

Southern Huntingdon High School Rocket Marching Band 2023-2024



Rules and Regulations

The purpose of this handbook is to establish a common ground of procedures and expectations from which all individual members can best accomplish their own musical goals, as well as the musical goals of the organization. These procedures and expectations were designed for the marching band to establish order, personal responsibility, and efficiency. You are expected to follow all rules and regulations of the Southern Huntingdon County School District as outlined in the student handbook concerning student code of conduct. This includes all rehearsals, performances, and field trips. Please read through this handbook carefully so that you are fully aware of and understand the procedures and expectations of the marching band for the 2023-2024 season.

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to a new season with the Southern Huntingdon County High School Marching Band! I am excited that you are joining us this season. Marching band is an exciting activity that requires dedication from students, parents, and staff. The students are the heart and soul of the band. They will spend countless hours learning music, drills, and routines this season. There may be times of frustration, but in the end, we will celebrate the success brought by everyone's hard work. As a former member of this band, I assure you that your student(s) will make friends and memories that will last them a life time.

As parents, you provide support and encouragement to your student(s) as well as the other members of the band. Please encourage your student(s) to practice at home and help the staff hold them to their commitment to the band. A great way to show your support of the Rocket Band is by becoming a part of the Band Boosters. The Band Boosters exist to help and support the band program throughout the year. The biggest source of income for the boosters is the food stand that is open at every home football game. We need every one of you to help make the load light. Every dollar the Band Boosters bring in will benefit all band and band front students throughout the year.

Together, the staff has years of experience and they are excited to share that with the students and their parents. I am blessed to lead such a great group of people that are here to inspire and challenge the students to their fullest potential.

This handbook was designed to ensure everyone involved has a clear understanding of the procedures and expectations for the marching season. In the following pages you will find the answers to the questions you may have regarding the marching band. Students and parents should read through the handbook together.

Please contact me with any questions. I am here to help make this an educational, fun, and memorable experience. The easiest way to reach me is through email. My email address is: tclewell@shcsd.org. If you have social media, please follow the Southern Huntingdon Rocket Band on Facebook and Instagram. You can send me a message through the social media pages, too. You can find my school webpage by searching for my name under the staff directory on the district's website: www.shcsd.org.

I look forward to working with all of you to make the upcoming season a wonderful experience for all.

Musically yours,

Tyler R. Clewell
Director of Bands

-Attendance Policy-

Participation is an important element to our success. Excessive absenteeism may result in removal from the marching band. Attendance is mandatory at all practices and performances. If one member of the band is missing, their part or position on the football field cannot be replaced by another band member. Please try to plan your summer trips around the band schedule as much as possible. I am flexible during the summer months.

All absences must be presented in writing to Mr. Clewell prior to when the absence will occur. You can submit a handwritten note or send me an email. **All excuses must be from a parent or guardian.** Emergencies often arise very unexpectedly. Please let Mr. Clewell know as soon as you can if you experience an emergency situation that prevents you from attending a practice or performance.

If a student misses practice, it is their responsibility to find out what they missed. If a student fails to know their field drill at the time of performance, they will perform their part from the sideline.

Students with jobs: Schedules for the entire season are handed out well in advance, please plan work schedules for rehearsals **and** performances accordingly. Students will not be excused from practices or performances because of work.

Lateness: Students are expected to be ready by the time rehearsal begins. If rehearsal starts at 4:00 and you are walking in the door at 4:00, you are late. It is recommended that a student arrive 10 minutes before the actual start time to give them enough time to get ready. Three times late will equal an unexcused absence.

“When a student is absent from school, they may not participate that day in practices...or games, unless they have a doctor’s excuse and prior approval from the principal...If a pupil is absent for part of a day, they are eligible if they have at least a half day’s attendance (arrival before 11:15 a.m., four (4) periods; or any of the aforementioned reasons, doctor’s excuse or principal approval).” Taken from the *Southern Huntingdon Student Handbook*.

Unexcused Absences – Rehearsals:

1st Offense: Warning.

2nd Offense: Students will miss 3rd quarter break.

3rd Offense: A meeting with a parent/guardian to determine continual involvement in the marching band.

ATTENDANCE AT BAND CAMP IS MANDATORY!!!

Band camp is the most important week of the season. We spend a great deal of time on marching fundamentals, field drill, and show music. Students who miss band camp will fall deeply behind and have a hard time catching up. Please make plans now to attend all five days of camp:

July 24-28, 2023 – 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

-Football Games-

Home Games: All members (band and band front) are expected to be on time. All members are expected to be dressed and ready to warm up by the designated time. Items such as blankets, sweatshirts, coats, etc. will be taken down to the stands before we march down for pre-game. Be prepared with all parts of the uniform, equipment, instruments, and music.

Away Games: All members will assist in the loading and unloading of the equipment vehicle. **Every student is responsible for their own uniform, hat, instrument, equipment, and music.** Students are required to ride the bus to the game unless specific arrangements have been made by Mr. Clewell, the principal, and the student's parent/guardian. All members are expected to be dressed and ready to warm up by the designated time.

Away Game Meals: Occasionally we will make a quick dinner stop on the way to a football game. You will be notified ahead of time. If we do not stop for dinner, please make arrangements to eat before the bus leaves or bring money to purchase food during 3rd quarter.

Non-band members are NOT permitted to sit in the stands with you during football games.

Cell Phones: Student use of cell phones or other electronic devices during practice and performances is not permitted. If a student fails to follow this rule, disciplinary action will follow. We must be focused on performing, supporting the team and representing our school.

Eating while in uniform: Please take your uniform jacket off prior to eating. Things such as dipping sauces, cheese, ketchup, and mustard can leave nasty stains on your uniform. Please also be careful with any type of beverage.

3rd Quarter Break: Students will be given a break during 3rd quarter to use the restroom and grab a bite to eat. At home games, our boosters provide snacks, hot sandwiches, and a drink to the students at no cost. This is typically the same when we are away, but every school is different. This break is a privilege. **Students are required to be back in their seats by 1:00 minute left on the game clock.** Failure to arrive on time will result in the loss of the 3rd quarter break at the next game. Students are encouraged to return to their seats quickly to continue supporting the team.

End of the game: All members will march back to the band room or the bus. Members will be dismissed by the director. Failure to cooperate will result in disciplinary action.

-BAND MEMBER CONDUCT-

Good sportsmanship is always warranted. No matter what is happening on the field, we will support our team one hundred percent! Any type of negativity, unsportsmanlike conduct, or swearing will not be tolerated. This behavior will be grounds for loss of 3rd quarter break, parental contact, disciplinary action, and dismissal from the band depending on number of offenses or severity.

School rules apply during ALL marching band practices and performances.

The general rule is, if you have a question as to whether or not you should do something, DO NOT DO IT! When you are wearing your uniform, you are a representative of the entire band and the SHCSD. Members of the public who see you behind the scenes will form their opinion of the entire band and our school district based on how YOU behave.

-Uniform Care-

All instrumental band members will receive the following at no cost:

- ___ Band Jacket (every student receives a clean uniform)
- ___ Band Pants
- ___ Band Shako (hat) and storage box
- ___ Plume (kept in your hat box)
- ___ Garment bag for uniform
- ___ Flip folder
- ___ Lyre

The following items must be purchased by all instrumental members:

- ___ White marching band shoes
- ___ White Gloves
- ___ Band Polo
- ___ Black socks – crew length
- ___ Khaki shorts (for summer uniform)

All band front members will receive their uniform and equipment from Mrs. Jones.

Please follow these basic care instructions to keep you uniform in like-new condition:

- All uniforms need to be hung up properly when not in use.
- Shoes should be cleaned or polished weekly.
- NEVER put a wet uniform in your garment bag!! Always leave it dry out BEFORE putting it away.
- Do not leave it on the band room floor.
- NEVER let your uniform lay crumpled up in a ball at the bottom of your garment bag.

Anyone who has an issue with their uniform should inform Mr. Clewell right away so the problem can be addressed.

Any purposeful damage to the uniforms will be the financial responsibility of the student.

Band polos are to be worn under the uniform for every performance. If a student chooses to wear pants under their uniform, they must not be seen sticking out of your band pants. While in uniform, all hair must be pulled up inside of your band hat.

-Social Media & Internet Conduct-

Any student found to be posting negative comments about the program or any member of the program on any form of social media will immediately face disciplinary action.

-Dismissal from an Away Game-

If a student is not riding home on the bus, a parent/guardian will sign their student out at the conclusion of the event with the designated advisor before being permitted to leave. If a parent/guardian is sending their child home with another responsible adult who is not their parent, a note from the parents must be presented to the principal in writing for approval at least 24 hours before the event. The principal reserves the right to approve or deny any requests.

-REMIND-

I will utilize the REMIND service for text alerts to help keep you and your students up to date with rehearsal times, performances, and any other necessary information.

-Band Managers-

Band managers will be under the supervision of the band director. The purpose of the band manager is to help fulfil the duties of the band director and drum majors. The managers will be given specific tasks at each rehearsal and performance to help make the band experience simple and easy. Examples of duties include, but are not limited to field prep, equipment moving/set up/storage, copying, and snack or drink distribution.

-Academic Integrity-

All band members are expected to maintain satisfactory grades in all academic areas. "...a pupil must have passed at least four (4) full-credit subjects, or the equivalent, at the high school level; and not be failing three (3) or more classes and mini courses combined at the middle school level, during the previous week. 'Elective courses are also to be considered in determining eligibility.' ...Students who are deemed academically ineligible to participate in extracurricular events will be allowed to continue to practice. However, they will not be allowed to accompany their organizations (teams) to away events, nor will they be able to "dress" for home or away events."

Taken from the Southern Huntingdon County HS/MS Student Handbook.