

# Sandalwood High School Band Program Student / Parent Handbook 2026-2027



<https://www.sandalwoodband.com>

*Sandalwood High School  
2750 John Promenade Blvd  
Jacksonville FL*

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Dear Member,

Congratulations and welcome! You are a member of the Sandalwood High School Band and Guard program, a musical organization whose purpose is to serve **YOU**. Our program is dedicated to fostering a love for music and performance in students of all skill levels. Through practice, teamwork, and a commitment to excellence, we aim to cultivate not only exceptional musicians but also well-rounded individuals by teaching you to be critical thinkers, life long learners and hold your own standard of excellence. This program has earned numerous awards including marching band championships, superior ratings at concert festivals, and hold state medals within our indoor percussion and winter guard programs. By joining you become part of an organization that, has a tradition of success, service, and fun. The future success and reputation of the band **also depends on YOU**. Have pride in your organization and its ideals, for you are now a part of what is truly a unique experience.

Our word for the Sandalwood Band and Guard program this past year, was **accountability**. As a band family, it is important to be reliable and hold yourself accountable to meeting the expectations that your peers, teachers, and family have for you. This is shown through honoring your commitments, showing up prepared, and being engaged. It is these qualities that lead to success, not only in band but also in life.

Only about 2% of band members go on to a career in music, but in a national survey of former band students conducted by the Music Educators National Conference, 96% of them credit the lessons learned by taking part in band in high school and/or college to their successes in life. As a part of this organization, you will hopefully gain the tools to help you be successful now and in the future. Along with that perspective, the average career batting average for MLB Hall of Fame position players is approximately .303. That means there's a "failure" rate of about 70% — you're not getting a hit nearly three out of every ten times at bat. In most school districts, a passing grade requires 70% or higher, while earning an A typically requires 90% or higher. Unlike academics, however, band is one of the few subjects where 100% accuracy matters: the right notes, the correct formations, and full attention to performance quality are all essential — if any of these slip, the overall performance suffers. Now that's true accountability.

I am very excited and honored that you have decided to join the Sandalwood Band and Guard program. I sincerely hope that, years from now, you will look back on this experience as among the best memories of you life. The only way to make that happen is to jump in and take the bull by the horns! This handbook has been created to help you to be able to do just that. I think that this manual will be almost as valuable to you as you are to the band. I look forward to working with you.

*M. Maltagliati*

## Important Contacts

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## Ensembles

Towards the end of spring semester students are placed by audition and/or recommendation into at least one of the 6 band classes at Sandalwood High School:

- **Wind Ensemble**
- **Symphonic Band**
- **Concert Band & Beginning Band**
- **Battery & Pit Percussion**
- **Jazz Ensemble I**
- **Jazz Ensemble II**
- **Color Guard & Winter Guard**

Depending on a student's course selection and path to graduation, some students may be able to participate in more than one ensemble (ex: Symphonic Band and Jazz Band; Wind Ensemble and Guard).

In addition to the above classes, there are three other performing opportunities available to students in the band program. These groups rehearse after school, and certain additional fees may apply.

- **Marching Band (participation is required for all band members)**
- **Indoor Drumline (participation is required for all percussion members)**
- **Winter Guard (participation is required for all color guard members)**

Sandalwood Course Codes:

- *Band 1-6H*
- *Instrumental Ensemble 1-4*
- *Jazz Band 1-6H*
- *Eurythmics 1-4*

*Do not confuse Jazz Band 1 course code with 'Jazz Ensemble I'. Course codes denote how many years a student has been in the class or the level of difficulty from a scale of 1-6H, 6 Honors being the highest. Jazz Ensemble I is an ensemble title that is reserved for our advanced jazz students who audition in the spring.*

# Introduction

## **Purpose Of This Handbook**

This handbook is designed to inform Sandalwood Band and Guard members and their families of their **commitments to, and responsibilities of membership** in our organization. Members and parents should be familiar with this handbook and consult it as the primary source of regulations and procedures.

## **Behavior Guide**

Students are expected to act like young adults at all times. Band members could be suspended from band and/or school for misconduct on buses, at rehearsals, during performances and at anytime during a band trip or function. For any organization, particularly a large organization, to run smoothly and efficiently the overall discipline must be both strict and fair.

Band and its activities, whether at home or on a trip, is an extension of school; therefore, ALL SCHOOL RULES APPLY 24 HOURS A DAY. The Director or her assignees may search instrument cases, luggage or hotel rooms. See the Student Handbook and the Duval County Code of Discipline for more information and details.

1. Use of tobacco, vapes, drugs or alcohol will not be tolerated.
2. Use of "bad" or inappropriate language will not be tolerated.
3. Band members must honor the position and leadership of all band officers.  
*The officers have earned their position through experience, training and testing. Unfair or unauthorized treatment should be brought to the director Band Officers found guilty of misconduct can lose their ranking.*
4. Follow the directions of directors and chaperones at all times.
5. Follow the itinerary at all times; any changes will be announced or posted by the director.  
*Bring and wear a watch. "Someone said" is not a reason to change the rules or the itinerary.*
6. Keep trash, litter and drink containers cleaned up at all times.  
***Sandalwood Band and Guard students will ALWAYS leave a place better than they found it.***

REMEMBER: YOU REPRESENT YOUR SCHOOL, YOUR DIRECTORS, YOUR PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND MOST IMPORTANTLY - YOURSELF!

## **Social Media Policy**

Social media refers to the use of web-based technologies to turn communication into interactive dialogue. Examples of social media include, but are not limited to Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, YouTube, LinkedIn, Podcasts, Snapchats, BAND app, Canva, etc.

Please keep in mind the following social media guidelines:

### **REGULATIONS**

- The Band Directors recognize a band student's right to actively participate in social media; however, it will maintain and enforce the following expectations of its band students:
- Band students will not post sexist, racist, obscene or profane material of any kind.
- Band students will not use social media to degrade, demean, or attack any person or school.
- Band students will not post material relating to acts in violation of any Federal or State laws, DCPS policies, or band rules.
- Band students will not post material which reflects negatively on themselves, Sandalwood band students, or other schools.

### **CONSEQUENCES**

Any activity or language in violation of the above prohibitions, including first time offenses, is subject to investigation and possible consequence by the Sandalwood Band and administration, as well as civil authorities. Consequences by the Band Directors and/or Administration may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Notification from the band directors to the band student outlining the policy and requiring that the inappropriate content be removed.
- Suspension from band activities and all band-related activities.
- Band students may face review by DCPS Administration for further disciplinary action.
- Removal from the band.

### **Health and Safety Policy**

Student health is of our utmost importance. It is extremely important that your students come prepared with food and water PRIOR to all camps and rehearsals including the regular school year. Students who have more than one occurrence of sitting/passing out due to not properly hydrating and/or eating will need parent pick up immediately.

### **Fanny Pack for Medical Devices**

If your student needs an inhaler or an EpiPen, please make sure that they wear a fanny pack that encases it at every practice so that we have easy access to it if they need it.

# Daily Procedures

## General Band Conduct & Expectations

All band students will follow the policies set forth by Sandalwood HS and DCPS. As such, students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times...individual behavior during any band function is a direct reflection of the group. In addition to district policies, all band students will abide by the following band-related rules and expectations:

- Students will follow all band director instructions.
- Students will be ready in their assigned rehearsal area, at the set rehearsal time.
- Students will bring all required items to rehearsals and performances (including music, pencil, instrument, and necessary uniform attire)
- Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
- Students will not consume food, drinks, or gum in the band hall or practice rooms unless given explicit permission from a band director (water is always allowed).
- Students will not play on equipment they do not own or have permission to use.
- Students will also not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone's personal instrument, uniform, or belongings.
- During rehearsal, students may ask questions by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged, or hold up an 'R' in ASL to signal that they need to use the restroom.
- When allowed in the band hall before, during, or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal currently in progress.
- Students will refrain from public displays of affection.
- Students will return all equipment to its proper storage location when not in use.
- Students will use only their assigned storage slot for instrument cases and materials. Each student is personally responsible for keeping his or her storage area clean. Students who demonstrate difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall. Students must use their lockers for their personal items.
- Students will not enter the directors' office without permission.
- Students will not deface music stands, walls, instruments, and any other band or school property. Students that are caught intentionally damaging band or district property will be financially responsible for the repair or replacement of that item and face DCPS disciplinary consequences.
- No cell phones, iPods, iWatches, or headphones are to be used or seen during rehearsals, performances, or during football games unless allowed by the band director. Cell phones or other electronic devices will be collected and returned at the end of the event or activity.
- **At no time** should students be in the uniform room, storage areas, or small ensemble rooms unless given direct permission from a band director.
- Students will only use the small practice rooms for individual practice, small group practice, or private lessons – no other activities are allowed in these rooms.

Any behavior or action not representative of good citizenship (as decided by the band staff) may result in discipline and/or the student's dismissal from the activity or event, and may result in dismissal from the band program.

## **Private Lessons**

In order to promote and achieve a high level of individual excellence, the Sandalwood Band HIGHLY ENCOURAGES private lesson instruction from a specialist on the student's instrument. This secure, private instruction can drastically help each student in his or her quest for musical excellence. A qualified private lesson instructor can help a student improve all of the following:

- Sound and Tone Production
- Articulation and Musical Style(s)
- Technique, Flexibility, and Range
- Musical Maturity and Expression
- Healthy Practice Habits
- Marching Band and Concert Band Music
- All-District & All-State Music
- Solo & Ensemble Music

In addition, a private lesson instructor can help: (1) give specific, individualized instruction based on the learning style of the student; (2) increase individual student accountability; (3) provide one-on-one attention that helps build a sense of independence and musical identity; and (4) give the student an opportunity to excel outside the limitations of a group setting.

Private lessons can be taken at Sandalwood HS (during or after school), or at a location specified by the private instructor. The private lesson instructor handles the scheduling of private lessons by communicating with the student and the family. When scheduling private lessons, please avoid required marching band or concert band rehearsals (check the band calendar). Usually, most after school private lessons at Sandalwood occur on Monday. Many music stores in the area offer lessons on weekday evenings and Saturdays and throughout the summer. There are also several good local instructors.

If you would like more information about the private lesson teachers available on your instrument, please contact one of the band directors.

**If you are interested in taking private lessons, please pick up a Private Lesson Informational packet from the band directors.**

## **Student Leadership**

The Drum Major, Band Council, and Section Leaders are the designated student leadership in our organization and are selected by the Band Director and Band Staff. All Officers are selected in late spring for the following season, at which time more specific information is given about that year's interview/audition process.

Officers are expected to devote extra time and effort to the organization. They will attend regular officer meetings and will have leadership assignments that will count toward their grade. Officers are held to a higher standard of attendance, academic performance in all classes, conduct and musicianship.

Officers are not entitled to their role/title. They serve the Band in a servitude leadership position. The Band Director has the final say/discretion regarding the selection and/or retention of any Officer. If an Officer is failing to meet expectations, they will be called to meet with the Band Director and/or Band Staff for a performance review. If the overall performance of the Officer does not improve after the review, they may be removed from the position or subject to further remediation.

### **Drum Majors**

- Drum majors are selected through an application and audition process at the end of each school year. Candidates must submit a completed Drum Major Application to the band directors and attend all drum major clinics led by the previous drum majors. Candidates for drum major may need to demonstrate marching skills, teaching skills, vocal commands, salutes, basic tempo and conducting patterns, and could be subject to an interview with the band directors.
- The official Leadership Application will be made available in class. The dates and times for the drum major clinics and tryouts will be announced in class. It is the responsibility of the drum major candidate to be aware of all information and be present for the audition.
- Any freshman, sophomore, or junior can audition for drum major. Candidates must have maintained a perfect record of eligibility through high school and must have an exemplary attendance record for all band events and activities. Candidates must also display the highest musical proficiency on their instrument and be in good standing financially.

### **Section Leaders**

- The process for selecting the section leaders is like the process for drum majors. Students will be asked to submit a completed Leadership Application to the directors and may be subject to an interview.
- The official Leadership Application will be made available in class. It is the responsibility of the candidate to be aware of all information needed to apply.

- Any freshman, sophomore, or junior can apply for section leader. Candidates will be expected to have displayed a superior record of eligibility through high school and must have an exemplary attendance record for all band events and activities. Candidates must also display a high musical proficiency on their instrument and be in good standing financially.

### **Loading Crew**

- Membership in the loading crew is open to any member of the band, subject to approval by the loading crew captain and the band director. The band directors will choose the loading crew captain after all other leadership positions have been selected.
- This group is responsible for assisting in the loading and unloading of instruments on the instrument truck for rehearsals (if necessary), football games, contests, and all concert band related activities. The band director may assign additional responsibilities throughout the year.

### **Band Council**

- The band council serves as a governing group to help coordinate and organize social events, fundraising activities, and is intended to represent the collective voice of the band program.
- The student band council will work in conjunction with the band directors, the leadership team, and the Sandalwood Band Booster Club to help achieve band goals.
- The following elected positions are open each year to all current band students: President, Woodwind/Brass Captain, Managers.

### **Leadership Training Camp**

- All student leaders (Drum Majors, Section Leaders, Loading Crew Captain(s)) are required to attend a leadership training camp at SHS set in July before summer band camp. This training camp may include social activities, as well as a trip to the local DCI show (students pay for DCI ticket) and/or a trip to an entertainment venue such as Bowling or Top Golf.

### **The 2026-2027 Leadership Team:**

BAND PRESIDENT	<i>Vivian Williams</i>	LOW BRASS SECTION LEADER	<i>Chance Cremona</i>
		FRONT ENSEMBLE CAPTAIN	<i>Savannah Siders</i>
DRUM MAJORS	<i>Delilah McClain</i> <i>King Cooper</i> <i>Bianca Iglesias-Jimenez</i>	BATTERY CAPTAINS	<i>Jaida Nealey &amp;</i> <i>Kavion Pressley</i>
		UNIFORM MANAGERS:	<i>Delilah McClain</i> <i>King Cooper</i> <i>Bianca Iglesias-Jimenez</i>
WOODWIND CAPTAIN	<i>Vivian Williams</i>		
BRASS CAPTAIN	<i>Aaron Simangan</i>		
REED SECTION LEADER	<i>Aaliyah Wells</i>	EQUIPMENT MANAGER:	<i>Chance Ceroma</i>
HIGH BRASS SECTION LEADERS	<i>Ethan Emmerling</i> <i>Aiden McCool</i>	LIBRARIAN:	<i>Hailey Ortega</i>

## **Membership Overview**

**Registration for the 2026-2027 year must be completed by a parent or guardian on our website <https://www.sandalwoodband.com>**

**ALL MEMBERS** involved with the Sandalwood Band and Guard program must participate and be a member of the Mighty Marching Saints and their winter counterpart; concert band, winter guard, and indoor percussion - unless they have extenuating circumstances. The band program works very closely with all athletic sports, Early College, and multiple clubs and honor societies. It is encouraged to not let these factors defer you from participating. We require communication when balancing band and other activities so that you can benefit from a 50/50 schedule between shared practices and games.

**The Mighty Marching Saints** performs at all Sandalwood High School Football games (including all postseason play), local band festivals, community parades and events, school pep rallies and other school events. Marching Band may be joined as an extra-curricular activity for students enrolled at FSCJ through Early College or homeschooled. The Marching Band allows its members the opportunity to serve the Sandalwood community through our public performances.

The Marching Band is comprised of students in grades 9-12 and is grouped in three main sections: Winds, Percussion and Colorguard.

**All prospective members must be enrolled in their corresponding class; Band 1-6H, Instrumental Ensemble 1-4, Jazz Band 1-4, & Eurythmics 1-4 and hold good attendance throughout the school year.**

All students wishing to be in **Drumline** must audition for their placement every season as the instruments available and size of the section relative to the rest of the band are limited. Students who are not primary percussionists or are 9th graders on any instrument are not guaranteed a spot in Drumline. All students wishing to be in **Percussion** should be aware that membership requires one additional practice night per week; Mondays from 5-7pm.

***Members that meet certain criteria and complete 4 years of involvement in the Mighty Marching Saints and their winter counterpart (Concert Band, Indoor Percussion, and Winter Guard) will be eligible to earn a graduation cord and medallion per the Florida Seal of Fine Arts.***

### **Respect for the Podium**

The podium is defined as who ever is in charge of the rehearsal or giving instructions; this can be on the literal podium, front of the room, on the field, or indoor floor. This is a common courtesy among musicians. Whoever is on the 'podium' - Director, Student Leader, or Band Parent - must be given the undivided attention of everyone in the room. All talking and playing must stop immediately.

**Chain Of Command:** Band Director ← Band Staff ← Parents/Guardian Chaperones ← Drum Majors ← Section Leaders ← Membership/Seniority

The chain of command delegates responsibility as appropriate to help the Marching Band operate efficiently. Understanding the chain of command is helpful for members and their families to know where to go to when they have basic questions or tangible needs. Student members are encouraged to work through the chain of command for things like questions about policies, where to obtain information, or for help in understanding or executing their responsibilities in music, routine or marching.

**However, every member of the organization and their families should know that they can and should feel comfortable going directly to the Band Director or any member of the Band Staff at any time, for any reason.**

Please use ***common sense*** for when a problem or need may be resolved with the help of a peer or a parent chaperone, versus when a staff member or teacher should be involved.

Examples:

- *A newer member forgets their drill card for rehearsal:* Utilize the chain of command and talk to your captain about forgetting your drill card. The Section Leader may be able to help you or will direct you to someone who can help you.
- *A newer member is having trouble learning their part and is embarrassed to ask their section leader for help:* While your Section Leader would be happy to help you, if you don't feel like you can go to the Section Leader, go to the person you're comfortable with—an upperclassman friend, Drum Major, Band Staff member or Band Director.
- *A 9th grade member notices something unusual in the drill while in rehearsal and thinks there's a problem:* Utilize the chain of command and mention this to your Section Leader or an upperclassman first. They may know the answer—and if they don't, address it with the Drum Major next...who may know the answer or may ask a member of the Band Staff...who may know the answer or may ask the Band Director.
- *Someone is having an allergic reaction at dinner:* This is not a chain of command issue. **GO IMMEDIATELY TO ANY ADULT AVAILABLE TO HELP**
- *A member is aware that another member of the band is vaping at practice:* This is not a chain of command issue. **GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE BAND DIRECTOR OR A MEMBER OF THE BAND STAFF.**
- *A member believes there is bullying or hazing happening in their section or another section:* This is not a chain of command issue. **GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE BAND DIRECTOR OR A MEMBER OF THE BAND STAFF.**

### Communication

**“Not knowing” is not an excuse** when it comes to our policies, expectations, and scheduled commitments. **It is the responsibility of each member and their parents/guardians to connect with the many ways we make information available.**

**Band App:** This is the primary method of communication in our organization. Download the free “Band” app on your mobile device. The QR code provided will take you to the Parent Page.

Parents are expected to **turn on notifications** and join their Band Parent Page and are able to ask questions and follow posts made by the Staff and Band Booster Board. Check the Band App regularly beginning in early June and through the summer until the end of the football season. Once summer practices start (Marching Mondays), the Band Director will send a weekly newsletter to everyone in the organization to update them on the goings on of that week. These updates stop at the end of the regular football season, and briefly resume before the MLK Parade, and again in Spring for our MPA's, Band Banquet, and any other events that may come up later in the school year and outside of the regular season. E-mail is also the fastest and easiest way to get in touch with the Band Director or other member of the Band Staff.



Each student section of the band will have its own method of communicating its announcements to its students. QR codes will be provided.

**CutTime:** An online application that allows the Band Staff to track our inventory, paperwork, attendance and financial items, calendar items, volunteers and more. Members and parents/guardians have the ability to keep their own contact information up to date, view our calendar, volunteer for chaperone or meal needs, see what inventory items are signed out to you and more.

The official website for the Sandalwood Band Program: <https://www.sandalwoodband.com>

Instagram: @sandalwoodhs\_band

Facebook: @Friends of the Sandalwood HS Band

### **Course Descriptions**

*The Concert & Beginner Band* is a regularly scheduled year-long class that receives 1 unit of Fine Arts credit towards graduation. First year members should and will be signed up for Instrumental Ensemble 1. Brass and Woodwind classes are separated between 3rd and 4th Block respectively. Syllabus will be provided at Open House in September.

*The Symphonic Band* is a regularly scheduled year-long class that receives 1 unit of Fine Arts credit towards graduation. They should and will be signed up for Instrumental Ensemble 1-4, corresponding to how many years the student has been enrolled in this course code. This is an outcome-based course with performance, homework and classroom requirements. The Symphonic Band performs music in the difficulty range as specified in the Florida Music Educators Association handbook as level II (two) and III (three). The purpose of the Symphonic Band is to develop individual and ensemble performance skills. Further purposes shall be to increase musical knowledge and appreciation through participation in public performances and competitions. Syllabus will be provided at Open House in September.

The Wind Ensemble is the advance band and carries the same course description as the Symphonic Band with the exception of the difficulty of the music. They should and will be signed up for Band 1-6H, corresponding to how many years the student has been enrolled in this course code. The Wind Ensemble performs music in the difficulty range as specified in the Florida Music Educators Association handbook as level IV (four), V (five), and VI (six). This ensemble has the ability to earn an honors credit (Band 5H & 6H) which boosts the weighted GPA as the equivalent of taking a Honors Class.

Percussionists will be placed in a separate class that meets during the 1st Block. They will focus on marching, concert, indoor, Solo and Ensemble, and individual practice during this period. It will still be under the Band 1-6H course code and adhere to the course description.

The Eurythmics class (also known as Color Guard / Winter Guard) is a regularly scheduled year-long class that receives 1 unit of Fine Arts credit towards graduation that meets during the 7th Block. Students enrolling in this class are expected to be members of both the Color Guard associated with the Mighty Marching Saints as well as our Winter Guard unit. This is an outcome-based course with dance / guard performance, homework and classroom requirements. The purpose of this class is to develop individual and ensemble performance skills through participation in public performances and competitions.

**In addition** to Band 1-6H or Instrumental Techniques 1-4, students can enroll in the Jazz Ensemble class. They should and will be signed up for Jazz Ensemble 1-5H, corresponding to how many years the student has been enrolled in this course code. The Jazz Ensemble class is an outcome-based course with performance, homework and classroom requirements. The purpose of the this class is to develop the understanding of the fundamentals of music theory and the elements of arranging, scoring and composition in the jazz literature through participation in public performances and competitions.

Jazz Ensemble I is our **advanced** Jazz Ensemble and participates in our regional music performance assessments and local festivals, such as Dickens on Center, etc.

Jazz Ensemble II is our **developing** Jazz Ensemble which will also meet after school on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 4:15 PM. As our **training** jazz ensemble, this additional rehearsal time will support the development of fundamental skills.

*Do not confuse Jazz Band 1 course code with 'Jazz Ensemble I'. Course codes denote how many years a student has been in the class or the level of difficulty from a scale of 1-6H, 6 Honors being the highest.*

### **HOPE Waiver**

If your student completes 2 years of afterschool Marching Band, they are eligible to wave their HOPE requirement. This is outstanding for our student in early college who need to move classes around and make space.

### **Class Expectations for Students**

- You are expected to adhere to “Behavior Guide” & “General Band Conduct & Expectations”
- You are expected to be at **all rehearsals and performances.**
- You are expected to attend at least half the school day to participate in rehearsal.
- You are expected to prepare for rehearsals and performances on time.
- You are expected to correctly perform all performance materials
- You are expected to be responsible for all equipment and materials needed for rehearsals and performances. (Instrument, music, pencil, reeds, valve oil, sticks, etc.)
- You are expected to refrain from casual conversations during rehearsals and performances.
- You are expected to have an alert rehearsal behavior - listen, count, play on time, and do the very best that you can.
- You are expected to display a good attitude through cooperation, discipline and intensity of achievement.
- You are expected to complete all homework assignments on time.

**All MPA performances & Competitions are REQUIRED unless there are extenuating circumstances, which will be met on a case-by-case basis.**

### **Class Evaluation**

Students will not receive full daily and final grade credit if the previous expectations are not met. Students not having rehearsal or performance materials (instrument, music, pencil, etc.) will receive a lower daily grade.

*Assignments:* Homework is a very important part of any class, particularly one which is performance based. Class homework can take various forms: after school rehearsals, performances, video assignments, written research reports, projects, individual practice records, and festival music pass-offs, to name a few.

*Participation:* Assignments will be made on a regular basis and must be completed on time. If a homework assignment is missed, the student will receive a grade of "0" for that assignment.

*Behavior:* Students who cause disturbances in rehearsal due to incorrect rehearsal behavior or attitude will receive a lower daily grade because of the disruption of their individual performance and the performance and learning of others in the class. Please refer to the sections on *Respect for the Podium and the Behavior Guide*.

*Progress and Ability:* Student's progress and ability will be evaluated through daily rehearsals and homework. Students will be tested individually on basic skills as well as performance materials. Students are strongly urged to practice at home.

Musical Evaluation Criteria is as follows:

- Tone
- Use of correct rhythms
- Note accuracy and pitch
- Dynamics
- Correct use of style and expression (articulations, emotional appeal, etc)
- Memorization (when appropriate)

Color Guard Criteria is as follows:

- Technique
- Overall Accuracy
- Precision
- Control
- Posture/Body Carriage
- Discipline
- Showmanship and expression (connection, emotional appeal, etc)



### **Class Grading**

Please see syllabus for each class. These will be provided at open house and first week of school and band website.

### **Eligibility**

In order for students to participate at competitive band events like contests, all-district/state band, and solo and ensemble, **students must remain eligible throughout each grading period.** The following are our eligibility rules:

- A student, who receives a grade below 70 at the end of a grading period in **all** academic class, may be placed on **probation**.
- A student placed on probation must still attend and participate at rehearsals.
- Students regains eligibility when he or she has: (1) earned a passing grade (70 or above) in ALL academic classes on their progress report or report card; and (2) completed the probationary period and additional requirements.

Students are subject to weekly progress report check by director and coaches.

### **Tardiness to Rehearsal**

- Being tardy to rehearsal represents non-participation for part of that rehearsal; as such, each tardy to a rehearsal may require completing an extra task assigned by the band director. If that task is not completed, a student's participation grade for that rehearsal may be affected. Excessive tardiness will follow the same consequences as unexcused absences.

AFTER SCHOOL: Tardiness or leaving early will diminish the student's grade proportionally as indicated in the attendance policy as stated above. **STUDENT WORK OR JOB IS NEVER ACCEPTED AS A REASON FOR ABSENCE, LEAVING EARLY OR ARRIVING LATE!**

## 2026 Mighty Marching Saints Weekly Rehearsal Schedule

Tuesday 2:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Thursday 2:30 pm - 7:00 pm

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Change and get equipment needed for practice

2:30 pm - 2:45 pm

Inspection on Dress Code & Equipment with Section Leaders

2:45 pm - 4:00 pm

Rehearsal Starts

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Break (Mandatory Fun)

4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Transition to Full Ensemble

5:00 pm - 6:45 pm

Rehearsal Starts

6:45 pm - 7 pm

Clean Up and Pack

Friday Football Game 2pm-3pm (Call Time, 4:30pm)

### Rehearsal Dress Code

Students can not wear their school clothes to practice. This is a **SAFETY HAZARD** because of the heat and physical exertion the students will undergo. Students **MUST** wear their white practice shirt, shorts, and closed toed shoes. (NO JEANS!!!!!!!!!!!!!! NO CROCS or HEELS!!!!!!!!!!!!)

Use Wednesday to wash your rehearsal shirt between practices. Do not come to rehearsal wearing your dirty band shirt. Student may wear a plain white shirt if needed.

### ***Attendance Requirements for Curriculum Related After School Rehearsals***

Attendance at every rehearsal and performance is vitally important. The band often functions together as a unit and sometimes separately. Any time you are absent, it diminishes the results obtained by all other members. Just as each link of a chain is important to the strength of the whole chain, you too are important to your section and the whole band. Please use the yearly planning calendar that is published and distributed each Spring for the NEXT school year. Plan in advance! Check the monthly calendars for details and updates. Students NOT attending after-school rehearsals which are applicable to curriculum course work will receive a zero for that assignment until a make-up assignment is completed. A make-up assignment will not be given if there was no notice for the absence, forfeiting the opportunity to make the grade up. Jazz Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Eurhythmics (Guard), and Percussion Class are regular curriculum courses. After-school rehearsals are scheduled and will be posted as the District Calendar is updated for the following year. These are considered to be an extension of the course which receives credit towards graduation (considered "homework").

Students having conflicts with other school sanctioned events or activities can be granted an “Excused” absence ONLY if the director is notified in writing at least one week in advance. A list of conflicting dates along with the name of the appropriate coach or sponsor must be submitted. Students may be expected to “split” the time between conflicting activities. Unexcused absences from rehearsals could result in suspension from a performance. Suspension could also affect participation in any band trips, participation certificates and senior recognition at the Annual Awards Program.

Since band is a participation and performance-based activity, it is imperative that every member of the ensemble be present for all band rehearsals and performances. Since the entire ensemble **suffers** when there are missing members, only specific absences will be considered excused. The following are considered excused absences:

1. A DCPS-approved absence on the day of an event
2. Medical emergency (w/ signed doctor’s note)
3. A wedding, funeral, or religious holiday/observation
4. School related rehearsals, competitions, or athletic activities (communication with Coach Sponsor is required; non-curricular club activities at SHS will not be excused)

**These are subject for verification by teacher and coaches. Students with multiple absences from rehearsals (excused or unexcused), may lose their performance role for marching shows.**

The following are considered **unexcused** absences and will result in a zero in the grade book for the band activity that was missed:

1. Work (give your employer a copy of the band schedule)
2. Routine doctor appointments (please schedule on days with no band rehearsal)
3. Events with family or friends (not described above, ex: birthdays)
4. Club sports or activities not affiliated with SHS or DCPS
5. Non-religious holidays not recognized by DCPS
6. Other events like haircuts/personal appointments, rock concerts, senior pictures, etc.

***All absences are subject to final approval by the band directors and special considerations will be made on a case-by-case basis. If a student has a total of three unexcused absences from any rehearsals and/or an unexcused absence from any performance, they may be subject to dismissal from the program and dropped from enrollment in band or color guard.***

### **Requesting an Absence**

Students should first communicate the absence to their family as soon as the absence is known. The student’s parents or guardians are responsible for submitting an email or bringing in a letter to the band director, notifying the director about the absence. If necessary, the band directors may follow up with the parents or guardians regarding the missed event. All known/pre-planned absences, excused or unexcused, must be submitted **at least 48 hours** prior to the event.

**Rehearsals and Performance are scheduled a year in advance. Please plan accordingly.**

### **Band Travel and Trips**

- All students must ride the bus to all band functions unless special permission and arrangements have been made **at least 48 hours** advance between the director and the student's parents.
- Each student is responsible for assuring that their instrument, uniform, etc., is loaded and unloaded from the bus or the equipment truck.
- Always adhere to the policies under "General Band Conduct & Expectations"
- Always adhere to the policies in the "Behavior Guide."
- The bus driver and chaperones are in charge while on the buses. Listen for roll call and other instructions.
- Nothing should ever be thrown from the bus windows. Keep heads, arms and legs out of the windows.
- When needed, an itinerary is provided to each band member with specifics about the trip.

### **Stadium Responsibilities**

- Always adhere to the policies under "General Band Conduct & Expectations"
- Always adhere to the policies in the "Behavior Guide."
- Report on time as indicated on the most current Band Calendar.
- Band members must sit in assigned areas by sections.
- Uniforms must be properly worn at all times unless instructed otherwise by the director.
- The third quarter can be designated "break time" at the discretion of the director.
- Drinks and Food that aren't water are allowed only during third quarter break.
- Following third quarter break, band members must be seated and ready to play the fight song at the end of third quarter when the clock reads "02:00" before the beginning of the fourth quarter. Tardiness could result in the band losing the 3rd quarter break for the following game.
- No individual or sectional playing unless approved by the director.

Games Times are subject to change by preauthorized SHS events.

### **Inspection**

Inspection is conducted before each public performance. Infractions could result in the student not being allowed to perform. Infractions could result in students not receiving full credit for the performance and possibly losing their third quarter break. The following items will be checked:

- Promptness (don't be late!)
- Neatness and cleanliness of the uniform
- Uniform properly worn, including T-shirt
- Clean Black Marching Band shoes and **long black socks**
- Instrument in proper working order (reeds, tuning slides, etc.)
- No large visible jewelry

### **Marching Band Uniforms**

The Marching Band Uniform Number will be assigned to each students cut time account. The uniform should be worn when designated by the director. It must be worn properly and with the respect that it commands. Remember, the uniform represents you and the Mighty Marching Saints! The uniform coat, pants, gloves, hat and plume are provided to the student. Part of the membership fees pay for the uniform usage. In the event that the uniform or any accessory is damaged or lost, the student cut time account will be charges to pay for the replacement of that item. Also included in the members' fees is the Band "Theme" T-shirt and cleaning fee. Details will be presented on the SHS Membership Fee.

Guard Members will be recieve uniform items as prescribed by the directors in accordance to the particular show theme and needs.

### **Instruments and Accessories**

Students and Parents are reminded that a craftsman is only as good as his/her tools. Musicians must have quality instruments that play well in order for them to perform to the best of their abilities.

**Please talk to a director before purchasing a new instrument.**

*Reeds* - Clarinet and Saxophone players must have at least 4 reeds in good playing order at all times. Reeds are available from many area music stores. (Vandoren are some of the recommended brands)

*Mutes* - Brass players are required to borrow from the Sandalwood instrument library or have their own straight mutes when called for in the music.

*Sticks and Mallets* - Some drum sticks and keyboard mallets will be provided for the students. Certain mallets and sticks must be purchased as designated by Mr. Mixon.

*Printed Music* - Each band member is provided with a music folder and individual copies of all music. The student must leave their black folder of originals at school and use pictures or copies to practice at home. They must have their Black Folder and a pencil to each rehearsal. Make sure that the music is not left on the stand, on the floor, in a chair, etc. Do not store your folder inside your case, unless there is a compartment designed for that purpose, because damage to the instrument could occur. Students will be charged for the entire piece for excessive copy requests. This can retail from \$45-180... please help your students stay responsible for their music.

## **School Owned Instruments**

Certain school instruments are available for student use. These are generally the larger instruments such as Tuba, Baritone, Bass Clarinets, French Horns and the Percussion Instruments. All students are reminded that they have a responsibility to school owned equipment and instruments. **Unnecessary damage or loss of these instruments is the responsibility of, and must be paid for by the student. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the use of the instrument. The student's name will also be placed on the school's obligation list, which could result in the holding of grades and class schedule.**

## **Care of the Band Room**

1. You may enter the Band Room at the following times:

In the morning before first period

During your scheduled class time

Lunch Block

Before and after rehearsals and performances

2. Keep trash, litter and drink containers cleaned up at all times. Use the trash cans! Do not put trash in instrument cubbies.

*Sandalwood Band and Guard students will ALWAYS leave a place better than they found it.*

3. The music library is "off-limits" to everyone except music librarians and designated officers.

4. Students are not to be in the director's office or phone without her permission.

5. Practice rooms are used with director's permission only.

6. Instruments should be stored in the storage shelves or other designated areas. Please don't leave folders or cases on the floor or on chairs.

7. Students are not permitted to be in the band room after school when there is no practice and no DCPS-Approved supervision.

8. Non-band members are not permitted in the band room except for those who have a music class in the band room.

Follow the golden rule, never let somebody clean alone. *If you see somebody picking up trash, pick some up with them. If you see someone putting away music stands, put them away with them. If you see, someone putting cases away or vacuuming or any chore, do it with them!*

**This is your home for the next four years! These four walls will watch and help you grow as you take the next step in your life after high school. Treat the room with love and respect.**

## Student Fees

In order to provide for students in the music program, all members of the Sandalwood HS Band have certain financial obligations. These financial obligations are divided into the following categories:

1. Fair-Share Fee
2. Trip Fee (optional)
3. Instrument Usage Repair Fee (if applicable)

**No student will be denied participation in the band program due to financial difficulties; however, students who are not current with fee payments are not entitled to travel or perform with the band. Parents should contact a band director with specific concerns. Special accommodations or arrangements for payment can be made if given due notice.**

**Fair-Share Fee** (\$1450/per student for 2026-2027) – also known as the “Band/Membership Fee”

- This fee is paid to the Band Boosters through CutTime.
- A minimum financial commitment of \$250.00 is due at Band Registration (by June 30th). This helps pay for the start-up operating cost of the band program each year. The Fair-Share Fee can be paid in full at Registration, or throughout the year leading up to the start of school in \$110 monthly installments, after paying the minimum \$250 fee at registration.
- The Fair-Share Fee is set by the band boosters with the philosophy that every band student will share an equal part of the financial responsibility of funding band program expenses not provided by DCPS.
- Families with multiple students receive the following discount on the 2nd and 3rd students:
  - o 1st students = same total Fair-Share amount (\$1450)
  - o 2nd student = \$200 off new Fair-Share amount is \$1250 for the 2nd student
  - o 3rd student = \$200 off new Fair-Share amount is \$1250 for the 3rd student

**Trip Fee** (optional cost; varies per year)

- This fee is dependent upon when and where the band may take special trips.
- The trip is intended to be an optional component of a band member’s experience; therefore, this fee is not required if a student or family decides to not go on the trip.
- An approximate cost for the fee will be determined at the beginning of the year and a separate payment schedule will be made once the fee amount is finalized.

**Instrument Usage Repair Fee**

- Because of the high cost of ownership, SHS furnishes the following instruments for student usage: Piccolo, Oboe, English Horn, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Bass Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Marching Mellophone, Marching Baritone, and Sousaphone.

**Families are financially responsible for repairing any school-issued instruments. You may take the instrument to either Music & Arts or Rhapsody Music repairs at their own expense.**

### **Payment Plan & Methods**

- The Fair-Share Fee is paid to the CutTime account.
- A full payment of the Fair-Share Fee can be made any time between band registration in May and 10/1/26. After summer band camp starts, families still have the option of paying off their full band fee balance in monthly installments.
- **If the remainder of the Fair-Share fee cannot be paid by 10/1/26, families must contact Mrs. Hill for approval of a payment plan.**
- A separate payment plan will be made for special band trips.

### **Refunds and Non-Payment**

- If a student ends their band participation before summer band camp, a full refund of fees cannot be made upon request to the band director.
- If a student decides to end their band participation after summer band camp has started, no refund of fees will be made.
- Students who do not pay their 2026-2027 band fees by the end of the year will remain on the school "Fines and Fees" list.
- Students that have existing balances due must address these past-due fees with Mrs. Hill & Ms. Maltagliati prior to band registration, and may lose eligibility to travel and participate with the fall program until the outstanding balance has been paid. Any new payments made at Registration will be applied to existing balances.

### **Fundraising**

It is not expected that the fair share is paid out of pocket - each member of the Sandalwood Band and Guard program can participate in all fundraising events to cover 100% of their dues.

**Everything that is fundraised by each family will be taken off your fair share fee. It is possible to pay just \$250 registration fee and earn the rest of the fair share through fundraising and is highly encouraged.**

### **Parent Volunteering: Football Game Concessions**

Parent involvement is a crucial part of our band program's success, and one of the most impactful ways parents can support the band is by volunteering to help run concessions at football games. The funds raised through concession sales directly benefit our band by helping cover costs for equipment, uniforms, travel, competitions, and other essential needs throughout the year.

### **Volunteer Expectations**

Each family is required to volunteer for **at least one home football game** during the season. Families do not have to be represented by the parent or guardian, as long as they are represented by a family or friend. Shifts typically include setup, food preparation, cashiering, and clean-up. Volunteers must arrive **at least one hour before game time** and stay through the

end of the game or clean-up, depending on the assigned role. Training or orientation is provided for first-time volunteers—no experience is necessary!

### **How to Sign Up**

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be made available at parent meetings, through email, and on the band’s website or communication app (e.g., BAND App). Early sign-up is encouraged to ensure we are fully staffed for each game. Your support makes a huge difference - not only in keeping our program strong, but in showing our students that we are all in this together. Thank you for being an essential part of our band community!

### **Level 1 & 2 Volunteer Approval**

All parents and family members who wish to volunteer to help the band are required by DCPS to register with the district as a volunteer before help can be given to a group or organization. Individuals can register on the DCPS link or QR below: [https://dcps.samaritan.com/custom/506/volunteer\\_registration](https://dcps.samaritan.com/custom/506/volunteer_registration)

Individuals will not be allowed onto the SHS campus during school hours until the volunteer registration process is completed.



### **Color Guard/Winter Guard Program Participation**

Participation in the Color Guard program requires completion of additional documentation beyond the Band Handbook. Students who participate in **Marching Band Color Guard and Winter Guard** must review and sign the **Color Guard Handbook**, which outlines program-specific expectations including, but not limited to, rehearsal requirements, performance commitments, attendance policies, equipment care, and conduct standards.

The Color Guard Handbook must be signed by both the **student and parent/guardian** and is required in addition to acknowledgement of the Band Handbook. Participation in Color Guard activities may not begin until all required documentation has been completed and submitted.

All Color Guard members are also required to sign a **Behavior and Conduct Contract** that establishes expectations for teamwork, sportsmanship, respect, and representation of the program at all rehearsals, performances, competitions, and related events. Violations of the behavior agreement may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to loss of performance opportunities, suspension from activities, or removal from the program in accordance with school and program policies.

### **Indoor Percussion Program Participation**

Participation in the Indoor Percussion program requires completion of additional documentation beyond the Band Handbook. Students who participate in **Indoor Percussion** must review and sign the **Indoor Contract**, which outlines program-specific expectations including, but not limited to, rehearsal requirements, performance commitments, attendance policies, equipment care, and conduct standards.

The Indoor Contract must be signed by both the **student and parent/guardian** and is required in addition to acknowledgement of the Band Handbook. Participation in Indoor Percussion activities may not begin until all required documentation has been completed and submitted.

### **Indoor Percussion Season**

Indoor Percussion operates as a separate competitive season from the fall marching band season.

## **Awards**

Successful participation in the band offers several outstanding awards. Most of these are presented each year at the Annual Band Awards Banquet. This Banquet is open to all band members, their parents, school and community officials.

Participation Awards: To receive recognition for participation, a Band Member must be active BOTH SEMESTERS. This includes participation in the Fall Marching Band. Woodwind, brass and percussionists must be enrolled in a band class for the entire year. Color Guard members must be active during the entire year (Fall Guard AND Winter Guard.)

### **Award Policies**

Awards are earned on the basis of participation and outstanding performance. Awards are presented at the discretion of the band director(s). The Awards Program is funded jointly by the Sandalwood Band and through the efforts of the "Sandalwood Band Boosters, Inc."

In order to be eligible to receive an award, the following criteria must be met:

- A student must have been actively participating in the marching or concert activities of the band for the entire school year and must be a current member of the band in good standing at the time of the award presentation.
- A student must have at least a "C" average in band. Students who do not meet this requirement may receive only a certificate of participation.
- Any student who drops band or is dismissed from band for any reason will NOT be eligible for any band award.
- Any student who has not cleared his/her band record by returning items checked out or who have not paid fees owed for lost or damaged items will have his/her awards

held until the records are cleared.

- Activity awards will not be awarded to students who have any received ISS or OSS for the current school year.

### Service Awards

- Letter Award- will be presented to each second year student who has been in band for a minimum of four semesters.
- Band Pin Award- will be presented to each third year student who has been in band for a minimum of six semesters.
- Fourth Year (Senior Award) - will be presented to each fourth year student who has been in band for a minimum of eight semesters.

### Activity Awards

- Bronze Activity Award- will be presented to each wind or percussion student who has earned a minimum of 15 activity points during the course of one year.
- Silver Activity Award- will be presented to each wind or percussion student who has earned a minimum of 20 activity points during the course of the year.
- Gold Activity Award- will be presented to each wind or percussion student who has earned a minimum of 25 points during the course of the year.
- Century Award- will be presented to any student that receives 100 points in their 4 years at Sandalwood HS.

#### \*Activity Point List (Winds and Percussion)

<u>Points</u>	<u>Activity</u>
1 (4)	Perfect Attendance per quarter
1	Concert band officer
1	Marching band officer
2	Marching Band MPA
1	Audition for All State Band or Jazz Band
3	All State Band
3	All National Band
2	Private Lessons (minimum ½ year and must provide Doc.)
1	Switch Instruments per director's request
1	Audition for All District Band
2	All District Band
2	Landmark Mentor
1	December Audition score 60-69
2	December Audition Score 70 or higher
1	Approved Honor Bands
2	Musical Pit
3	Solo/Ensemble (up to 4 events)

1	MPA Event Worker
2	Concert Band MPA
2	Jazz Band MPA
1	Concerto Competition Winner
1	Participate with another band at MPA
3	State Solo/Ensemble (up to 4 events)
2	State Concert Band MPA
2	State Jazz Band MPA
2	All County Jazz Band
1(2)	Play all 12 major scales (Bonus from memory)
1	Five 100 word summaries on the history of 5 instruments
1	A 500 word essay on a composer
1	Events approved by the director

### **Directors Award**

Chosen by the director and presented to an outstanding overall Band Member for outstanding musicianship, leadership and commitment to the Band.

### **Louie Armstrong Award**

Chosen by the director and presented to an outstanding Jazz Band Member for outstanding musicianship, leadership and commitment to the Band.

### **Band Scholar Award**

Presented to the Band Member with the highest GPA in band.

### **Most Outstanding Performer Award**

Chosen by the directors and presented to a member in each section of the band (Brass, Percussion, Woodwind, Marcher, & Color Guard) & for each grade level (9th, 10th, 11th, & 12th)

### **Most Outstanding Rookie Award**

Chosen by the directors and presented to a rookie member for outstanding musicianship, leadership and commitment to the Band.

**Most Improved Award** Chosen by the directors and presented to members in each section of the band (Wind, Percussion, Color Guard.)

**Medals** The Florida Music Educators Association awards Medals for Superior Ratings in Concert Festival, District and State Solo and Ensemble Festival, District Honor Band and All-State Band.

## Forms

All band, percussion, and color guard students and parents must complete and submit the following forms before participation or travel with the band will be allowed.

1. DCPS Anaphylaxis EAP (if applicable) *\*submitted in paper*
2. DCPS Asthma Action Plan (if applicable) *\*submitted in paper*
3. DCPS EKG Form - Link to Register: <https://whoweplayfor.jotform.com/261276360532050>

The Jacksonville Sports Medicine Program, in partnership with Who We Play For, is hosting a community screening on Monday, June 1, Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30, Location: The Players Center for Child Health; 3563 Philips Hwy. Suite 52, Jacksonville, Florida, 32207

### **2. Sandalwood Band Registration Form**

*\*submitted through Cognito Forms*

### **3. Sandalwood Handbook/Performance-Attendance Acknowledgement Form**

*\*submitted through Cognito Forms*

All forms must be completed and brought to Band Registration on May 21, 2026. Students and parents will turn in the completed paper forms as part of the band registration check-in process.

## Miscellaneous

### **Competition Marching Band**

- Any student in grade 9-12 is eligible for a position in this group. Students who are selected for the competition marching band will participate at all football games. Members will also participate at various parades and pep-rallies throughout the year.
- Students in this group will attend all marching band rehearsals. They will also attend and perform at all marching contests.
- Students will be selected for the competition marching band based on their playing ability, marching ability, attendance, eligibility, and level of responsibility.
- In accordance with admin rules, students who lose academic eligibility cannot perform with the band; therefore, students who lose eligibility will also lose their competition marching status. If that occurs, students will be assigned a JV marching role and a JV marching member will be assigned to learn their spot. Directors will use their discretion as to whether a student can regain their competition marching status.

### **Alternates**

- Assigned at the discretion of the director. Students who are selected for the JV marching band will participate at all football games. Members will also participate at various parades and pep-rallies throughout the year.
- Students in this group will attend all marching rehearsals, unless excused by the band directors. They will attend and participate in all contest-related events except for the performance.

- Students will be selected as alternates based on their playing ability, marching ability, attendance, eligibility, and level of responsibility.
- Students who display high levels of achievement, a good attitude, and maintain good attendance and eligibility will be eligible to fill or earn spots in the competition band. Alternate roles in the competition marching band may also be assigned to JV marching band members.

### **All-District & All-State Band Auditions**

- Individual band members are strongly encouraged to prepare for a process known as All-State Band (it is highly encouraged for students in the Wind Ensemble and members of the Symphonic Band). The All-State Band process involves the finest musicians from all the schools in our State and is the first step in advancement towards being an All-District musician. All students in grades 9-12 may participate if academically eligible. The music is announced in May and will be made available to the students during summer band. All-State Band and All-State Orchestra auditions are held in December.
- Band members who become All-State musicians are highly praised and honored. These students assemble in Tampa, FL in January to perform at the annual Florida Music Educators Association Convention. The students in these bands and orchestras are composed of the top 1-2% of the high school band members in the state of Florida. Advancing to All-State is the highest individual honor a high school musician can achieve.
- Students must pay the entry fees by the assigned date and are responsible for preparing their music for competition.
- The Florida Music Educators Association's All-District Honor Band selects its members from the best players in District 17. Auditions information: Scales, Etudes and dates will be available in November.
- **Auditioning for All-District Band is one of the requirements for enrollment in the Band 5H, 6H, and prospective leadership candidates.**

### **Solo & Ensemble**

- The FBA Solo & Ensemble Assessment takes place in early February of each year. All students in grades 9-12 may participate if academically eligible. FBA maintains very specific music lists and rules for performance. Students are encouraged to find their own accompanist, if needed. Students must pay the entry fees by the assigned date and are responsible for preparing their music for competition.
- The second FBA Solo Ensemble contest is held in early April. All band students are required to perform a solo at this contest if they did not participate in the February one.
- **Performing at Solo & Ensemble is one of the requirements for enrollment in the Band 5H, 6H, and prospective leadership candidates.**

## Band Website

- The band website is an important place for students, parents, and members of the community to check band news, reference the band calendar, find contact information, access media, and reference other valuable resources. Please add the band website to your “Favorites” toolbar, or bookmark for easy and frequent access: <https://www.sandalwoodband.com>

## Volunteering

- All parents and family members who wish to volunteer to help the band are required by DCPS to register with the district as a volunteer before help can be given to a group or organization. Individuals can register on the DCPS link or QR below: [https://dcps.samaritan.com/custom/506/volunteer\\_registration](https://dcps.samaritan.com/custom/506/volunteer_registration)
- Individuals will not be allowed onto the SHS campus during school hours until the volunteer registration process is completed



## CutTime

- CutTime is an online tool designed specifically for directors that helps facilitate program management and provides a standardized, easy method of communicating important information to band students and their families.

## BAND App

- This app serves as the main day-to-day communication tool for our Band program. There are several BAND groups depending on the part of the band that the student is involved in, however ALL parents and guardians should be in the main BAND: “Sandalwood Band Parents High School”. The main BAND app will serve as a main point of communication for information that affects all members of the Sandalwood Band - do NOT disable notifications for this BAND. If you are interested in the Parent BAND where you may freely interact and ask questions of other parents, please contact the Band Boosters.

## “Concert Black” - Concert Band Uniform

- Students will wear a concert black uniform for our MPA performances and select concerts.
- The Concert Black Uniform must include:
  - Black collared long sleeve button down shirt or solid black blouse.
  - Black **slacks (NOT JEANS)** OR solid black, ankle-length skirt.
  - Solid black shoes with **LONG BLACK SOCKS. This is a problem every year.** If a student is wearing a heel, it should be less than 2 inches.

NOT REQUIRED BUT ALLOWED: solid black tie, solid black dress vest or solid black suit coat  
Students can opt for a solid black ankle-length dress or ankle-length dress jumpsuit instead;  
the neckline and shoulders must be dress-code approved



- Our winter concert is typically themed “Ugly Sweater” and the uniform is an ugly holiday sweater, or a red, blue, green, or white long sleeve shirt.



#### **NOT ALLOWED IN CONCERT BLACK**

- big, bulky jewelry that distracts viewers
- jeans (I’ve done this for almost 15 years – yes, we DO need to keep saying it)
- headphones

#### **Concert Band Performances**

- The Wind Ensemble will have a Fall, Winter, and Spring Concert. The Symphonic Band will have a Winter and Spring Concert. Both groups will attend the Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA) Music Performance Assessment in the last week of February. All performances are mandatory.

#### **State MPA**

- To perform at the Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA) State Concert MPA, high school bands must earn an overall Superior rating (I) in Concert and Sight-Reading at their respective District MPA.
- This performance is subject to the rating the band earns at district and is not a performance we are entitled to as a school.

#### **Graduation Band**

- The Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band, as well as specific members of the Concert Band, will perform each year at the Sandalwood High School graduation ceremony in late May. Graduating seniors do not perform with the Graduation Band. All members of this band will be expected to attend the necessary rehearsal(s) and the performance.