

*Joy Unspeakable  
Homeschool Band*

# *Band Member's Handbook*

*Includes rules, expectations, and guidelines for all classes  
offered in the program.*

*The handbook will be updated before every semester, so please  
review the new copy every semester.*

Last Updated on December 20, 2008  
for Spring Semester 2009.

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## General Guidelines

### *Christian Environment*

Joy Unspeakable Homeschool Band (hereafter referred to as JUHSB), formerly “Homeschool Music,” was founded on Christian principles, with direct leadership from God. Therefore, all students are expected to act in a Christian manner.

We do, however, understand that our students come from different Christian backgrounds, denominations, and beliefs. Therefore, no doctrine will be taught.

We will perform Christian music in addition to various other types of music. If your beliefs prohibit you from performing Christian music with instruments, please evaluate whether or not you are willing to make an exception to be in this program. Please know that accommodations can be made so that no words to the Christian music are a part of the rehearsals and performances if this will allow you to make the exception. Because this policy is stated up front, no child will be excused from a performance because of a particular piece of music.

At this time, no statement of faith is required. Registering for classes with JUHSB will be considered your acceptance of this policy and intent to comply.

### *Commitment to the Program*

Once your child begins the program, you must commit to finish the semester that you have begun. There are several reasons for this:

- All of the students in the class depend on each student’s participation. One missing person can create a “hole” in the music that jeopardizes the band’s performance.
- Upon registration, the budget for the semester is established. JUHSB only charges the minimum amount on which we can function each semester, therefore every person’s tuition is a necessity to pay for what we do that semester. There is generally very little or no money left at the end of a semester. This is why fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

On occasion, a circumstance necessitates a student leaving the program. The following situations are acceptable reasons for leaving. Please know that no fees will be refunded, but no further fees will be collected if the family is using the payment plan.

- Serious illness in the immediate family. This must be a long term or terminal illness that requires hospitalization or other intensive medical care, so that transportation of the student to and from band class would be impossible.
- Death or unemployment of a parent.
- The family moves more than 50 miles away from any of the JUHSB locations. Usually, 50 miles or less can be traveled in approximately an hour to an hour and a half (depending on road type and condition). The family will be expected to make arrangements to travel that far to classes in order to finish the semester, as the director may travel that far themselves.

No exceptions will be made for students who leave the program for the following reasons:

- The student “gets tired” of the class.
- The student leaves homeschooling and/or enrolls in school.
- The student does not practice.
- The student is involuntarily dismissed from the program for behavior, attendance, or any other issue outlined in this handbook.

Students in these situations will be expected to complete payment for the semester.

### ***Tuition & Fees***

JUHSB has the responsibility of securing enough income to fund the programs we offer and purchase materials, music, equipment, and other items that are necessary for its success. We also have the responsibility to take into account the needs of the families who participate. For this reason, all participants are held to the same standards regarding tuition amounts, but fundraiser information is offered on our yahoo group so that no person has to pay any money out of pocket. They must simply make the effort and complete the fundraisers. Please consult the yahoo group about fundraisers, and feel free to speak to the director if you have questions.

A fee schedule will be posted every semester. Fees are subject to change from semester to semester. As of December 20, 2008, tuition and fees are as follows:

- 3-6 year old Rhythm Band, 30 minute class per week: \$100 per semester
- 7-9 year old Recorder Bands, 30 minute class per week: \$100 per semester
- 10 and older Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Bands, 1 hour class per week: \$200 per semester.
- New Student Fee: at the beginning of each student’s first semester with our program, they are charged a \$25 fee to assist in purchasing the items that are needed only when the student first enrolls in classes. The maximum New Student Fee a family is expected to pay per semester is \$50.
- Late Registration Fee: if registration paperwork is postmarked after the postmark date, or received after the deadline, a \$25 per family fee is charged to cover the expenses of obtaining necessary materials for the student(s) at the last minute.

All fees are non-refundable and non-transferable, except in the event a class is cancelled by JUHSB due to lack of participation. If the class is cancelled, fees already received will be transferred to a sibling’s account or will be refunded if the student does not have a sibling in the program.

### ***Class Scheduling***

General time frames for when a class will occur are given during registration, but class schedules are planned the day after registration ends so that only the classes that have enough participation are scheduled. Please register early so that plans for your student’s class can be made and the correct materials can be ordered.

Class scheduling is also delayed so that siblings' classes may be scheduled back-to-back.

If the schedule is already set and you are registering late, but the class you are registering for is not being offered, you will be notified of such and any fees paid will be refunded.

### ***Class Visitors***

Parents are always welcome to sit in on the class, and may be required to if a student's behavior becomes a problem. Potential students are always welcome as well. However, visitors of any type who cause a disruption or distraction during class will be warned once, and then asked to leave if the behavior or action continues.

### ***Private Lessons***

Private lessons are not required but are encouraged. While every band director is trained to play and instruct on all instruments, each band director is required to specialize in only one. Some directors specialize in more than one, but this is not common. Individual instruction with a musician who has specialized in the same instrument provides more advancement for the student. Many music stores and private individuals offer private lessons. The director of JUHSB can assist you in finding a suitable private instructor should you choose to enroll your child in private lessons.

### ***Daily Practice***

Daily Practice is required of all band members.

- 3-6 year old Rhythm Band members will be required to practice at least 5 days a week, 15 minutes a day.
- 7-9 year old Recorder Band members will be required to practice at least 5 days a week, 15 minutes a day. It is recommended that these members practice 5 days a week, 30 minutes a day.
- Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, and Marching Band members will be required to practice at least 5 days a week, 30 minutes a day. It is recommended that these members practice 5 days a week, 1 hour a day.

Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, and Marching Band members will be required to complete a practice record each week. The student will receive a weekly grade on the amount of time that they practiced.

- Completion of the required 150 minutes per week will result in a grade of 100%.
- Completion of 135 out of 150 minutes will result in a grade of 90%.
- Completion of 120 out of 150 minutes will result in a grade of 80%.
- Completion of 105 out of 150 minutes will result in a grade of 70%.
- Completion of less than 105 minutes will result in a failing grade.
- Practicing more than 150 minutes in a week does not carryover to any other week. Please remember that 150 minutes is the *minimum* required practice time, and additional practice time is recommended. This additional practice time should be

considered time invested in the student's advancement on their musical instrument, as well as a demonstration of their maturity and dedication.

If a student does not practice, they may have their seating changed, be placed in a lower band or dismissed from the class depending on the severity and repetitiveness in the lack of practice.

### *SmartMusic*

Enrollment in JUHSB's Beginning, Intermediate, or Advanced Bands also includes enrollment in the SmartMusic computer program. Shortly after your enrollment in JUHSB classes, you will be given a CD to install on your computer. You must install this immediately, and use the "email" address and password that you are given by JUHSB.

SmartMusic enables the students to practice at home with the computer, and they receive immediate feedback so that know if they are making mistakes. They will also receive grades and submit assignments to me throughout the week.

Along with the CD, you will be given an instruction packet. This will give you all the pertinent information to help you install SmartMusic, navigate it, and practice your assignments.

You must have internet access on the computer that you install SmartMusic on in order to submit assignments. Therefore, enrollment in JUHSB's Beginning, Intermediate, or Advanced Bands requires internet access. Dial-up internet is perfectly acceptable; however, it is considerably slower in submitting assignments. Please warn your student(s) about this inconvenience.

There will be a microphone included with the CD and instruction packet. The microphone is the property of JUHSB, and has been provided as a convenience for you. Acceptance of this microphone constitutes agreement to the following terms:

1. If you leave JUHSB, you must return this microphone in the same condition that it was in when provided to you. Failure to do so will result in a \$20 charge for the replacement of the microphone.
2. If you lose the microphone while you are still enrolled in JUHSB, you will be charged \$20 for the cost of the microphone. You will also be responsible for purchasing your own replacement microphone.
3. If you damage the microphone in a way that it can no longer be used while you are still enrolled in JUHSB, you will be charged \$20 for the cost of the microphone. You will also be responsible for purchasing your own replacement microphone.

Only one microphone will be provided to you during the course of your family's enrollment in JUHSB.

### ***Instrument Care***

All students are expected to read, understand, memorize, and follow the information listed in the instrument care section located at the beginning of their band book. Parents are strongly encouraged to do the same, and make sure that their student is following these rules. Proper care of the instrument will contribute to the longevity of the instrument.

NEVER play a wind instrument (including recorders) immediately after having candy, gum, food, sugary drinks, or any other sugary substance in your mouth. Sugar and other ingredients can, and most likely will, settle inside the instrument creating a buildup that damages it. Even sugar-free candy, gum, etc. has ingredients that will buildup in your instrument. This can also cause the instrument to mildew or grow mold that can be dangerous to the respiratory system. Please do not turn your instrument into a science experiment! Always thoroughly rinse your mouth with water before playing so that nothing can enter the instrument. If possible, it is best to brush your teeth thoroughly before playing.

Students should never play or handle another student's instrument or case. Violation of this rule will be handled at the discretion of the director depending on the severity of the offence, up to dismissal from the program. Damage to another student's instrument will result in serious punishment, regardless of whether it was an accident or not. If one student damages another student's instrument, the parents of the student who caused the damage will be held liable for ALL repair or replacement costs.

Students other than the drummers should never touch the percussion equipment.

Instruments and cases should not be left where people will be walking in the room. If at all possible, students are encouraged to find one place for all of their instrument cases to be left during class.

Parents are financially responsible for repairs to and upkeep of their child's instruments, including those loaned to their child by the band. If a student damages an instrument owned by JUHSB, whether it is loaned to the student or utilized in class, the parents of the student who caused the damage must pay for the repair or replacement cost.

If your child's instrument is in need of repair or maintenance and you neglect to have this completed, your child can be dismissed for the semester and not allowed to return to the program until proof of repairs is provided to the director. Dismissal for this offence is at the discretion of the director.

### ***Parent Participation***

Parents can participate in any of the bands for only the \$25 new student registration fee (during their first semester only) and a \$50 tuition fee each semester. Parents will be held to the same standards as all other students, including auditions into the Intermediate and Advanced Bands, and must practice the required amount of time. They will participate in

performances as well. Another homeschool band that has served as a reference for JUHSB states:

“We have many parents who play with their student in band or orchestra, as well as sing in the chorus. It’s amazing how it helps build family unity when both parent and child are learning to play an instrument. Students find that they are on a level playing field and can compete with their parent, perhaps for the first time! Seeing their parents being diligent in practice encourages diligence in the student. Students sitting near the parent actually appreciate their support and encouragement. It works for our students, our families and our programs. It’s a good thing all around.”

This is limited to parents, or the person responsible for the student. Adults cannot join the class unless their student is enrolled in that class. In the case that a student is in Intermediate or Advanced Band and their parent decides to participate, the parent will be enrolled in Beginning Band until such time as they can pass the audition into their child’s band.

### ***Parental Supervision***

We are not a drop-off service! Every student or child must be supervised by an adult at all times. The director will supervise the child while class is in session, but the parent is responsible at all other times. If behavior during class becomes an issue, the parent will be asked to attend class with the child to observe and correct their behavior.

There are to be no children running around the hallways or any other portion of the facility at any time, including the parking lots. Sometimes a playground or playroom for children who are not attending class is available at the meeting facility. Please utilize these play areas with respect, and supervise your children at all times. Play at your own risk. Neither JUHSB nor the facilities at which we meet will be held responsible in the case of any injuries.

Many times, there are offices in the church open and people are working while we are there. Please remember this and supervise your children with this in mind.

Leave the parking spaces closest to the door for the director. The director has equipment to unload and materials to bring in, and needs a close parking space as they do not always have help with this.

We must respect every facility at which we meet, which includes not using any of their materials or equipment. Any rooms that not specifically designated for our use are strictly off-limits. This includes the sanctuary.

Students driving themselves to band are expected to monitor their own behavior appropriately. As always, the students themselves will be held responsible for their behavior, but parents will also be held responsible even if they are not present. It is the opinion of JUHSB that a student’s behavior is a reflection of what they have been taught at home, and while some students have been taught properly and still choose to disobey,

we expect that inappropriate behavior at band class (before, during, or after class, anytime they are on the premises) will be corrected at home in addition to the punishments imposed at band.

### ***Grades and Credit on Transcripts***

Grades are recorded during the semester to track the progress of each student. Official “Report Cards” will not be sent, but parents may request their child’s grade at the end of the semester. If you plan on requesting your child’s grade, please notify the director as soon as possible (preferably at the beginning of the semester).

Requests for grades made after the semester ends may take as long as two weeks or more, depending on the director’s schedule. Please keep in mind that once the semester ends, the director has no further obligations to the semester and may go on vacation, travel out of town to see family members, etc. If you make your request while the director is out of town, there is nothing that can be done until the director returns!

### ***Bad Weather Policy***

Due to the distances some of our families travel, we must have a conservative bad weather policy. If the Public Schools in the area where we have class are closed for bad weather, we are closed as well. We usually do not make up these days.

- Carrollton Location = Carroll County and/or Carrollton City School System
- Anniston Location = Calhoun County School System

As long as there is power, the director will send an email. The director will also attempt to call all affected parents. A “phone tree” will be designed at the beginning of the semester that separates parents by the classes their children attend. If there is bad weather, the director will call their designated families for each class, then those families will have other families in their child’s class that they are assigned to call. This way, all families can be reached in a timely fashion.

If the meeting area school system is not closed, but your local school system is closed and you feel that you should not drive to class in the weather, please do not hesitate to let the director know that you cannot make it. We would rather err on the side of caution!

### ***Attire***

Students, family members of students, or anyone else attending any JUHSB rehearsal (or other function) must come properly dressed. Your children will be dismissed from a practice (or other function) if not dressed properly. Clothing should be conservative. While casual clothing and even sweat suits are allowed at rehearsals, midriff tops and boxers that show are not allowed.

## Rehearsal Rules

### *Materials*

All materials must be brought to every class/rehearsal. This includes:

- band folder
- music
- band book
- pencil (pen is NOT allowed for marking in the band book or on music)
- completed homework assignments
- practice record
- instrument in proper working order
- mouthpiece, reeds, drumsticks, or any other accessory to their instrument
- any other item needed for class as indicated by the director

### *Attendance*

Attendance at EVERY rehearsal is expected. Due to the nature of our program, missed rehearsal time cannot be made up.

Attendance has been a problem in the past. Please keep in mind that when your child misses a class, they are missing all instruction given during the class period and they will be behind the rest of the class. The rest of the class will suffer because the material must be repeated for the student who missed the previous class. Because of this, an attendance policy has been put in place and will be enforced (effective Fall Semester 2006).

- There are approximately 15 weeks and 15 class meetings during each semester.
- Each student is allowed 3 absences (regardless of the reason) during the semester, which means they are allowed to miss 1/5 or 20% of rehearsals.
- After 3 absences, the student's grade will be lowered by 10 points (one full letter grade) for every subsequent absence. This means that after the 4<sup>th</sup> absence the student can earn no higher than a 90 in the class, the 5<sup>th</sup> absence no higher than an 80, the 6<sup>th</sup> absence no higher than a 70, etc.
- On the 7<sup>th</sup> absence, the student has missed about half of the semester and the student automatically fails the class. The student will be dismissed for the remainder of the semester.
- A student dismissed for 7 absences can then repeat that class the next semester, but there will be a one semester probationary period where the student must have no more than 3 absences and may not participate in "extra" activities such as marching band, festival, and performances other than the end of semester concert.
  - If the student has less than 3 absences during the probationary semester, and their progress is satisfactory, they will be allowed to return to all activities.
  - If the student misses more than 3 classes during the probationary semester, or fails to make satisfactory progress, they will be dismissed from the program permanently. It is the opinion of JUHSB that any student who misses half of one semester, then does not make the effort to redeem

themselves during the probationary semester, does not have the will or dedication required to learn a musical instrument or participate in this program.

- Please keep in mind that a child may be failing after missing only 4, 5, or 6 classes if their grades on assignments (homework, written tests, playing tests, pop quizzes, etc.) and practice records are less than 100% at that point in time. On the other hand, a student who has a grade of 100% on all assignments and practice records will still receive a failing grade upon the 7<sup>th</sup> absence because their grade will be lowered for absences.

Attendance at all combined and dress rehearsals before the end of season concert is mandatory. Students missing any of the combined rehearsals are required to attend the performance, but will not be allowed to perform with their band. It is the goal of JUHSB to announce the combined rehearsals early enough in the semester that scheduling conflicts can be resolved.

### ***Courtesy Clause & the No Call/No Show Fee***

If you miss a rehearsal without notifying the director in advance, it will be considered a “no call/no show” absence, and you will be subject to the \$10 No Call/No Show Fee. The Courtesy Clause states that you must be courteous and notify the director before an absence, or you must pay the fee before the next rehearsal in order to continue attending rehearsals. This Clause has risen from the fact that there have been several times that the director has driven to classes and no students came to the classes, thus wasting the director’s time that could be spent teaching private lessons that provide income. If everyone will be absent, the director can fill that time with other activities. Please do not assume that everyone else will be there when you will not. A no call/no show absence will result in you paying for the director’s time.

### ***Cancellation Guidelines***

If you will not be at a rehearsal, you must use the following guidelines when notifying the director.

In the following situations, you may email or call the director to notify them of your cancellation:

- If it is more than 1 day before your class
- If it is the day before your class
- If it is before 9:00pm Eastern time on the night before your class

You **MUST** call the director on their cell phone if it is after 9:00pm Eastern time on the night before your class or on the day of your class. Email is not acceptable after this time, as the director leaves home well before your class and may not have access to email on the morning of your class. There are no exceptions to this rule. In this situation, failure to call the cell phone of the director may result in the No Call/No Show Fee even

if you email the director after 9:00pm Eastern time the night before your class or on the day of your class.

***Dress Rehearsals***

Dress Rehearsals and Combined Rehearsals are the same thing. As previously stated, attendance at these rehearsals is mandatory.

“Dress Rehearsal” does not mean that the student must wear their concert clothes to the rehearsal. The term “dress rehearsal” is simply used to indicate that the rehearsal will be a run-through of the actual event. You may wear your concert clothes to the dress rehearsal if you choose, but please know that most other students will not be wearing their concert clothes as it is not required.

## Performance Rules

All rules of student behavior outlined in this handbook apply at performances. It is especially important that no negative behaviors occur at performances, as we are in the “public eye” at performances more than at any other time. Any action that disrespects or dishonors JUHSB or homeschooling in general will result in immediate consequences, up to dismissal from the program.

### *Materials*

Students must arrive at the performance with all necessary materials, including instrument, band folder, music, and any other necessary item.

### *Attendance*

Attendance at EVERY performance is mandatory.

- Two performance absences will result in dismissal for the semester.
- Two semesters of dismissals for performance absences will result in permanent dismissal from the program.

### *Attire*

Attire for performances, with the exception of marching band, will be as follows:

- Males must wear a white long-sleeve button-up dress shirt, black dress pants, black socks, and black dress shoes.
- Females may choose one of these options:
  - A solid black dress (no other colors present), black hose, and black dress shoes appropriate for a dress.
  - A white long-sleeve button-up dress shirt, black dress pants, black socks, and black dress shoes appropriate for pants.
  - A white long-sleeve button-up dress shirt, black mid-calf or longer skirt, black hose, and black dress shoes appropriate for a skirt.
- Clothing does not have to be new, but it must have no holes, be clean and neat, and have all buttons, etc. so that the student looks very well dressed. Clothing must be ironed or pressed if necessary. Please keep in mind that the student is a member of JUHSB, and their clothing at performances will reflect their attitude towards their respect of the program and the seriousness of the performance.
- Ladies hair accessories should be black and/or white.
- For both males and females, hair must be styled neatly and modestly.
- Please avoid large, noisy, moving, or excessive jewelry as it may become distracting to the student wearing the jewelry, other students, or audience members.

### ***Band Bus Rules***

The following are rules for the band bus in the event our performance requires traveling together on a bus (or similar transportation):

- All students **MUST** ride the bus to performances requiring a trip. Students not riding the bus will not be permitted to perform.
- All students should ride the bus returning from a performance. Students may be excused from riding the bus following a performance if they are “checked out” by their parent. They can be “checked out” if:
  - The student’s own parent (or step-parent married to the custodial parent) is checking them out. For legal purposes, there can be no exceptions to this rule.
  - The “check out” request is submitted in writing to the band director no later than **THE DAY BEFORE** the busses depart for the performance so that the information can be typed on the bus roster. The request must include the name of the student and the name of the parent that will be checking them out.
  - The parent comes to the director to sign the bus roster. Not the chaperone, not the bus driver, **ONLY** the director. They must also put the time at which they are signing on the bus roster. From that moment forward, the child must stay with the parents, as they will no longer be under the supervision of Homeschool Music even though they are still subject to the same uniform and conduct rules.
- Please remember that the band bus, most likely, is not secure. Do not bring personal audio, video, or game systems on the bus because these items are most likely to be stolen if someone enters the bus intending to steal an item. These include, but are not limited to, Discman, iPods, portable DVD players, Gameboys, PSPs, and other electronic devices. Because these items will most likely cause disruption on the bus, and the director may not know whether the game, movie, or music is appropriate or not, these items will be confiscated immediately and only returned to parents.
- Appropriate reading materials (Bibles, books, magazines, etc.) are allowed, but you bring them at your own risk. Reading materials deemed inappropriate or disruptive will be confiscated immediately and only returned to parents.
- There will be no food, drinks, gum, candy, or anything other such item on the band bus. No exceptions. These items will be confiscated immediately and only returned to parents.
- The chaperones and drivers are responsible for the safety of all students on the bus, and one student’s distracting behavior or action can jeopardize the safety of all students. Because of this, such behaviors and actions will not be tolerated. Failure to obey chaperones or bus drivers will at minimum result in a permanent seating assignment next to the band director, and can result in dismissal for the semester. In the case of serious offence, it is the opinion of JUHSB that a second chance is only a second opportunity for disaster, and for the safety of all involved the student will be removed from the situation.

# Marching Band

## ***General Marching Band Information***

Marching Band will begin each season with band camp. Band camp is mandatory, and students who miss band camp will NOT be allowed to participate in marching band for that season. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

Auxiliary members consist of colorguard/flag corps and liturgical dance line. They will be required to attend Auxiliary Camp that occurs the week before Full Band Camp. During this week, veteran members will assist new members in learning the basics of their area (colorguard/flag corps or liturgical dance line). After that, all members will learn to perform in unison and then learn their routine to the music that will be performed.

Full Band Camp will be attended by all instrumental students as well as auxiliary members. During this week, the students will learn the basics of marching band (called "Fundamentals"). Instrumental students will learn the music and marching drill for the field show. Auxiliary members will finish learning their routine, and learn the marching drill for the field show.

The band camps are an extension of the marching band rehearsals, so all rules and guidelines for the marching band rehearsals are to be followed for band camp as well.

## ***Marching Band Rehearsals***

All of the Rehearsal/Class Rules outlined above apply to Marching Band rehearsals as well, but there are additional requirements for Marching Band rehearsals.

The student must bring all materials to every rehearsal, including during band camp. This includes band folder, music, band book, pencil, homework, practice record, instrument, mouthpiece/reeds/drumsticks, and any other item needed for class, just as in a normal class. In addition, they must also bring a small notebook to write down marching band terminology and drill.

Attire for marching band rehearsals should be cool and comfortable, but conservative at the same time. Students violating the following rules will be required to call home for appropriate clothing. Repeated offences or refusal to obtain appropriate clothing will result in punishment, up to dismissal from the marching band.

- Comfortable shoes are **REQUIRED**, preferably athletic shoes, tennis shoes, sneakers, etc. Work boots and hiking boots are discouraged, but not banned. There are to be **NO** sandals, bare feet, or cowboy/western boots. All shoes must encase the entire foot, meaning no open-toes, backless, sling-backs, mules, etc.
- Tank tops and sleeveless shirts may be worn by males and females as long as they meet the following stipulations:

- The strap area of the tank top/shirt (between the neck and the top of the arm) must measure at least 1 inch in width. If worn by a female, it must cover the bra strap completely at all times.
- No portions of the chest (lower than a regular t-shirt would show) may be shown, especially cleavage. This applies to males and females.
- Waists and midriffs must be covered at all times. No “short” shirts, tube tops, halter tops, etc. Please keep in mind that your arms will be raised at times, especially auxiliary members, and the stomach should not show then as well as when sitting or standing normally.
- Shorts are allowed in good taste. All shorts must reach the fingertips when the arms are hung straight by the sides. The legs must not open enough to show undergarments when sitting. Capri’s, short pants, etc. are preferred over shorts.
- Regardless of length, pants must come high enough on the waist so that they do not show the bottom or undergarments when sitting or standing. Low-rise pants that are too low are not allowed. Boxers that show are not allowed.
- Undergarments should not show through clothing at any time. Clothing should be thick enough so that nothing can be seen through.

All marching/outdoor rehearsals are RAIN or SHINE. If it is raining during a rehearsal, every effort will be made to have the rehearsal indoors or under some type of cover. On occasion, limited time or the need to accomplish a certain task may necessitate the need to continue rehearsal in the rain. The presence of lightning will ALWAYS result in the rehearsal moving indoors. In the event of serious inclement weather such as tornados, hurricanes, etc., cancellation of a rehearsal will be governed by the *Bad Weather Policy* listed in the General Guidelines, and at the discretion of the director.

Students may not leave the rehearsal facility during rehearsal hours. This includes the lunch break during band camp. Students in violation of this rule will be dismissed from the program for the semester.

An absence (regardless of reason) during a week in which there is a performance will result in suspension from that performance. In this case, the student must report to the performance with their instrument and all other required materials in full uniform and stand at attention on the sidelines during the performance. If the performance is a football game, they will be allowed to play in the stands, but will be required to stand at attention during the field show.

- Two one-performance suspensions, for any reason, will result in dismissal for the semester.
- Chronic absenteeism, as listed in the Rehearsal/Class Rules section, will result in dismissal for the semester.
- Two Marching Band season dismissals (regardless of success during a probationary period between them) will result in permanent dismissal from the Marching Band.

### ***Marching Band Performances***

Performances include football games, parades, and competitions that will be scheduled once we have enough students to hold a full season of marching band. As parades and competitions will not be a part of the marching band season for some time, only football game guidelines will be listed until such time as other performances are scheduled.

All rules listed in the Performance Rules apply for Marching Band performances, including the Band Bus Rules, but there are other rules that apply specifically to Marching Band performances.

Please keep in mind that the entire football game is a performance, not just the half-time show. The performance begins the moment you arrive and ends when you (in your vehicle) exit the grounds after the game. Anytime you are on the premises where a game is held, it is part of the performance.

Football game guidelines:

- When in the stands at football games, students must stay within their own section. Only band students may sit within the band formation.
- Parents (not siblings, friends, or anyone else) may deliver only **water**, as necessary. Food, candy, sugary drinks, etc. will not be allowed because they can damage the instrument and the uniform. Violation of this rule will be at the discretion of the director, and can be rather creative. If you choose to turn your instrument into a science experiment or damage a uniform (which costs over \$300), you may get more than you bargained for!
- Students must stay for the entire ball game.
- Students will NOT taunt, heckle, or antagonize opposing bands, teams, or spectators. Neither will *band parents or band members' siblings*. This entire organization is under the microscope because homeschooling is a concept still deemed radical by some. No one affiliated with this program will be allowed to disgrace, embarrass, or dishonor the program or homeschooling in general.
  - Student violation of this rule will result in an immediate verbal reprimand, even if in public. The student will immediately apologize to all parties at which the offence was directed, and then apologize publicly to all band members and parents for the disgracing action. The student will be on probation for the rest of the semester. A second offence during the probationary semester will result in dismissal for the semester. A student is allowed two probationary semesters during their time with the program. Any student violating this rule after their second probationary semester will be permanently dismissed from the program.
  - Parent or sibling violation of this rule will result in an immediate conversation with the director. The parent or sibling will immediately apologize to all parties at which the offence was directed, and then apologize publicly to all band members and parents for the disgracing action. Parents and siblings refusing to do so will be asked to leave the premises, and will be barred from further performances during that semester. If a parent or sibling does apologize, but then violates the rule at

another performance during that semester, they must repeat the same steps. *At this point, even if they do apologize, the student can be dismissed from the program at the discretion of the director.*

- Students must stay within sight of the director or a chaperone recognized and approved by the director at all times.
- Students may not leave the stands except for emergencies. All bathroom visits are expected to be completed before the performance begins (before the band marches to the stands for football games). If a student does leave the stands, they may do so only with their own parent or a representative of JUHSB.

### ***Marching Band Uniform Regulations***

The JUHSB uniform should always reflect your attitude toward the organization, so keep it clean and able to be used. Parents are responsible for cleaning and minor maintenance.

Students will be measured, and uniforms checked out according to those measurements, at the beginning of the marching band season. This will more than likely occur during marching band camp. There will be a \$25 per student uniform fee. This will help the band cover the costs of normal wear and tear, and replacement when necessary.

During marching band camp, the students will purchase shoes for their uniform.

- Students are required to purchase these specific shoes and no others can be substituted, as this is part of their uniform. These shoes cost approximately \$30, and can be a one time purchase as long as the shoes are kept clean and in good repair.
- If the student would like to use their shoes from the previous marching band season, they may bring their shoes (cleaned as if for a performance) to the director for inspection **BEFORE** the shoe purchase day. The student must put the shoes on in the director's presence. If a student's shoes from the previous season cannot be properly cleaned, are worn too much, or no longer fit, then they will not pass inspection and the student will be required to purchase new shoes.
- The shoe purchase day is a one-time opportunity during each marching season, so if a student does not have their shoes from the previous season inspected **BEFORE** the shoe purchase day will be required to purchase new shoes on that day. The director will not inspect old shoes **ON** the shoe purchase day.

No more than 1 week following the last marching band performance, the uniform must be professionally dry-cleaned and returned to JUHSB **still in the dry-cleaner's bag**.

Uniforms not in the dry-cleaner's bag will be dry-cleaned by JUHSB, and the parent will incur a \$15 charge.

The cost of uniform damages (beyond normal wear and tear) will be assessed against members who do not take care of their uniform. Please keep in mind that while these uniforms were donated to us, they do cost over \$300 to replace. If the uniform is beyond repair, the director will consult the uniform manufacturer for the current price to replace the uniform and the parent will be assessed that price. Please keep in mind that uniforms

generally cost around \$300 when multiple uniforms are purchased. Purchase of a single uniform can cost \$800 or more.

No student will appear in public in partial uniform. Students will remain in full uniform at all times. Wear it ALL or NONE.

- The definition of “full uniform” is that all parts of the uniform (including shoes) are in the correct place on the students’ body, clean, in perfect working order, fully zipped and buttoned, and ready for the performance.
- Uniforms for auxiliary members may be different, but they must follow these same rules.
- For all members, male or female, jewelry is prohibited when in uniform. If the student is going to get their ears pierced, please do so long enough before the season so that their ears are ready go without earrings when he marching season begins or wait until after the marching season, as the student will not be allowed to wear the starter earrings while in uniform. There will be NO exceptions to this rule.
- For all members, male or female, hair touching the collar must be French braided and tied with a thin black rubber band and black ribbon no wider than ½ inch to match the trim on the uniform. A single braid in the middle of the scalp is preferable. For those with hair that touches the collar but is not long enough to stay neatly in a single braid, a double braid (one braid on each side of the head) will be permitted as long as the braids are symmetrical. In this case, both braids must be tied identically. The only exception to the hair rule is when pictures in uniform are being taken, in which case the member may style their hair any way they choose as long as it is conservative.
- Students should arrive at the performance **IN FULL UNIFORM**. Please remember, the student’s arrival at the performance is the moment they exit their vehicle.
- No part of the uniform is to be removed at any time during a performance, which includes the entire football game.
- If temperatures rise to the point that the students would be in danger of overheating from the uniform, the director may allow removal of parts of the uniform. The director will designate which parts are to be removed so that all band members are still consistent in appearance.
  - Students: Do NOT remove any part of your uniform because someone tells you that the director has given you permission. Remove the parts of the uniform only when YOU hear the director say to remove part of your uniform.
  - Please note that temperatures outside must reach at least 95 degrees Fahrenheit before the director will consider this.
- Students may remove parts of their uniform while they are in their vehicle as long as they exit the vehicle in full uniform. But you still must enter and exit the vehicle in full uniform, no exceptions.
- Students may remove part of their uniform while they are on the band bus traveling to a performance. As with vehicles, they must enter and exit the band bus in full uniform, no exceptions.

- While gloves are required, they are NOT considered part of the full uniform. They are considered “performance additions.” Students should arrive at the performance with their gloves clean and placed correctly on their hands. They will be worn at football games while marching into the stands and during the field show, at parades, at competitions during the field show, and various other times. The director will give the students directions to take the gloves off at the appropriate time. At this time they should be stored safely, preferably in the breast pocket of the uniform jacket, so that they remain clean. As a general rule, NEVER march without your gloves! [If hats ever become part of the uniform, this will apply to hats as well.]

All students must pass uniform inspection before every performance to make sure that all aspects of the uniform are in place, clean, and consistent with other band members.

- Informally, the inspection will be ongoing at all times.
- A formal inspection using the inspection checklist will occur when the student arrives at the performance or shortly before marching commences.
- If a bus trip is involved, inspection will occur at the door of the band bus. Students must pass inspection before boarding the bus. If a student exits the bus before the bus leaves, they must pass inspection again when re-boarding the bus.
- Members with wrinkled uniform parts, dirty uniform parts (including gloves and shoes), or uniforms that are missing parts (buttons, etc.) will not pass inspection, and the member will not march! Members wearing jewelry will not pass inspection, and the member will not march! Members with hair touching the collar that is not braided and ribboned will not pass inspection, and the member will not march!

Uniforms are to be worn only for performances. Uniforms are not to be worn or taken to the store, a friend’s house, a family member’s house, or any other place. Do not wear the uniform anywhere because you think it would be neat to show off to others. The uniform should only “reside” safely in your home and at the dry-cleaner’s when dry-cleaning is necessary. The only exception to this rule is if a parent chooses to have the band member’s pictures taken and the student takes the uniform to the photographer’s studio. The uniform may not be worn to the studio, but it may be put on in the studio for the picture, and then removed before leaving the studio.

Please remember that “Dress Rehearsal” does not mean that the student must wear the uniform to the rehearsal. The term “dress rehearsal” is simply used to indicate that the rehearsal will be a run-through of the actual event. Please do NOT wear your uniform to dress rehearsals! To do so would risk getting the uniform dirty. It must be clean for the actual performance.

## **Behavior Related Rules**

Please know that we have never had a problem with any of these items, but our intent is to state the rules and expectations in such a way that all students and parents are aware of what is expected so that hopefully it will never become a problem.

### ***General Behavior***

As we wish to do all to the glory of God, we require all our students to exhibit the following minimal personal virtues:

- Kindness
- Punctuality in attendance and work
- Truthfulness
- Courtesy and respect toward others
- Modesty in dress
- Diligence in effort and attention
- Respect for and obedience to those in authority

Students are expected to behave in a respectful, obedient fashion while participating in band activities, at the churches or at a performing venue. Our host churches have chosen to extend the hand of fellowship to us and we are privileged to meet there for classes, rehearsals, and performances. Any abuse of the facilities could cause us to lose this privilege; therefore, abuse of the facilities and disrespectful conduct or attitude is grounds for immediate dismissal without refund. Our desire is to be pleasing to the Lord and not a stumbling block to each other.

These behavior rules will be enforced before, during, and after band anywhere on the property in which the band practices. The following behavior will result in immediate disciplinary action:

- Foul language
- Roughhousing
- Disruptive behavior during rehearsals
- Failure to obey those in authority, or disrespect for anyone (adult or peer)
- All other behavior deemed inappropriate by the director

Damage done to the facility or its equipment will be the financial responsibility of the people involved in causing the damage.

### ***The PDA Rule***

Public Displays of Affection (PDA) are NOT permitted. These include: kissing, hugging, affectionate caressing, laying heads in laps, foot massages, snuggling, “making out”, or any other sort of sexual contact.

Students will be warned (and separated) once. They will have a conversation with the director about why their behavior is unacceptable. If the first offence is serious enough, the parents will be present during this conversation. After which, exemplary behavior must be exhibited. Regardless, the director will meet with the students and their parents on the second offence. However, punishment for violations of the PDA rule will be at the sole discretion of the director. This can be as small as writing sentences or a report, to as serious as dismissal from the program. Because of the reporting requirements of sexual offences according to the guidelines of the Professional Standards Commission for teachers in the state of Georgia, PDA violations will be handled through law enforcement or the district attorney if the offence is deemed severe, aggressive, or against an un-consenting party.

***Arguing and Fighting, or any other act of verbal or physical aggression***

Arguing and fighting among band members will not be tolerated. In order for the band to function at the highest level possible, there must be camaraderie and a feeling of family amongst the students. While band “siblings” do disagree at times, they must always solve their problems without arguing.

Similar to the PDA rule, students will be warned (and separated) once. They will have a conversation with the director about why their behavior is unacceptable. If the first offence is serious enough, the parents will be present during this conversation. After which, exemplary behavior must be exhibited. Regardless, the director will meet with the students and their parents on the second offence. Punishment for acts of verbal or physical aggression will be at the sole discretion of the director. This can be as small as writing sentences or a report, to as serious as dismissal from the program. Acts of physical violence can be, and most likely will be, reported to law enforcement or the district attorney.

## Calendar Addendum

The following “formula” will set the schedule for each semester. This is accurate at least until the year 2051.

### *Fall Semester:*

- Classes will begin on the Monday between August 13 and 19.
- Fall break will be the week that begins with Columbus Day (the second Monday in October).
- Thanksgiving break will be the week of Thanksgiving (beginning the Monday that is 3 days before Thanksgiving).
- The Christmas Concert will be the evening of the second Saturday in December. Exact times will be set around the middle of the semester when concert music is decided upon.
- Combined rehearsals will be the two Mondays preceding the concert.

### *Spring Semester:*

- Classes will begin on the Monday between January 4 and 10.
- Mid-winter Break will be the week that begins with President's Day.
- Spring Break will be the week between Palm Sunday and Easter.
- The Spring Concert will be the evening of the first Saturday in May. Exact times will be set around the middle of the semester when concert music is decided upon. The concert will be late enough so that you have time to attend the GHEA Conference in Atlanta if you wish to do so.
- Combined rehearsals will be the two Mondays preceding the concert.