

## Introduction

Welcome to the Band Program at SHS. I am very excited and am looking forward to a rewarding year with the band. You have chosen to be a part of one of the most visible and proudest organizations at Spalding High School. As a member of the band you will invest more, time, effort, go more places, entertain more people, have more fun and reap more rewards than any other student organization at SHS.

I believe music has the power to enrich a students life both in high school and in the year's beyond. My primary goal is for students to develop a life long love for making music. I want the students at SHS to not only be life long lovers of music but also become good productive members of society. Being a part of the band program students are taught discipline, responsibility, and critical thinking skills that will be used in all areas of life.

As a member of the band program you are expected to do the following:

Report consistently and promptly to all rehearsals and performances - to be in the right place at the right time with all required equipment and be ready to put forth you best effort to accomplish excellence.

Practice sufficiently to be prepared to rehearse and perform at the highest level according to your capabilities.

Cooperate to the fullest with your leaders knowing that you will be held accountable for your actions and your contribution to the success of the band.

Share a good attitude with those around you.

Again let me welcome you to the SHS Band Program and I am looking forward to an exciting, fun and rewarding year.

Brian Gunter  
Director of Bands  
Spalding High School

# Spalding High School Band Staff

*Director of Bands: Mr. Brian Gunter*

*Guard Instructor:*

## Mission Statement

To provide the students of SHS an instrumental arts program with a high level of musicality, and professionalism that teaches the necessary skills to become outstanding musicians, as well as, cultivating the life skills for the leader's of tomorrow.

## Discipline

It has been my experience to have very few discipline problems in the band. Band students chose to be a part of the band program; therefore they know what is expected of them in way of behavior. The pride of the band is built on self - discipline, genuine respect for others, hard work and high standards of personal conduct and performance. As a member of the band you will be treated as a mature, responsible young adult and will be expected to ask as such. You will be held accountable for your own actions. All students will be expected to follow the Code of Conduct set forth by the Spadling Co. Board of Education.

Incidents, not major infractions, may be dealt with by assigning extra assignments, clean up duty, detention or some other light form of discipline. If the behavior is not corrected a parent contact will be made. Each action is dealt with on an individual basis and all extenuating circumstances will be taken into account.

## Severe Clause

The following actions will result in immediate dismissal from band and involvement of the school authorities:

- Gross insubordination toward any member of the band, band staff or chaperone.
- Possession/use/or transfer of any weapon on school property or at a band function.
- Fighting
- Possession of a controlled substance or is under the influence of a controlled substance on school property or at a band function.

## GOLDEN RULES FOR A SUCCESSFUL BAND CAREER

- Always conduct yourself in a manner that brings credit to you, your family, your community and your school, and such that you are a positive reflection of the proud traditions of the *Spalding High Band*.
- Refrain from the use of tobacco, drinking of alcoholic beverages or the use of drugs.
- Be loyal, honest, courteous and sportsmanlike in all dealings with your band director, band staff, fellow band members and chaperones.
- Refrain from the use of foul language and comments. This is a reflection on you, your parents and *The Spalding High Band*.
- Adult chaperones are available to assist you. They must receive your complete cooperation and respect.
- Watch, listen and cooperate with adult and student leaders during band functions.
- Special care should be taken to see that all personal and school property is properly cared for. Pack instruments carefully for travel. Place identification on all school and personal items. Record serial numbers for home records and for identification. Take care that nothing is damaged, lost, misplaced or missing when needed.
- Be at the right place, at the right time for all band activities with the proper equipment, attire and attitude. "To be early is to be on time, to be on time is late and to be late is unforgivable".

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

- In order to be one of the top musical organizations in the area, it is imperative that rehearsal time is effectively used and not wasted.

Your commitment to the success of the ensemble is directly reflected by your attendance and preparation for every Scheduled Band Activity (SBA). SBA's are defined as any scheduled activity on the current band calendar. This includes all rehearsals and performances (except for volunteer functions). SBA's whether during school after school is when students learn and perform and by their very nature cannot be reproduced or made up. Every effort will be made to give at least two weeks written notification of any changes. An updated calendar will be available in the band room or at *The Spalding Band* website ([shsjagsband.weebly.com](http://shsjagsband.weebly.com)). All students should coordinate all appointments with the band rehearsal calendar to help avoid conflicts. You will succeed or fail as a group, not as individuals. Therefore, it is mandatory that you are present, prepared and prompt for all SBA's.

- There are occasions when absences cannot be avoided. These absences should be cleared with the Director in writing at least one week in advance. *\*Please note that only excuses for emergency situations will be accepted after an event.* An absence will be considered excused if:
  - a) You have a medical emergency, accompanied by a physician's note
  - b) There is a death in your family
  - c) You have a personal illness
  - d) You have a significant family responsibility (wedding, reunion, etc...)
  - e) An unavoidable academic or school related conflict at Sandy Creek High School

*If an emergency occurs the night or day of an event, call the band office, if possible, and leave a message, send an email to the director, or bring an excuse to the next band event.*

- Once a student has missed three or more rehearsals they will lose 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter privilege for the following weeks game.
- Once a student has missed a performance by the band with an unexcused absence parents/ guardian will be contacted.
- Once a student has missed two or more performances with an unexcused absence the band staff will review his/her future status with the band.

- In the event that a student belongs to a non-Spalding High organization, which may be appearing, rehearsing or meeting during the same time, the Spalding High Band should take preference.
- The Spalding Band program will adhere to the following philosophy: A Spalding High game or event will take preference over a rehearsal; a performance of the Spalding High Band will take preference over any other Spalding High practice or meeting. In the event a Spalding High game or event is scheduled opposite a band performance, the student must inform the Band director at least two weeks prior to the conflict so that a solution may be reached.
- Consistent tardiness to rehearsals and performances impedes the flow of the band's progress and negatively affects the morale of the organization. Beginning with the third unexcused tardy you will be charged with an unexcused absence.
- Each student is expected to come to a rehearsal and a performance prepared and ready to participate to the fullest of their ability. Any student that comes to a rehearsal or performance and does not actively participate will be subject to disciplinary action. This includes, but is not limited to: forgetting an instrument, not having a reed, mouthpiece, sticks, mallets, or flags, not having music, not having the correct shoes for marching etc... (Students that have medical excuses or verified instrument repair issues will be exempt from penalty).

## Financial Obligations

Near the end of each school year the directors and executive committee members of the SHS Band Boosters will develop a budget for the band program for the next school year. The majority of funds to operate the band program will be derived from fundraising activities. A portion of the funding will be through payment of the participation fee. A student will not be denied participation in band because of financial hardship. However the student and their parents must show that every effort has been made to fundraise to best of the family's ability. It is the student's responsibility to request a Financial Assistance Form from the band director and the family's responsibility to return the completed form before financial assistance can be provided. The decision to waive a portion of the fees will be made by the Band Director, Band Booster President, and Band Booster Treasurer. All

information is strictly confidential. Failure to pay your financial commitment places undue hardship on the band and Band Boosters. In order for a marching band member to receive an Honor Cord they must be in good standing with the Band and Band Booster Organization. Good standing is interpreted as meeting all rehearsal obligations, performance obligations, as well as, financial obligations by way of marching fees etc...

### Participation Fee

Unfortunately, the Board of Education does not fund extra-curricular activities, in particular, Marching Band, nor does it provide enough funds to cover the complete operation of band classes. Therefore, our program, which is solely supported by the band boosters, and the projects that generate funds, that are implemented by the students. Transportation, equipment, music fees, meals, and band camp staff just scratch the surface of the expenses incurred during the year. In order to offset certain costs, members are obligated to pay the following fees to participate:

#### Winds and Percussion

Marching Band Participation Fee	\$125.00
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#### Color Guard

Fees will vary from year to year. Fees will be outlined in the May band booster meeting of each year.

The participation fee is generally due by September 15 and the band camp fee by the first day of camp. However, a fifty-dollar deposit, which will be applied toward your participation fee, is due before the end of school in May if you wish to participate in the SHS Marching Band. This deposit is considered a financial commitment and is **non-refundable** if a student decides to quit during the summer after we have purchased music and written drill.

## Rules and Regulations for Attire

Students are always required to follow the school dress code.

- I. Musicians
  - A. Rehearsals (Marching)
    - 1. Tennis shoes and socks
    - 2. NO CHEWING GUM
  - B. Performances (Marching)
    - 1. Jacket completely fastened at all times unless otherwise instructed by the director.
    - 2. Band t-shirt under uniform jacket
    - 3. Clean black band shoes and BLACK socks
    - 4. Band hat with chinstrap under the chin and long hair up in the hat.
    - 5. No jewelry
    - 6. Shorts or sweats under band uniform pants
    - 7. Moderate make-up
    - 8. NO CHEWING GUM
- II. Guard
  - A. Rehearsals and Performances
    - 1. You should adhere to the same policies as the band members, and any other specifications set forth by the Guard Instructor.
- III. Concert Attire
  - A. Gentlemen will wear tuxedos and ladies will wear black dresses (style of the dresses will be discussed in class).

## Summer Uniform

The summer uniform for all Spalding High Marching Band members is:  
Khaki shorts, current band t-shirt, white socks and predominantly white shoes.

No Jewelry

Hair must be pulled back and out of face. No nail polish

## Uniform Maintenance

The uniforms were designed to be simple. They are easily soiled. Therefore, each band member must be mindful of the following instructions. These uniforms **MUST** last and will last if they are worn and cared for with pride and responsibility. Students will be financially responsible for the damage or loss of any uniform item(s).

- Be sure your uniform and hat are placed where they will not get dirty, wrinkled or damaged when not being worn.
- Never wash or launder your uniform. Uniforms will be dry cleaned periodically by a professional service.
- To avoid soiling, **NO EATING** will be allowed in uniform except when designated by the director.
- When in uniform avoid dirty, greasy and muddy areas. Never let a uniform touch the floor.
- When in transport, uniforms should be placed in garment bags and hung from the window frame. Uniforms **WILL NOT** be draped over seat backs.
- **NEVER** cut the material in an attempt to alter the uniform.

## Checking Uniforms In and Out

- Each person is responsible for the checking out or returning his/her own uniform and hat and caring for them while they are checked out.
- **DO NOT** agree to checkout and/or return the uniform of another person unless approved by the band director for special circumstances.
- Remove all personal items, music, waste paper, programs, etc... from inside hats, uniform pockets and garment bags.

If repairs are needed to your uniform, describe them on a form, which is available in the uniform room, and submit this form to the uniform personnel.



## Uniform Replacement Fees

Jacket	\$180.00
Hat Box	\$15.00
Pants	\$80.00
Hat	\$30.00
Plume	\$15.00

## General Rules of Conduct

### Rehearsal Technique

A well -defined and executed rehearsal technique has a direct impact on the success of the group. It is expected that all members adhere to the following rehearsal technique:

1. Be in the right place in the right time with the right equipment. You should have the following items with you at all rehearsals:
  - a. Pencil: you will need to write several things down on your music. It is very difficult to remember everything from every rehearsal.
  - b. Drill Sheets ( marching band)
  - c. Water jugs: every member should have a jug of water especially during the summer months. There will be water provided throughout band camp: however it is strongly advised that each member brings his/her own water jug (marching band).
  - d. It is also advisable that every brass and woodwind member has towel to set their instrument on at outdoor rehearsals. Remember you are responsible for all damage done to all school owned instruments, this includes scratches due to the pavement and cement (marching band).
  - e. All music needed for rehearsal.

All marching band members should dress comfortably and appropriately for all rehearsals. It is important for you to realize that we will be outside and moving at nearly every rehearsal. Appropriate clothing for rehearsals include: t-shirts, shorts, sweats and tennis shoes (no sandals or dress shoes).

2. Talking during a rehearsal should be kept to a minimum. There are a large amount of band members, and a limited amount of staff. We cannot talk over you. Remember, "When the talking starts, the learning stops." Do not waste rehearsal time by talking. If you have a comment or question during a rehearsal wait until the appropriate time.
3. Always rehearse in the same manner you would perform. Never expect it all to come together the night or day of the performance.
4. It is expected that all members come to rehearsal prepared to enjoy the music. Practice and memorize at home before rehearsal.
5. Rehearsal etiquette is the same no matter who is conducting.
6. It is a proven fact that both positive and negative attitudes are contagious. You are expected to exhibit a positive and cooperative attitude at all times.

### Performance Etiquette Marching Band

1. Do not be late. Report time for most home games is one hour prior to kick-off. Be in you assigned seat at that time ready to prepare for the evening's performance. Report time for away games and other events will be posted on the band schedule and on the board in the band room as well as the website.
2. March to and from the stadium with pride. The uniform is to be worn PROPERLY at all times. Your performance begins when we enter the stadium and does not end until we are dismissed. There is to be no talking when marching to and from the stadium.

3. You may not eat or drink in uniform, Except for water. Accidents will occur unexpectedly that may soil, stain, or permanently damage your uniform. You will be instructed at performances when it is appropriate to remove you band jacket and get something to eat and drink.
4. Running in uniform is prohibited; it is out of character, and shows lack of respect for the uniform and the organization.
5. Do not sit or lean on anything that will soil, tear or snag your uniform.
6. While at a performance it is imperative that you sit with your section. This not only gives the band a uniform look, but is crucial in maintain a well-balanced and consistent sound.
7. There are to be no visitors in the stands during as football game. Only Spalding High band members, chaperones, band managers and school administrators are allowed in the band section. This is important from the standpoint of your safety. Visitors may inadvertently step on an instrument and damage it.
8. Never polish shoes or your instrument while in uniform.
9. The general rule is that if you have any question as to whether you should or should not be doing something in uniform, DO NOT DO IT! When you are wearing the uniform you are not looked upon as an individual, but rather as part of the Spalding High Marching band. Most of the spectators and band members from other schools who see you behind the scenes will form their opinion of the ENTIRE band from their opinion of how you behave in uniform. This also carries over when you are wearing and Spalding High Marching Band attire or anytime you are representing the band.

## For Thought

Respect cannot be demanded or forced; it must be earned.

We cannot motivate people; they motivate themselves as the result of positive or negative experience. Good discipline and motivation are the "by products" of success. Therefore, as a band our goal should be to discover ways to experience success by working hard with positive attitudes.

