

Galena High School Band Handbook



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2019/20 school year. We are excited about the new school year. We hope to continue the tradition that has been developed over the last several years.

Please review the handbook and calendar. Pay particular attention to the calendar as the students need to avoid conflicts. It is very difficult to rehearse with one band all week and then show up for a performance with a completely different group. While we will continue to be flexible to a point, it is very stressful to try and make our community performances work with 50-80% of the band. If you have a conflict, please let us know in advance, so we can make adjustments for this conflict during class and not on the fly at the performance. We do our best to keep the performance schedule manageable because we have so many student-athletes, as well as students who work. In fact, we turn down many performance opportunities, in order to keep our schedule under control. The performances we choose we do so because of the value they have to your child's musical growth, as well as other factors such as financial, number of audience members attending the performance (both large venue and intimate setting are important to a musician's growth), and the building of community relationship (both here in Galena as well as other local communities). The GHS Band really does bring an abundance of positive attention to our community and school, and it is because of the hard work that has been put forth by the students, Boosters, and you the parents. Thank you from the bottom our hearts - your work, support, and dedication means the world to us. We have the best parents and students here in Galena.

Sincerely,

Mr. Holland and Mr. Suau

Contact Information

Director: Steve Holland, hollandsteve@gusd120.k12.il.us
Assistant Director: Michael Suau, msuau@gusd120.k12.il.us
School Address: 1206 N. Franklin St., Galena, IL 61036
School phone number: 815-777-0917

Home practice

While it would be ideal for students to practice every night, many students have other commitments which make this goal impossible. In terms of practicing, all we ask is that you, the student, do your best to find some time each week. Any amount of time is better than no time. You might have stretches where you can't practice at all, but then have a lull in your schedule where you can get more time in. Also take into account your goals; if you would like to get a scholarship (many

are not tied to being music majors) then you will want to put in more time. (By the way see us if this is the case, as we can put together an individual plan for you.) If you are in band for the social and casual enjoyment of music aspects, then put in what you need to help the band and your peers be more successful. All students should take their instrument/music home on Friday.

Fundraising

The band sells fruit for its fundraising opportunity. This is separate from the Boosters, and the money is used to help students to pay for our big trips. Each student will be given credit for the amount of money they raised, with a small percentage being put into the general band account. We have had many kids make anywhere from \$50-200+ to be applied to their individual account.

Big Trips

The band has been attending the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade every year since 1968. This year will mark the 53rd time the GHS Marching Band has marched in this parade. What a wonderful tradition this is and has been. I know many parents who have marched in this parade and now get the opportunity to see their child do the same.

Furthermore, every four years, we have taken a multi-day trip. 2019-2020 school year is here and tied with Chicago is our trip to New York. Yeah, this will be an exciting trip. These trips prove to be a very rewarding experience, and I hope all members of the band can attend if possible. It is certainly not mandatory, but trips like these bring about special bonds and memories that last a lifetime.

Honor Groups

ILMEA (Illinois Music Educators Association) District #8 Band is one of the groups that student could participate in over the course of the year. This is an auditioned group for 9-12 graders to be selected to the District ensemble and slated to perform in November, both jazz and concert. There is also the potential for our sophomores, juniors and seniors to be selected to perform at the All-State Convention in January with various All-State ensembles. This would be no different than an athlete being selected to an All-State team, therefore it is a huge honor to be selected. If a student is interested in auditioning then they should get the music from me as soon as possible. The audition takes place in October.

NUIC Honor Band is a group of students from our Conference, and these students are selected by their director. This group will rehearse and perform in March, and we will make a decision as to who will attend in January/February.

Classroom expectations

Objectives/Goals: Our goal is to allow all students the opportunity to grow musically and to develop a love for music as an art form, and to teach students to be responsible members of society through performance opportunities.

Rules:

1. No Talking – be respectful.
2. **No Gum, Food, and Drink (Bottled Water acceptable)**
3. Must have **Music, Instrument, and Pencil. Please store music in the appropriate place- on the floor is not one of them.**
4. No playing other people's instrument in class.
5. Be in the room on time. Jazz Band – 7:17am, Concert Band – 8:15am.
6. No vulgar language
7. **Keep the room clean and organized!!!! Please keep your cubbies clean too!!!**
8. **Finally, all phones need to be put in the bins as you enter the room!**

Pep Band

Pep band is essentially a volunteer group. Each student is required make three pep bands during the year, but I do not require anything more (Pep band grade is factored into 2nd semesters report card). (note: this requirement may change if attendance is such that we can't adequately perform). Students who participate in pep band will receive 5 award points for every two pep band performance. The students also receive a grade for their participating. The students who perform on a regular basis will get first chance to be selected for the IHSA Audition Pep Band if we decide to record a CD for submission.

Grading System

Concert Band Grading System

The number of points the students earns in the various categories determines all grades. The semester grade is worth 80% and the semester exam worth 20% of the final grade.

Auditions/Challenges:

I reserve the right to do this at any time. Student challenges will take place no more than once a week and you can only challenge for the chair above you unless the person you are challenging is also challenging up.

Growth and Musicianship - This is worth 20% of the student's quarter grade. The student will be rated on a five-point scale for participations in class during the week. The rubric is as follows: **5** - A positive constructive, helpful, cooperative attitude is shown. Leadership is also evident. **4** - An average attitude is demonstrated. Students will do what it takes to get by without extending themselves beyond expectations. **3** - An average attitude is demonstrated. **2** - The student displays a negative, lazy, disruptive behavior in class. No effort is evident to share the responsibilities of the group in terms of learning the music, making extra rehearsals, etc. **1** - The student displays a disruptive behavior in class and is without their instrument. **Tardiness and absences without cause or sufficient notice will also lower your grade.**

Playing/written evaluations - These are worth 30% of the student's quarter grade. Students will be evaluated during class/sectional/small group rehearsals or during a scheduled time. SmartMusic assignments will fall into this category as well. Practice logs are also a possibility in this category too.

Performances – These are worth 50% of your quarter grade. Point totals and rubric may vary slightly due to the nature of the performance, **also just because you attend a performance doesn't mean you get a 100% grade (I factor in how you are working/performing in class too)**. Most performances are mandatory. The only reason for missing is a family emergency or illness (work is not an acceptable reason for missing a performance as we post the calendar in May. Plus, we give you a calendar at the beginning of the school year.) I need to be notified before the performance if you are ill. With family emergencies, I would prefer to be notified ahead of time, but I know that is not always possible. So if it happens, it will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If you can't get a hold of me, call the school and leave a voice message. This is a common courtesy, ex. *You would call your employer if you had to miss work. Those who miss performance will need to write or play for me for each missed performance. Finally, while I may excuse a missed performance, it doesn't mean that your child will get full credit upon turning in paper or a performing a playing test.*

Jazz Band Grading System

The percentages and categories will be the same. The only difference is how the Musical Growth category will be graded. Jazz student will receive 10 points per week in this category (unexcused absent: 5-point deduction, tardy: 1.5-point deduction—excused absent (one where student let me know in advance) will not be penalized if student practices during homeroom, or before or after school). Performance grades will be affected by attendance as well—every unexcused absence will result in one-point off performance grade, 3 tardies will result in one-point deduction. Class will run from 7:17-8:00am.

If a student is absent from every rehearsal in the same week, and they are unexcused each time, they will receive zero Growth & Musicianship points for the week. Some points can be made up by setting up an after school lesson. If a student is absent from jazz band, but at first hour class point it will be assumed they are absent unexcused (basically is better to be tardy than miss class all together).

Calendar

The calendar is attached at the end of the handbook, as well as it will be posted on the HS web page. Please look these dates over carefully, and review them with your child's other events. We had many dates last year where many students had conflicts, which I know will happen. It would just be nice to avoid as many as we can for all parties involved.

Communication

Listed below are the main ways we use to communicate upcoming events throughout the year.

Band Website: galenapiratesmusic.weebly.com

Facebook Page: Galena Pirates Music Department

Facebook Group: GHS Band Galena, Illinois

Mr. Holland and Mr. Suau will be using Remind to send out text updates throughout the year for events. Please join remind by sending a text to 81010 with the message @galenaband

Equipment/Supplies

You will need to take care of reed and supply orders by calling West Music in Dubuque (1-563-583-7333) or Blue Note Music in Platteville (1-608-348-4199). Just let them know your name and that you will need it delivered to Galena High School. Our West Music rep is Marty Wild, and he generally delivers on Tuesday. Our Blue Note rep is the owner Tim Durst, and delivery day hasn't been set yet. All students should have their case marked with their name (name tag). We are providing the list below to assist in understanding some of the basic supplies that every child could or should have.

Woodwinds

- Yamaha 4c mouthpiece(basic) or Vandoren M13(this is great step-up mouthpiece for a HS student)
- Neck Strap(Saxes)
- Cork grease
- Mouthpiece Brush
- Rovner Ligature (Saxes and clarinets)-this is quickest and cheapest way to improve your sound.
- Rico Royal #3 or 3 ½ reeds (minimum)-Vandoren reeds are a much better reed, but more expensive(do tend to last longer though)
- Cleaning Swab and/or rod
- Reed Guard for 2 or 4 reeds

Marching band for woodwinds

- Flutist Friend Lyre
- Clarinet lyre and Flip folder
- Sax lyre and flip folder(Yamaha lyres will only fit Yamaha saxophones)

Brass

- Al Cass or Blue Juice valve oil
- Super Slick slide cream and water bottle (t-bones) or Slide-o-Mix works well also.
- Tuning slide grease
- Bach 3c mouthpiece or Yamaha 14B4 GP (trumpets)
- 6 ½ AL Mouthpiece (trombones/baritones)
- Schilke 51D mouthpiece (baritones)
- Helleberg Mouthpiece (tubas)
- Lyre and flip folder/Bell attach lyres for trombones or trumpets
- Cleaning snake and mouthpiece brush
- St. Mute (Denis Wick or Tom Crown preferred, but the stone lined mutes will work fine)

Guitar/Bass

- Good set of strings
- Picks (guitar)
- ¼" patch cable (2)

Percussion---it is a good idea to have your own sticks because you get used to a certain feel and it will help your playing.

- Vic Firth SD2 Bolero Sticks (concert)
- VF Ralph Hardimon (marching snare)
- Yarn mallets
- Plastic mallets
- VF Dave Weckl drum stick (jazz or pep-set players)
- 5a sticks (jazz, concert, and pep band)

Stick/mallet bag

Concert Dress

Jazz Band

Concert Attire

- a. **Ladies** – Black slacks (no jeans). You must wear a black button down shirt and a white tie-optional (no clip-on – I will teach if you need me to help you). Ladies you may have some white on your shirt. Black dress shoes with black socks (no sandals, tennis shoes, etc.). Black dresses are permitted providing that they are not low-cut, no high thigh slit, and are not skin tight.
- b. **Men** – Black slacks (no jeans). You are also required to wear your slacks with a belt at waist level. You must wear a black button down shirt and a white tie (no clip-on – I will teach if you need me to help you). Black dress shoes with black socks (no sandals, tennis shoes, etc.).

Marching Band

A. Uniforms

- a. The community has been generous in helping the Boosters to raise money for our uniforms. We expect that you treat these uniforms with great care and wear them with pride. The uniform is more than just fabric, but a symbol of our community's commitment to the GHS Band. It should also be a symbol of accomplishment and pride because not many people in this world are as blessed to have the opportunity to be involved in music. We do expect that you have your child's uniforms dry-cleaned before the St. Patrick's Day parade. (We may run this cleaning through the Boosters because we can get a better rate if all going in together.)
- b. Students are expected to have their own black marching shoes and black socks to be worn at all performances in which we wear our marching uniforms. West Music sells shoes and the cost varies on the type of shoe purchased. Speedsters are around \$22, and Drill Masters are around \$37.

Concert Band

Concert Attire

- a. Most of you should already know proper dress attire for concerts. You want to dress as though you were going to a fine restaurant or the symphony. Here are some guidelines for you.
- b. **Ladies** – Black slacks (no jeans). You must wear a black button down shirt and a white tie (no clip-on – I will teach if you need me to help you). Black dress shoes with black socks (no sandals, tennis shoes, etc.). Dresses are permitted providing that they are not low-cut, no high thigh slit, and are not skin tight.
- c. **Men** – Black slacks (no jeans). You are also required to wear your slacks with a belt at waist level. You must wear a black button down shirt and a white tie (no clip-on – I will teach if you need me to help you). Black dress shoes with black socks (no sandals, tennis shoes, etc.).

Music Boosters

All music parents are members of this organization whether you attend the meetings or not. While we have a great core group of parents in leadership positions, it would be great to have more parents involved at the meetings. More heads are always better when trying to solve the unique needs of our Music Department. We also have many current members that don't have kids in the program as well as members that will be graduating a child soon. Seriously consider joining us as we need new people to take over leadership positions in the near future. The Booster meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the HS Band Room. FYI: Dean Skinner is the Music Booster President.

Please sign up in an area that you might be able to assist with this year, as parental involvement is really important to the success of the Music Programs in our school. The Boosters may be in contact with you whether you sign this or not. It will make it much easier if you sign-up for as many events that you would enjoy the opportunity to help our fine students. Thank you in advance.

___ assist at a parade or two---i.e. helping with water, student needs, etc.

___ Concert set-up and tear down (winter or spring)

___ Country Fair parking

___ Marching Uniforms

___ Night of Jazz volunteer

___ Chicago trip chaperone

___ Girls Basketball concession stand

___ Fruit Sales (unloading and distribution)

Rummage Sale

___ Class representative (we need two per class, i.e. class of 2017, 2018, 2021, etc.)—attending booster meetings regularly would be part of this responsibility.

Name _____

I understand the by signing up I am not committed, but I may be contacted for assistance by the Music Boosters. I also give permission for the Booster to email information to me throughout the year.

Phone _____

Email _____

Compliance Agreement and Information Form

Students...

I have read thoroughly and understand the information contained within the Hand Book. I agree to follow the class rules to the best of my ability and realize the consequences if I do not. I understand how my grade will be determined for all aspects of this course. I also am committed to making all performances to the best of my ability, and will call ahead time when I can't make it.

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

****The information you provide below is very important. I have had instances where I have used this info to track down a misplaced instrument. We have many students with similar looking cases and instruments, and the only way I can be sure I have the right instrument is by locating the serial number.

Instrument: _____

Make and Model: _____

Serial #: _____

Personal or School

Personal or School

Example: Instrument: Alto Saxophone

Make and model: Yamaha YAS 23

Serial #: 123456Y

Parents...

I have read thoroughly and understand the information contained within the "Class Rules", "Class Expectations" and the "Grading Policy." I will agree to support these rules and procedures as stated, and help my child to make performances.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

Return by August 26th---this will be a grade in the grade book.