



BAND

Member Handbook

Director of Bands: Malcolm Stewart

Color Guard Director: Diana Carson

Visual Director: Jennifer Palmer

Percussion Director: Robert Leeds

A Message from the team:

WELCOME to one of the most exciting experiences in which you can be a part – THE BAND! The ultimate goal of the band program is to provide our students with a lifelong understanding and appreciation for quality music and music making. In addition, we get to use the medium of music to teach some wonderful life lessons as part of our comprehensive program here at Anclote.

For new folks, this keeps us running smoothly and efficiently. Most questions can be answered by consulting THE BAND HANDBOOK or the band website. It is our hope that the information contained in this handbook will be both INFORMATIONAL and INSPIRATIONAL. Please read every word of The Handbook so that you are well-informed. We've included one Signature Page for you to return, stating that you're familiar with the information contained in The Handbook.

This handbook is designed to answer any questions you might have concerning the program. Please read all of the information and sign the form (Signature Page) in the back of the handbook and return it to the band office. We are honored to be on your team and are looking forward to a great year!

Musically Yours,

Malcolm Stewart	Diana Carson	Jennifer Palmer	Robert Leeds
Director of Bands	Director of Wave	Visual Director	Percussion Director

"If Better Is Possible, Then Good Is Not Enough!"

Objectives of the Band Program

- To teach music by its actual performance
- To develop performance skills of the various wind and percussion instruments
- To provide for the musical needs of the school and the community
- To develop discrimination with regard to the selection of music
- To acquaint the students with Music Theory and History and how history and musical composition relate to students' current life and musical experiences
- To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self-expression, and a healthy social experience
- To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of a group, enhance interaction, and develop Esprit de Corps
- To foster leadership skills within each student

Taking Instruments Home

There will be random instrument checks to ensure that instruments are going home and are being used for home practice.

Band Camp Policy

If a student misses band camp week, they will automatically enter the season as an alternate; too much instructional time is missed if you can't attend camp; students will be given time to earn their spot.

Attendance Policy

By joining the Anclote HS Band Program, you are committing yourself to ALL rehearsals and performances. The goal of this organization is to work together as a group to put out the best performances possible. **Even when one student is missing, it can hurt the rest of the group.** All rehearsals and performances are **mandatory** and are included in the student's grade. Band rehearsals will occur after school hours on Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. The director may call additional sectionals as needed but with notification at least two weeks prior.

The Band is a voluntary organization, no one is forced to join. Therefore, it must be your desire to participate in all rehearsals and performances (except in cases of extreme illness, death in family etc.). Failure to comply means you are no longer interested in remaining a member. A schedule (calendar) is available to all students and

parents on the Band App. **Attendance at out-of- school rehearsals and performances is required!!!** This includes in-school activities as well (i.e. pep rallies, concerts, SRA's, etc.)

Excused Absence from Rehearsal

In case of personal illness, severe illness or death in the family, students should notify the teacher as early as possible. If you are absent from school on the day of a rehearsal, it is imperative that your music be on hand for substitutes. Verification of an excused absence (doctor note, parent email, etc.) is all that is required to be excused. Appointments or personal problems will be reviewed by the Director and/or the administration. You should try to make appointments on days **other** than rehearsal and performance days. **Check your calendars!!!** Work and/or transportation should not result in absence from rehearsal and **will not** be approved as excused absences. Absences should be approved in advance when possible.

If you have a job: Please provide your employer with a calendar so they can work out a non-conflicting schedule.

Absence from Performance

Performances are exam grades. Pre-planned absences must be approved by the Director in advance. Any absence that is not brought to the director's attention prior to the performance will be considered unexcused (exceptions include health related emergencies). Unexcused absences count as zeros for a major exam grade. Written assignments may be given to reconcile an excused or unexcused absence.

STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE UP REHEARSALS NEARING AN IMPORTANT PERFORMANCE WHETHER THEY ARE EXCUSED OR NOT. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT OUR PERFORMANCE IS HURT WHETHER YOUR ABSENCE IS OR IS NOT EXCUSED - YOU HAVE MISSED IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THAT PERFORMANCE.

Other Conflicts

At Anclote, we believe that it is important for students to experience as many activities as possible during their high school career. So that both students and the school groups can be successful, the following guidelines must be observed. Students who participate in activities that are not part of the band program are to split band rehearsals fairly with outside activities; both the coach/sponsor and the band director should be aware of a student's location. If a conflict arises where there is a sports practice at the same time as a band performance, the student should perform with the band. If a game occurs at the same time as a band practice, the student should participate in the game. In cases where a band performance and a game coincide, the student may choose, without penalty, the activity their wishes. *A schedule for band must be provided to the coach and the student must provide band director with practice/game schedule.*

Eligibility

The Department of Education, along with the Florida Schools Music Association and the District School Board of Pasco County, have mandated required minimum grade point average (GPA) to participate in extra-curricular activities. Currently, this minimum unweighted GPA requirement is a **2.0 per semester**.

Any student falling below a 2.0 GPA is considered ineligible for the entire semester and are unable to participate in Florida Bandmasters Association evaluations and football games. Students are allowed to participate in parades and seasonal concerts.

Ensemble Participation

All members of the band program (including color guard) are required to participate in all aspects of the program for an entire school year. Students cannot pick and choose which season they want to participate in. Any student who fails to participate in any one semester of a school year will not be allowed to re-enter the program in the future unless the director deems it excusable (i.e. family moves back to area, family issues, medical issues documented by a physician, etc.). Students who do not participate for an entire school year (except for new students) will not be eligible for awards at the end of the year at our annual band banquet.

Heat Stress & Inclement Weather

Since we begin the school year earlier in the summer with band camps, rehearsals, and marching related activities, it is important that you are aware of the possibility of heat stress with your students. During hot weather, the students and teachers are subject to the following:

- **Heat Cramps** – Painful cramps involving abdominal muscles and extremities caused by intense, prolonged exercise in the heat and depletion of salt and water due to profuse sweating.
- **Heat Syncope** – Weakness, fatigue, and fainting due to loss of salt and water in sweat and exercise in the heat. Predisposes to heatstroke.
- **Heat Exhaustion (Water Depletion)** – Excessive weight loss, reduced sweating, elevated skin and core body temperature, excessive thirst, weakness, headache, and sometimes unconsciousness.
- **Heat Exhaustion (Salt Depletion)** – Exhaustion, nausea, vomiting, muscle cramps, and dizziness due to profuse sweating and inadequate replacement of body salts.
- **Heatstroke** – An acute medical emergency related to thermoregulatory failure.

Associated with nausea, seizures, disorientation, and possible unconsciousness or coma. It may occur suddenly without being preceded by any other clinical signs. The individual is usually unconscious with a high body temperature and hot dry skin. However, some heatstroke victims may sweat profusely.

Student Responsibilities:

1. Drink water prior to, during, and after band rehearsals and outside performances (at least one to two gallons per day... more is better). Dairy and Soda is highly unadvised during marching season.
2. On the medical form please write of any history of heat illnesses, allergies, or medical concerns.
3. Establish a regiment of outside activities to acclimatize yourself to hot weather. Acclimatization is the process of becoming adjusted to the heat.
4. Notify the band director if you need to step out of marching rehearsal if you begin to feel light-headed. You need to eat and stay hydrated to prevent you from sitting out of rehearsal.

Florida summers bring sudden shifts in weather and thunderstorms can appear quickly. We have a plan that students are aware of when threatening weather develops suddenly.

When inclement weather occurs during outdoor rehearsals, the students will move indoors to the closest school building; usually the band room. During away football games or other band events, the students will follow inclement weather plans put in place by that school or facility in order to get them indoors and out of weather.

Games & Performances

Policies in force at football games and all performances are designed for your safety, reputation, and the good name of the Anclote Band. You should always be on your best behavior. There is no cursing or inappropriate behavior allowed. Remember you are representing Anclote High School.

A break will take place during the third quarter of the game where students will get snacks and water. You must throw away your trash and please thank our band

parents who make this possible. You can get food from concessions, but snacks are provided. You must be back in place ready to play at the end of the third quarter. There is the possibility that we might forego the break in some situations. Individuals not returning on time from break are choosing to forego the break at the following game. Treat the other bands, directors, and chaperones courteously.

Uniforms

Marching Band: students wear the school marching uniform to performances. **Students will receive a shirt that is to be worn underneath the uniform at every performance. Your student needs to buy tall black socks and black Dinkles (marching shoes).** Uniforms are to remain at school, as they are the property of Anclote High School and the District School Board of Pasco County. Students must handle their uniform with respect and care. Items obviously abused will be replaced at the student's expense. The approximate value of each uniform is \$350.00.

Concert Band: students will need to provide their own all black clothing for concerts throughout the year as listed:

Men – black dress slacks, black button up shirt, black vest, black suit jacket, black tie (or bow-tie), black socks, black dress shoes. (Not all Items are required, but the full outfit should be black)

Women – **long** black dress with sleeves and shoulders, **long** black formal skirt with dress blouse that has sleeves, or black slacks with black blouse. All items must have sleeves and skirts/dresses **MUST** go past the knees when sitting down in a chair. Women must wear black dress shoes – either heels or flats.

****Students that are not in appropriate attire may not be allowed to perform with the ensemble. This is up to director discretion.**

****Attire is subject to change based on the performance, but advance notice will be given.**

Bus & Travel Policies

1. Each student must have all proper forms filled out and turned to travel with the band.
2. You are expected to conduct yourself properly at all times when traveling with the band.
3. Observe all safety rules while riding buses.
4. Couples are not allowed to sit together on the bus.

All students must travel to and from performances in buses with the band and must remain with the group unless you have special permission from the Director. Any student who needs to depart a performance with his/her parent must submit a note signed by the parent to the Director prior to the trip. Please make arrangements to have someone return your uniform and/or instrument to the school.

Band Parents

Please be a Band Parent! We know that in many cases both parents work. Everyone can do something during the year to help the group. If every family participates in at least one activity per year, the band will benefit tremendously. We need help at Football games, competitions, parades, concerts, and fundraisers.

Music & Folder

Music distributed to you is similar to checking out a book from the media center. Write comments on your music in pencil. Keep the music in folders provided for you. Keep marching music together in your flip folder (flip folder and lyre required for marching season). Fill out a copy request if you lose your music but please be responsible.

Financial Obligations

Each year the band spends, on an average, over \$300.00 per student. Only part of this budget is funded by the school system. The remaining portion of the budget comes in the form of fundraisers and user fees. For this reason, it is very important that all members of the ensemble(s) pull their own weight financially by participating in fund raising activities and by paying their assessments on time. See the Director about any problems, which will be held in confidence. **The fees to participate this year are \$100 for band and color guard. Please contact Mr. Stewart to discuss payment plans.**

Band Camp

All students are required to attend Band Camp to prepare for marching season. Students who are on rosters but fail to show up to camp, will not be guaranteed a spot during the first part of the show. Newly transferred students who have no knowledge of the scheduled activities will be worked into the show as soon as possible.

School Instruments

School owned instruments may be used with the permission of the Director. These instruments are large instruments usually too expensive for individual purchase. They may be used as long as the user is a good, participating band member. **The user will be responsible for any damage that is not considered normal wear.** You must fill out a checkout form for these instruments before you take them from the band room.

Grading Policy

Grades are based on a combination of meeting state standards, completion of course objectives, progress of an individual on their instrument, written and performance exams. An outline of grade determination will be handed out the first week of school on their syllabus.

Inappropriate Behavior

All Students are expected to maintain appropriate behavior at all times. They should be a positive representation of the band not only during field trips but also daily in all classes. I expect the students to be good role models and leaders around the campus and on all social media platforms. I expect the students to be respectful to each other, to their teachers, and themselves always.

Conclusion

The Anclote High School Band looks forward to the positive future that each of you will be a part of. It is important to understand our role; not only to our school, but to our community. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication, but will be one of the most rewarding events of your entire life if you choose to make it so. Respect for others, especially of those in authority, plays an important role to our success. Maybe you don't plan to become a professional musician, but band will help you become a well-rounded individual and teach you things like responsibility, dedication, and a positive work ethic.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

HANDBOOK SIGNATURE FORM

I have received a copy of the Anclote High School Band Handbook. I have read and reviewed all the band policies. I understand the expectations that are to be upheld by the band students and will encourage my child to abide by the rules set in place and to fulfill their obligations to the band.

I have received a copy of the Anclote High School Band Handbook. I have read and reviewed all of the band policies and I understand that it is a privilege to be a part of this program. I know that by signing this form I have agreed to uphold these policies and have accepted the responsibility to attend all performances and activities in which the band participates. I recognize that each member of the band contributes greatly to the success of the program.

Signature of Guardian

Date

Signature of Student

Date

Print Student Name