

Foley High School

“Mighty Band from Lion Land”

Band Department Handbook



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Foley High School Band Handbook

INTRODUCTION:

Dear Band Members and Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the 2021-2022 edition of the “Mighty Band from Lionland.” This handbook functions as the class syllabus and it outlines schedules, policies and member’s responsibilities of the Foley High Band. This handbook as well as the *Baldwin County School District Student Rights and Responsibilities* should be followed at all times. Read it carefully and completely, because all of it will apply to every member in the program. Please keep it in a place where you can refer to it easily.

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<http://foleyhsband.com/Index>



Summer Camps

DO NOT MISS ANY CAMP DAYS. All members of the Band are required to attend Band Camp. Absences must be arranged in advance by completing the **Absence/Tardy Request Form**. If missing excessive camp days, there is a probable chance that your spot may be closed.

Rookie Camp, July 11, 12, & 14

~All rookies and incoming 9th grade, percussionist, and veteran leadership must attend Rookie Camp~

Camp is 6:00pm - 9:00pm. During this time, we learn marching fundamentals and to read coordinate sheets. Students should wear t-shirt, shorts, and tennis shoes (light colors are better) and **bring instruments the first day**. Other veterans are welcomed to attend; however, you must be present to work not to stand off and observe. You will need to bring your own water container.

Tip: Avoid caffeinated and sugary drinks because they will dehydrate you. In addition, sunscreen and bug repellent is strongly encouraged.

Music Camp July 19 & 21

Camp is 6:00pm – 9:00pm. This camp is for all wind players.

- Prior to the start of music camp, students (this includes percussion) will be fitted for uniforms 3:00pm - 5:00pm
 - Tuesday: Seniors and Freshmen
 - Thursday: Juniors and Sophomores

Guard/Percussion Camp July 18-22

- July 19, 21, & 23
 - 8:00am-12:00am/1:30pm-4:00pm
- July 20 & 22 (this allows for rehearsal with the winds)
 - 8:00am-12:00am/1:30pm-3:30pm/6:00pm-9:00pm

Full Band Camp July 26– July 29

Band camp times are 8:00am-11:30am/1:00pm-4:00pm/6:00pm-9:00pm. This is the camp where we learn the drill for our halftime show, and **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT EVERY MEMBER IS PRESENT EVERYDAY.**

- 8:00am-12:00pm
 - Marching Fundamentals and Drill
- 1:30pm-4:30pm
 - Sectionals
- 6:00pm-9:00pm
 - Drill & Music

Friday, July 29 is Parent Showoff Day: Students will have the normal camp schedule on this day. Dinner will be shortened, and students will report back at 5:30pm for a short practice prior to the performance. As students arrive there will be a parent meeting in the gymnasium. This meeting is to get parents involved for chaperoning and volunteering throughout the football season. Our parent performance will start at 6:30pm.

Music Rehearsal August 2 & 4

Band camp times are 6:00pm-9:00pm, Tuesday and Thursday

Band Pictures August 9

Students will take a full band picture as well as individual picture.



FHS DEPARTMENT OF BANDS

REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

It is expected that members of any performing ensemble in the department of bands will attend every rehearsal and performance in its entirety. Students who have genuine conflicts with a rehearsal or performance should observe the procedures outlined below. After reaching high school, students must be aware of the commitment to after-school rehearsals and performances. Marching Band, Concert Band, Indoor Percussion, & Indoor Guard is a performance-based class. All ensembles will have after school practices through the 2021-2022 school year. Based on Baldwin County Public Schools policy, unexcused absences will lower a student's grade in class. This includes during school and scheduled after-school rehearsals. If you know you're going to miss and after school practice, please fill out the absent form. Please plan ahead, so that we can prepare adequately for rehearsal. These forms are available in the wall files outside the Band Office or on google classroom. **During the fall semester especially, we are very, very serious about attendance because of its impact on quality. A performer's presence at these rehearsals cannot be inconsistent if they expect to remain performance ready.**

ATTENDANCE

"TO BE EARLY IS TO BE ON TIME, TO BE ON TIME IS TO BE LATE,
TO BE LATE IS TO BE OUT!" – William Revelli

Once school begins, "The Mighty Band from Lion Land" will rehearse using the schedule below:

- "Mighty Band from Lionland" After School Rehearsal Times
 - Tuesday 3:30pm – 6:00pm
 - Thursday 3:30pm – 6:00pm

Examples of Excused Absence

- Personal illness
 - please bring a parent note or have parent email
- Death of a relative
- College visits
- Emergency circumstances which, in the judgment of the band director, constitute good and sufficient cause for absence from band.

Example of things that are not excused

- "I have work."
- "It's my birthday, so I'll miss practice to go and celebrate it."
- "I don't have a ride."

These are invalid excuses to miss school therefore it is invalid for missing rehearsals or performances.

There are only two excuses that do not need **prior approval**:

- Death in the family
- Sickness which will cause the student to miss a rehearsal or performance (please call the band office or email a director to inform us of your sick day)



Foley High School Band

Excused Absence or Tardy

Attendance has a tremendous effect on a performing group's quality. Because all band courses are performance based, after-school rehearsed, and performance driven, lack of attendance will have a negative effect on a student's grade if absences are not accounted. If you know you are missing any after-school rehearsal, or any event that has been scheduled, please fill out this form. You will need to turn this in at the band office. Please refer to the band handbook and the Baldwin County Student Rights & Responsibilities Handbook to know what is and what is not excused. For unpredictable situations like sudden illness or car trouble, please make every effort to inform us here at the office in advance (251-943-1340). An answering machine is always on for you to leave a message; in addition, please fill this form out for us to maintain accurate attendance records. Please keep in mind that we will follow the same policy as the school: "if the school will or will not excuse, we will do the same."

Name _____ Instrument _____

Phone _____ Date of Occurrence _____

Request is for: Absence Tardy

Performing Group:

Mighty Band from Lionland Wind Ensemble Symphonic Band
 Indoor Percussion Winterguard Other (Specify) _____

Event that you will be missing (please notify at least 2 weeks in advance):

After-School Rehearsal Football Game Parade

Event that you will be missing (please notify 6 weeks in advance):

Music Performance Assessment/Festival (Marching or Concert MPA)
 Concert (Holiday Concert, Concert Band Camp/Concert, Spring Concert)

Please state why the request is necessary (please be specific):

Parent Signature _____ Date Submitted _____

Date Received _____

Director Signature _____



Grading Policy

Again, classes taken here are performance-based classes. Participation during and after-school practice is a requirement. Unexcused absences are marked as a “UN” in the gradebook. If you are excused from a rehearsal or performance, students will be given an alternate assignment; in addition, students will have 3 school days to turn in the assignment. Failure to complete the assignment will result in a grade of “0” for the missed date. This is a Baldwin County Public Schools Policy. Below is the breakdown:

Inside of Class (10% 9week grade) - Students are bringing their instrument, flag, drum sticks, music, pencil, and anything else needed to participate in class and after school rehearsal every day.

Outside of Class (20% 9week grade) – This includes all after-school practices for all performance-based classes. Students are to bring all materials for rehearsals.

Summative/Formative Assessment (70% 9week grade) - This includes all performances: football games, marching festivals/competitions, parades, MPA, concerts. The assessment also includes passoffs by using smart music or uploading work on google classroom.

As a re-cap, although this policy may appear to be laden with stipulations and requirements, it is important to remember that attendance is the cornerstone of quality in any fine arts performing group. In order to continue the outstanding local, regional, and national reputation the “Mighty Band from Lionland” program enjoys, we must all serve as a sentry against allowing unnecessary conflicts to erode the total band attendance at these rehearsals and performances! Your help and understanding in this endeavor is GREATLY appreciated.

PARENTS DO NOT USE BAND AS A PUNISHMENT FOR WHATEVER THE REASON. Please keep in mind that this is still a graded class during the school year. Not only does it affect your child, but it also affects the people that march and perform around your child. A director will be glad to have a conversation to motivate him/her back in the right direction.

Band Department Ensembles

The Mighty Band from Lionland Marching Band

All band members (color guard, percussion, & winds) participate in marching band – it is a regular part of the curriculum, and all rehearsals, during school and after school, are part of the grade. Those not physically capable of actually marching will be given duties within the show they can handle.

The Mighty Band from Lionland is a marching music group that is required to attend/perform at band camps, football games, parades, pep rallies, band festivals, competitions, music performance assessments (MPA), spring concert, and select community functions. Members of the marching band must be dedicated, self-motivated individuals with good time management skills.

Wind Ensemble

This year-long course gives students the opportunity to play more advanced wind band literature. This group focuses on the application of good fundamentals to quality wind band music. The ensemble is made up of mostly 9th-12th grade students. Members of this group are expected to be highly prepared for each meeting while displaying a professional level of maturity, conduct, and rehearsal etiquette. Placement is based on audition and/or director recommendation. Auditions will take place during late spring semester prior to the beginning of the next school year. Members of the ensemble are required to participate in the The Mighty Band from Lionland Marching Band. Private lessons and participation in Solo & Ensemble Festival are **strongly encouraged.**



Band Department Ensembles continued

Symphonic Band

This is a year-long course is designed to focus on developing good fundamentals and techniques. The goal is to prepare students to move into the Wind Ensemble. Placement is based on audition and/or director recommendation. Auditions will take place during late spring semester prior to the beginning of the school year. Members of the ensemble are required to participate in the The Mighty Band from Lionland Marching Band. Private lessons and participation in Solo & Ensemble Festival are strongly encouraged.

Jazz Ensemble 1 & 2

Jazz Ensemble meets after school once marching season has come to an end. This ensemble focuses on playing jazz literature in a variety of styles. Placement in Jazz Ensemble 1 is based on audition when the spot becomes available. All other members will be placed in Jazz Ensemble 2. All members of Jazz Band are students scheduled in band classes during the school day. Irregular instruments will be case by case basis (piano and guitar mainly).

Trombone Choir/Low Brass Ensemble

These groups meet after school once marching season has come to an end. This group meets after school only. There is a variety of music played by these ensembles, and performances happen throughout the school year. This is non-audition-based ensemble.

Colorguard

This is a year-long course that focuses on dance, body movement, flag, & rifle choreography to music. Membership is based on auditions that take place in spring semester prior to the upcoming school year. The members participate and perform with The Mighty Band from Lionland Marching Band. Once fall season has concluded, guard will move into the indoor Colorguard season during the spring semester.

Indoor Colorguard - Winterguard

This class meets during the spring semester and performs at local/regional performances based on the Gulf Coast Percussion and Color Guard Circuit. It is very much marching band for guard only; in addition, performances are in a gymnasium. Guard will practice during and after school. Auditions are necessary for the placement of students in Varsity or Junior Varsity squads.

Percussion Ensemble

This year-long course will focus on developmental skills necessary to become a well-rounded percussionist. This offers a more one-on-one environment for percussionists and the opportunity to experience unique percussion instruments and literature in addition to the standards. This is required for all percussionists. The members participate and perform with The Mighty Band from Lionland Marching Band.

Indoor Percussion

This class meets during the spring semester and performs at local/regional performances based on the Gulf Coast Percussion and Colorguard Circuit. It is very much marching band for percussion only; in addition, performances are in a gymnasium. Percussion will practice during and after school. Wind players may participate in the after-school aspect of these rehearsals; however, an audition may be necessary to place you on a successful part.

Steel Pan Ensemble

This year-long course meets during the school day only. There are typically no after school rehearsals with this group; however, there are performances that occur throughout the school year. All students are required to attend and participate in performances.



Financial Obligations

Operating, maintaining, and improving upon a band program is expensive. Naturally all of the expenses it takes to run a band program will not be covered by the school system. Costs of the program include the transportation, uniform cleaning, transporting of all equipment, the hiring of staff, festival and contest fees, etc. We provide many fundraising opportunities for students and parents to get involved. It is very possible for you to not pay out of pocket with fundraising.

Program Fees

- Payments are broken up through the season; however, you may choose to pay all fees up front.

Winds – Fees are \$300. For students who are using a school owned instrument, the cost of this rental is \$50 which is due the first day of camp. And \$50 for concert instrument rental.

Percussion/Indoor – Fees are \$500. This fee is included for both marching band and Indoor Percussion.

Guard/Winterguard – Fees are \$550. This fee is included for both marching band and indoor Winterguard.

Note: Marching band fees are broken into three \$100 payments during July, August, and Septmeber. Fees for indoor programs will be broken up into smaller payments. In other words, you do not have to pay all up front; in addition, we offer fundraisers throughout the school year for fees and for trip payment.

Detailed List of Band fees coverage:

Uniform Rental (except guard uniforms)

Uniform Cleaning

Uniform Repair/replacement

1 Band T-Shirt

1 Ball Cap

Drill and Music

Instrument Supplies

Flagpoles and flag material

Guard show flags/winter guard flags

Water and Gatorade at the games

Instructor salaries

Halftime show props (if needed)

School Buses for travel

Semi: transporting of equipment

Student Accounts:

Paid band fees, all fundraised money, and all trip payments are maintained by the directors. It is possible for you to raise more money than the amount for the year. All money leftover will be transferred to the trip payments (if available) or next year's account.

When any trip is planned, a per-person cost is arrived at which covers all expenses for the trip. **ALL BAND FEES MUST BE UP-TO-DATE** or trip payments will go towards band fees first. The cost of the trip will be placed on each participating student's account. This is the amount each student must have in their trip account prior to the deadline set for that trip. Chaperones also pay their share, based on the total cost of the trip. Those who do not have their band account paid up or failing classes will not be allowed to attend. If the trip is cancelled, refunds will depend on the date it was cancelled. It is the MEMBER FAMILY'S responsibility to ensure that the account is paid up!

BAND FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE when a student departs the program for any reason, including transferring to another school or when they graduate, any credit remaining in their account is deleted and transfers to the General Operating Fund. If a senior student has a sibling who will be attending the next school year or the following school year, credit may be transferred to that sibling's account.



FHS Band Boosters

The Foley High Band Boosters is a non-profit organization. The main mission is to financially support the band program. They also provide a number of other vital functions – chaperones, equipment maintenance, public relations, and support for the students. The band would be unable to exist in its present form without the efforts of the Boosters. Please make every effort to help support your child when called upon.

Chaperones

Parent-chaperones are a necessary part of moving the band to our scheduled venues of home games, away games, competitions and parades. Chaperones must be at least 21 years of age. Adult supervision of the bus is the primary function of the parent-chaperones. Additionally, parent-chaperones assist the band with chores such as handling the band's drinking water/Gatorade, moving the percussion equipment onto the field, and watching all equipment in the stands. In order to chaperone, parents must complete a volunteer form each school year, which is mandated by the Baldwin County Public School System.

BAND PICNIC

At the end of the school year, we have a band picnic in celebration of the completed school year with a glimpse in the next school year. The date is usually set in the month of May. The venue takes place on our band field.

Additional Expenses

Percussion Sticks - The percussion instructor requires that all percussion have the same brand and size stick specified to the type of percussion instrument you play

Sticks are \$10 a pair

Tenor mallet Sticks are \$10 a pair

Bass drum mallets are varies depending on the bass drum

Mallet Sticks

Black Gloves - all wind players will march with black gloves.. \$2 per pair

Black socks - any percussion or wind player will wear long black crew socks (not ankle socks). We will have socks available here for \$3.

Band shoes – we march with the Patent leather black dinkle marching shoes. They are \$30 a pair (they are not part of band fees). Please note that if you grow in shoe size or lose your pair of bando marching shoes, you will need to order and replace your marching shoes which is another additional \$30.

Additional band t-shirt - the first band t-shirt is covered through band fees, any additional shirts are \$10.

Additional band - the first band cap is covered through band fees, any additional caps are \$15

Classroom/Rehearsal/Performance Procedures

General Rules

- Respect others and their property as you would want them to respect you and your property. (if it is not yours, don't touch it)
- Let our actions reflect our intent for the well-being of the group more than that of the individual.
- Always show up to rehearsals/classes/performances on time (early) and fully prepared.
- Put all cell phones away during class time and rehearsal time
- Water is the only thing permitted in the band room at ALL TIMES!

Uniforms

- All uniforms should be worn with a sense of pride and honor. All efforts should be made to prevent any damage to the uniform. All uniforms must look the same, therefore, medals, patches, and pins may not be displayed anywhere on any uniform.



Marching Uniform

- Students will be issued their black pants for the fall season. These pants are machine washable. Students will maintain the cleanliness and unwrinkled look of the uniform. Students will pick up their assigned jacket once we get to our event location.
- Every button/hook/zipper/fastener must be buttoned/hooked/zippered/fastened at all times.
 - **The whole uniform must be worn**
 - **NO HALF-UNZIPPED BAND PANTS!**
- Under the uniform pants, students must wear P.E. style shorts, and band t-shirt. Reminder that tall black socks must be worn with band shoes.
- No jewelry (with the exception of earring posts or studs) or excessive make-up may be worn while in uniform. Long hair must be able to fit through the back of the ball cap.
- Hats may not be worn backwards
- Any part(s) of the uniform damaged or destroyed by anything other than “normal” use will be the responsibility of the student. Uniforms are expensive and need to be treated with care and respect.

Performances

- Please be on time. We have a call time to take roll, prepare equipment, and warmup.
- Reminders about performances will be on the band website calendar, the weekly reminds, and on the Google Classroom. It is the responsibility of the student to check these sources and stay informed.
- The rules of rehearsal and classroom behavior and etiquette are in effect.
- Uniforms, instruments, and equipment need be properly loaded on the semi and returned back to the instrument storage room prior to leaving

In the Stands

- A Chaperone must accompany students to the restroom
- Non-members are not allowed in the Band Section – including parents who are not chaperoning that event. Only chaperones on duty for that event should be in the band area, others should stay outside the area.
- When marching in and out of the stands we always go single file, at attention.
- Students are not allowed to talk “over the fence” to parents, friends, etc. If a parent needs to communicate with a student, they must get permission from a chaperone.
- No food or drink is allowed in the band section except water, which is provided for the students by the Boosters.
 - No special treatment for your own child when chaperoning (food, drink, leaving the area).
- Students are to obey all instructions from chaperones. If there is a question, follow instruction anyway, then check with the band staff later.
- Medication: only approved items through the school nurse may be administered.
 - School nurse has forms for you to have completed by your physician

Travel Policies

- Transportation will be provided by the school or band program. It is required that the student travel with the band at all times unless a parent or guardian has made arrangements with the director prior to the event. Only the parent and/or legal guardian of student will be able to sign for students to ride home when the event has concluded
 - Checkout occur during the 3rd quarter
- Chaperones, bus drivers, and student leaders must be treated with respect on the bus. The bus will not move until roll is complete and everyone is accounted for. While on a trip with the band, students will not ride in any private vehicles.
- Each student is responsible for his or her instrument, equipment, and uniform is loaded in the semi.
- For overnight trips, a room list will be made in advance.
 - Everyone is to be courteous and respectful to chaperones, other guests, and hotel staff.
 - No one is allowed out of the room after the designated time.
- Public Display of Affection (PDA) is not allowed at school functions (also in B.C.P.S. Rights & Responsibilities)
- Remain seated in your seat while school bus is in motion
- Personal electronics are allowed, but the band and/or school will not take responsibility if valuables are stolen.
Tip: school buses do not lock.



- Please do not use hair sprays, spray deodorants, perfumes or lotions while on the bus. These should be applied before getting on the bus or while you are off the bus. (This is to prevent asthma attacks)
- Noise levels are at the discretion of the chaperones and driver.
- **NO FOUL LANGUAGE, ALCOHOL, SMOKING, OR DRUGS BY ANYONE AT ANYTIME** (remember you represent Foley High School)
 - any illegal activity involving alcohol, smoking, or drugs will be reported to High School principal and/or authorities
- Students will remain on the bus they signed up to be on

Upon Arrival/Departure

- Remain on the bus until you receive further instructions.
- Make sure all belongings and trash are picked up and check the bus before leaving.

Concert Procedures and Conduct

- **Cell phones are not allowed to be used during an event (they need to be turned off and put away). They may be used after the event is over to call for transportation.**
- Students will bring all materials necessary for rehearsal such as pencils, extra reeds, mutes, valve oils, etc. These are not optional. There will be no running back and forth from seats to lockers for these materials.
- All talking will cease when anyone steps onto the podium. There will be no talking throughout the duration of rehearsal.
- Water is the only acceptable beverage/food allowed in the bandroom

Concert Black Attire

The attire is completely black. Dress **blacks** are formal, classy, and elegant. Students are free to choose the components of their dress **blacks** within the following guidelines.

Some general guidelines for concert attire are:

- Keep jewelry and make-up to a minimum (we don't want anything to interfere with performer nor do we want to be a distraction to the audience)
- All parts of the concert attire must be worn and fitting properly
- Jeans (including black), shorts, khakis brown, and tennis shoes are not considered formal, classy, or elegant
- All clothing items need to be wrinkle-free upon arrival to performance

Women:

- You may wear black dress pants or a black dress
 - Skirt length is at the knee or longer
- Hair must be away from the front of student's face
- Earrings should be 1" or less
- Closed-toe black shoe (heels will **not** exceed over 2")

Men:

- All Concert Black attire
- Hair must be away from the front of student's face
- Closed toe black shoe
 - Reminder tennis shoes are not considered formal

Instrument Storage Room

- Each instrument has a designated location in the instrument storage room. These locations must be used in order to keep the room organized. This room must be kept clean and free of trash or other unnecessary debris. There will be no gum, food, or drink in the instrument storage room at any time. This is not a locker room.

Staying Informed

- Information will be posted through text Remind, announcements in class, school year calendar, and Google Classroom. There is **NO EXCUSE** for students to not be aware of what is going on in this band program.

