



Harrison Bands Handbook

2025-2026

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

STUDENT HANDBOOK/PARENT

HANDBOOK/GLOSSARY/FORMS

Quick Reference Guide

BAND WEBSITE

www.harrisonbands.org

BAND CALENDAR

www.harrisonbands.org/harrison-bands-calendar/

BOOSTER MEETINGS

Held the second Tuesday of each month, at 6:00pm in location TBA, or as determined by the board.

DROP BOX

Located in the band room. A convenient way to drop off payments and forms.

RaiseRight (formerly SCRIP)

Offered the first Tuesday of the month at the Spirit Shack from 5:00-7:00 and available to meet at other times as necessary. Check Band Blast for additional opportunities.

MAIL PAYMENTS TO

HHBB
PO Box 801017
Acworth, GA 30101

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Introduction

Welcome to the Harrison High School band program! Over the past several years this program has established itself as one of the finest in the country, with many diverse honors such as:

2015-2021

- 2016 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade
- 2016 Southeastern Regional Concert Festival at Georgia State University
- 2019 BOA Grand National Championships, Indianapolis, IN: Semi Finalist
- 2018 & 2016 BOA Super Regional Finalist
- 2019 BOA Regional Champion
- 2019, 2018 (2), 2017 & 2016 BOA Regional Class Champion
- 2022, 2021, 2019, 2018, 2017 & 2016 BOA Regional Finalist
- 2019 & 2021 Kennesaw Mountain Marching Invitation Grand Champions
- 2017 Winter Guard WGI World Champion Finalist
- 2017 SAPA National Class Champion
- 2021 (winter) SAPA Championships (2nd place Scholastic A)
- 2023 SAPA Champions- Scholastic A
- 2017 HIPE GIPA Championships Finalist
- 2023 HIPE GIPA Champions- Percussion Scholastic Concert A
- 2021 Lafayette Marching Classic Grand Champions
- 2022 Wolverine Classic Grand Champions

2014-2015

- 2015 Harrison Varsity Winter Guard: WGI World Championship Finalist
- 2015 Harrison Varsity Winter Guard: WGI Atlanta Regional Champion
- 2015 HIPE (Harrison Indoor Percussion Ensemble) WGI World Championships - Dayton, OH - First year HIPE has competed
- 2015 HIPE: WGI Mid-South Championships - Bowling Green, KY Open Class Finalist (Bumped to Open class from A Class)
- 2015 HIPE: GIPA Championships, Suwanee, GA Open Class Champions
- 2014 BOA Atlanta Super Regional: Class AAA Champions, Outstanding GE, Outstanding Musical Effect, Outstanding Visual Effect; 3rd Place Finals
- 2014 BOA Jacksonville State University Regional: Class AAA Champions, Outstanding General Effect, Outstanding Visual Effect; Finals: 1st Place overall Grand Champion, Outstanding General Effect, Outstanding Musical Effect
- 2014 BOA Powder Springs: 2nd Place Class AAA Finals: 1st Place Grand Champion, Outstanding General Effect, Outstanding Musical Effect

2013-2014

- 2014 Harrison Varsity Winter Guard: WGI National Finalist, 9th Place Scholastic A; WGI Atlanta Regional Champion Scholastic A; SAPA Championships 3rd Place
- 2014 Harrison Junior Varsity Winter Guard: SAPA Championships 2nd Place
- 2014 Wind Ensemble: Featured Performer at the University of Georgia's Band Festival
- 2013 BOA Grand National Championships, Indianapolis, IN: Class AAA National Champions, 7th Place Finals
- 2013 BOA Atlanta Super Regional: Class AAA Champions, 5th Place Finals
- 2013 BOA Powder Springs Regional: Class AAA Champions, Outstanding General Effect, 2nd Place Finals
- 2013 Wind Ensemble selected as one of the top bands in the nation to perform at the prestigious National Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis

2012-2013

- 2013 BOA Atlanta Super Regional: Class AAA Champions, 5th Place Finals
- 2013 BOA Powder Springs Regional: Class AAA Champions, Outstanding General Effect, 2nd Place Finals
- 2013 Wind Ensemble selected as one of the top bands in the nation to perform at the prestigious National Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis
- 2012 BOA Atlanta Super Regional, Div. 1 Rating, 2nd Place Finals, Outstanding Music
- 2012 BOA Jacksonville AL Regional, Div. 1 Rating, 2nd Place Finals, Outstanding Visual

2011-2012

- 2012 BOA Atlanta Super Regional, Div. 1 Rating, 2nd Place Finals, Outstanding Music
- 2012 BOA Jacksonville AL Regional, Div. 1 Rating, 2nd Place Finals, Outstanding Visual
- 2011 BOA Michigan Regional, Div. 1 Rating, 1st Place Finals
- 2011 McEachern Marching Invitational, Grand Champion 197 out of 200

2010-2011

- CBDNA & NBA Southern Division Conference - Featured Performance
- 2010 BOA Indianapolis Regional, Div. 1 Rating, 5th Place Finals
- 2010 Western Carolina Tournament of Champions, 1st Place
- National Wind Band Honors

This Handbook contains a detailed description of the concert and marching band programs and the policies and procedures under which they operate. It also contains detailed information about the Band Booster program and information on how every family can get involved. Please read the handbook thoroughly so that you are familiar with its contents. Parents and students are responsible for knowing this information.

Included in the **Appendix** at the back of the handbook is a listing of the forms that can be found on our website at www.harrisonbands.org/. Included in the list are necessary Cobb County forms. A Cobb County “Medical History Permission and Release” form must be completed by all students, regardless of whether they have one on file from the previous year(s) or not. ***This form must be notarized*** in order for it to be valid. Participation also requires a current Cobb County “Blanket Permission to Participate” form and Cobb County “Permission to Display Student Photograph” form. These forms need to be completed **for all band students**. Please ensure that all three of these forms have been completed by the beginning of band camp or the first week of school if your student is not in the marching band.

This year promises to be another great year. We are excited you have chosen to continue to make music a priority in your life.

Statement of Purpose

At Harrison High School, we strongly believe that music has the ability to enrich every person's life in unique and powerful ways. Thus, our primary goal is to foster the development of a life-long relationship with music in every student. Whether our students go on to be symphony musicians, doctors who play in a community band or orchestra one night a week, or simply music fans, our goal is for them to have a love and appreciation of music and music-making.

Beyond the purely musical goals of the program, we also aim to develop students' interpersonal and intrapersonal skills. Teamwork is a requirement for both the concert bands and the marching band. There are no "second-string" players in a band. Instead, each individual in the ensemble - *down to the last chair player* - plays a vital role in the quality of the whole. Additionally, there are no right or wrong answers in music. Each musical performance is unique and can never be perfect. Even the best professional musicians spend their entire lives reaching for perfection, never quite attaining it. These two characteristics separate music from other subjects and are what make it is such an irreplaceable aspect of a student's education.

Given all of this, we are not in the business of producing only "conservatory players" who have ambitions to pursue music as a profession. We are - very much - in the business, however, of developing a life-long relationship with music in every student. Along the way we will also be providing and encouraging positive interactions and personal growth through the medium of music. The road towards these goals is extremely rewarding, yet very challenging. Only through positive effort on the part of everybody involved in the program can true excellence be achieved.

Goals and Objectives

1. Students will continually improve their individual playing ability and musical knowledge by participating in full ensemble experiences, chamber groups, and solos.
2. Students will increase their skill and comprehension levels by understanding and working towards mastery of various musical concepts, including, but not limited to: posture, breath control, embouchure structure, specific instrument background information, technical facility (including scales, articulation, rhythmic accuracy, sight-reading, sight singing, terminology, interpretation, form, style, etc.). These improvements will be monitored in class, but will require outside practice to master.
3. Students will be evaluated through various methods, including playing quizzes, verbal comprehension questions (in class), observation of class performance and participation, written work, teacher feedback and coaching in class, and performance outside of class time.

“Means to the End” Process

Providing a positive experience for all students is a weighty task and requires cooperation on the part of students, student leaders, and staff. We are dealing with students over their four-year high school career. Individual ability and comprehension levels will vary greatly from student to student over the four years. Consequently, students are requested to maintain a positive and helpful decorum as we work toward both individual skill enhancement and comprehension, and group progress and performance readiness.

Students should use class time to the best possible advantage. They should: concentrate, make a positive contribution, and study music when waiting for rehearsal to move on, etc. Individual learning styles will vary. Students will be evaluated on the basis of progress from their own starting point. The goal is to progress as far as possible toward the written objectives of the experience.

Specific Objectives

By the time a student graduates from Harrison High School, he or she will be able to demonstrate the following competencies to a high level of mastery:

1. The student will demonstrate - while standing or sitting - proper playing position, taking into consideration growth and motor ability.
2. The student will identify, define, and utilize the musical terms and symbols encountered in the musical literature being studied.
3. The student will perform music using mixed meters, changing meters, asymmetrical patterns, free rhythms, and non-traditional notation. Additionally, the student will perform music-using rest and note values through the 32nd-note.
4. The student will play all major and minor scales and arpeggios in as many complete octaves as possible within the legitimate range of the instrument at a variety of speeds, articulations, and rhythms.
5. The student will play a chromatic scale encompassing the legitimate range of the instrument, performed in eighth-note values at a minimum tempo of 120 beats per minute, with a variety of different articulations.
6. The student will identify key signatures and apply them to any music being performed.
7. The student will describe - as a consumer and performer - musical literature of various styles, composers, and compositional techniques.
8. The student will interpret music with historical perspective and style.
9. The student will demonstrate sight-reading skills in music containing moderately difficult rhythmic structures and keys.
10. The student will demonstrate instrumental techniques including the use of advanced alternate fingerings and positions, as well as advanced techniques that are idiomatic to the full range of the instrument.
11. The student will demonstrate the ability to balance and blend his or her tone-quality within a performing group.
12. The student will describe career and vocational opportunities in music.

13. The student will produce a controlled and centered tone-quality throughout the legitimate range of his or her instrument.
14. The wind student will demonstrate the ability to perform any articulation found in the music in any style or period.
15. The wind student will demonstrate the ability to play within the equal temperament system of intonation.
16. Percussion students will play with expertise all instruments utilized in the band repertoire.
17. Percussion students will play the following rudiments from opened to closed to open position:
 - Single stroke roll
 - Multiple bounce roll
 - Double stroke roll
 - Five stroke roll
 - Seven stroke roll
 - Nine stroke roll
 - Single ratamacue
 - Single paradiddle
 - Double paradiddle
 - Flam
 - Flam accent
 - Flam tap
 - Drag
18. The student will attend class regularly with music, instrument, musical equipment, and a sharpened pencil. Additionally, the student will complete homework assignments, pay attention in rehearsal, and participate fully in class and all performances.

Program Structure

The band program at Harrison can be divided into four interactive parts: the Concert Bands (including Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble), the Marching Band, Solo and Ensemble activities (including the jazz and percussion ensembles), and Music Theory. Only through participation in all four aspects of the program may students fully achieve the goals and objectives detailed above.

I. The Harrison Concert Bands

The foundation of the music education experience at Harrison is established in the concert band courses. These bands rehearse all year during the school day, as well as during co-curricular after-school rehearsals. It is in this setting that music principles and fundamentals are taught, practiced, and developed. Therefore, participation in all other aspects of the band program is contingent upon enrollment in one of the concert bands classes.

Fall semester, students will enroll in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, or Percussion Class. Spring semester students will enroll in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band or Concert Band. Each course is designed to cater to the individual needs of the students and is therefore ability-based. Auditions for placement into these ensembles are held prior to registration for each term.

Scheduling Band into your four-year schedule

High School band is a four-year educational process. The development of musical skills requires daily reinforcement of individual and ensemble skills. It is imperative for all students to be enrolled in band each and every term during their high school careers. Prior to adopting a 4x4 block schedule in 1997, Harrison was on a traditional 6 period schedule. In that setting, most students found it to be very difficult to remain in band throughout high school without attending summer school. With one of the 6 classes being band, students could only take 5 other courses each year. Under the 4x4 block schedule, however, students enrolled in band year-round may still take 6 other classes during the year. Thus, with careful planning, students should have no trouble fitting band into their schedules for all four years.

A four-year plan illustrating how band fits into the 4x4 block schedule throughout a student's career is shown below. Families are strongly encouraged to consult this plan when designing a student's individual four-year plan.

9 th GRADE		10 th GRADE	
ENGLISH SCIENCE	MATH HEALTH	ENGLISH SCIENCE	MATH WORLD HIST.
FOREIGN. LANG. FINE ARTS	ELECTIVE FINE ARTS	FOREIGN LANG. FINE ARTS	ELECTIVE FINE ARTS

11 th GRADE		12 th GRADE	
ENGLISH SCIENCE	MATH US HISTORY	ENGLISH AM GOV'T/ECON	MATH/ELECT. SCIENCE/ELECT.
FOR.LANG/ELE CT FINE ARTS	HEALTH/BPE FINE ARTS	ELECTIVE FINE ARTS	ELECTIVE FINE ARTS

II. Marching Band/Color Guard (Fall Semester Activities)

The Harrison Marching Band, which includes the color guard, begins rehearsing in the summer and continues through the football season. Performances may include all home and away football games, pep rallies, select local parades, local competitions and exhibitions, and several BOA competitions. This ensemble is unquestionably the most visible performance group in high school.

The marching band is an extracurricular activity open to any current ninth through twelfth grade band student. Because the activity is a direct product of the skills that are developed in the band curriculum, only students currently enrolled in a band class are eligible to march, with the exception of color guard. All students must meet the extra-curricular eligibility requirements as outlined below.

Extra-Curricular Eligibility

All extra-curricular extensions of the Harrison Band program (percussion ensemble, jazz ensemble, color guard, winter guard, indoor drumline, etc.) require any student previously involved in any part of the 6-12th grade band program to remain active in the band program in order to be eligible to participate. In order to avoid recruiting conflicts, if a student is active in one facet of the program, he or she may expand their involvement to band + another extra-curricular band activity, but may not limit their participation to “Extra-curricular only.” Once a student “drops” from band participation, they are no longer eligible for extra-curricular participation.

Since the marching band enters into competitive events, all students must meet the Georgia High School Association and Cobb County academic and residency eligibility requirements. The details of these requirements are outlined in the Harrison High School Student Handbook issued to all students by their advisement teacher.

The marching activity is a demanding activity, both musically and physically. All participants must commit themselves to maintaining high musical performance standards and good physical condition.

Color Guard

The term “Color Guard” has been handed down from the era of military marching bands, originally referring to those who presented and “guarded” the American and military flags - the “colors”. Nowadays, the term refers to the marching band members who add visual impact and color to the musical performance in a challenging activity that combines equipment work (flags, rifles, sabers) with dancing, and marching.

Auditions for the guard are held in April and are open to all Harrison High School students. Specific audition requirements vary each time, but often will include equipment work, movement, and marching fundamentals. Any incoming or current Harrison student is eligible to participate. Current 9th-12th grade band students must meet eligibility requirements as outlined above.

Color guard participants are full members of the marching band. Therefore, they are expected to participate in all marching band activities, to help in fund-raisers, and are required to follow all applicable rules and regulations contained in this handbook.

III. Solo & Ensemble/Jazz Ensemble/Winter Guard/Indoor Drumline (Spring Semester Activities)

Solo and Ensemble can be a year-round, self-actuated activity. The study of solo and small ensemble literature places performance demands on the individual that are often not found in music for full band. Every student, regardless of ability, can benefit greatly from participating in solo and ensemble activities. Solos and Ensembles may perform at concerts in school, in solo competitions, in recitals, and at the GMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival in April.

Jazz Ensembles: Auditions are held for placement into the extra-curricular jazz ensembles. These ensembles will employ the standard big-band instrumentation of saxophones (doubling on clarinet and / or flute preferably), trumpets, trombones, drums, piano, guitar, and bass. Participants in these ensembles must have strong performance and sight-reading skills, as well as a desire to learn the theory and technique of jazz improvisation, an integral part of the jazz idiom. Students must be currently enrolled in band class in order to be eligible to participate in jazz ensembles. Students must meet extra-curricular eligibility requirements as outlined above. Exceptions to this will only be made for rhythm section players. Jazz ensembles will have extracurricular rehearsals. Performances will include but not limited to school concerts, Night of Jazz, and the GMEA District XII Jazz Festival.

Winter Guard is a color guard team that performs to recorded music at indoor competitions from January through April. This activity combines modern dance with flag, rifle, and saber work. Membership is open to anyone at Harrison High School. Auditions are held in November of each year. The Winter Guard squad typically practices three days per week after school. During the season the squad may travel to competitions in the Atlanta metro area, throughout the southeast and/or to Dayton, OH for World Class Competitions. Competitions are most frequently held on Saturdays and/or Sundays. Current 9th-12th grade band students must meet eligibility as outlined above.

Indoor Drumline (HIPE) is a musical/visual group that performs at indoor competitions from January through April. This activity combines modern dance, marching, and percussion performance skills. Membership is open to anyone at Harrison High School. Current 9-12th grade band students must meet eligibility requirements as outlined above. Auditions are held in November of each year. The Indoor Drumline typically practices three days per week after school. During the season the squad may travel to competitions in the Atlanta metro area, throughout the southeast and/or to Dayton, OH for World Class Competitions. Competitions are most frequently held on Saturdays and/or Sundays.

IV. Music Theory

It is highly recommended that all band students, at some point in their high school careers, enroll in Music Theory, Music Appreciation or Advanced Placement Music courses. The study of how music is constructed assists greatly in a student's understanding and appreciation of it.

This course is taught during the spring term if there are enough students who enroll. Students study "the grammar of music" including scales, chords, intervals, harmony, melody, rhythm, part-writing, and both written and aural analysis. In addition, a significant portion of the course is devoted to the development of aural skills through dictation examples, error-detection exercises, and sight-singing.

For students potentially considering majoring in music in college, the study of music theory is essential. In addition, students who receive a high enough score on the AP Test administered in the spring, may, depending upon where they go to school, receive college credit.

Musical Development

Individual Practice

Absolutely essential to improving as a player is *daily* practice on your instrument. Your homework for band is to practice. Here are some practice tips for making the most out of your practice sessions:

1. Practice every day! Remember, it is much better to practice 30 minutes each day than it is to practice 1 hour every other day.
2. Consider practicing in shifts. In other words, instead of playing for 60 minutes straight, practice for 30 minutes, take a break (do some homework), and then finish later.
3. Try to have a set time every day during which you practice.
4. Have a set place where you practice. Make sure that this place is where you will not be disturbed and where you may concentrate on your playing.
5. Have a goal or goals established for every practice session - be careful not to fall into the trap of simply playing your instrument and stumbling through a practice session.
6. The old adage of “practice makes perfect” is not totally accurate. Only **perfect practice makes perfect!** Isolate trouble areas by breaking them down. Begin slowly and then increase tempo.
7. Always begin each practice session with at least a brief warm-up.
8. Spend time every day working on your sound - this is your musical signature.
9. Spend time every day playing scales in as many different ways as you can.
10. Spend time every day working on technical skills including facility, range, tonguing, dynamic range, and endurance.
11. Spend time every day practicing your band music. Make sure you reinforce concepts covered in class on this music.
12. Spend time every day sight-reading.

Private Lessons

While participation in large and small ensembles is an integral part of musical development and promotes camaraderie and mutual effort, class instruction is, by necessity, very general. Those students who truly wish to excel musically are strongly encouraged to study privately with an instructor outside of school. In private lessons a professional player on your instrument will spend time with you individually, to develop your strengths as a musician. It is no coincidence that the vast majority of musicians who earn spots in the Harrison Wind Ensemble, placement in District and All- State Bands, and college scholarships study with great private teachers.

With a world-class symphony orchestra and many other professional ensembles, the Atlanta area is full of professional musicians who also teach privately. Shop wisely when in the market for a private teacher. Be sure you find someone who is truly a professional on your instrument, and who you feel comfortable with. Often a recommendation from a friend who has a private teacher that he or she is happy with is a good way to begin. Most of the major music stores in the area have full faculties of private teachers. Many private teachers also teach out of their homes. Also, lessons on some of the instruments may be available after school through the band booster organization’s Conservatory Program.

Instrument Upgrades

Just as participants in any other specialized activity move up to better equipment in order to improve their performance, musicians are constantly striving to find mouthpieces, reeds, and instruments that enable them to progress towards their full potential. For many students, the first two years of high school is the time to consider investing in a better quality instrument. The beginner model that you started on in sixth grade was fine then, but you have undoubtedly outgrown the limitations imposed by your mass-produced student-line instrument and mouthpiece.

You will never be able to perform any better than the quality of the equipment you use. Race car drivers do not drive economy cars, marathon runners do not wear Crocs, and top-notch musicians do not play the instrument that they rented when they started “way-back-when”. The more advanced models of instruments do cost more, of course, but it is a worthwhile investment.

If the cost of a professional level instrument is too much at this point, at least invest a few dollars in a better mouthpiece and/or reed. What “came in the box” in sixth grade is simply too generic to be appropriate for you now.

Additional Performance Opportunities

Band students are strongly encouraged to continually seek opportunities outside of the band program to make music. There are many opportunities for talented high school musicians to make music in the Atlanta area:

- District and All-State Bands – www.gmea.org
- Metropolitan Atlanta Youth Wind Ensemble (MAYWE) - www.maywe.org
- Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony (AYWA) – www.aywa.org
- Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra (ASYO) – www.atlantasymphony.org/educationandcommunity/asyo.aspx
- Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra (GYSO) – www.georgiasymphony.org

In addition, many of our students perform in a variety of church and community ensembles on a regular basis. Such outside experiences will only serve to further develop musical skills and concepts.

Assessment Plan

Students in all band classes will be graded according to the following plan:

Rehearsal Techniques (50%)

In the music classroom, students learn through experience. In band, students learn and grow by playing their instruments and actively participating in rehearsal techniques and classroom activities. This type of learning cannot be "made-up". Thus, full participation in the classroom is essential for musical growth.

Students will be evaluated on their level of participation in the classroom and rehearsal techniques on a daily basis. Active and full involvement in the rehearsal process is expected. Through observation the instructor will evaluate the individual student's achievement and preparedness. Failure to fully participate in class by coming unprepared or not actively participating will result in a lower daily grade.

Performance Tests and Projects (25%)

Student performance will be periodically evaluated through both "live" and "taped" performance tests. These tests will measure student progress towards attainment of specific musical goals. Material for these tests will include both musical examples from the literature being performed and fundamental exercises such as scales, arpeggios, technique exercises, etc.

Written Assignments & Tests (15%)

A student's understanding of music theory, music history, and broad musical concepts is critical to a student's full understanding and appreciation of the subject. The student's comprehension of these topics and their relationship to the music being studied will be assessed periodically through written tests and other assignments.

Final Examination (10%)

At the conclusion of each term students will take a final examination. This exam will have both playing and written portions and will include material learned during the term.

Attendance Policy

Absence affects performance and the success of performance-oriented activities such as band *depends* upon full participation. Each student's participation affects the group outcome, and each student plays a valuable role in this process.

Attendance guidelines have been developed to support the learning process for both the student and the group. Attendance is related to both self-discipline and learning. If a student is not in rehearsal, he or she has missed that participatory portion of his or her educational experience and that experience cannot be made-up.

A calendar of events is published in advance for your planning. Students and their families are requested to plan appropriately when scheduling appointments, etc. so that rehearsals and performances are not missed.

The following attendance policy applies to both the band class rehearsals and the extra-curricular rehearsals of the marching band, jazz ensembles, guard, etc.

Excused Absences

Excused absences will only be granted for certain unforeseen conflicts. Excused absences include illness, death in the family, an important religious observance, and potentially some other circumstances. *Personal conflicts such as doctor's appointments, jobs, homework, etc. are not excused.*

If a student wishes to receive an excused absence, the student must submit a request, in writing, to the director at least one week prior to the absence or as soon as the student is aware of the need to be absent, whichever occurs first. Failure to do so will automatically result in the student's absence being unexcused. Submission of a request does not guarantee approval.

In the event that a student must be absent due to an unforeseen emergency such as personal illness, **the student is required to call the band director (678-594-8104 ext. 249)** to inform him of the absence. If a student is well enough to attend class during the school day, the student is expected to attend rehearsal and will not be granted an “excused” status for missing the rehearsal without advance permission from a director. Additionally, the student is required to bring a parent note to the director on the day of his or her return to school. Failure to do so will automatically result in the student’s absence being unexcused.

Unexcused Absences

An unexcused absence is one that does not satisfy the requirements listed previously for excused absences.

An unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance will result in the student not being allowed to perform in the next performance. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in the student forfeiting any awards that he or she would have been eligible for that year and may also alter his or her participation status in that ensemble. Two unexcused absences from rehearsals will similarly result in forfeiture of awards. Multiple attendance issues may also result in an alteration of the student’s participation status. Any student who finds their participation level altered due to attendance issues or behavioral consequences will not be refunded or excused from any financial fees and responsibilities due for participation in the activities/events.

Promptness

The most important part of any band rehearsal occurs in the first five or ten minutes. It is during that time that, in addition to warming-up physically, the student will focus his or her mind into the group rehearsal process. Tardiness follows the same guidelines and excuse procedures listed above. Two unexcused tardies equal one unexcused absence and with that comes all of the ramifications listed above. With respect to promptness students are encouraged to keep the following adage in mind:

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

During the school day, students are expected to be in the band room preparing for rehearsal at the beginning of the assigned class time. Precisely two minutes after class is scheduled to begin, students must then be in their chairs warming up for class. Those students not in class when the tardy bell rings and/or not in their seats warming up two minutes afterwards will be marked tardy. Tardiness will have an adverse effect on the daily participation grade.

Concert Attendance

A performance is the culmination of weeks and/or months of learning. Because concerts are the final step in this educational process, it is essential that students fully participate in all performances. Students will receive a grade for each concert. Full participation in the concert will result in the student receiving full credit. In the event that a student misses a concert, he or she has missed an educational experience that cannot be replaced or “made-up”. However, an alternate assignment is available, for students who must miss a performance. This assignment is available, upon request, from the director and is due on the day following the performance.

Conduct

Students are expected to demonstrate positive and cooperative behavior when associated with the bands of Harrison High School. Whenever you are wearing a Harrison High School band uniform, or other Band attire, you are representing your school. Inappropriate or offensive behavior or language will not be tolerated. We represent each other, the school, and ourselves and we strive to represent the *best* in high standards and traditions.

Specific Behavior Guidelines

- All Cobb County Board of Education disciplinary guidelines are in effect at all band functions.
- No use of alcohol, tobacco, or illicit drugs. Possession or use of any of these will result in disciplinary actions in accordance with school policy. This may include action by law- enforcement authorities. It may also result in expulsion from the program.
- No abuse of school facilities or equipment. This includes uniforms, instruments, music, or the physical structures. Students will be charged for any damage to the above.
- No unauthorized use of school instruments. A signed permission form must be on file for students to play school instruments.
- Absolutely no hazing, bullying, or harassment of students.
- No profanity will be tolerated.
- No disrespect of authority. This includes all student leadership, administrators, teachers, staff, band parents, and anyone else connected with the program.
- No one is permitted to leave designated areas without permission. A director or chaperone must know where you are at all times.

Students who do not abide by these guidelines may be subject to administrative referral and participation in extra-curricular events may be modified or suspended. Continued behavior issues or extreme matters may result in the student being dismissed from extra-curricular events.

In the Band Room

- Students must be prompt and prepare for rehearsal in a positive manner (see attendance policy).
- Over 200 students use the band room each day. Let's keep it clean and orderly. Trash cans are provided for your use. Instruments and music folders are to be kept only in the instrument storage located in the band room. Inappropriate behaviors include activities such as playing percussion (or other) instruments without permission, careless treatment of room or equipment, use of room for reasons other than practice or music rehearsal. Common sense should take care of these issues.
- There is to be absolutely no food, drink, or gum in the band room.
- Music stands and chairs are to be put back on the racks if requested, after each rehearsal.
- Books are not to be stored in instrument lockers. Band room lockers are to be used only for instrument and music storage.
- Vandalism, use of school equipment, or other student's property without permission is not tolerated.

Care of Instruments

All instruments should be treated with care whether they are student owned or school owned. Store them properly. Keep mouthpieces, reeds, valves, etc., in good playing condition. Have extra reeds. It is the player's responsibility to maintain his or her instrument and to keep the director informed of any problems with the instrument that could affect the player's ability to participate fully.

- Students may be excused for no more than two days of playing while an instrument is being repaired.
- An excuse will only be granted if a repair note is provided.
- If a store must keep an instrument for longer than two days to complete the repairs, a "loaner" instrument should be requested.

Care of Music

Band music is extraordinarily expensive. Music folders are designed to help protect this music from damage. Despite this we still must be very careful handling the music.

- All marks must be made in pencil and erased before turning in.
- Music not returned in good condition will be charged at the replacement rate.
- If replacement music parts are not available, the student may be required to purchase the complete set of parts.

Bus Trip Rules

- Each student is responsible for his or her own instrument and uniform. If you forget something, you may have to sit out the performance.
- Only instruments of saxophone size and smaller go on the bus. All other instruments go on the equipment truck. You are responsible for getting large instruments to the loading dock where they will be loaded for you.
- Unless told otherwise, the complete uniform will be worn on the bus.
- Keep the bus clean...in words and actions too.
- All county and coach bus rules apply as well as specific rules of the individual driver.
- Buses will be loaded by sections under the Director's direction.
- All students must ride the bus to and from the game or event. Students may ride home with a parent only, with a written note provided to and approved by the Director at least one day prior to the event.
- All students must stay for the entire game or event. Students may ride home with a parent only, with a written note provided to and approved by the Director at least one day prior to the event.
- No changing from one bus to another.

Football Game Rules

- No food or drink in the stands unless distributed by the chaperones.

- All students must remain in full uniform and must stay in their places in their sections throughout the game.
- No conversations with friends outside of the band during the game.
- No non-band members in the stands during the games.
- Only people of authority (directors, police officers, administrators, etc.) may break rank.
- No playing of instruments in the stands unless directed by a Drum Major or director.

Uniform Use Regulations

The appearance of a performing group has a significant impact on the audience's perception of that group. It is important that the Harrison Bands maintain a uniform and dignified appearance for all of their performances. To achieve this goal, the Band Directors have established dress requirements.

Band uniforms (both concert attire and marching uniforms) represent a very large expenditure of band funds. Cobb County has set the uniform use and cleaning fees at \$50/year for each uniform to help offset the costs of normal maintenance, replacement, and periodic cleaning of the uniform parts. This amount does not begin to cover the full cost of these items, so uniform use regulations have been established to prevent unnecessary wear and tear on these garments. We need these uniforms to last for many years.

You are responsible for maintaining your uniform in pristine condition. Any replacement or repair costs incurred through loss of parts, excessive damage, or other negligence WILL BE BILLED TO YOU. See the www.harrisonbands.org/ for attire rental and order forms & current pricing.

Concert Attire Requirements

Concert dresses for ladies and tuxes for the men are available for an annual use fee, as set by Cobb County, from the Band Booster. **The use fee must be paid prior to issuance to students.** Students are required to provide their own closed toe black dress shoes and socks/hose.

Students will be measured prior to the first concert, garments will be issued, and students will be responsible for the appropriate care (described below) of their own garments throughout the year.

Booster-owned concert attire will be returned at the end of the spring semester. Items purchased by the student should not be returned.

All Ladies

- Black band dress (annual rental fee with dry cleaning from the band boosters \$50.00)
- Black dressy, closed toe shoes
- Pearls (must be purchased from the band boosters \$10.00)

All Men

- Tuxedo (annual rental fee with dry cleaning from the band boosters \$50.00)
- Black dress shoes
- Black socks
- Black Shirt (must be purchased from the band boosters \$20.00)

- Black Straight Tie (must be purchased from the band boosters \$15.00)

Concert Attire Care Instructions

Concert dresses and tuxes will be issued to students prior to the first concert *once the rental fee has been paid*. The students will keep these items at home until after the final concert.

While the garment is in the student's possession it must be treated with great care.

- Hang the garments immediately after each use.
- Do not press the garments. Any wrinkles will usually disappear if the garments are hung properly immediately after each use. Pressing the garments with an iron that is too hot will damage the fabric. Ladies' dresses are made from polyester, which can melt. Excessive pressing of either the tuxes or dresses will make the fabric shiny and will limit our ability to alter the garments for future students.
- Instructions for alterations will be provided when the dress / tuxedo is issued.

After the final concert in the spring, the garment should be returned to the band room in the garment bag issued at the beginning of the year. Ladies' pearls and men's black shirt and ties are purchased by the student and should not be returned.

Marching Band Uniform Rules and Regulations

- *You must wear your entire uniform to perform.* Prior to each performance, the student leaders will perform a dress inspection. Neatness and correctness of appearance will be assessed. This will include a gray T-Shirt underneath the jacket, uniform shorts under pants, black socks, and cleanliness of gloves, shoes, and instruments. Students that do not pass inspection must correct all violations - possibly including the purchase of missing or soiled items - in order to perform.
- All band members must *remain in full uniform* (with the exception of plumes) with jacket and shakos on unless told otherwise by a director or Drum Major.
- No jewelry is to be worn other than post earrings. This applies to everyone.
- Hair that is long enough must be worn up inside the shako. This applies to everyone.
- When boarding the bus, students must be in full uniform and remain in uniform during transit with the exception of the shakos that are to be carried onto the bus in the hat boxes.
- Change into uniform in the restrooms only. Do not change in practice rooms, storage rooms, or on the buses.
- Plumes will be placed on shakos just before performance time and removed immediately thereafter. **Plumes are to be handled gently**, keeping hands off the feathers.
- Upon return to the school, the same rules regarding changing are in place.
- After each use, the uniform must be hung neatly on the correct hanger, with pant creases aligned

Marching Uniform Care Instructions

Marching Band uniforms are provided by the Band Boosters. Students are fitted during Band Camp and are assigned the uniforms and hats (shako or beret) that they will wear throughout the marching season. Before uniforms are issued, students must pay the uniform use fee set by Cobb County. Students are responsible for any damage to the uniforms.

Specific guidelines will be issued regarding the required shorts, shirts and black socks to wear under the uniform so that the uniforms will fit properly and have a consistent appearance. Students will purchase these items. Students are also required to purchase their own marching shoes, gloves, and replacement knit caps. Shoes must be special ordered, so students are fitted and money is collected in late spring. Money is collected for gloves during band camp. Replacement items can be purchased at any time.

In order to preserve the color match for all of the uniforms, the uniform committee will clean all of the uniforms together several times during the season. Individual students should never wash their own Marching Band uniforms.

Hanging

It is absolutely essential that the uniforms be hung correctly to ensure that they remain in pristine condition. Please keep track of your uniform hanger as it is made to maintain the uniform's shape. **Do not use a plain hanger on your uniform.** Once you have hung your uniform correctly, please place it on the appropriate spot on the racks. As you do so, make sure that it maintains its shape.

Cleaning

The uniforms are made of polyester fabric. While they are washable, **no student should ever attempt to wash their uniform.** Only certain washing machines will be certified for cleaning the uniforms. When cleaning is required, the uniforms will be washed as a group to maintain their consistent appearance. If you think that your uniform needs cleaning or repair, please contact the appropriate booster club member.

Color Guard/Winter Guard Uniform Requirements and Care

Color Guard and Winter Guard uniforms change each season and are purchased by the Band Boosters. The uniforms are to be returned at the end of each season. Students are fitted during sectional rehearsals. Guard members must pay the uniform use fee before their uniform will be issued. If guard members need to purchase extra accessories prices will be provided by the guard instructor.

Depending upon the design and construction of the guard uniforms, guard members may be directed to wash their own uniforms as necessary. If washing is permitted, the guard instructor will provide care instructions.

Uniform Accessories

Prices are indicated on the required wear sheet on the order forms at www.harrisonbands.org/ current pricing. Initial orders are due at the Potluck Dinner and Parent Orientation scheduled during band camp.

Student Leadership Positions

Drum Major

1. Direct all field rehearsals and performances of the marching band.
2. Set standards in attendance, punctuality, attitude, musicianship, and loyalty that the members of the band can and should try to follow.
3. Act as a liaison between band members and the directors and staff.
4. Responsible for keeping the student leadership working together as a team.
5. Coordinate bleacher activities for football games, oversee behavior and maintain proper

discipline.

6. Inspect section leader uniforms prior to the full band uniform inspections.
7. Pass-off music for captains.
8. Have the band in the correct place at the correct time for rehearsals and performances.
9. Show patience, consideration, and understanding in dealings with the band while not compromising standards.
10. Assist the directors and staff in administrative and organizational tasks.
11. Exhibit and demand discipline within the band.

First Lieutenant

1. Organize and supervise cleanup of band room after rehearsals and performances.
2. Conduct for band performances when needed.
3. Serve as a positive role model for the members of the band in conduct, musicianship, dedication to the band.
4. Assist in the teaching of the drill during marching rehearsals, if needed.
5. Manage attendance and discipline records.

Second Lieutenant

1. Supervise and assist the various student staff components and assist as needed.
2. Assist in the preparation of the field prior to marching rehearsals / performances.
3. Supervise loading and unloading in all band travel situations.
4. Assist with any other logistical issues.
5. Supervise bus sign-ups.
6. Serve as bus captain. Check that all roles have been taken, clean bus check, and anything else related to bus transportation.
7. Serve as a positive role model in conduct, musicianship, and dedication to the band.

Section Leaders / Assistant Section Leaders

1. Learn all parts for your particular section.
2. Pass-off all members of your section by the appropriate dates.
3. Run efficient and effective sectional rehearsals throughout the marching season.
4. Tutor all students in your section that need help with music and/or marching.
5. Enforce the rules and regulations of the band.
6. Refer disciplinary issues to the directors.
7. Conduct uniform inspection of sections and report any infraction against dress code.
8. Assume any extra assignments deemed necessary by directors, staff, or chaperones.
9. Serve as a positive role model for the members of the band conduct, musicianship, and dedication to the band.

Student Staff Positions

Librarian

- Copy, collate, and distribute all parts to the music.

- Make and maintain concert and marching folders.
- Keep music in the library in order.
- Coordinate all drill charts.

Equipment Crew

- Maintain yard lines and hash marks on all practice fields throughout the season.
- Assist in the field set-up prior to the beginning of rehearsals and clean up afterward.
- Load all equipment into the truck and secure it for transport.
- Unload all equipment from the truck upon arrival to site.
- Upon returning to school, supervise putting all equipment back to its proper place.

Uniform Crew

- Maintain, organize and prepare all marching uniforms and accessories used in all competitions and performances.
- Assist the parents in charge of uniforms in organization and maintenance of uniforms.

Technical Crew

- Organize and set up all sound and other electronic systems
- Provide general technical support for rehearsals and performances

Marching Band Pass-Offs

Pass-offs are designed to ensure that all players have memorized their music. All section members must play each piece of music by memory with two mistakes or less to pass it off. All musicians in the band are expected to pass-off all show music, the Star-Spangled Banner, the Fight Song, and any other piece assigned by the directors.

The pass-off procedure begins with all section leaders passing-off by memory to the Drum Majors. Once these students have passed-off they will then begin listening to students in their sections.

Deadlines for the pass-offs will be announced at band camp. Any student not passing off by the assigned deadline will not perform in the upcoming half-time shows until the necessary music is passed-off. Students are required to attend all performances even if they have not passed-off the music. Students with multiple performance issues due to pass-offs may find their participation in the ensemble modified. These students will stand on the sidelines during the show.

Marching Band Field Positions

To achieve a balanced instrumentation and to promote a high level of performance excellence, the Harrison Marching Band frequently has students who serve as competitive drill marchers and field positions for Friday night performances only. Field positions are determined by an audition in Summer Band. For this audition, students will be expected to demonstrate both their marching skills and their playing skills.

All field position members and competitive drill members are full members of the marching band. They will be issued uniforms and are expected to participate in all practices. They will perform in the stands at football games and in all parades. Alternates will not receive their own drill spot on the field. Instead, they are assigned a spot to learn as a back up. In the event of injury, illness, or poor performance of another member, a field position member will either temporarily or permanently replace that student.

Provided that he or she has passed off all music, attended all rehearsals, and can successfully perform the drill, all field positions are guaranteed performances of the field show at designated football games.

Band Awards

John Philip Sousa Award - This national award is presented to the graduating senior whose peers deem to represent the best in musicianship and dedication to the band.

Louis Armstrong Award – This award is presented to the most outstanding jazz musician as voted by the members of the jazz ensembles.

Director's Award - This student voted award is presented to the most improved member of the band program.

Patrick M. Gillmore Award - This award is presented annually to the most outstanding first year student in the band program as voted by the members of the band.

Senior Plaque – This award is presented to all graduating seniors who have participated in the concert band program only throughout their entire high school career (**a total of 8 semesters or all semesters they were a student at HHS**). For color guard members, a senior plaque will be

given for participation in color guard for the entire high school career.

Distinguished Service Award - This award is presented to all graduating seniors that participated in the concert bands as well as the marching band throughout their entire high school careers (a total of 8 semesters or all semesters they were a student at HHS). For guard students, the student must have participated in marching band through their entire high school careers and participated in winter guard for all four years.

Participation Certificates - All academic band students that participated in the band program fully in a given year will receive a first, second, or third year certificate. Students will receive participation certificates for Winter Guard, Jazz Ensemble, and Percussion Ensemble at the conclusion of each season.

Varsity Letter Requirements

Band members have the opportunity to earn a varsity letter each term of participation. Letters will be awarded twice each year - once at the Marching Band Awards Dessert Banquet in November, and again at the Spring Band Banquet. Students can only receive the award if they submit an official awards application to the directors.

The first time a student letters, he or she will receive a letter and either a lyre (musicians) or a flag (color guard). Each time he/she letters after that the student will receive a service bar. Students may letter in band no more than twice in one year. Since letters can be earned for both marching band and band class, it is possible for some students to graduate with a letter plus seven service bars.

Financial Operations

Band Fees & Fundraising

The Harrison High School band program is funded, almost exclusively, through student fees and fundraising projects organized by the Harrison High Band Boosters (HHBB). Throughout the year there are many opportunities for both students and parents to raise money for both the general band program as a whole, and for individual student band fees. Details of fundraisers are covered in the **Booster Information** portion of this handbook.

Payment Information

All checks for fees, etc. should be made out to HHBB. Checks should then be placed in a *clearly labeled* envelope and deposited in the Drop Box in the HHS Band Room. **To ensure proper tracking, the Harrison Band Boosters does not accept cash payments.** Exceptions may be made for promotional sales or food for select events. **Do not mail cash or put cash in the drop box.** The Band Boosters also accept debit and credit cards via PayPal, or

on-line bill pay through your bank. More details of payment information are covered in the **Booster Information** portion of this handbook.

Parent Involvement

Our parent organization is vital to the operation of the Harrison High School band program. We need everyone's participation in order to be successful. Even if your time is very limited, there are numerous ways in which you can help to make the Harrison Band program even better! Your talents and abilities are greatly needed and appreciated.

Every Band Parent is expected to participate in required events such as Arts in Motion and WGI events and a minimum of three optional project teams throughout the school year. The Band program is successful largely due to the enrichment and service provided by the 25+ parent project teams. Virtually every part of the program is dependent upon both fees AND fundraiser projects. Our students benefit when all parents contribute their strengths and talents toward the success of the Harrison Band programs and its performing ensembles.

Band Booster meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month 6:00 pm location TBA. The best way to stay informed and avoid confusion and/or miscommunication is to be at the booster meetings, hear the facts for yourself, and ask questions. For more detailed information, please consult the calendar posted on the Harrison Band website at www.harrisonbands.org/ by choosing the "CALENDAR" button on the navigation bar.

Booster Information

Message from the Booster President

Welcome to the Harrison Band program for the 2025-26 school year! The HHBB Board members and I are truly happy to have you join us as a part of our **band family!** The Harrison High School Band Program is recognized as one of the elite music programs in the country and we are all excited that your student will be a part of this experience, learning lessons in musicianship, teamwork, discipline, commitment, and reaping the rewards of hard work.

The purpose of the Harrison High Band Boosters, Inc. (HHBB) charitable organization is to inspire and maintain an enthusiastic interest in band activities and to cooperate with school officials in creating a successful instrumental music program above what is supplied by the Cobb County School System. Naturally, as a parent you are interested in your child's education and you'll quickly find that you will become not only interested in, but also engaged in your child's music education. The activities afforded through this program can and should be enjoyed by all members of your family and we look forward to getting to know you all.

The Harrison Band directors and staff are all multi-talented, hard-working, dedicated teachers and mentors to your children, but they depend upon the dedication and support of the band parent organization to continue the tradition of excellence exhibited by the bands of Harrison High School. If you and your student are engaged and participate, you will be amazed at the growth your child makes both in their musical performance ability as part of the band and their growth as a student leader over the course of their participation in band programs in their time in high school. It is all made possible by HHBB support of the band programs and our directors and staff.

As the parent or guardian of a band program student, you are already an HHBB booster member. What is next? There are three primary things the band program needs from HHBB: 1) Volunteers; 2) Fees; and 3) Fundraising.

It is important to our band program that families do their best to **remain current with fee payments**, or to contact the directors if you are having financial difficulties. Maintaining an elite level program is expensive and we need to ensure the program has the money to support what our children are capable of achieving. The HHBB Board and directors recognize that fundraising is also important to help offset the burden on our families and to look to the community for support as well. We continue to work on **creating and firmly establishing fundraising events and programs** that allow us to obtain financial and in-kind support from the larger community.

Finally, and most critically, HHBB needs volunteers. With many fundraisers, activities and events throughout the year, there are many opportunities to volunteer and be involved with your student's musical journey and experience the fun and festivities while supporting and helping the Harrison Band program remain at a competitive level nationally. The band boosters have a history of tremendous family support. We have an active, dedicated Board again this year, and we welcome volunteer support throughout the entire program. **Even a small contribution of your time can have a big impact for the program** because it takes many resources to run this program at an elite level. However small or large the job may be, the spirit of teamwork is most important.

The easiest way to get connected with the HHBB program is to attend our regularly scheduled booster meetings throughout the year. At these meetings, you can find out what is going on, ask questions and find out all of the ways that you can make positive contributions in your child's music education. Our booster meetings are by default on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the high school, but watch our Big Blue Bands Facebook page, Band calendar at www.harrisonbands.org/, our weekly newsletters and liaison Band app communications for the most up to date times, locations, and topics. Mr. Ray and Mr. Futrell regularly provide important information about upcoming events at the monthly meetings, and Board members will provide financial and operational updates as well.

We are looking forward to working with each other, our directors, staff, and especially YOU, to provide an unforgettable music experience for our students. Please feel free to ask me or other Board members any questions you may have. Come on, get connected, and enjoy another exciting year with Harrison Bands!

This section of the handbook is designed to provide information about the booster organization. If you can not find the answer in this handbook, please contact an HHBB Board member, check the band website, or contact the liaison for your child's section.

As we begin another terrific year with Harrison Bands, we would like to thank all our boosters in advance for their continued support of this very worthy organization. Welcome!!!

Mark Conklin
HHBB President 2025-26
presidents@harrisonbands.org

Organization

The Band Boosters Overview

This portion of the handbook has been prepared to give an overview of the Band Boosters, to give a big picture view of the activities for which we need volunteers, to help you to understand the mechanics of being a band parent, and to help you to decide where you can best contribute to the success of our wonderful band program.

We need all of the parent support that we can get in order to keep the concert bands, the marching band, ensembles, drum line, and guards competitive. We need so many volunteers for service and fundraising activities that there is truly something to interest everyone.

The Band Boosters is composed of the parents of students who participate in the Harrison High School concert bands, marching band, ensembles, drum line, and guards. There is no charge to belong. ***Band Booster meetings are held in the band room or TBA location at 6:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month*** unless there is a holiday conflict or otherwise noted. Attending Band Booster meetings and reading the announcements on the web site (www.harrisonbands.org/) are the best and most reliable ways to get information about upcoming events, deadlines, and fundraisers. Please make every effort to attend the meetings.

The Band Boosters is guided by a Board of Directors, which is made up of officers and members at large. Current members are listed below. The board meets on Tuesdays at 6:00pm unless there is a holiday conflict. The board meetings are open, and all are welcome to attend. Any Booster Club member who has an item that he or she would like to present to the board should contact one of the co-presidents at least one week before the meeting to have the issue placed on the agenda.

2024- 2025 Board Members

President	Mark Conklin
Co-Treasurers	Tracy Kimble and Deborah Turner
Bookkeeper	Heather McBride
Administrator	Allegra Collier
Secretary	Danielle Weaver
Vice-Presidents	
VP of Field Operations	Glenn Van Nouhuys
VP of Student Operations	Kristina Hampton
VP of Communications	Leila Barber
VP of Events	Tina Liscio
VP of Guard an Aux Programs	Candace Queen
VP of Fundraising	Open

Team Leaders of Equipment	Jennifer Price
Team Leader of Travel	Allegra Collier
Team Leaders of Chaperones	Whitney Swatloski & Meredith Goldman
Team Leader of Marching Uniforms	Kristina Hampton
Team Leader of Required Wear	Christin Pounds
Team Leader of Concert Attire	Christina McCrone
Team Leader of Newsletter and Website	Macon Weaver
Team Leader of Section Liaison	Leila Barber
Team Leader of RaiseRight	Heather Hutchins
Team Leader of Merchandising (Spirit Shack)	Stephanie Schwan
Team Leader of Marketing	Margaret Putterbaugh

****Members in bold are voting members of the Band Booster Board**

*****To Contact a board member, visit the website at [HHBB Executive Board and Staff | Harrison Bands](#)**

Section Liaisons for Parents

Liaisons are appointed to provide parents with a contact person to answer questions that may come up during the year.

Lead Section Liaison	Leila Barber
Parent Liaison: Clarinet	Jessica Scirica
Parent Liaison: Flute	Margaret Putterbaugh
Parent Liaison: French Horn/Mello	Dawn Aufderheide & Abby Mack
Parent Liaison: Alto Sax/Low Reeds	Christina McCrone
Parent Liaison: Baritone/Sousaphone	Christi Brogden
Parent Liaison: Trumpet	Heather Hutchins and Catherine Workman
Parent Liaison: Color & Winter Guard	Candace Queen and Michelle Tanner
Parent Liaison: Percussion/HIPE	Brittany Jones

Booster Information

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Financial Information

The Budget

The budget is established every spring for the coming year. Copies may be viewed in the band room or by contacting the Band Booster Treasurer.

The budget provides money to support the entire band program including three concert bands, marching band, jazz ensembles, percussion ensemble, winter guard, and chamber ensembles. Students who choose to participate in Marching Band, Jazz Band, Percussion Ensemble, or Winter Guard pay a fee to help cover the cost of items such as their uniforms, instruction, show design, visuals, and transportation to games, performances, competitions. The fees also cover the purchase and repair of school-owned instruments, the purchase of music, guest conductors, and other components of the band program.

In order to supplement the concert band resources and to keep extra-curricular activity fees as low as possible, the Band Boosters sponsor a variety of fundraisers every year. **We cannot possibly meet our budgetary requirements unless we have the support of all parents and students.** Some of the fundraisers require selling of products to friends and family. Other fundraisers involve being available to work at sponsored events. Some fundraisers, such as RaiseRight, require very little time or effort! Please see more details about the type of fundraisers described in the “Fundraising Overview” section.

Curriculum Enrichment Fee for Band Class Students

The amount of money that the band classes receive from the county each year constitutes less than 10% of our operating budget and does not begin to cover the cost of operating our curricular classes. Therefore, in order to be able to afford to run a band program with the national reputation for excellence that Harrison High School has achieved, the Band Boosters supplement county funds. In return, we ask that each student enrolled in band class pay a curriculum enrichment fee of \$175 for the fall semester and \$175 for the spring semester. This fee will ensure we provide the highest quality band class curricular program for your child.

Making Payments

The schedule for making payments for fees, trips, etc. will be communicated at Band Boosters meetings, on event flyers available to students, via email and through the E-blast. Payment coupons are available online at <https://www.harrisonbands.org> under the Boosters tab. If you need to make special arrangements for a modified payment plan, please contact the band director and bookkeeper in advance. We are always willing to work with you on a payment plan that may be more convenient. Payments may be made by personal check, bank bill pay, credit/debit card via PayPal, or through the application of Fundraising Credits.

Booster Information

Personal Check - Personal checks should be made out to **HHBB**. Please be absolutely sure to write your student's name and note what the payment is for (marching fees, fruit sale, etc.) on the check. **Payments should be placed in a sealed envelope with the student's name and a description of what the payment is for, written on the outside of the envelope.** Envelopes should be placed in the drop box in the band room, where the bookkeeper will collect them. **All payments will be applied to the oldest outstanding balance.** Checks may be mailed to the following address:

HHBB
P. O. Box 801017
Acworth, GA 30101

Cash - For tracking purposes, the Harrison Band Boosters does not accept cash payments. Exceptions may be made for promotional sales or food at select events. **Do not mail cash or put cash in the drop box.**

PayPal or Credit Card via PayPal

- Go to Band Website (\$5 convenience fee applies):
<http://www.harrisonbands.org/make-a-band-payment>
- Link is provided at the bottom of each Band Blast

On-line Bill Pay through your Bank

- Make Payment to HHBB and mail to address above

The bookkeeper will send monthly bills for outstanding balances.
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Marching Band Fundraising Credit Q&A

How are Fundraising Credits applied to my account? Fundraising Credits are applied to remaining Band Fees.

Do I need to do anything to have Fundraising Credits applied to my account? No. Fundraising Credits will automatically be applied to your account by the Bookkeeper and Treasurer.

How can I check my balance of Fundraising Credits? A listing of current balances will be posted at the beginning of each month on the Charms database.

Do Fundraising Credits rollover to future years? Yes.

What happens to unused Fundraising Credits when I graduate or if I leave the program? Unused Fundraising Credits revert to the general band fund when a student graduates or leaves the Harrison instrumental music program. A written request must be submitted to the bookkeepers to hold an account open for a younger sibling.

May I earn Fundraising Credits for another student in the program? Yes, as long as you designate the student before the credits are posted.

General Information

My music office emails and texts

Urgent information will be communicated via My Music Office emails and texts. Please be sure accurate emails and phone numbers are provided to office@harrisonbands.org.

Band News (commonly referred to as “E-Blast” or “the blast”)

The Harrison Bands News is the official newsletter of the HHBB. It is published and sent via Email weekly to all band members. **It is critical that all members have their e-mail address on file in order for you to be kept current on all band activities and announcements.** Harrison Band events and awards are also promoted through local neighborhood newsletters and publications. If you have any contact information for your neighborhood, please forward to pr@harrisonbands.org.

Website

The Harrison Band Website is your best and most reliable source of communication regarding all activities and announcements. Go to harrisonbands.org and follow the links to pages of invaluable information and knowledge. The site contains news, a link to the Harrison Bands calendar of events, necessary forms, policies and handbook copies, and a forum for parents and students to use for fun as well as for correspondence. All HHBB Board members can be reached via e-mail by logging on to the Booster page of the website and following the links. Remember to frequent the site often for last minute changes and updates. Inquiries regarding the website should be addressed to info@harrisonbands.org.

Service Volunteers

Band Camp Special Events

Band camp special event volunteers are needed for a wide variety of jobs, with the time commitment ranging from one to several hours. Volunteers are needed to furnish food or supplies for some of the activities and to help with set-up and clean up.

Equipment Crew

The Equipment Crew is responsible for building props and for the transportation and protection of equipment, instruments, and all support items needed for any given performance.

For every performance, student members of the equipment crew have the primary responsibility for loading and unloading the band box-truck and the trailer. Adult volunteers are needed to assist the students, get the equipment in position for the half-time show, get everything off the field very quickly, and guard the equipment when it is off the field. The equipment crew also has responsibility for the care and maintenance of the band box-truck and the trailer.

Chaperones

Marching Band Chaperones

Date: Every band camp, after school practice, home and away football game and all marching events

Band Camp Chaperones

Volunteers needed: 2 - 4 per shift for 3 – 5 hour shifts

Dates: July-August and all Saturday mini camps

The chaperones are responsible for holding things together at band camp. The Directors prefer to have at least three chaperones present at all times to help with assorted activities or problems that arise. The chaperones work in approximately three to five hour shifts to do whatever is needed.

Tasks include filling the water coolers, watching over students who stay at school during lunch or dinner breaks, attending to students who do not feel well, injuries, minor first aid, answering questions, and helping with tasks for the Band Directors.

After School Practice Chaperones

Volunteers needed: 2 - 4 per shift for 3 – 5 hour shifts; Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 4-7:30pm

Dates: August – November

The chaperones are responsible for holding things together at practices. Tasks include filling the water coolers, attending to students who do not feel well, injuries, minor first aid, answering questions, and helping with tasks for the Band Directors. Also, on Thursdays, the chaperones need to prep water for the Friday football games

Football Games Chaperones

Volunteers needed: 12-14 per game, 2-3 after school and 5 to monitor halls for students who stay after school.

Dates: August-November

During marching season chaperones are needed for all home and away football games. Chaperones usually report to the band room around 4:30. Before game duties include getting the medical kit, medical forms, bus bags, trash bags, to assist and load as directed. The chaperones walk along beside the band as it marches to the stadium to help keep spectators from cutting through the lines. In the stadium, chaperones hand out towels, and water as needed. They also assist placing the plumes on the shakos, escorting the students to the restroom, and helping block the aisles when the band marches in and out of the stadium.

Festival and Competition Chaperones

Volunteers needed: 8 - 14 per event

Date: As needed

When either the marching band or the concert bands leave Harrison to perform in a competition or at festival, it is necessary to maintain a ratio of parents to students. Typically, this job requires just being there to help guide the students and solve any little

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problems that may come up. You are very busy during these trips assisting with students. Trips require overnight supervision of the students. Marching band competitions may require loading the same equipment and supplies as needed for football games, depending upon circumstances.

Chaperones: for all band events you must wear a green chaperone shirt

Uniform Crew

Student members of the uniform crew handle the bulk of the work. The uniform crew makes sure that the uniforms stay in perfect condition. They oversee fitting of the uniforms during band camp and maintenance of the uniforms during marching season. Parent volunteers provide routine maintenance including sewing buttons, making minor repairs, and periodic cleaning.

Uniform Washers

This volunteer position will take 5-8 uniforms home (depending on how many washer volunteers we get) after all Marching events (football and competitions). This means you or your marcher will be responsible for collecting the uniforms before leaving after the event.

You will wash the uniform according to the washing instructions which will be provided by the uniform lead.

Uniforms must be returned no later than Wednesday, the following week. The uniform team will need Thursday to organize and check them in before the following event (these are mostly Football games which are on Friday nights).

Towel Washers

This Volunteer position will pick up a duffel bag of Towels to wash before leaving after the event.

Wash, fold and count towels.

Return the Towels to the Band room no later than Wednesday with the count of towels taped to the bag along with your name.

Uniform Check In

This Volunteer will come in during Band practices (Mon, Tues & Thursdays) to receive and check in the uniforms. The uniforms that come in need to be checked in to ensure we have all uniforms for the next event. The uniforms need from time to time to be “repaired” and or ironed.

Game /Event Uniform Crew

This volunteer will come in 30 minutes prior to call time to help assist the students with any uniform issues. This can vary from hemming a torn snap, adjusting the hem to better fit, helping them “borrow” any required wear item, Shako issues, and or selling gloves. You will ensure the Equipment crew has the Towel containers, Plumes and or Rain gear if needed. If the game/event is away you will ride the buses with the band to the event. You will make

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your way to the stadium/event where the band will sit. Before the band takes their seats we hand them out towels to sit on so that the uniforms stay in good condition. Once the Students are in their seats you will assist Chaperones with water bottles and bathroom breaks. At the end of 1st quarter you will get the Plumes ready for Shakos. Once the band goes to warm up in their circles they place the shakos on the ground and we then commence at inserting the Plumes into the shakos very quickly and carefully. When the Band exits the field we then remove the plumes before they take the stands, this is a very fast paced period of time and during this we must ensure the plumes are handled with care. Once all plumes are collected we then replace them in their appropriate containers. You will then place the Plume containers in the appropriate place so that the equipment crew can load them up and onto the gator or the truck for the return to the school. You will then take the stands and sit with the band for the remainder of the game. At the end of the game when the students are dismissed from the stands they will hand their towels to you and you will then place the towels back in the towel containers. You will then ensure that they are returned to the equipment crew for loading onto the gator or the truck for return to school.

You will then make your way back to the school and wait in the Uniform room until last uniforms are picked up to be sent home and washed. We usually work together on this and get out pretty fast.

*During some competitions/events we will walk with the band to the practice areas and insert plumes during this time.

Fundraising Overview

The Harrison Band Boosters organize a number of fundraising events each year in an effort to support the expenses of the various aspects and activities of the Harrison High School Bands and related entities. Participation in the fundraising activities is not only encouraged, it is necessary for all families to participate so that we can maintain the high standards and exceptional experiences for our students.

For the 2025-26 marching band season, each band member is encouraged to participate in all Fundraising opportunities that are provided by the HHBB.

Marching Band students are required to participate in our Vertical Raise fundraiser. More details will be shared prior to the fundraiser.

Fundraising credits are applied to balances.

To note, if a student/family earns more credits than the yearly band fees, any additional amount/credits can then be applied towards next year's fees or to the band budget. Senior fundraising balances are moved to general band fundraising after graduation unless arrangements are made in advance to apply to a younger sibling in or joining the band program.

Additional fundraising requirements and fees will be established for other band season entities such as Indoor Percussion (HIPE) and Winter Guard. The amounts will be set nearer to the time the season begins.

Volunteers

Every family has the opportunity to help maintain the high level of excellence that our band program has achieved, partially through fundraising. By sharing this load, we can achieve our goals without stressing any one person or group's calendar or pocketbook. There are a number of fundraising opportunities scheduled throughout the year to give everyone the chance to serve in at least one of the following three ways: coordinating a fundraiser, serving on a fundraising / event committee, and selling specified merchandise.

In addition to music excellence, this program helps us, as parents, in our efforts toward creating positive, productive leaders for the world after their high school experience. Please help us continue this tradition by giving of your time and abilities. Our organization is structured in such a way that you will have guidance and assistance throughout the process of running or assisting a fundraising event.

Fundraisers and Events

Below is a list of the individual and general band fundraisers and events accompanied by a description of the event. This list is not all inclusive – additional fundraisers may be added throughout the year!

Individual Fundraisers

These are specifically for fundraising credits toward band fees, but will also benefit the band program as a whole. This is only a small sampling of opportunities planned for the year.

Corporate Sponsor Program

Students and band booster families may seek out financial support/monetary donations from businesses as a way of fundraising for Harrison High Band Boosters (HHBB). Financial proceeds will be paid directly to HHBB as a tax-deductible donation. Fifty percent (50%) of funds received from the corporate sponsor will be applied as a fundraising credit towards a family's/student's band fees.

Corporate Sponsorship Program Overview

(For full program details and brochure, please see [Corporate Sponsor](#) page on band website
Coming soon

Types

- Standard: (financial only, most common)
- Student Sponsorships
- In-Kind Donations - Products or Services

Standard Corporate Sponsorships (most common)

Levels:

- **Grand National Level** - \$3,000 (Base Benefits + Plaque + Premium Advertising & Benefits + top consideration for services)
- **Super Regional Level** - \$2,000 (Base Benefits + Plaque + Advertising + consideration for services)
- **Regional Level** – \$1,000 (Base Benefits + additional advertising)
- **Local Level** –\$750 (Base Benefits)

50% Fundraising Credit toward student Fundraiser Requirement (or Band Fees after Fundraiser Requirement satisfied)

Student Sponsorship (New this year)

Levels:

- **Drum Major Level** - \$500 Donation
- **Lieutenant Level** - \$250 Donation
- **Section Leader Level** - \$100 Donation
- **Friends of the Band** - \$50 Donation

“In-Kind” Donation

Products and services donated to the band program, considered to be “in-kind”, tax-deductible donations, and help to offset band program expenses that may otherwise have to be paid. (No direct individual financial Fundraising Credit).

Meal opportunities for restaurant Sponsors*

During the season, we provide our students with the opportunity to order meals for certain band camps, concerts, away games, and competitions throughout the school year because there is little time for them to leave school to eat. We have several of these opportunities and make every effort to partner with our Corporate Sponsors first to fill these meal needs on a first come first served basis.

* **Please Note:** All Meal Sponsors are subject to final approval by the HHBB Board.

RaiseRight Card Sales - (formerly Scrip)

RaiseRight is an opportunity for families, friends, neighbors, and businesses to purchase gift cards from hundreds of local and national retailers while earning fundraising credits with each purchase. The gift cards that we purchase from Great Lakes Scrip are purchased at a discount (rebate) that you receive in the form of fundraising credits. The rebate is split 95% to the student's fundraising credits and 5% to the band to cover the administrative cost. The best part about purchasing Scrip cards is that these cards are for purchases that you are already making every day, every week, every month such as gas, food, dining, etc. Why not benefit from those purchases? You can order cards and/or select from a wide variety of cards we have on hand for immediate purchase.

Come join us, discover what RaiseRight is all about, and watch your fundraising credits grow! RaiseRight sales are held the first Tuesday of the month by the Spirit Shack from 5:00 to 7:00pm. Can't make a Tuesday sale? For your convenience, place your order in the dropbox located in the band room. Preferred method of payment is by check - no cash please!

Instant, online RaiseRight shopping/payment is the preferred option. **See the RaiseRight team to get set-up.** With a few clicks on your phone while shopping in your favorite stores, you can access "RaiseRight" to use when checking out. For a list of RaiseRight retailers, go to <https://www.raiseright.com/shop>

We also have cards available from local merchants not listed (Publix and Daily Grind, etc.). Check the RaiseRight board and the email blast each week. Questions? Email scrip@harrisonbands.org. See you at RaiseRight!

General Band Fundraisers

BANDtober Calendar Fundraiser- REQUIRED for marching band members

A fundraiser which will support the general band budget as well as individual fundraising credits. Have someone sponsor a day or several days on your student's calendar to help raise money for the band. A set amount will go to the band with the remaining money being applied to the student's fundraising account. All students are expected to participate.

Arts in Motion (SAPA and/or WGI event)

Southern Association for Performance Arts (SAPA) and/or Winter Guard International – Winter guard and Indoor Percussion.

70 Units from across the country will compete. Approximately 2,000 to 3,000 attendees (spectators and performers). HHBB Hosts this event. All volunteer needs will be filled by band parents/students.

Bingo

Annual Bingo night with prizes provided by local merchants; a fun night for the whole family!

Fruit Sale

Our fruit sale project has been a great fundraiser and is conveniently planned for the holiday season. Students sell various combinations of oranges, tangelos, and grapefruit. The fruit makes an excellent holiday gift or corporate gift for employees, clients, and customers. Students take orders and once the fruit arrives, they are responsible for delivering the fruit to the buyer. The fruit baskets, boxes, and bags sell from approximately \$10 to \$25.

Night of Jazz

Our Night of Jazz has become a much-anticipated annual event and offers a fun "night out" to enjoy the music provided by our high school jazz ensembles. Tickets are sold in advance.

Night of Necessary Noise

A showcase of winter guard and percussion ensembles with concessions, friendly competitions between ensembles and instruments

Plant Sales

Two sales will be held each year in spring and fall.

Pops in the Park

Pops in the Park is a special outdoor concert located at the school. The evening showcases the Harrison High School bands as well as selected local middle school bands who are invited to perform. Families can bring a picnic or purchase dinner from the concession stand. Everyone brings lounge chairs or a blanket. This event is extremely fun for students, family, and friends.

It takes a tremendous number of volunteers to make this an enjoyable experience for everyone. Besides having fun and raising some money, we hope that this event serves as an introduction for the middle school band students to the Harrison High band program.

Promotional/Merchandise Sales

Many of the promotional items are specific to the band; however, we also sell items of interest to all Harrison students and parents. The Spirit Shack is located at the edge of the practice lot and is typically open during Thursday night practices. They will also be available at Tailgates and other events throughout the year.

VIP Reserved Parking Football Game Night

Reserve your parking spot for all home football games. Avoid parking hassles and no parking space available for home football games by securing one of the limited reserved parking spots. No need to rush or get to the school hours early before a football game to get a spot, as your spot next to the band room will be reserved. These parking reservations will be available on a first come/first serve basis with an expectation that all spots will sell out quickly after the announcement date.

Additional fundraisers:

As boosters, our primary goal is to raise money for our organization. We are often approached with new fundraising ideas that we may try within any given season. The above list is meant to provide you with a general idea of the many ways you can participate in the band program but should be seen as a flexible list that is modified as needed to help us meet our annual goals.

There is a booster board process for evaluating and approving new fundraisers. Please contact any board person or director for any new ideas you may have.

Appendix A: FAQs

Glossary of Terms

Band Class

Questions

Marching Band Questions

Glossary of Terms

All-State - Students who excel at their Honor Band (see below) audition may be invited to audition for the Georgia All-State Band. If selected, students will participate in a clinic weekend with superior high school musicians from around the state.

Battery – Drum Line members who march on the field.

“Big Blue” and “The Semi” – The large blue Harrison Band box trucks and 18-wheeler semi-truck, respectively, used to transport instruments and props.

BOA – Bands of America is a non-profit educational organization that is the nation’s leading presenter of music events for high school band students. Sponsored events include various regional competitions, Grand National Championships, National Concert Band Festival and Summer Symposium. BOA’s stated mission is to provide “positively life-changing” experiences for students, teachers, parents and communities.

BOA Summer Symposium – An excellent summer camp held for one week in June at Ball State University. Students can enroll in concert band, jazz band, orchestra, color guard, and drum major camps where they are taught by leading instructors from around the country.

Chamber Music – Students perform compositions written for small groups, usually 4 - 12 players.

Color Guard – The marching band members who add visual impact and color to the musical performance in a challenging activity that combines equipment work using flags, rifles and sabers with dancing and marching. Auditions are held in April of each year.

Concert Bands – Any of the three band classes: Concert Band, Symphonic Band, or Wind Ensemble.

DCI – Drum Corps International is a non-profit youth organization that sponsors Drum and Bugle Corps. These corps are made up of high school and college students up to age 21, who spend the summer traveling and competing against other corps in shows across the country. Division I, II, and III corps and auditions are typically held in late fall or early winter.

Dot Book – Small notebook worn by band members during practice to record their marching formations.

Dots – Specific points on the marching field.

Drill – Marching formations on the field.

Drill Charts – A picture describing each marching set.

Drumline – All percussion members in the marching band, including both Battery and Pit.

Embouchure – Mouth placement on an instrument.

Festival (LGPE)– A competition and clinic for all concert bands within the District. District Festival is held each spring. Also referred to as LGPE - Large Group Performance Evaluations.

Fundraising Credits – Individual fundraising obtained by a student and/or their family that qualify to apply to student band fees.

GBBB (Gray, Blue, Black, Black) – Gray performance shirt, Blue performance shorts, Black socks, Black Marching Shoes (uniform shoes). Refers to the required apparel for students on performance days.

Honor Band – Students from throughout the district may audition for District Honor Band. Based on the audition results, students may be selected for either the 9th or 10th grade Honor Band or 11th or 12th grade Honor Band. During Honor Band weekend, students will practice Friday night, all day Saturday and perform a concert on Sunday.

Jan Fest – A clinic weekend for selected band members, held at the University of Georgia each January.

MTXs – Black uniform shoes worn by marching band members.

Pass-Off – After a student has memorized his or her marching music, it must be played for the section leader with two or fewer mistakes. Students will not be allowed to participate during performances and do not march on the field until the music is “passed off.”

Percussion Ensemble – Extra-curricular opportunity for students to explore percussion. Also known as HIPE or Indoor Percussion.

Pit or Front Ensemble – Members of the drum line who play xylophone and other instruments on the front sideline during performances and do not march on the field.

Plume – The large, very expensive feather worn on top of the shako (uniform hat).

SAPA – Southern Association for Performance Arts. The competing color guards from Alabama and Georgia.

Sectional – specially scheduled practice for all band members who play the same instrument (e.g. clarinet, flute, etc). Sectionals are scheduled to give members of each section an opportunity to improve teamwork skills and practice their own music or routines.

Shakos – Uniform hats worn by marching band members.

Silks – Color Guard flags

Solo/Ensemble – Voluntary competition where individual students or ensembles of students prepare a piece of music and perform for competitive ratings.

Summer Workshop Opportunities – Specialized instruction with professionals in a camp-like setting. Summer workshops are held in a number of locations across the country including university campuses and a variety of specialty camps.

Winter Band Camp – Two afternoons of mandatory camp for all band class students. Guest conductors and clinicians work with the students on music in preparation for Festival/LGPE. Winter Band Camp is typically held in February of each year.

WGI – Winter Guard International - A non-profit organization that serves as the governing body for Winter Guard and Indoor Percussion activities. This organization holds international competitions for Guard, Percussion and Wind ensembles.

Winter Guard - A color guard team that performs to recorded music at indoor competitions from December through April. This activity combines modern dance with flag, rifle, and saber work. Auditions are held in November.

Band Class Questions

Is High School Band just Marching Band?

No, in fact, the Marching Band is only a small portion of the total high school band experience. The Harrison Band program is centered on the concert music program and developing creative, artistic musicians. Since its inception in 1991, the Harrison High School band program has quickly established a reputation for musical excellence. The Wind Ensemble is the top-performing ensemble within a three-tiered band program, which also includes Symphonic Band, and Concert Band. Each of these ensembles meets for ninety minutes every day within a four-period block schedule and performs 4-5 concerts each year. With the concert bands at the core of the curriculum, students also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of extra-curricular ensembles offered through the department. These include a 150+ member volunteer marching band, a very active chamber music program, a Symphony Orchestra, two jazz ensembles, and a concert percussion ensemble. In addition, the band parents association sponsors an after-school private lesson program with an outstanding faculty of professional musicians.

Does high school band conflict with academics?

No, research shows that it enhances academics! - Students participating in band for two years score higher: SAT Verbal-20 points higher SAT Math-25 points higher and gains increase with each additional year!

-MORE THAN 75% of Harrison Band Students take Honors & AP Courses!

-60 - 75% of band seniors graduate “with honor” distinctions.

-MORE THAN 80 Band Students had a 3.5 or higher AND were in Marching Band

-25% of the Marching Band Students had a 4.0 or higher while participating in Marching Band

Harrison Band students have been accepted in some excellent universities:

University of Georgia • Georgia Tech • Emory • Stanford • Harvard • Michigan • LSU • Cincinnati Conservatory • Florida State University • University of South Carolina • Auburn • Furman • University of Tennessee • U of Alabama • University of Oklahoma • Georgia State University and so many others

Can students participate in other activities and band at the same time?

Band students are members /officers in almost every club!

NHS, BETA, KEY, THE WALL, MODEL UN, FRENCH, LATIN, SPANISH, DRAMA CHORUS, NEWSPAPER, and more!

Band students are also athletes in basketball, track, baseball, hockey, swimming, soccer, volleyball, wrestling, and lacrosse. As a strong recommendation, if a student is considering participating in another sport or heavy time commitment activity during marching band, indoor percussion, or winter guard seasons, please consult with the band director and your coach to fully understand the commitments required for both and to avoid time/scheduling conflicts prior to signing up.

What are some of the music opportunities outside of Harrison?

Students in the Harrison Bands are consistent members in the District Honor Band, Georgia All-State Band, Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony, Metropolitan Youth Symphony, Orchestra, Honor Band of America, Georgia's Governor's Honors Program, and Atlanta Youth Jazz Orchestra.

What financial responsibility do I have once my student enrolls in band class?

The amount of money that the band classes receive from the county each year does not begin to cover the cost of operating these classes. Therefore, in order to be able to afford to run a band program with the national reputation for excellence that Harrison High School has achieved, the Booster Club supplements funds for enrichment. In return, we ask that each student enrolled in

band class participate in several general budget fundraisers and assume the personal responsibility for a per semester curriculum enrichment fee of \$150 along with the encouragement to participate in individual fundraiser opportunities during marching season to meet the obligations of marching band fees.

What about fundraising?

The Harrison Band program is funded, almost exclusively, through fundraising projects organized by the Harrison High Band Boosters (HHBB). Throughout the year there are many opportunities for both parents and students to raise money first for the band program as a whole, and then for their individual fundraising credit requirement(s) toward band fees.

What are “Fundraising Credits” and “Fundraising Requirements”?

For the marching band season, each band member is encouraged to participate in Individual Fundraising to credit his or her marching band fees. This does not exempt the student/family from participating in General Band Fundraisers.

What other expenses should I be prepared to pay while my child is in band class? Students order sticks, mallets, and other equipment periodically through the band. Also, winter band camp expenses, meals on trips and before certain events (generally not on the day of the competition or performance), performance polo shirts, and miscellaneous other expenses will be incurred by your student while he/she is in band class.

Occasionally, a fun trip will be planned to provide additional education experiences and reward the students for their hard work and dedication. This trip is optional and not required for students to attend. Expenses for these types of trips would be in addition to any other band fees.

The Booster Club provides financial support for supplemental enrichment opportunities to the curricular band classes in addition to funds provided by county and state. The Booster Club also provides organizational and financial support for extra-curricular activity opportunities like Percussion Ensemble, Winter Guard, Jazz Ensemble, a Conservatory private lesson program, Marching Band and spring band trips. If your student chooses to participate in these opportunities then you accept responsibility for additional fees for those activities. However, the Booster Club provides many services to parents and students such as payment schedules as well as a variety of fundraisers designed specifically to create realistic opportunities for families to cover additional fees through their personal participation in these fundraisers.

What is Winter Band Camp?

During the winter (generally in February) the band class students are required to attend Winter Band Camp. The camp is generally held two evenings after school. The purpose of the camp is to give the students the experience of working with other conductors and work in-depth on the music that will be played during Festival (LGPE) in March. The Booster Club brings in Guest Conductors for each band. In addition, the students have received sectional instruction with specialists on their individual instruments during class time leading up to Festival (LGPE). The cost for Winter Band Camp is paid via the per semester curriculum enrichment fees.

What are the required concert dress items for my student in band class?

All students in band class are required to wear appropriate concert attire, which consists of a black two-piece dress for the ladies and a tuxedo for the men. The students will be fitted in the fall and both of these items are rented from the booster club for a rental fee for the school year. In addition, the ladies must wear pearls (must be purchased from the booster club), and black, dressy, *closed-toe* shoes. The men must have a black tie and black dress shirt (all must be purchased from the booster club) and black socks and black dress shoes.

Marching Band Questions

Including Color Guard, Winds, and Percussion concerns

Is there a prerequisite for Marching Band?

All wind and percussion students must be enrolled and be members in good standing in a performing ensemble class both spring and fall semesters to be eligible to be in the Marching Band.

What forms do I need to complete for my student to march?

The commitment form, medical form, permission to participate and permission to photograph forms are all located in the form section of the website (www.harrisonbands.org). These forms must be completed each year and the *medical form must be notarized*. Also, the commitment form must be signed and returned prior to your student having a “dot” in the drill.

When are all of the rehearsals for marching band?

The calendar for the marching season is posted on the band website. Access the calendar at www.harrisonbands.org by choosing “CALENDAR” on the navigation bar. Please remember that doctor’s appointments, homework, etc. are not excused and conflicts are to be avoided. It is critical for your student to attend all rehearsals and events. After school begins, rehearsals are after school on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, with football games on Friday nights. There are also weekend events that the student must attend (i.e. competitions, mini-camps, Arts In Motion, etc.)

What is Band Camp?

Band camp is the culmination of the creative process for the marching band show. Marching band camp is held on the campus of Harrison High School (except for years Harrison is hosting Cobb County District Training - camp is moved to the Lost Mountain Middle School). Students will learn how to march, play while marching, play in the outdoor environment, and the importance of team membership to create a musical experience. Students will receive instruction from staff members in marching and playing in both individual and ensemble settings. Many bonds are formed in the marching band camp. Aside from marching and playing, ideals of trust, responsibility, teamwork, goal setting and achievement, and character are all components of the camp experience.

Is Band Camp mandatory if I plan on being in the marching band?

Unless previously discussed with directors, yes, the marching band camp is mandatory. We will cover the equivalent of nearly six weeks of regular rehearsal hours in the two weeks of camp. The process of learning marching drill is dependent on the “dots” in the drill being filled. Without the charted marcher in attendance at any given time, it becomes a hardship to those around him/her to successfully march their drill. Likewise, promptness to all rehearsals is required, so we may all begin at the same time. When the rehearsal time is posted, please plan to arrive 15-20 minutes prior to be ready to begin at the given time. We also ask that unless already cleared in writing that all doctor appointments, unless an emergency, not be scheduled during band camp. Attendance and promptness will be documented at each rehearsal per handbook policies. Leadership members will notify the directors of tardiness and/or absence.

What should I do if my student is sick?

If your student is ill on any given morning of band camp, it is imperative that we are contacted (678-594-8104 x249). Do not assume that we will know they are sick if they are not in attendance. They should also let their section leader know. Upon returning, whether it is that particular day or another day of band camp, please send a written excuse for your child’s

absence. Any student present for the school day is expected to be present for any after-school rehearsals.

Will meals be provided during Band Camp?

No. We request that all students bring a sack lunch during Band Camp. A detailed Band Camp itinerary will be provided. Please do not send perishable items unless your student provides their own small cooler, we do not have means to refrigerate everyone's sandwich. Supervision is provided during the lunch breaks. Students may leave campus if necessary. We ask that parents monitor their own students' needs. Due to safety reasons, parents are responsible for their students if they leave campus during lunch breaks.

What should I wear to Band Camp?

T-shirts, shorts, and tennis shoes are the suggested attire for camp. Please remember that attire must be school appropriate and school dress code rules are in effect. Bare midriffs, cut-off T-shirts, bathing suit tops and T-shirts containing suggestive material or advertising/advocating drugs or alcohol will not be allowed. You will be asked to return home to change. Your feet are very crucial to your success as a marching member, therefore please wear athletic shoes that will be comfortable and allow you flexibility to move easily. Flip-flops, swimming shoes, and sandals are not allowed for any marching rehearsal including band camp. Students must wear shoes at all times while at camp. Stepping on a sharp object could potentially take you out of the show for the season. *Please bring sunscreen, baseball caps, sunglasses, cooling towel and lots of water to drink.* You will spend approximately 4 hours per day, minimum, in the sun. Be prepared and take care of yourself during these hours. Color Guard should wear black shorts, black tank top, and athletic shoes.

Will my student be supervised by adults, other than the staff during camp?

Parents are on hand during all rehearsals and meals to assist your student in all facets of the day.

What should my child eat during Band Camp?

Please see that your child eats a good breakfast each morning (preferably no dairy). They will start the day running and will use lots of physical energy during the morning rehearsal block. Many students who typically do not eat breakfast find this a difficult three hours and can become ill due to the lack of nutrition. We strongly encourage your student to eat all meals well during camp and to avoid caffeine to help prevent dehydration.

What do I need to bring to camp each day?

You need to bring your well-maintained instrument. Please have the instrument in good playing condition for band camp. You will be spending a lot of time playing and poor conditions will not aid in your progress during the week. Please have valve oil and extra reeds, as well. If you will be using a school-owned instrument (percussion, sousaphone, marching baritone, etc.) you will be issued an instrument. A form will be sent home with you for your parent's signature outlining the responsibilities of using a school-owned instrument.

You will be issued a dot book in which you will place your individual drill. It is required that you bring your dot book to every rehearsal and have it in a pocket or around your neck for quick referral.

Please plan to bring a water jug full of ice water at the beginning of each rehearsal. Fill it up before you come to school! Everyone is expected to bring his or her own water. Do not plan on sharing! Water and sports drinks are recommended. Caffeine should be avoided when participating in outdoor activities. PREHYDRATION is a must! Remember that 8 glasses of

water a day is for “normal” exertion. Students should increase water intake three days prior to band camp and should replace fluids every night during camp.

Your name should be clearly marked on your water jug, and EVERYTHING else that you bring to camp. Every year, we give DOZENS of coolers, shirts, shorts, etc. to MUST Ministries because they are left in the band room and have no name on them.

What are Marching Fees and what do they cover?

Marching band is classified as an extracurricular subject and as such is not directly funded through the Cobb County Schools. Therefore, fundraising and marching fees become the financial support for the marching band. Marching fees cover the cost of arrangement and writing of the music, original drill writing, 150 hours of individual and group instruction during band camp, special event nights during band camp, show t-shirt, medical supplies, specialized instruction for color guard and oftentimes a choreographer brought in to help with movement of the band, over 85 hours of instruction after band camp, mini-camp instruction, marching competition fees, travel to competitions, cost of prop construction and movement to locations, water at football games and at competitions, maintenance and repair of marching band school-owned instruments, purchase of new uniforms, costumes, and color guard performance uniforms, etc.

How much are Marching Fees?

Marching fees vary from year to year. A commitment and costume/uniform fee are due early in the spring. The drill is written based on the number of students that submit their commitment/costume fees and these fees are non-refundable. Additional payments are due at various times in the spring and early summer. A Payment Schedule Coupon will be provided listing specific due dates and amounts.

What other expenses will I incur in marching band?

Each student will need to purchase marching shoes, gloves, performance t-shirt, tank, and shorts (to be worn under the uniform/costume). These items are available through the Booster Club. In addition, there will be expenses for some meals, etc. Color guard members will need to purchase practice shoes, performance shoes, wind suits, bags, gloves, practice shirts, etc.

After I pay marching fees, is that all I will owe for my student to be in band?

As referenced under Band Class Questions, marching band is an extracurricular activity supported almost entirely on fundraising and marching fees. When your child is in band class, there are additional expenses incurred in the classroom (literature, equipment, sectional instruction, etc.). These expenses are covered through other fundraisers, the curriculum Enrichment fee (\$175 per semester), concert attire dry cleaning and the costs for various programs.

Are there any eligibility requirements for the extra-curricular band extensions?

Yes. All extra-curricular extensions of the Harrison Band program (percussion ensemble, jazz ensemble, guard, winter guard, indoor drum line, etc.) require any student previously involved in any part of the 9-12th grade band program to remain active in the band program in order to be eligible to participate. In order to avoid recruiting conflicts, if a student is active in one facet of the program, he or she may expand their involvement to band + another extra-curricular band activity, but may not limit their participation to “extra-curricular only.” Once a student “drops” from band participation, they are no longer eligible for extra-curricular participation.

Appendix B: Forms

Forms and Policies

Overview

The handbook has described the band forms and policies as well as the Cobb County policies in general terms. Periodically it is necessary to describe policies very formally and/or update prices and fees. In this portion of the handbook, an at-a-glance view of various forms and policies is provided in hopes that it will help parents and students to identify the forms referred to in this handbook.

In order to get the most up-to-date information or to print a useable copy of a form, please log onto www.harrisonbands.org/, click “Booster” on the top navigation guide, then click “Policy and Forms”. You will also find a more comprehensive list of forms and policies at www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/adminrules/

In this handbook, we will provide what we consider to be the most relevant and common forms Harrison High Band Boosters and students will need to be familiar with.

Cobb County Forms

These 3 Cobb County forms must be completed by the first day of band camp (or the first day of school for students not marching)

1. **IFCB-5** Medical History Permission and Release Form
This form must be *notarized* in order for it to be valid.
2. **IFCB-3** “Blanket” Permission to Participate in a Series of School Sponsored Field Trips
3. **JG(1)-1** Permission to Display Student Photograph/Name

Samples – see www.Cobbk12.org for current versions


Form IDFB-1

PERMISSION TO DISPLAY STUDENT PHOTOGRAPH/NAME

I hereby give permission to Cobb County School District (District) to use or publicly display my child's photograph, video image, or audio clip on the District's Web site(s), individual school Web pages, or in other official District publications without further notice. I acknowledge the District's right to crop, edit, or reuse the photograph, video, or audio clip at its discretion.

I also understand that once my student's photograph, video image, or audio clip is published on a

Sample – see www.Cobbk12.org for current version

Unauthorized Parties' does not represent any and all claims and holds me harmless from the publishing.

Subject/Name of Event: _____

Permission is granted for the use requested above.

NOTE: This form must be signed by students 18 and under in 10 years of age or older.

Name of Student: _____ Signature of Student: _____

Date of Student Signature: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____ Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date of Parent/Guardian Signature(s): _____

Cobb County Board Administrative Rule IDF-R: Student Conduct: Interscholastic/Extracurricular Activities

This Cobb County policy must be observed by the Harrison Band. Log on to <http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/adminrules/1/IDFB-R.pdf> to review the policy in its entirety.


BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE RULE
Article 7, Section

Student Conduct: Interscholastic/Extracurricular Activities	2020 4/10/08
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PURPOSE/GOALS:

Participation in interscholastic/extracurricular (extracurricular) activities in Cobb County School District (District) schools is a privilege. Students participating in these activities are considered to be school leaders. They are role models who represent their school and must, therefore, exhibit the character, self-discipline, and responsibility and student participants must adhere to high standards of conduct. When students violate these high standards, the District may withdraw the privilege to participate in interscholastic/extracurricular activities.

SCOPE:

A. PROCEDURES:

1. These to which: Except as specifically provided, the following behavioral expectations and prohibitions apply 24 hours a day, 24 hours a day, in and out of the specific extracurricular events, and on or off school grounds.
2. Prohibition:
 - a. Sponsor/Coach should investigate policy violations and report to the school.

Sample – see www.Cobbk12.org for current version

3. Student Conduct:

- c. Students cannot attempt to evade the intent of the Rule by taking a new sport specifically to allow their suspension days to run their course. If a student athlete participates in a sport that he/she had not been previously involved with, he/she must consider the reason of the new sport in good standing in order for the suspension days to count.

4. Notification:

- a. Elementary/Middle Schools: In addition to providing students with copies of Administrative Rule 1026-4 (Student Code of Conduct (Elementary)) or 1026-5 (Student Code of Conduct (Middle Schools)), elementary and middle schools should make participants in extracurricular activities aware of this Administrative Rule.
- b. High Schools: In addition to providing students with copies of Administrative Rule 1026-6 (Student Code of Conduct (High Schools)), each high school should provide written notification of this Administrative Rule to all participants in extracurricular activities.

B. SECOND/THIRD OFFENSES/VIOLATIONS:

The District holds every student that participating over the number days or periods to get high using/possessing alcohol; using/possessing illegal drugs; or using/possessing prescription drugs in an unauthorized manner at any time to a serious offense. Such use or possession by extracurricular participants is banned. All

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