicts with any event can be worked with if advance notice is given!*

Band Office Phone 302.992.5500, ext. 134

Mr. Pagel's Home Phone 269.930.0369

email: matt.pagel@redclay.k12.de.us

JOHN DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL BAND - GRADING POLICY

Grades are based upon 4 categories as follows:

- Attendance (class, outside rehearsals, and performances): 30%
- Participation/ Preparedness/ Attitude: 25%
- Assigned work (music marking, practice time, projects, etc): 20%
- Playing Tests/ Auditions: 25%
- TOTAL: 100%

Attendance

Attendance will always be taken at all rehearsals and performances.

An approved (excused) absence from a rehearsal will not affect the final grade **IF** the absence is made-up by the student in the form of a musical activity such as public performance, a special project, etc... Through this activity the student is able to get a comparable experience to performance – something integral to their development as a musician.

Any unapproved (unexcused) absence will have a negative effect on a student's grade. An unapproved absence from a class or rehearsal will result in the **deduction of 10%** of the student's overall grade. An unapproved absence from a performance will result in the **deduction of 25%** of the student's overall grade. Such unexcused absences will also require a parent/teacher phone call or meeting.

Finally, rehearsals and class begin on time. A student is allowed two tardys. Each one beyond two will reduce a student's attendance grade by 5%.

For questions regarding attendance, please see the *John Dickinson High School Band Attendance Policy*. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Preparedness/Participation/Attitude

Coming prepared to class and rehearsal is part of your obligation as a member of this great band. Having your part ready to go, having everything you need for rehearsal (music, instrument, etc...), having your drill and/or music marked and all the other things that go into making a great band are all your responsibility. Further, having a good attitude is essential. This simply means working well with others in the band and taking instruction when it is given. Go out of your way to help others. Chances are, they will help you out down the road. We're all in this together - the sooner we pull together and each do our part, the sooner we begin to grow as an ensemble and as individual musicians.

It should be noted that an unexcused absence prevents you from participating in that event, resulting in a deduction from your participation grade as well.

Assigned Work

Assignments will be given. These could be a wide range of things including, but not limited to marking music, in or out of class listening worksheets or activities, projects, and most importantly, **practice time**. Assigned work will always be collected and recorded. Failure to complete an assignment will result in a reduction in grade, depending on the point value of the assignment.

Playing Test(s)/Audition(s)/Scale Test(s)

Throughout the semester there will be times when individuals perform an assigned excerpt of music or a scale to ensure proficiency. This may be an audition for chair placement, or simply to test a certain passage in current repertoire. Each test will be graded with an established rubric and affect the final grade according to point value.

Extra Credit

Extra Credit can be earned by: Extra practice time, attending an approved musical event, or an extra music-related project

JOHN DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL BAND

SCHEDULE OF REQUIRED PERFORMANCES

MARCHING BAND/FOOTBALL PEP BAND

(HOME GAME CALL TIMES = 5:30PM, HOME GAME START TIMES = 7:00PM)

- September 4 - Rehearsal, 6pm - 8pm
- September 11 - Rehearsal, 6pm - 8pm
- **September 12 - Home Game vs. St. Elizabeth**
- September 18 - Rehearsal, 6pm - 8pm
- September 25 - Rehearsal, 6pm - 8pm
- **September 26 - Home Game vs. Brandywine - Homecoming**
- October 2 - Rehearsal, 6pm - 8pm
- October 9 - Rehearsal, 6pm - 8pm
- October 16 - Rehearsal, 6pm - 8pm
- **October 17 - Home Game vs. Archmere**
- October 23 - Rehearsal, CANCELLED FOR TALENT SHOW (change)
- October 30 - Rehearsal, 6pm - 8pm
- **October 31 - Home Game vs. Hodgson**
- November 6 - Rehearsal, 6pm - 8pm
- **November 7 - AWAY Game vs. McKean**

BASKETBALL PEP BAND

- Approx. 3 - 4 home basketball games in the winter. Dates and Times TBA.

CONCERT BAND AND JAZZ BAND

(CALL TIMES = 6:00PM, CONCERT TIMES = 7:00PM)

- December 4 - Holiday Concert
- February 26 - Late Winter Concert
- March 5 - Ram Jam (change)
- May 14 - Spring Awards Concert
- May 19 - Fine Arts Award Banquet (addition)

*ALL-STATE ENSEMBLES AND SOLO/ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

**ALL EVENTS BELOW ARE OPTIONAL, FOR EXTRA CREDIT! ☺*

- October 15 - All-State Application **Deadline** (all groups)
- December 13 - All-State Auditions (all groups)
- January TBA - All-State Rehearsals (all groups)
- January 22, 23, 24 - All-State **Orchestra** Festival and Concert
- January 29, 30, 31 - All-State **Band** Festival and Concert
- January 31 - Solo/Ensemble Festival Registration **Deadline**
- February 19, 20, 21 - All-State **Jazz** Festival and Concert
- March 7, 8 - Solo and Ensemble Festival

JOHN DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL BAND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

All students involved with the John Dickinson High School Band will not be permitted to use, possess, or distribute any of the following:

- Tobacco Products (including cigarettes, snuff, or chewing tobacco)
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Anabolic Steroids or performance enhancing drugs or substances
- Illegal Drugs or Controlled Substances or Look-a-likes
- Inhalants
- Misused Prescription Drugs
- Drug Paraphernalia

If, at ANY time, a student violates this policy, severe consequences will result, possibly including expulsion from the band program, a failing grade in the class, and/or the presentation of a public explanation and apology.

If the Band is to perform to its highest potential as a group, each member must each be responsible for their individual well being. All members must represent the Band and their school in a positive way at all times and in all situations.

JOHN DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL BAND UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Marching Uniform

- Bibbers, jacket, shako, plume, gloves
- Black Marching Shoes (Drill Masters, Dinkels, or MTX's)
- Black Socks
- Undershirt: NO sleeveless
 - (a few of different materials, for varying temperatures)

Concert Uniform

- White dress shirt/blouse
- Dark necktie (*men only*)
- Black dress pants/skirt (past the knee or longer)
- Black dress shoes
- Black Socks/ Black or Skin-Tone Nylons

JOHN DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL BAND UNIFORM CODE

Marching Band

- The uniform of the John Dickinson High School Band represents a long tradition of excellence. It is to be worn with pride and respect at all times. Thus, certain rules apply while in uniform.
- While in public view you **MUST** be in **FULL** uniform. The only exception to this is in extreme hot weather – we may remove jackets as a group if indicated by the director.
- Shakos are to be worn or carried as a group – either we all wear them, or we all carry them in a respectful manner (in the left hand, with 3 fingers over the brim).
- Absolutely **NO** public displays of affection in uniform.
- No running in uniform.
- Shoes and gloves must be kept clean at **ALL** times.
- No jewelry is to be worn.
- No make-up is to be worn.
- A dark undershirt with some type of sleeve (long or short) must be worn under the uniform at all times.
- Black socks must **ALWAYS** be worn.
- Raincoats are an extension of the uniform. Conduct yourself accordingly when wearing them.

Concert Band

- While in uniform, you represent your band and your school. You must conduct yourself in a respectful manner.
- Always wear the uniform with pride: keep it clean and well maintained.
- No public displays of affection while in uniform.

PERFORMANCE MAKE-UP OPPORTUNITIES

An excused absence from a performance requires additional work in order to make-up the credit for that performance (unexcused absences **do not** have the option of making up the credit). Performances are the equivalent of major tests or exams and thus must be made-up in the form of musical community service. Options are as follows:

- Performing at a church, hospital, nursing home, or any other public function. Each performance is worth 1 - 2 hours (depending on amount of music performed) and must be cleared with the director first.
- Assisting less experienced band students with music after school. Log each hour with the director.
- Completing and presenting a project on a music related subject. Each project/presentation is worth 2 - 3 hours (depending on effort) and must be approved by the director FIRST.
- Other options to be agreed upon by student, parent, and director.

***ANY ABSENCE FROM A PERFORMANCE REQUIRES
3 HOURS OF MUSICAL COMMUNITY SERVICE***

SIGNATURE FORM – PLEASE RETURN

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, HAVE READ THE 2008-2009
JOHN DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK,
INCLUDING:

- ATTENDANCE POLICY
- SCHEDULE
- GRADING POLICY
- UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS AND CODE
- SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY
- PERFORMANCE MAKE-UP OPPORTUNITIES/REQUIREMENTS

FURTHER, WE RESPECTFULLY AGREE TO ALL OF THEIR TERMS
AND OBLIGATIONS.

STUDENT NAME (PRINT)

STUDENT SIGNATURE

PARENT / GUARDIAN NAME (PRINT)

PARENT / GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO MR. PAGEL BY:
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2008.**