

2017-2018



Program Handbook

Welcome and Congratulations!

Thank you for choosing to be an active participant in the Aurora Band Program, one of our community's premiere groups. Throughout the course of the year, various performance and social opportunities will become available to all members and parents. The many benefits gained from the band experience will make the committed time and effort worthwhile.

The growth and success of our Aurora Band Program is a direct reflection of the support from our school administrators, the dedication of our storied legacy of previous Band Directors to provide quality education, and the vast number of parents who have endorsed the Aurora Band Program through their child's participation.

This handbook has been prepared for members and parents to provide the necessary information for successful membership in our band program. From the marching band field to the concert hall, this handbook will prove to be essential. Please keep this booklet in a convenient location to easily reference when questions arise.

The goal of the Aurora Band Program is to be a beacon of pride and example of excellence in the community. Achieving this goal is a personal choice to invest reasonable time and effort to the program and display the proper attitude for band activities. This investment is the foundation of the Aurora Band Program experience.

Please read over this handbook and reference the material when necessary. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact the Band Office. We are always available to help.

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The Aurora Band Program forms a vital and important part of the complete high school experience. This group represents a large, colorful, visible, and highly disciplined segment of the school. The word **responsibility** is central to the Aurora Band Program.

Responsibility to Our Community

Our school district provides the Band Program with high-quality equipment and facilities. This includes the Band Boosters and the Board of Education, both of who have provided much in the form of moral and financial support. We have the obligation to provide the best possible performances for the school and community. This means we all agree to give up some of our free time on holidays and vacations for the entertainment of others.

Description of Students' Responsibility

Band Member

An Aurora High School Band Member, Flag or Highlight Member, is a student who has, by choice, dedicated to the objectives and goals of the Aurora Band Program. These goals are 1) to learn and grow as a person and a performer 2) To be our best at every rehearsal and performance and 3) strive to improve our musicianship and discipline every day.

A Band Member should always strive to become a successful part of the band and help others achieve these same goals. An Aurora High School Band Member should be synonymous with hard work, pride, and excellence.

Drum Major

A Drum Major is a band member who has chosen to take an advanced leadership position in the program. Drum Major selection is through audition and demonstration of conducting abilities, verbal commands, and a leadership interview. Drum Major auditions take place late in the preceding school year.

The duties of a Drum Major include but are not limited to conducting during rehearsals and performances and assisting with administrative tasks associated with running the band. He or she is also responsible for assisting band members in learning music, drill, and marching fundamentals. In addition, a drum major is to supervise the loading/unloading of equipment and uniform inspection.

Section Leader

Section Leaders are outstanding musicians and leaders, appointed by the Band Director(s) who demonstrates a high level of achievement and enthusiasm. They are responsible for assisting band members in learning music, drill, and marching fundamentals. In addition, Section Leaders will assist with attendance and music checks. These individuals are essential to the band's success and must demonstrate proper attitude during rehearsals and performances.

Attendance Regulations

There are very few excused absences and those require advance approval. Use the **Online Absence Request Form** (www.aurorabands.webs.com), clearly explain the reason for missing the rehearsal/performance. Submission of the form does not ensure approval. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance appears in the student's grade.

Athletics

Many band members are active in sports and are encouraged to do so. Responsibility is on the student to coordinate schedules to be available for band rehearsals and functions. If necessary, the Band Director(s) will attempt to assist the student making every effort for the coach and Band Director(s) to resolve any scheduling conflicts.

Code of Conduct

Since the Aurora Band Program is part of Aurora High School, the students must follow all school rules and Board of Education policies governing student conduct expectations.

1. Students must be in rehearsals and at performances on time with all proper equipment.
2. Any student not attending Wednesday Evening rehearsal will not perform in the next performance.
3. Proper dress is required for performance. Any student not dressed properly will not perform that event.
4. The Aurora Band Program will not tolerate the use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or other substance from any member of our organization. The Band Director(s) and Aurora School administrators handle infractions of the Code of Conduct.

Possible consequences for failing to follow rules and regulations include but are not limited to (in no particular order):

- Conferences with the student, parents, and or principal
- Denial of participation in an event
- Third quarter privileges being revoked (marching band only)
- Grade being affected

Refer to the *Athletic Training Regulations* in the Aurora High School Student Handbook.

Discipline infractions within the band program align with the code for student athletes.

Marching Band

The Marching Band performs at all Aurora High School Varsity Football games, various community parades, and in concert at the conclusion of the season. It consists of an instrumental music unit and two precision drill teams: The Highlights (Pom Poms) and the Flags.

The Highlights and Flags are extra-curricular activities with their own advisors, rules, tryouts, and practice schedule. When questions arise, please refer to the advisor(s). Members of the Aurora Highlights and Fla are required to attend the Marching Band's annual band camp and all Wednesday or special rehearsals.

To achieve our goal as the Aurora Band Program, ***all high school Band students are expected to attend evening music rehearsals in late July, and are required to attend a week long Band Camp and one evening rehearsal per week during the football season.***

Any student registered for Band through the school, but who is unable to fulfill the pre-season and camp requirements for emergency or medical reasons is as an "Alternate". An "Alternate" must attend evening rehearsals and performances (in uniform) during the season until they can become active members. After demonstrating the ability to perform at an equal level of proficiency, an alternate will earn a spot on the field.

General Procedures for Marching Band

1. During the third quarter, members go to the refreshment stand.
2. When going to the restroom (except during the third quarter), always ask the Band Director(s), and always go in a group.
3. The Band Director(s) will regulate contents of any item brought during band events.

Leadership Positions in Marching Band

1. Each season, two **Drum Majors** will assist the Band Director(s) in running rehearsals and performances. Students aspiring to one of these positions audition at the end of the previous school year.
2. When needed, a third person called the **Assistant Conductor** will come to the sideline. This student will wear the regular marching band uniform.
3. Within each instrument section of the marching band, the Band Director(s) appoint a student as **Section Leader**. In the case of larger sections, more than one Section Leader may be appointed. Section Leaders are responsible for calling and running sectionals during the season.

Band Camp

Band camp is a week in the summer of musical and visual preparation for the marching season. While at camp, the band learns marching technique and music for the performances performed during the season. While at camp, directors, advisors, music counselors, parents, and other music educators supervise students. Because Band Camp is part of the time trade off allowing students to pursue other extracurricular activities, student athletes have permission to attend band camp without penalty. Individuals are responsible for the cost of Band Camp. **Band Camp fees are due July 4th.** If there is a hardship or concern, contact the Band Booster President.

For more information regarding Band Camp, see the [*Aurora Band Camp Information Packet*](#).

Regulations

Grading

The grading scale, set by the Board of Education, will be determined, but not limited to the following:

- Attendance / Participation 50%
- Music checks 30%
- Preparedness (both musically and physically) 20%

Travel Regulations

1. Parents and students receive a departure and approximate return time.
2. Students select a bus to ride, and must ride both ways on the same bus. Band Director(s) approve / modify bus assignments.
3. Students are responsible for loading and unloading of equipment. The student's name should be clearly marked on their equipment.
4. Be courteous to drivers and chaperones, and obey their instructions promptly. Band Director(s) handle infractions and notify Aurora School administration.
5. In the case of a student traveling to or from an event with their parent, written permission must be submitted in advance to the Band Director(s).

Equipment and Environment

In order to maintain a safe and clean band environment, all members of the Aurora Band Program are responsible for the general care and maintenance of our equipment and facilities.

1. At the conclusion of each performance and rehearsal, students must return instrument to the case, and place it in the assigned location.
2. Only members of the percussion section should handle or play the percussion equipment, unless given permission from the Band Director(s).
3. Students using a school-owned instrument will complete the **Instrument Sign-Out Form** (distributed at the beginning of the season). Repairs on a school-owned instrument may be the financial responsibility of the student, as determined by the Band Director(s).

Uniforms

Uniform Basics

Fitting of uniforms to students for the Marching Uniform is during the summer. The assigned parts are jacket, trousers, and hat. Marching Uniforms are the property of Aurora Bands and the Aurora Board of Education, but the responsibility of the student.

Band Boosters pays for one cleaning per season any additional cleanings will be the responsibility of the family. The cost of repair or replacements of a garment due to damage beyond the normal wear and tear will be the responsibility of the family.

Wearing of the Uniform

We represent Aurora City Schools when appearing in uniform. Avoid attracting any attention while in uniform, including horseplay, running while in uniform or foul language and attitude.

1. Wear the uniform in its entirety when in public. When temperature dictates, the Band Director(s) will inform members to unzip or remove the jacket.
2. Wear the built-in suspenders on the trousers at all times. Damage to the trousers due to improper wearing, the student covers the cost of replacement.
3. Long hair gets tucked into the Marching Band hat, males and females.
4. For cold weather, students may use insulated wear under the uniform, however no items with large collars or hoods as they do not allow the uniform to fit properly.

5. At no time should jeans or jean shorts be worn under the uniform.
6. **Students wear the member shirt and proper shorts under the uniform.**
7. Shoes must be clean.
8. Full-length black socks are required at all times with the Marching and Concert Uniform.
9. **While in uniform, students may not consume hot chocolate, Gatorade, juice or any other staining drink.**

Marching Uniform

The Band Boosters assess fees to students for repair or replacement of any damaged or lost uniform. These fees will range from the cost of repairs, if repairs are possible, up to and including replacement of uniform parts.

In addition to the parts of the Marching Uniform provided by the school, each student is required to own the following:

- Black Shoes
- Black Socks
- Gloves
- Tux shirt for concert band
- Band Bag
- Khaki Shorts (summer uniform)

Summer Uniform

The Summer Uniform consists of:

- Official Polo Shirt
- Khaki Shorts
- White Socks - **ankle only**
- White athletic shoes

Concert Uniform

All students wear the following during any performance of the concert ensemble, unless otherwise noted by the Band Director(s):

- Black Band Shoes
- Black Band Socks
- White tuxedo shirt
- Concert Uniform

If the any of the above items are lost or soiled, the band member is responsible for purchasing a new pair. Boosters provide a bowtie for concert season, however it must be returned after the performance. A fee is assessed each time a bowtie is not returned.

Concert Ensembles

Playing Auditions determine the organization of the concert ensembles. All students are required to perform an audition. This audition will also count as a sound check sc. Membership in "Symphonic Band" or "Concert Band" depends on instrumentation and membership in the Band Program. Seating auditions consist of musical scales, a prepared piece of music and sight-reading.

The concert ensembles perform for special events throughout the school year, including exchange concerts and OMEA Large Group Adjudication. All performances are required. Missing a performance with an "unexcused absence" will negatively affect the students' grade. The policy for Attendance is the same as in Marching Band. In order to obtain proper excuse for any performance event, parents must complete and submit the **Online Absence Request Form** (www.aurorabands.com) at least **5 school days** prior to the performance date requested.

Below is an APPROXIMATE breakdown of grading for a given quarter. There are subtle changes for each quarter that will be shared as the year progresses.

Games/Rehearsals/Concerts - 50%

Class Participation - 20%

Sound Checks (homework assignments) - 30%

Band Council

Band Council members provide leadership for the Band through good behavior and preparation. The main purpose of this group of student leaders is to provide an open line of communication between the band members and the Band Director(s). Members attend all Band Council events and greet bands during football games. Student membership votes via ballots for Band Council members at the end of the previous school year. New members will take their position beginning June 1.

Band Council Positions:

1. President – schedule Band Council events; facilitate Band Council events; communicate with Band Director(s)
2. Vice President – assist Band Council President in scheduling events; assist Band Council President in facilitating Band Council events; communicate with Band Director(s)
3. Publicity – media representative of the band, responsible for recording events as they see fit for posterity. This process is to student disgression and must be discussed with the Band Director(s)
4. Drum Majors (per audition) – assist Band Director(s) in running marching band rehearsals; communicate with Band Director(s); Drum Major will keep position on Band Council even after the marching season is over
5. Assistant Conductor (per audition) – assist Band Director(s) and Drum Majors in running marching band rehearsals; communicate with Band Director(s); Assistant Conductor will keep position on Band Council even after the marching season is over.
6. Library chair(s) - in charge of forming music copying committee as well as maintaining music availability for the band.
7. Class Representatives (2 per class in grades 10 – 12) – communicate Band events to class members; provide open communication from Band members to the Band Council; communicate with Band Director(s)