

Seymour High School Band Handbook 2025-2026



Introduction and Mission Statement

Welcome to the Seymour High School Band! We are so excited to have you be a part of our team. Seymour has long been a great place for students of all ages to get a quality musical education and develop some life-long friends in the process. We offer an unparalleled marching band experience with multiple competitions. Our concert bands have received superior ratings in multiple grade levels. Most importantly, we are excited to have YOU here where we ***create great people through great music.***

This Handbook contains a detailed description of the various Seymour Bands and the policies and procedures under which they operate. *Please read this handbook in its entirety as parents and students are responsible for knowing ALL information presented in this handbook.* The final few pages are some of the required forms for student participation. A pre-participation physical is not required but is *highly recommended* before band camp begins (Check Google Calendar). Annually, a Travel Permission/Emergency Medical Release Form must be completed and notarized to be valid. *This must be submitted before a student may participate in band camp (Check Google Calendar).*

Slogan

Set high standards

Hard work pays off

Strong practice makes strong performance

Be prepared

Attitude is everything

Never give up

Demand greatness from yourself and others

Goals and Objectives

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

Program Structure

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

I. Seymour Concert Bands

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

Fall semester, students will enroll in either the Fall Winds, Fall Percussion, or Fall Guard Class. Spring semester students will enroll in either Spring Winds, or Spring Percussion Class. Each course is designed to cater to the individual needs of the students and is therefore ability- based. Instrument-dependent auditions for placement into these ensembles are held prior to registration for each term.

Scheduling Band into your four-year schedule

High School band is a four-year educational process. The development of musical skills requires *daily reinforcement* of individual and ensemble skills. It is imperative for all students to be enrolled in band each and every term during their high school careers. Under the 4x4 block schedule, however, students enrolled in band year-round may still take 6 other classes during the year. Thus, with careful planning, students should have no trouble fitting band into their schedules for all four years.

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

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

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

Color Guard

Auditions for the guard are held in the spring or summer. Specific audition requirements vary each time, but often will include equipment work, movement, and marching fundamentals. Any current Seymour student is eligible to participate. Color guard participants are full members of the marching band. Therefore, they are expected to participate in all activities, help in fundraisers, and are required to follow all applicable rules/regulations in this handbook.

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

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

Winter Guard is an extension of the color guard program that performs to pre-recorded music at indoor competitions from January through April. This activity combines modern dance with flag, rifle, and saber work. Membership is open to anyone at Seymour High School. Auditions are held in November of each year.

Indoor Percussion is a musical/visual group that performs at indoor competitions from January through April. This activity combines modern dance, marching, and percussion performance skills. Membership is open to anyone at Seymour High School. Auditions are held in the spring and run in tandem with the Fall Marching Band. The Indoor Percussion typically practices two to three days per week after school.

Private Lessons

While participation in large and small ensembles is an integral part of musical development, class instruction is on an ensemble basis in order to improve the group holistically. *All students are strongly encouraged to study privately with an instructor outside of the band directors.* In private lessons, a professional player (other than your band directors) on your instrument will spend time with you individually to develop your strengths and improve your weaknesses as a musician. It is no coincidence that the vast majority of musicians who earn spots in Seymour's top ensembles, placement in All-East and All-State Bands, and college scholarships, study with great private teachers.

Contrary to popular belief, private instruction is not inherently expensive. If you have any interest in private study, we will find a teacher that you can afford.

The Knoxville area is full of world class professional musicians who also teach privately. Shop wisely when in the market for a private teacher. Be sure you find someone who is truly a professional on your instrument and who you feel comfortable with. If you need help finding a private instructor, ask a Director or check the website. We also have a posted list of instructors that we recommend. Take advantage of the fantastic musicians and teachers in East Tennessee!

Instrument Upgrades

You will not be able to perform better than the quality of the equipment you use. Race car drivers do not drive economy cars, marathon runners do not wear Crocs, and top-notch musicians do not play the instrument that they rented when they started "way-back-when." A great first step to improving your instrument is to invest in a better mouthpiece and/or reed. What "came in the case" in sixth grade is simply too generic to be appropriate for you now. Please ask your directors for recommendations before purchasing instruments so you know you are making a worthy investment.

Promptness

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

Early is on time. On time is late.

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

Performance Attendance

A performance is the culmination of weeks/months/YEARS of hard work and learning. Because concerts are the final step in this educational process, it is essential that students fully participate in all performances. Students will receive a grade for each concert. Full participation and effort in the concert will result in the student receiving full credit. In the event that a student misses a concert, he or she has missed an educational opportunity that cannot be replaced or “made-up” fully, so please plan to be at all performances.

Attendance Policy

Ensemble-wide attendance is of paramount importance to the success of any team-based activity. Each student's participation affects the group outcome, and each student plays a valuable role in this process.

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

A calendar of events is published far in advance for your planning. Students and their families should plan appropriately when scheduling appointments, etc. so that rehearsals and performances are not affected. This attendance policy applies to band class and all rehearsals of extracurricular rehearsals. *To be absolutely clear, if you see an event on the band calendar, do not plan ANY event during or close to that time. If you already have an event planned, we need to know the day of the calendar's release.*

Excused Absences - An excused absence is an *exception* to the rule. As you read further, keep in mind that we are training students to understand rules and follow through on their commitments, not to insist that they be excused while their peers make up for their absence. For example, if Billy leaves rehearsal early, Tommy will have to take on Billy's responsibilities (moving props, loading the truck, etc.) in Billy's absence. Billy should minimize his absences to make sure that he is routinely able to follow through on his commitments.

Excused absences will only be granted for certain unforeseen conflicts. Excused absences include illness, death in the family, an important religious observance, and potentially

some other circumstances at the directors' discretion. *Personal conflicts that could be avoided with better planning such as doctor's appointments, job commitments, homework, vacations, issues with transportation, failure to plan ahead, etc. will **NOT** be excused.*

If a student wishes to receive an excused absence for rehearsal, the student must submit a request in writing (such as an email), to the Directors at least *two weeks prior to the absence*. Failure to do so will automatically result in the student's absence being unexcused. Submission of a request does not guarantee approval. *Final approval for any excused absences rests with the head director.*

In the event that a student must be absent due to an unforeseen emergency such as personal illness, the student is required to contact the band office to inform them of the absence. If a student is well enough to attend class during the school day, the student is expected to attend rehearsal and will not be granted an "excused" status for missing the rehearsal without advance permission from a director. If you are too sick to come to school, please do not come to rehearsal. Additionally, the student may be asked to bring a doctor's note to the director on the day of his or her return to school. Failure to do so will automatically result in the student's absence being unexcused.

Unexcused Absences An unexcused absence is *any* absence that is not approved by the directors. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance may result in the student not being allowed to perform in the next performance, and he or she may be removed from any other performance the rest of the year. In addition, an unexcused absence from a rehearsal results in the loss of one letter grade for that six weeks. An unexcused absence from a performance may result in the student forfeiting any awards that he or she would have been eligible for that year and may also alter his or her participation status in that ensemble. Multiple attendance issues may also result in an alteration of the student's participation status.

Being placed on alternate/non-performance status DOES NOT excuse the student from any other event that requires attendance. For example, just because you do not play in a concert or have been scheduled at work does not mean that you may simply skip it. You are still required to show up, dressed and prepared appropriately.

Any student who finds their participation level altered due to attendance issues or behavioral consequences will not be refunded or excused from any financial responsibilities made for that school year.

Conduct

Students are expected to demonstrate positive, cooperative behavior. Whenever you are wearing a Seymour High School band uniform or other Band attire, you are representing your school (INCLUDING BAND T-SHIRTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA). Inappropriate/offensive behavior or language will not be tolerated. We represent each other, the school, and ourselves as we strive to represent the *best* in high standards and traditions.

Specific Behavior Guidelines

1. All Sevier County Board of Education disciplinary guidelines are in effect at all band functions.
2. Do not use alcohol, tobacco, electronic cigarettes, or illicit drugs. Possession or use of any of these during or after school will result in disciplinary actions in accordance with school policy. This may include action by law-enforcement. It may also result in expulsion from the program.
 - a. Just a note on these things: that includes vape pens (even if they do not contain nicotine). If we see a vape pen, expect to be removed from the group.
3. Abuse or destruction of school facilities or equipment is prohibited. This includes uniforms, instruments, music, or the physical structures. Students will be charged for any damage to the above. It may also result in expulsion from the group.
4. Unauthorized use of school instruments is prohibited. A signed permission form must be on file for students to play their specific school instrument.
5. Absolutely no hazing, bullying, or harassment (sexual or otherwise) of peers will be tolerated. Expect removal from the group if violated.
6. Abstain from the use of profanity or vulgar language. It represents you and your band family poorly.
7. Respect authority. This includes all student leadership, administrators, teachers, staff, band parents, and anyone else placed in charge.
8. Do not leave designated areas without permission FOR ANY REASON. A director or chaperone must know where you are at all times. Out of area is a major offense.
9. DO NOT PROP DOORS OPEN FOR ANY REASON. First offense will result in a write up. Any following offense could result in dismissal from the program.
10. Absolutely NO delivery services. This represents a MAJOR risk to the safety of you and your peers.

Students who do not abide by these guidelines will be subject to administrative referral, actions by law enforcement, and/or temporary or permanent disciplinary action. Continued behavior issues or extreme matters may result in the student being dismissed from the band program.

Conduct and Other Guidelines

1. Be prompt and prepared for rehearsal in a positive manner (see attendance policy).
2. Trash cans are provided for your use. Use them. DO NOT LEAVE TRASH IN THE BAND ROOM.
3. Only designated instruments and folders may be stored in the storage closets. NEVER store food or other personal belongings in any storage closet. These areas are a privilege to use. Abuse may result in the forfeiture of said privilege.
4. Inappropriate behaviors include (but are not limited to) playing percussion (or other) instruments that do not belong to you, climbing or standing on storage shelves, defacing walls/doors/other surfaces, careless treatment of room or equipment, use of room for reasons other than to practice or music rehearsal. *Use*

common sense to avoid issues.

5. Absolutely **no food, drink, or gum** in the band room.
6. Music stands and chairs are to be put back on the racks after each rehearsal.
7. Vandalism, theft, and use of school equipment or other student's property is prohibited.
8. Do not play instruments that are not assigned to/owned by you.
9. Roof access is strictly prohibited. Any student found to be using the ladder in the brass closet will immediately be referred to administration and have their performance status reevaluated.
10. Personal Displays of Affection are strictly prohibited. The only exception to this rule is holding hands.

Bus Trip Rules

1. Each student is responsible for his or her own instrument and uniform. If you forget something, you will sit out the performance and incur the prescribed consequences (see Assessment).
2. All designated instruments go on the equipment truck ("Emily" or "Big Trailer"). You are responsible for getting your instrument to the loading area on time where they will be loaded for you by the loading crew.
3. Unless told otherwise, the complete uniform will be worn on the bus.
4. Keep the bus clean...in words and actions. Profanity will not be tolerated.
5. All county and director bus rules apply as well as the specific rules of the individual driver.
6. All students will ride the bus to the event. Students may ride home with a parent **ONLY** if a written note from the parent is given to the chaperone on the student's bus *before* leaving Seymour High School *prior* to the event. Parents/guardians must meet students *at the bus* and make verbal contact with the bus chaperone. Do not leave a venue with your child without "checking-out" with the bus chaperone. Students that go home with their parents must return their uniforms to school *that evening*.
7. All students must stay for the entirety of the game or event.
8. Do not switch from your assigned bus.
9. Every band member helps unload the truck upon return to the school.
10. No speakers are to be used. Headphones only.
11. Blankets are for the individual student. Communal use is prohibited.

No one is released to go home until unloading is completed.

Football Game Rules *Games are our best outreach to the community. Act appropriately.*

1. Limit the use of cell phones in the stands. While the game is going on, you have a job to do.

2. Water should be consumed while in full uniform. No other beverages including Gatorade or other “energy” drinks.
3. All students must *remain in full uniform* and must stay in their places in their sections throughout the game.
4. Only current band members are permitted in the stands during the games.
5. Do not play your instrument unless directed by a Drum Major or Director.
6. Maintain a professional image and behavior.
7. General and student conduct rules apply.

Assessment

Students in all band/guard classes will be graded according to the following guidelines:

Rehearsal Participation and Preparedness (67%)

In band, students learn and grow by playing their instruments and actively participating in rehearsal, out of school practice, and other classroom activities. This type of learning cannot be “made-up”. Thus, full participation and having all required materials for each rehearsal is essential for musical and personal growth.

Active and full involvement in the rehearsal process is expected of all members. Failure to fully participate or showing up unprepared will result in a lower daily grade. Things required for band members to be considered fully prepared:

Winds: Water bottle filled, Lyre, ALL charts, ALL music, flip folder with current music, instrument in working order, pencil, highlighter, correct clothes (athletic wear appropriate to temperature; NO VANS and NO JEANS), and a great attitude.

Guard: All equipment necessary for a full performance, flag bag, water bottle, pencil, highlighter, any relevant uniform parts, and a great attitude.

Percussion: All necessary sticks and mallets (battery: one extra pair of each stick type), music, charts (battery), pencil, highlighter, correct clothes (athletic wear appropriate to temperature; NO VANS and NO JEANS), and a great attitude.

Playing Tests, Written Assignments, and Performance Assessment (33%)

Individual assessment is essential to monitor student growth and achievement levels. Periodically, students will be assigned both written and playing assignments in different formats. Some of these assignments will require recording and online submission. If you need help with submitting these assignments, you must ask for assistance. “I didn’t know how to turn it in,” is not an excusable reason to miss an assignment.

Similarly, performances cannot be “made-up.” Performance is the consummation of all your hard work. We rehearse for the sole purpose of performing to the best of our ability, so missing performances is not acceptable for any reason. Missing a performance can and probably will result in *dismissal from the group*. Be reminded that being dismissed from the group does not excuse you from ANY financial obligation. Avoid these frustrating consequences by using the online calendar (seymourband.org), and keeping the directors

notified of any unavoidable absence (see Attendance Policy). Just to reiterate: NO reason is acceptable to miss a performance. If you feel that your absence is an exception to the rule, please notify the directors more than 4 weeks prior to the date.

Consequences

Consequences for an unexcused absence will include: an “F” for the daily grade if it’s a rehearsal or an “F” for the final 6-weeks grade if it is a performance.

Consequences for unexcused tardiness at scheduled performances and/or rehearsals: If the student has an unexcused tardy, they will be assigned work duty (scheduled by Mrs. Glovak or a director, rounded up to the nearest 5 minute interval) to make up for the amount of time that they were late. For example, if the student is 8 minutes late, then they will be assigned 10 minutes of work duty to be made up at Ms. Glovak’s or the directors’ convenience. During this time, the student will be assigned specific duties including, but not limited to: cleanup, organizational jobs, and other “grunt work.” Note: Whether a tardy is excused or not will be decided by the director. Failure to complete work duty will result in 2 points being deducted from the student’s grade for every minute that they are late. For example, if a student is 10 minutes late and does not fulfill their work duty, then the highest grade they can get is an 80.

Grades Disclaimer: In the Seymour Band, we want every member to be as successful as possible in high school. Part of that comes from a commitment to doing your best in school. For band class specifically, if your grade is suffering due to lack of effort or turning in assignments, we will take actions including, but not limited to, placing you on non-performance status, revoking your band banquet attendance privileges, disciplinary action by administration such as ISS or OSS, and/or removal from the group. If your grades are suffering outside of band class PLEASE SPEAK TO US. We have helped so many students avoid a disaster semester by simply talking through it. We want to help!! Let us!

All grade policies are subject to change at Directors’ discretion. You will be notified of any changes before they take effect.

Uniform Use Guidelines

The appearance of a performing group has a significant impact on the audience’s perception of that group. It is important that the Seymour Bands maintain a uniform and dignified appearance for all of their performances.

Band uniforms (marching uniforms) represent a very large expenditure of band funds. Your fair share does not begin to cover the full cost of replacement each year, so uniform use regulations have been established to prevent unnecessary wear and tear on these garments. We need these uniforms to last for as many years as possible.

You are responsible for maintaining your uniform in pristine condition. Any replacement or repair costs incurred through loss of parts, excessive damage, or other negligence WILL BE BILLED TO YOU.

Concert Attire Requirements

- *Black floor or ankle length dress
- *Black dress pants (no leggings) and a conservative black blouse
- *Black - plain , dressy, closed toe shoes
- *Optional Pearl Earrings (no other jewelry allowed)
- *Black Tuxedo (or suit)
- *Black Dress shirt with black dress pants
- *Black Dress Shoe (Marching shoes may be worn if cleaned and polished)
- *Black Socks, if necessary
- * Tie (or Black Bow Tie)

All concert dress is subject to Director approval. If you are unsure, ask *in the days prior to the performance. Do not ask the day of the performance.*

Marching Band Uniform Guidelines

1. You must wear your entire uniform to perform (bibbers, jacket, socks, gauntlets, gloves, shako, plume, marching shoes). Prior to each performance, the student leaders will perform a dress inspection. Neatness and correct dress will be assessed. This will include black compression shirt under your jacket, compression shorts/pants under bibs, black socks, and clean gloves, shoes, and instruments. Students that do not pass inspection must correct all violations - possibly including the purchase of missing or soiled items - in order to perform. Failure to do so will result in a grade deduction since the student is unprepared for the rehearsal/performance. If in "Summer Uniform" - Official Show Shirt (tucked in), khaki shorts, and belt (Do. Not. Forget. Your. Belt.).
2. All band members must remain in full uniform (with the exception of plumes) with jacket and shakos on unless told otherwise by a director or Drum Major.
3. No jewelry is to be worn other than posts (only if necessary).
4. Hair that is long enough must be worn up inside the shako. To keep your hair inside your hat, you should utilize bobby pins, braids, buns, etc. Keep in mind that your hair should still look presentable with your hat off. See a director BEFORE the day of a performance if you have questions.
5. No unnatural hair color (pink, purple, blue, green, etc.). Such coloring may discolor shako or uniform. It also distracts from the uniform and professional appearance during performances.
6. When boarding the bus, students must be in full uniform and remain in uniform during transit with the exception of the shakos that are to be carried onto the bus in the hat boxes.
7. *Change into uniform in the restrooms only.* Do not change in practice/storage rooms or public areas.
8. Plumes will be placed on shakos just before performance time and removed

immediately thereafter. Plumes will be placed and removed by Drum Majors &/or Plume Parents. Keep your hands off the feathers.

9. Upon return to the school, the same rules regarding changing are in place.
10. After each use, the uniform must be hung neatly on the correct hanger, with pant creases aligned, and the name tag facing outwards.

Marching Uniform Care Instructions

Students are fitted during Band Camp and are assigned the uniforms and hats they will wear throughout the marching season. Students are responsible for any damage to the uniforms.

Black compression gear including a shirt, shorts/pants, and long black socks are required to wear under the uniform in order to fit properly and have a consistent appearance. Students are responsible for purchase and consistent use of these items. Students are also required to purchase their own marching shoes, and gloves. Shoes must be special ordered, so students are fitted and money is collected at band camp (pay to vendor).

Individual students should never wash their own Marching Band uniforms. In order to preserve the color match for all of the uniforms, the uniform committee will clean all uniforms together several times during the season. If you would like to join the uniform committee, email christiglovak@sevier.org. Once you have hung your uniform correctly please place it on the appropriate spot on the racks. Please keep track of your uniform hanger as it is made to maintain the uniform's shape. Hanging your uniform correctly is essential to ensure that they remain in pristine condition.

IF YOU DAMAGE YOUR UNIFORM IN ANY WAY, YOU WILL BE HELD FINANCIALLY LIABLE FOR REPLACING IT. Costs:

- Jacket: \$250
- Bibbers: \$100
- Gauntlets: \$50
- Hat: \$200
- Plume: \$50
- Printed top: \$100
- Guard Uniform: ~\$300

Cleaning

The uniforms are made of polyester fabric. *No student should ever attempt to wash their own uniform.* When cleaning is required, the uniforms will be washed as a group to maintain their consistent appearance. If you think that your uniform needs cleaning or repair, please contact the appropriate peer leader who will notify Ms. Glovak.

Uniform Accessories

(Prices given here are approximate. See fee schedule for current pricing. Initial orders are taken during band camp. Payment to the vendor due upon ordering.)

Marching Shoes: **\$40.00** (Replace as needed)

Marching Band Performance Shirt (1 required (free) - 2 recommend)

Marching Gloves: **\$6.00**/2 pr. 1 black/ 1 white (Replace as needed. Percussionists and Guard do not wear marching gloves. Guard will purchase their own gloves as needed.)

Rehearsal Attire

Marching Band is an athletic activity, therefore all students must wear proper athletic attire to allow for full freedom of movement as well as proper personal coverage during rehearsal. Due to the heat of being outdoors in the summer and fall, we enforce an adaptation of the school dress code for all indoor and outdoor rehearsals. We ask that all students bring their own athletic clothing for rehearsal, below are some examples of appropriate clothing to wear :

- Appropriate T-shirt or tank top (with appropriate coverage)
- Athletic shorts (appropriate length) or leggings
 - Especially with tennis skirts or other shorts with an outer and inner covering, please be sure that there is appropriate coverage during an extended stretch and other performance activities that may be required for band or guard.
- Running shoes or tennis shoes (broken in before June camp begins!)
- Socks
- Hat or other appropriate headgear

Jackets, sweatshirts, hoodies, or other outerwear are acceptable for rehearsal in the case of colder weather.

Some examples of inappropriate attire for rehearsal :

- Any shirt showing the stomach area
- Spandex or shorts of inappropriate length
- Jeans, khaki pants, or any other form of non-athletic pants
- Casual or dress shoes inappropriate for athletic movement (boots, open-toed shoes, etc.)
- Clothing with explicit logos, slogans, etc.

Remember! If you have to ask if a piece of clothing is acceptable for rehearsal, the answer is most likely NO!

Marching Band Pass-Offs

Pass-offs are designed to ensure that all players have memorized their music. Pass-offs are graded to the same degree as all other performance assignments, so playing musically is just as important as memorizing the notes and rhythms. All musicians in the band are expected to pass-off ALL show music, the Fight Song, and any other piece assigned by the

directors. Pass-offs may be subject to performance in the presence of a section leader.

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

Marching Band Field Positions

To achieve a balanced instrumentation and to promote a high level of performance excellence, the Seymour Marching Band frequently has students who serve as competitive drill marchers and field positions for Friday night performances only. Field positions are determined during Summer Band Camp. Students are observed for their abilities both marching skills and playing skills.

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

FERPA Waivers

Being in the band program is an inherently public activity. We are constantly performing for the public with no expectation of privacy as far as filming, pictures, and other recorded media is concerned. Over half of our performances are actually live-streamed for the world to enjoy in real time! While this is an amazing opportunity for some, for those that choose to exercise their right to privacy in the recorded media where school is concerned, this creates a legally tenuous situation. If you choose not to waive your FERPA Rights, you MUST inform the band directors by email and in-person. Without written confirmation from a band director that we know and will make an accommodation for your child, we are likely to accidentally make a mistake and leave you in a picture or something. PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO NOTIFY US. DO IT RIGHT NOW. We will be happy to discuss what the modifications look like and the risks that you take by allowing them to participate.

Social Media Policy

Social Media is everywhere for all of us – Facebook, Twitter, SnapChat, Instagram, Tumblr, TikTok, etc are all part of our daily lives. Sharing information, thoughts, photos and other content is made easier every day through technological developments. When a student is

affiliated with an organization of this caliber, they understand that their own public image is reflective of the entire group. Our behavior online and through social media content reflects not only on the individual but on the greater image of the team/school/community. Students wear team apparel in public and in photos online, and their actions while in team apparel reflect back on the team, the band program, and Seymour High School. Keep in mind that simply “unfollowing” or “not looking” at an account does not solve the issue of inappropriate content online. All online content is transparent and accessible by anyone online, and it is *permanent*, even in situations where companies insist your postings disappear.

Please note that this policy is not saying that your student is not allowed to have a Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. What this policy is saying is – BE RESPONSIBLE and BE SMART. Your words and actions have an audience, they are permanent, and they have consequences, inside and outside the band. The Band Directors ask that students, families, and school officials work together to create appropriate boundaries for students to express their thoughts and opinions within a safe and respectful social media/networking environment. Also know that anything you repost, are tagged or mentioned in, retweet, etc., can indicate that you agree with and promote the content within. Even though you did not directly post or tweet the content, it reflects back on you and will have the same consequences.

The following policy gives guidelines on acceptable and unacceptable behavior online as well as guidelines for cell phone use. Keep in mind that these are guidelines. They are not exhaustive, and you can be asked at any time to remove, modify, or otherwise change what you post online.

Unacceptable Content/Behavior

- Foul, inappropriate, crude, or violent speech online: includes language and references to any inappropriate subject material in any postings online
- Any content that constitutes a violation of the policies and procedures of Seymour HS (use of tobacco/drugs/alcohol, inappropriate sexual behavior or language, hazing, stalking, references to violence or bullying in any nature, etc.)
- Photos, videos, or postings that reflect poorly on the ensemble, band or the school including, but not limited to vulgar or suggestive dancing
- Inappropriate hand gestures or signals
- Posting in a negative or defamatory way about teammates, staff, directors, or any affiliated organizations including opposing teams/programs/schools

Acceptable Content/Behavior

- Fostering a team culture online: keeping disagreements off public forums as well as cell phones and solving problems via direct, in-person communication, no “vague” references, implied meanings, or passive-aggressive content.
- Taking 5 seconds and deciding if what you are posting is truly important enough; think of your social networking accounts as live microphones broadcasting to the world
- No phones out at any point during rehearsal or performance – lock up your phone in your purse and leave it in your locker for the duration of any rehearsal or performance. Staff will let you know when it is appropriate to get your phone out on long rehearsal/show days

Consequences

- Take down any postings that any staff member deems as inappropriate at any time. This may include asking friends and family members to remove posts, pictures, tags, comments, etc.
- Be aware that your postings may be monitored by staff, your friends, and school officials
- An egregious violation or repeated violations of the policy may result in removal from the team

Please make sure both students and parents read through the policy together and create a conversation about the policies. It is very important for all parties to understand the transparency of this policy and the consequences set forth. By signing this contract, both the student and parent/guardian understand the above policies and the resultant consequences. It is the staff's full intention to help create appropriate and healthy guidelines for all parties involved, with each portion of the policy and guidelines being as transparent as possible.

Addendums, Changes, and Additions

As in life, situations are going to be complex and constantly changing. Since we cannot plan for every situation, this document is meant to be a guide for what you can expect. We may take unprescribed actions in order to do what is best for the individual student as well as the group as a whole. By signing this document, you are agreeing to any changes that we make whether you are notified or not. Please know that this is not intentionally designed to be punitive, but any consequences will not be limited in their scope and could range from a simple warning to expulsion.



PERFORMER AND PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREEMENT FORM

I, _____, the parent/guardian
of _____ understand and agree to all
terms written in the handbook. My student, and I, will follow all the
guidelines and expectations of us.

I have read and understand the policies and consequences outlined in the
2025-26 Seymour Band Handbook.

I agree to adhere to the policies, procedures, and consequences outlined in it
and will accept enforcement by the band directors, staff, and Sevier County
Schools.

I also understand that in the event that my performer quits or is removed
from any part of the program that I am still responsible for all financial
obligations.

Performer's Signature _____

Date _____

Guardian's Signature _____

Date _____