

# **FALLS CHURCH HIGH SCHOOL**

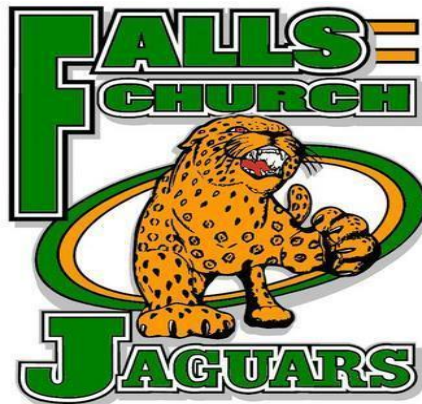
**Marching Band  
Symphonic Band  
Concert Band  
Percussion Ensemble  
Color Guard**

**2009 – 2010**

**COURSE HANDBOOK**

**Phone: 703-207-4222**

**[www.JaguarBand.org](http://www.JaguarBand.org)**



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# *Falls Church High School Bands*

**HANDBOOK 2009 – 2010**

***FCHS Band Room: 703-207-4222***

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The high school band is a unique musical experience for students. Students at Falls Church High School are very fortunate to be offered an opportunity to perform in band because there are many schools in other areas that have no band program to speak of. The success of the band depends upon the positive and enthusiastic contribution of each individual member.

Think of the Falls Church Band as a long chain with each member representing a link in the chain. “Any chain is only as strong as its weakest link.” All members of the band must be willing to commit themselves to the good of the organization. In pursuing our goals, we must strive to do our best at all times. This pursuit of excellence by all members bonds us together, and by working towards a common purpose we will achieve our goals and have an enormous amount of fun at the same time.

To help ensure our success, I have established certain rules, guidelines and areas of responsibility. This handbook presents these responsibilities and will aid in the student’s personal reward and satisfaction in participating in the band program. It is very important that each parent and student read every page of this handbook carefully. When you have done so, please sign, date and return the “*Student/Parent Band Contract*” which is included within your “Forms, Flyers and Other Stuff” Packet. By signing this contract, both the student *and* parent are obligated to uphold and support the rules and responsibilities stated within this handbook. As the director, it is my responsibility to provide an environment where students learn skills to grow academically, socially, emotionally and physically in order to become contributing members of society. I believe that the guidelines in this handbook will allow us as director and staff to fulfill our obligation to all of our band students.

## PHILOSOPHY

The Falls Church High School Band Program is dedicated to developing fine musicians and rising adults. Music enriches the students' lives with expression, critical thinking, interpretation skills, and provides ample opportunities for student leadership. The band program works to set and reach goals that will elevate the students' abilities and raise the performance level of the band. Every effort should be made toward maximum development of both the individual and the group as a whole. While working with the bands, the students must agree to make personal sacrifices for the ensembles, to uphold the highest level of integrity, work with personal sincerity, and generate pride and respect within the student and the organization. The parents must also take an active role in the enrichment of their child's education through continued encouragement at home and through active participation in our program.

### PURPOSES OF THE FALLS CHURCH BAND PROGRAM

- To provide each student with a comprehensive music education by teaching the skills and attitudes necessary to succeed as a young musician and as a young adult.
- To benefit the school and community through the public performance of quality music while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of Falls Church High School.
- To foster the development of essential character qualities which we believe are to include: a strong work ethic; a respect for order and legitimate authority; a sense of personal integrity; responsibility for one's attitudes and actions; and a respect for the time, talents, abilities and accomplishments of others.
- To provide each student with positive emotional outlet, a good social experience and a worthy use of leisure time.

### BAND STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE.....

#### Well-Behaved

Follow instructions the *first* time they are given.  
Be quiet, cooperative and in-control of yourself.

#### Polite

Treat one another, teachers, parents and administrators with courtesy and respect.

#### Honest

Take full responsibility for your actions and attitudes. Do not lie, cheat or steal.

#### Mature

Think *before* you act.

#### Committed

Realize the impact that your individual attitudes and actions will have on the group. Think of the band first.

#### Responsible

Do not wait to be told the obvious. Pick up the trash, wipe your feet and close the door.

#### Positive

Attitudes are contagious. Be sure that yours is worth "catching". Be a part of the solution, not a part of the problem.

#### Punctual

If you are early, you are on time. If you are on time, you are late. If you are late, you are a problem.

#### Prepared

Bring your instrument, your best effort, and your best attitude to each rehearsal and performance.

#### Persistent

Becoming a good musician is a process. It takes time and hard work. Practice to improve on a *daily* basis.

#### Proud

Take pride in your band, your school and yourself. Celebrate success *together!*

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### The Importance of Procedure

Policies and procedures are outlined in this handbook to ensure that all aspects of the band program run smoothly and to further ensure that each student has a safe and successful experience. *Please do not ask for exceptions to the rules.* At times, unforeseen circumstances may warrant the modification of a policy. If and when these circumstances should arise, modifications will be made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the director that is in the best interest of the band program.

### The importance of discipline

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must, out of necessity, be strict. Band students maintain a highly visible profile, both at school and in the community. The old saying, “trouble rides a fast horse,” contains a great deal of truth. Rumors of poor behavior will spread throughout the community faster than news of any accomplishments that the band has received. *Students in the Falls Church Band Program will be held accountable for their attitudes and actions. Persons with severe or perpetual behavior problems will lose their privilege of being a Falls Church Band Member.*

### A Word About Commitment

Membership in the band program requires a major commitment from students and their families. Successful band programs require thousands of hours of work from each student. It is important for students to understand the necessity of time management. Calendars are essential. Purchase one that meets your needs and write down all of the band dates off of the master schedule (distributed in the summer mailing with this handbook) that pertain specifically to you. *Students should take caution when becoming involved in multiple organizations and activities. It is **wrong** to expect any program to lower its standards because you have overcommitted yourself.* Making wise choices based on your time, talents and interests is a vital part of becoming an adult. Budget your time wisely!

### Daily Procedure

The following is a list of the “daily classroom rules” for all band classes at Falls Church High School:

- Band classes will begin each day with students arriving on time, with instrument, and with all other required materials.
- Students will enter the classroom with a positive attitude, sit up in their chairs appropriately, and engage themselves in the rehearsal process, whether they are playing or not. Failure to do so by slouching in the chairs, rolling eyes, and failing to make eye contact when being talked to, for example, is considered rude and disrespectful behavior. These actions will not be tolerated and will result in appropriate consequences for the offender.
- Students should be seated and ready to play when the director is at the podium. If you are not seated, then you are tardy.
- Students are not to talk or to leave their seats without first obtaining permission. Raise your hand and wait to be called upon.
- Students should return all instruments and classroom materials to their proper storage places at the end of each class. All cases should be latched and locker doors should be closed and secured.
- Chairs and stands should be returned to their orderly appearance before leaving the band room.
- Students should help to keep the band suite clean by placing trash in containers located throughout the music wing. If in doubt, pick it up and straighten it up.... *even if it is not yours!!!*
- Food, drink (other than water) and gum are not allowed in the music wing at any time!
- As a member of the Falls Church Band Program, you are *expected* to conduct yourself with an element of *class*. This means to show respect for yourself, all others, your school, all music and all equipment.....AT ALL TIMES!

## GRADING

The grading for all classes within the band program follows a performance-based structure which is used by the entire FCHS Performing Arts Department under FCPS guidelines. The grade percentages are broken down as:

- |                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • 1/3 of quarter grade | Rehearsal Technique and Daily Work |
| • 1/3 of quarter grade | Rehearsal and Performance          |
| • 1/3 of quarter grade | Content Knowledge                  |

### Rehearsal Technique and Daily Work

Includes reporting on time, having proper materials, and displaying proper rehearsal technique on a daily basis. Make-up assignments may be necessary to obtain credit for excused absences. It is the student's responsibility to obtain and complete any necessary make-up work. All make-up work must be completed and submitted within one calendar week of a student's return from an excused absence. No make-up opportunities will be provided for an unexcused absence. Students may have points deducted from their grade. Students can earn back lost points by making up practice time or by performing extra duties at the conclusion of rehearsals or after school for the advancement of the program. The following list includes (but is not limited to) infractions that may result in a loss of points:

- Lack of participation.
- Poor conduct / Improper and disrespectful behavior.
- Inability to follow classroom policies: no gum, food or beverage (other than water) in the band room without permission and never in rehearsal/performance.
- Improper uniform (dirty, wrinkled, missing parts, etc.). Uniforms will be checked before each performance.
- No instrument or part of the instrument (including reeds).
- Marching music not in flip folder / Missing drill (coordinate) sheet.
- Care of your instrument (includes leaving instrument outside of your locker).
- Care of music and music books (originals stay in the black folios in good condition and do not leave the band room).
- Talking, or any other disrespectful behavior, while the director, instructor, student leader, band member or guest is addressing the group.

### Rehearsal and Performance

All scheduled rehearsals and performances are required as an integral part of each student's grade as provided in the FCPS Curriculum Guide. These activities are considered evaluations of student/group progress. A master schedule is provided at the beginning of the year. This schedule may be updated throughout the year. Changes to the schedule will be made aware to the families through e-mail reminders and notifications, occasional monthly mailers containing the updated schedule, and through the band's Website ([www.jaguarband.org](http://www.jaguarband.org)). Conflicts in scheduling must be presented to the director

#### IN WRITING!!!!

at least one week prior to a rehearsal and one month prior to a performance. Excused absences will be considered in cases of extreme hardship (parent/guardian letter required) or illness (doctor/parent excuse required). Work, sports, lack of transportation, babysitting responsibilities and family vacations or trips are not acceptable excuses for missing a performance. However, students excused from a performance for the aforementioned reasons, and at the director's discretion, will be given an appropriate make-up assignment. It is the student's responsibility to receive, complete and submit the assignment within one calendar week of return or all possible credit is forfeited.

### Content Knowledge

Includes meeting the objectives outlined in the Program of Studies for each ensemble. A band student has homework every day...to practice their instrument and any music currently in rehearsal at the time. There may be additional homework assignments and tests (written and playing) used to evaluate student progress and achievement. The quarter grading scale for all band classes follow the **FCPS grading scale percentages**, which are as follows:

- A 94 – 100.00%
- B+ 90 – 93.99%
- B 84 – 89.99%
- C+ 80 – 83.99%
- C 74 – 79.99%
- D+ 70 – 73.99%
- D 64 – 69.99%
- F Below 64%

Quarter grades (20%), the midterm (10%) and final exam (10%) will be averaged together to arrive at the student's final grade for the year. Remember: YOUR grade is reflective of YOUR effort. It is what YOU have earned.

***!!! BEING ON TIME IS ARRIVING 10 MINUTES EARLY !!!***

Absences and tardies hurt the unity of the organization because ALL members are important to the success of the rehearsal or performance.

### **ABSENCE POLICY**

Absences are only excused when they are cleared with the director. Legitimate excuses are: illness (with a signed parent or doctor's note), family emergency, and pre-arranged schedule conflicts such as athletics and study groups (signed note from teacher required). **WORK IS NOT AN EXCUSE.** You are given plenty of notice on all required dates for the course and are expected to find ways to work around and to avoid potential conflicts. If transportation to/from an event is a problem, you have ample time to find ride assistance from someone in the group. All absences and tardies require a note from attendance, the teacher or the parent within 48 hours of the absence for it to be marked as excused. **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES AND TARDIES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND CANNOT BE MADE UP FOR CREDIT.** Performance privileges may be suspended or revoked for even one incident. This includes sectional dates pre-arranged by the director and placed on the calendar. We are a team, and teams don't let each other down by not being there. Required rehearsal time that is missed must be made-up or the student's "Rehearsal and Performance" grade will be lowered. The amount of make-up time will be determined by the director on a case-by-case basis.

### **SECTIONALS**

Throughout the year, students will be expected to participate in sectionals run by their section leader, instructors or the director. Sectionals help students to learn their music on more of a one-on-one basis. The same behavior and attendance rules that apply to daily rehearsals also apply to sectionals. Students unable to attend are to inform the director in writing no later than 48 hours prior to the date of the sectional and the UNAVOIDABLE conflict. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence (see "Absence Policy" above). Marching Band sectionals will be held within the first hour of Wednesday night's rehearsal (4:00-5:00) and sectionals for the Symphonic Band are listed beginning on the January calendar and running regularly through the Festival season (March/April).

## IMPORTANT!

A student missing an excessive number of rehearsals (excused OR unexcused) and/or not being prepared for a performance may be asked not to participate in that or near performances. However, ANYTIME A STUDENT IS PULLED FROM A PERFORMANCE DUE TO EXCESSIVE ABSENCES OR LACK OF PREPAREDNESS, HE/SHE IS STILL EXPECTED TO FULFILL THE RESPONSIBILITIES BY ATTENDING THE PERFORMANCE AS A MEMBER OF THE BAND AND HELPING OUT on the field or in the concert hall. The removal of a student from a performance is entirely at the discretion of the director.

## COLORGUARD/WINTERGUARD AND PERCUSSION REHEARSALS

Since the Colorguard/Winterguard and Percussion sections are such specialized entities, extra rehearsals will be held throughout the fall and spring for their benefit. The same behavior and attendance rules that apply to daily rehearsals will apply to these extra rehearsals. During the marching season, the colorguard and percussion section rehearse on Monday afternoons from 2:45-5:00. In the winter and spring, the Winterguard, Winter Drumline and Percussion Ensembles will have outside rehearsals with dates and times to be mutually determined by the instructors and the members of those sections.

## EVENING / AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS

During marching season, after school rehearsals are scheduled from 2:45 – 5:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Evening rehearsals will be held from 4:00 – 7:00pm every Wednesday. During concert season (mid-November thru May), full band rehearsals will be held on Monday afternoons from 2:30 – 4:00 (see calendar for specific dates). The purpose for the full band rehearsal is to integrate any Intermediate Band members (when applicable) and the percussion section, who rehearses in a separate class during the school day from the wind section. These rehearsals are **required** as part of the student's "Rehearsal and Performance" grade. The same behavior and attendance rules that apply to daily rehearsals apply to evening and after school rehearsals as well.

## BAND CAMP POLICY

Attendance at Band Camp is not optional, but **expected**. Because of the amount of material that the band must learn for its first performance so early in the season, the Band Camp is a necessary and vital part of the band's success. If a student misses all or part of Band Camp, that student may lose his/her opportunity to march in the festival show. This is purely at the discretion of the director based upon preliminary communication between all parties and the work ethic of the student to successfully learn all missed material as to not hinder the progress of the entire band (remember the "weakest link" analogy on pg.2). Those students who have lost the opportunity in the marching festivals will be **expected** to march as alternates for any sick or injured students. They will also be **required** to sit and play in the stands at the football games, and to serve as helpers when needed.

## INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE

For individual and group musical progress, **practice is a MUST** in the instrumental area. A minimum of three hours of cumulative practice time is **expected** each week. This does not include our regular rehearsal time during the school day, afternoon/evening rehearsals or sectionals. **PRACTICE TIME ON YOUR INSTRUMENT IS YOUR HOMEWORK FOR THIS CLASS.** It is VERY obvious when an individual does not practice his/her instrument and music. This is unacceptable behavior which does not coincide with the band's philosophy of striving for excellence. Without consistent practice from every member, we can only expect to stay at the same ability level, at best. Remember, you are graded on your musical progress. Unacceptable progress may result in the loss of your performance privileges.

## **BAND SEATING / PART PLACEMENT / CHAIR PLACEMENT**

Students will be assigned a certain musical “part” (ex. Trumpet 1, 2 or 3) to perform in each ensemble, including marching band. Parts are selected on an audition basis. Auditions are generally, but not exclusively, performed in a screened fashion (anonymous). They will occur throughout the year depending upon the music and musician’s needs. Not every section in the ensemble warrants a chair placement audition. Material to be prepared will be selected and distributed with at least one week of time before the scheduled audition date. In all cases, seat placement in the ensembles is always at the discretion of the director and instructors, for musical and education reasons. These are not to be confused with “playing tests” which can be called upon at anytime as a “pop quiz” or with an amount of preparation time. Scores from these evaluative tests will be calculated into the student’s “Content Knowledge” portion of their grade.

## **BAND MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Marching Responsibilities (on the field):**

- No talking on the marching field during rehearsals while at attention, at parade rest or at ease. You need to be able to hear instructions.
- No walking on the marching field. We run to keep our intensity, focus and to maximize productivity within limited rehearsal time.
- Read drill books/coordinate sheets quickly. Your position should be clearly diagrammed or defined.
- Make sure that music is marked properly.
- It is your responsibility to have your music, drill book/coordinate sheet and a pencil available EVERY DAY. Loss of materials is not an excuse. Borrow someone’s and make a copy.
- Specific items of marching music MUST be memorized. These would include the festival music, FCHS Fight Song and any parade tunes for performance. Playing/memory tests will be the director, instructors and student leaders.
- Hats may be worn outside during rehearsal only as per FCHS policy.
- Bring your own water jug with your name on it. Water breaks will be given at regular intervals, but if you are in need of water between breaks you are encouraged to run to the sideline, get your drink and return to your spot promptly without talking or disrupting the rehearsal in progress.

### **Indoor Responsibilities:**

- Always read the board for announcements!
- Food, drink (other than water) and gum chewing are not to be consumed in the Band Room at any time without special permission from the director.
- Have a pencil on your stand at all times during rehearsal.
- Never lean on, sit on or place your feet on the music stands. It ruins them and they are costly to replace.
- Respect other people’s instruments as you wish for them to respect yours.
- Running indoors and/or in the hallways will not be tolerated.
- Be courteous to the person on the podium, whether director, student or visitor.
- No food, drink (other than water) or gum chewing permitted in the locker and practice rooms.
- Stay in your seat during rehearsal. Do not leave the rehearsal without permission from the director or an instructor.
- No studying or reading of any outside material allowed during band class, except as approved by the director. Students are expected to stay “on task” during rehearsals.

## CONCERTS / PERFORMANCES

Generally, our concerts will begin at 7:30pm and usually will not exceed two hours in length. Students are expected to be in attendance of ALL PARTS of the concert. This includes the portions in which you are not performing. Wandering in the halls, back stage or waiting in the band room are not acceptable unless specified by the director. Students will be in concert dress during the concert and will not add or take away from the official uniform at any time during the concert. The teachers, administrators, parents and students at FCHS expect only the best in performance and concert etiquette from you.

## CONSEQUENCES FOR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

Serious behavior infractions including (but not limited to) alcohol and drug abuse, smoking, fighting or other situations that jeopardize the safety of students will be dealt with by immediate referral to the office and possible removal from the band program.

Minor behavioral problems will be dealt with in the following manner:

- First Offense: Verbal warning
- Second Offense: Verbal warning and phone call to parent/guardian
- Third Offense: After school detention and work duty; phone call to parent/guardian; contract drawn up
- Fourth Offense: Administrative referral; phone call to parent/guardian; request conference with recommendation for removal from program

## MUSIC LETTER REQUIREMENTS AND AWARDS

All students have the opportunity to “letter” in music, similar to student athletes. Having (or not having) a music letter will have no affect on a student’s grade in band. This award is based purely on loyalty to the band and participation in band activities. Each spring, students without a letter will receive a point sheet to determine if they qualify for a letter. A total of 100 cumulative points must be earned to receive a letter. Most two-year band students qualify for a letter, but it is possible for someone to letter in band after one year of service in the program if they are heavily involved and perform at a very high level. To qualify for a letter in band, a student must complete two full years (four semesters) of band in good standing. Colorguard members must be in marching band for three fall seasons or in Colorguard AND Winterguard for two full years.

Years-of-Service Awards are distributed as follows:

- One Year of Service (in good standing): Certificate of Achievement
- Two Years of Service (in good standing): Letter Pin (a “bonus” pin will be awarded at this point to students who received their letter and letter pin after their first year of service)
- Three Years of Service (in good standing): Engraved Medal
- Four Years of Service (in good standing): Personalized Plaque

Awards will only apply to students on a full-year basis. Partial years will not “round up” to a full year. Students transferring into FCHS band in good standing from other band programs can have that credit applied to their annual formula. If unavoidable conflicts should arise, they will be assessed by the director on an individual basis.

Other annual awards are the Outstanding Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior Awards. Four other more prestigious awards presented at the Band Banquet are the Outstanding Marching Band Member, the Semper Fidelis Award, the John Philip Sousa Award and the Director’s Award and Scholarship. These awards “usually” go to seniors, but are in no way limited to only senior recognition.

## UNIFORMS (MARCHING AND CONCERT)

### MARCHING

We are very fortunate to have our uniforms. They were very expensive to purchase and equally as expensive to maintain and repair. Therefore, we are very “picky” about the way that the uniforms are handled when checked out to the students for events and the shape that they are in upon return. All uniform pieces are numbered and assigned to students. Fitting for all uniform parts will be done during band camp for the upcoming season. The uniforms are housed at the school and are never to be taken home under any circumstance. Students will need to arrive early enough to change into their uniforms. They will be available, in most cases, one hour before the scheduled warm-up time. They should have with them their band shirt for that season (to be worn under their marching jacket), black socks, black marching shoes and their **clean**, white gloves. Shoes are to be free of any dust and scuff marks. Students will hang their uniforms up neatly on the appropriate hangers and check them in with the parent volunteers after each performance. You are responsible to provide yourself with a change of clothes. It is the student’s responsibility to keep the uniform in good condition. A portion of the class fee is used to cover the cost of a dry cleaning run at the end of the season. If a portion of the uniform becomes dirty before the end of the season due to student negligence or carelessness, the student will be responsible for covering the cost of the cleaning. The student’s account will then be deducted in that amount. No student will be permitted to perform in a uniform that is dirty or has been mistreated.

If a student misplaces or forgets specific items of their uniform for a performance, replacement items may be available **for purchase** from the uniform parents. Purchasable replacement items include black socks (\$2), white gloves (\$2) and current band t-shirts (if still available) (\$10).

### CONCERT

#### Gentlemen:

Tuxedos will be provided including coat, shirt, pants, and an accessory pack containing a cummerbund, bowtie and tux shirt studs. The student is responsible to provide their own black socks and black shoes (the black marching shoes are acceptable if they have been cleaned). Fitting for uniforms will occur at a scheduled time during band camp. Uniforms may be checked out up to an hour before call time (in most cases). They must be returned neatly on the appropriate hangers with the accessory pack complete and sealed. Each uniform must be checked in with the parent volunteers for correctness.

#### Ladies:

All ladies will be provided with a concert dress. Fitting will occur at a scheduled time during band camp. They will also be issued an accessory pack with a string of pearls. Please be careful with these as the string may easily snap if mishandled. Ladies are required to provide a pair of **black, closed-toe shoes and dark hose (black or off-black)**. No tennis shoes, canvas shoes, sandals or flip-flops are acceptable. Earrings may be worn as a small post only, no hoops or dangles. No other jewelry around the neck but the string of pearls. Hair must be worn up and kept neat.

### IMPORTANT

**Any student who is inappropriately dressed at the time of a performance will be asked to take a seat in the audience for the duration of the entire performance with a reduction in grade. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence and a greater reduction of one’s grade under the “Rehearsal and Performance” category. When we are in uniform, we stay in FULL uniform unless instructions to do otherwise are given by the director. In uniform, you are representing yourself, your band and your school with pride. Walking around with your shirt out and unbuttoned is unacceptable and nothing short of disrespectful to all mentioned above.**

## STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Each student in the Falls Church Band has an account of his/her own. Students are able to create credits in their individual student account through either fundraising activities or direct deposits. Money can be deposited into an account at any time. The money in these accounts may only be used for band expenses. No cash for personal spending may be distributed from the student account to individual students. Surpluses in the individual student account after a student leaves the band program will be returned to the Band Aides general fund, used for scholarships or transferred to another account. **THERE IS NO CASHING OUT OF YOUR STUDENT'S INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNT AT ANY TIME.** Any **SENIOR** with a negative balance in their account will not be granted clearance from the director, thus not granted permission to graduate. Please keep your accounts in good standing to avoid a large fee when it comes around to graduation. For detailed information of your individual account, you may contact the Band Aides Treasurer (e-mail is preferable).

Every student has his/her own financial responsibilities. By participating in fundraisers you have an opportunity to budget how much additional money will be needed to cover the rest of the band expenses. We encourage you to participate in as many fundraisers as possible. They are a great way to lower, **or eliminate**, your out-of-pocket expenses. Please keep in mind that when student accounts are delinquent, bills such as bus, hotel and festival costs cannot be paid in a timely manner. Please be a team player by participating in fundraisers, turning in forms and payments on (**or before**) a given deadline, and by keeping your account current and in good standing.

Student accounts may only be used towards band camp (class fees) or towards travel expenses and does not include expenses such as: shoes/gloves/socks, flip-folders, instrument lyres, reeds, music or instrument supplies.

## “BAND AIDES” PARENT ORGANIZATION

The FCHS Band Aides Parent Organization exists to provide support to the director, the band students and their parents. The Band Aides raise funds to pay for a variety of band program expenses, provide chaperones/sponsors for all band trips and help coordinate and support a variety of band activities. All parents/guardians are automatically members of the Band Aides and are strongly encouraged to be an active part of their child's high school musical experience. Band Aides meetings are open to all members, including students, and are usually held once each month at 7:00pm in the FCHS band room. These meetings are generally held on the *first* Tuesday evening of each month (see the calendar for specific dates). There is **no charge** for Band Aides membership.

The Band Aides have a panel of elected volunteers that function as the Board of Directors for the Parent Organization. The positions of the Board and their primary responsibilities are as follows:

- The President in general, supervises all of the business and activities of the Band Aides and coordinates these activities with the Band Director. The President sets and resides over all Board of Directors and General Membership Meetings.
- The Treasurer is in charge of the maintenance of the Band Aides General Fund and student accounts. This includes the keeping of the books, managing deposits and expenditures, and reporting to the membership on the financial status of the Band Aides.
- Ways and Means is the fundraising chairperson of the organization. It is their responsibility to organize, direct or appoint people to operate the fundraising events.
- The Recording Secretary keeps the minutes of meetings, as well as the roll of the active membership. It is also their job to be the custodian of the records, Constitution and the By-Laws of the organization.
- The Corresponding Secretary conducts the written correspondence of the Band Aides. This includes notices to the general membership of scheduled events.

## CHAPERONES – GUIDELINES FOR ADULT HELPERS

Chaperones are a critical component of the band. Chaperones are needed for ALL band activities, and dads are especially needed to oversee the young men on overnight trips. All parents and guardians are asked to function as chaperones, bus monitors, snack bar helpers, equipment loaders, truck drivers, members/officers of the parent organization, etc., etc., etc.....WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!! Please contact a Band Aides Board Member or the band director if you are interested in helping in any way.

At each function, adults are acting as an extension of the music director in an effort to make the music program more successful, and should expect to function under their direction. Although adults/parents will be given specific instructions by the music director for each activity, the following guidelines must apply:

- **FCPS AND FCHS POLICIES APPLY.** When supervising students on a trip or at an event, behavior expectations and consequences are to be the same as if they were on the FCHS campus.
- Situations that call for disciplinary action should be handled as deemed best for the moment and the incident should be immediately reported to the director. At that point, ultimate decisions as to discipline become the responsibility of the director, not the chaperone.
- In no case should physical discipline ever be used.
- Take immediate measures as necessary to the incident, **always** ensuring the safety and well-being of the students.

## FOOTBALL GAME AND BAND FESTIVAL CONDUCT

The FCHS Marching Jags march to and from the stadium for games with a stop at the snack bar for a performance of the FCHS Fight Song. This is part of our performance. Talking and playing while at attention is **never** acceptable. March with **PRIDE** and follow the example set by your section leaders and drum major. The band will be seated in sections in the stands. You may sit with a friend from another section provided that you return to your section in time to perform. If this is abused, the privilege will be lost and the band will stay in sections for the entire game. When other bands are performing, **WATCH THE BAND!** This is not the time to carry on a conversation and act unprofessionally. Listen attentively and applaud at the conclusion of the performance as a sign of class and respect. Remember, you would want them to applaud for you.

Only official visitors are permitted in the band section with prior permission from the director. Please do not invite your family and friends into the band when we are in the stands. When the band plays, **EVERYONE PLAYS!** Refusal to play is grounds for disciplinary action and a grade reduction (if applicable). Your music folder is **required** to be at all games and you should be prepared to play any piece of music in your folder at any time.

Food and beverage (other than water) may not be consumed with the marching jacket on. We traditionally allow the band members to visit the snack bar for the duration of the third quarter once they have returned their jacket to the racks provided. They are required to have their marching band t-shirt for the current year under their jacket so that we still look uniform with the jackets off. If a student fails to wear such shirt, they are required to remain in full uniform and thus the snack bar visit is forfeit. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action. Gum chewing is **never allowed** while in uniform. This includes in the stands and on the bus.

Do not throw anything in or from the stands. Do not walk on the benches. Do not leave the stands during the game. You must get permission from the director to use the restroom. No traveling alone! You need to visit the restroom in at least groups of two and may be asked to go with a chaperone. Your safety is our highest priority. No extraneous playing will be permitted in the stands without permission.

## **TRIPS / AWAY GAMES / AWAY CONCERT FESTIVALS**

Since any trip made by the band is considered a school function, all school and county guidelines for student behavior and special rules brought up by the director are to be followed and will be enforced.

Unnecessary commotion, loud noises and foul language will not be tolerated. Every student must remain seated while the bus is in operation. No one is to have part of their body outside the bus window while in motion, nor should anything be thrown out of the window. It's not just unsafe, it's illegal.

Students may not drive themselves to or from a performance. Everyone must ride the bus and travel as a team. Parents will only be allowed to transport their student **to** an event under extreme circumstances that are communicated and excused through the director ahead of time and in writing. Parents will only be permitted to transport their student **from** an event provided they submit a signed release to the appropriate bus chaperone and director at their time of departure and in person. The director must see the parent/guardian and the student together before they may leave the director's care.

## **MUSIC AND MARCHING DRILL**

For marching band, each student is required to own a marching flip-folder and lyre. A limited number may be available from the director for students who are in financial need (donated from graduating seniors for use). It is recommended that students purchase their own equipment if possible, which are available at most music stores. Each student will be provided a "coordinate sheet" giving their specific location for every set in the marching program. This, as is the music, is considered instructional material for the class and should be taken care of. Do not leave your music out after rehearsal. You will be responsible for copying parts lost or misplaced. Remember, this is your textbook for the class!

For the concert music, the black folios are not to leave the band room. When not in use, they should be returned to the appropriate shelf underneath the stereo. Extra parts for music being rehearsed will be provided to each student in a folder for them to practice at home. All music (marching and concert) should be marked on with pencil only.....NO PEN. A pencil should be kept in every concert folder.

## **SCHOOL INSTRUMENT USAGE**

The Falls Church Band has some instruments which may be rented to students under FCPS guidelines. The rental cost for these instruments, including a percussion usage fee, may change from year to year. Check with the director to determine the current charge to rent a specific instrument for the year. Students on the free/reduced lunch plan receive a greater discount for rental (proof of plan membership must be received from the cafeteria to the director before an instrument may be released). Repairs on rental instruments as "normal wear-n-tear" may be covered by the band. Repairs needed due to neglect are the responsibility of the student/family during the rental period. The student/family will be responsible for lost, stolen or destroyed instruments (an instrument deemed as irreparable).

## **LOCKS AND LOCKERS**

Band lockers are available to band students and are intended for the storage of musical instruments, equipment and music. It is not intended to replace your school locker. Students may be required to share lockers depending upon availability. The school assumes no responsibility for anything stolen from your locker. Please keep your locker closed and locked at all times. All lockers are furnished with an FCHS lock. Students may not use their own personal lock. The result will be the cutting of the lock at the owner's expense and a loss of locker privileges. Please make every attempt to keep the lockers **and** the locker room clean at all times.

## DRUM MAJOR AUDITIONS

The position of Drum Major is chosen by audition near the end of each school year. Potential candidates will begin by submitting a completed application form. The audition process will consist of a conducting demonstration, demonstration of verbal commands, marching demonstration, a musical performance on the candidate's primary instrument and an interview with the director and his chosen panel of interviewers. The auditions are done as a group and are open to current band students and alumni (we ask that family members please wait outside). The director, panel of judges and the current band students evaluate the candidates. If chosen, the drum major **must** attend a drum major camp approved by the director during the summer. A portion of the cost of the camp will be covered by the Band Aides.

## MARCHING BAND SECTION LEADER SELECTION

Marching section (and co-section) leaders are chosen by the director. The director uses records of daily behavior, attendance, performance, application and an interview to determine who will be the leaders of the organization. Whether you know it or not, your audition begins as soon as you become a member of the Falls Church Band Program.

The section leader is not necessarily the "best" player. He/she is chosen on the basis of musicianship, leadership potential, attitude and the example that he/she will convey to the rest of the band. For educational reasons, this decision must ultimately be made by the director.

### SECTION LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Call and run extra sectionals as needed.
- Run sectional rehearsal (if director not present) effectively and efficiently – Be Organized!
- Follow effective lesson planning and teaching strategies (see director for ideas).
- Assist director and drum major with discipline and control during marching band activities.
- Attend scheduled leadership meetings throughout the season with the director for input as for what needs to be accomplished.
- Perform regular music and drill knowledge checks. **YOU** are responsible for every member of your section.
- Must possess and maintain a reputation for honesty, integrity, promptness, dependability and cooperation.
- Be a positive example to others **AT ALL TIMES**, both musically and personally.
- Must maintain at least a 2.0 grade average.

***Failure to perform effectively could result in removal from the section leader position. The section leader position is an earned privilege, not a right!***

## UNIFORM INSPECTIONS BEFORE GAMES AND PERFORMANCES

This task will be carried out by the uniform parents, drum major and section leaders. Inappropriate or dirty uniform parts will result in a loss of performance points and you will not be allowed to perform unless the uniform is in proper condition.

- Hats and plumes on straight. Hats near eyebrows. Top of hat should be flat.
- White gloves.
- Black socks and clean black shoes.
- No visible jewelry. No rings, earrings, watches, etc.
- Hair inside the hat and not below the collar.
- No lipstick and only **moderate** make-up (it will streak). Colorguard has the exception.
- Instrument/reed working properly.

## **DISTRICT BAND / SOLO & ENSEMBLE**

Each member of the Symphonic Band and Percussion class is responsible for participating in either the District X Band Audition or in the Solo & Ensemble Festival. The grade for satisfying this requirement will be applied to the student's fourth quarter "Content Knowledge" grade.

The District Band is an Honor Band made up of band students within the District X schools on an audition basis. The audition is usually held at the beginning of December (see the schedule of events for specifics). If a student's audition is strong enough to grant them placement within the group, it is expected that they will participate in the Honor Band Festival (see calendar). Audition etudes will be made available to the directors at their fall meeting at the end of October and will immediately be made available to the students. The same etude(s) will be used for the band's December chair placement audition for the spring semester. It is expected that students will put sufficient time into the preparation of this material for the audition. The director reserves the right to have the student play their prepared selection for him in order for the student to demonstrate their proficiency. A student will not be permitted to audition if the director feels that the student's preparation is not at an acceptable level. The student will consequently receive a grade of an "F" for their lack of preparedness.

The Solo & Ensemble Festival is usually held in April and provides the students with the opportunity to work on a selection of solo literature that they have prepared with their private instructor, or to start something new in a solo or group fashion. There is no limit to the size of the ensemble, or the mix of instrumentation for this festival, however, the larger the group the more difficult it becomes to coordinate rehearsal times outside of class. It is expected that all participants in this festival will put sufficient time into the practicing of their individual parts, as well as the rehearsal of the entire ensemble (if applicable). The director reserves the right to have the student(s) play their prepared selection(s) for him in order for the student(s) to demonstrate their proficiency. A student(s) will not be permitted to audition if the director feels that the student's preparation is not at an acceptable level. The student will consequently receive a grade of an "F" for their lack of preparedness.

A student will demonstrate the greatest musical growth (which is encouraged) by participating in both the District Band Audition and the Solo & Ensemble Festival. This is also a way of gaining significant extra credit applied to the fourth quarter grade. If not doing both, it is the student's responsibility to make their selection, but once a commitment has been made and their name has been submitted to the coordinator at the deadline, they are expected to honor their commitment. The participation cost for both events is covered by the Band Aide Organization in order to try and add an incentive for the students to participate in both activities. If a student fails to show for their performance at either event, they will be expected to reimburse the organization for all costs and to accept the lowering of one's grade. Make every effort to fulfill your obligation.

## **FALLS CHURCH HIGH SCHOOL BANDS**

### **MARCHING BAND**

The Marching Band is one of our most visible ensembles. Performances at all home (and some away) Varsity football games, the Homecoming Parade, and Marching Band Festivals, both in and out of the state, keep the “Marching Jags” very busy throughout the Fall. The band begins rehearsals two weeks before school starts with our annual “Band Clinic”. Marching Band teaches cooperative skills, group dynamics, commitment, the rewards of effort, the joys of friendship and a deeper understanding of music and expression from a more physically rewarding approach. Through this activity students will learn the values of strong work ethic, accountability, responsibility, leadership, sacrifice and pride. Marching Band is taught as a co-curricular course with the Advanced Band, but membership into the “marching family” is open to the entire school as an extra-curricular opportunity. Outside rehearsals and performances are an important and required element to the continued success of this program. Instrumentation is at the discretion of the instructor.

### **BEGINNING BAND**

Students develop skills as individual musicians and as members of a musical group. Guidance will be given by the instructor in the selection of an instrument, if necessary. Course content includes beginning level technical and ensemble skills necessary for performance. Some performance opportunities may be provided to students who show a strong work ethic on becoming proficient on their instrument and the music. Rehearsals and performances outside of normal school hours may be required as part of this course. Marching Band techniques are not applicable to this course.

### **INTERMEDIATE BAND**

Students continue developing as individual musicians and as members of a musical group. Emphasis is placed on the development of intermediate level technical and ensemble skills necessary for performance. After school rehearsals and performances are required of all students as an integral part of this course. Marching Band techniques are not required for this course, but are encouraged.

### **ADVANCED BAND**

Students in this course form the representative-performing band for the school. Emphasis is placed on the successful development of advanced technical skills and on the study of related literature. Based on successful completion of sequential concepts for each level, students will continue as specified in course level. After school rehearsals and performances are required of all students as a part of this course. Marching Band techniques, rehearsals and performances are included and required in this course.

### **PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**

This ensemble consists of percussionists of all ability levels. It focuses on individual technique, rhythm knowledge, reading skills, music theory, music history and listening skills to be applied to a wide array of styles, techniques and types of literature. This class is an extended section from the Advanced Band course description with emphasis placed specifically in the areas of percussion. After school rehearsals are required of all students as part of this course. Marching Band techniques, rehearsals and performances are included and required in this course.

### **JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

The instrumental jazz ensemble curriculum emphasizes improvisation and styles of the jazz idiom. Content includes the study of blues scale patterns and harmonic progressions innate in jazz music. Content also includes the study of the appropriate jazz literature and rehearsal/performance techniques appropriate in the jazz style. Rehearsals and performances, both in and out of school, are required. Instrumentation of the jazz ensemble is at the discretion of the jazz instructor.