

Ferndale High School 'Golden Eagle' Marching Band 2010

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Goals, Expectations and Policies

I. Goals of the Marching Band

- A. Each student will increase his/her performance proficiency on his/her instrument or implement, and will increase his/her proficiency in the marching arts.
- B. Each student will grow in his/her level of personal responsibility and self-motivation.
- C. Each student will expand his/her artistic awareness, in appreciation of their own growth as musical and physical artists, and in appreciation of other individuals' and other bands' performances.
- D. The ensemble will have several meaningful, quality performances during the year, as well as several successful competitions. **Success, incidentally, does not necessarily mean winning. It means performing our very best at every rehearsal and performance, both individually and as an ensemble. We need to "leave everything on the field" every time!**
- E. Each student will have fun improving themselves and becoming part of the great family that is the Ferndale HS 'Golden Eagle' Marching Band.

II. Attendance Expectations

- A. Students will be on time to every rehearsal. This generally means 5-10 minutes early in order to get all required materials together and be in place for the beginning of rehearsal. Prompt arrival at rehearsals is necessary so that we may have timely endings to rehearsals – it is our goal to be walking off the field every night at 9 pm.
- B. In the event that an unpredictable situation requires a student be late to rehearsal, a **parent contact must be made by phone or in person** (email is unreliable) **at least 30 minutes prior to rehearsal**. If that contact is not made, the tardy will be considered unexcused. **For ALL members of the band, contact must be made directly to Mr. Jamison or Mr. Moy. However, in the interest of professionalism, guard members must also contact Jason McIntosh, pit members must also contact Brendan Walters, and battery members must also contact Ryan Marshall.**
- C. Students will attend each and every rehearsal. Personal and work schedules need to be arranged around the marching band rehearsal and performance schedule. Please make every effort to avoid family conflicts as well.
- D. In the event that student illness or a death in the family requires an absence from rehearsal, a **parent contact must be made by phone or in person at least 30 minutes before the beginning of rehearsal**. If that contact is not made, the absence will be considered unexcused. **For ALL members of the band, contact must be made directly to Mr. Jamison or Mr. Moy. However, in the interest of professionalism, guard members must also contact Jason McIntosh, pit members must also contact Brendan Walters, and battery members must also contact Ryan Marshall.** All other absences will be considered unexcused.
- E. Unexcused tardies and absences will result in appropriate consequences that will allow the band member to make up the time they have taken from the other members of the band. Those consequences may include work assignments before or after rehearsal helping the staff, section leaders, and drum majors, or they may be extra marching or music practice during or outside rehearsal time.
- F. If a student is tardy unexcused to rehearsal **7 times during the course of the entire season**, they will be dismissed from the band immediately and for the rest of the

season. If a student is tardy unexcused to rehearsal **5 times before Interlochen Band Camp**, they will be dismissed from the band. If a student is tardy unexcused to rehearsal **3 times before the end of June**, they will be dismissed from the band. An unexcused absence is equivalent to two unexcused tardies, and will have the same consequences.

- G. Athletes who are involved in FHS sports activities must split the overlapping rehearsal/practice time evenly and keep both director and coach consistently informed of their schedule. Lack of honest and consistent adherence to an even split between athletics and band will result in unexcused tardies or absences, and consequences will follow (see above). While frustrating for athletes, there is not enough time to get showered, go home, or eat a full meal between athletic practice and band rehearsal. Students should plan ahead to come straight to band rehearsal from athletics, getting only a drink and a snack in the brief transition time. **Being involved in multiple activities is not a right, it is an added responsibility.**
- H. Students will play and march in band at every rehearsal. However, we realize that there may be some unusual situations where a student can and should attend but may need to limit his/her activity in some fashion. Regular attendance is one of our greatest concerns, and we would usually rather have you in attendance (though somehow disabled) than absent. The staff should be promptly notified of any medical conditions that would prevent full participation.

III. Rehearsal Expectations

- A. Students will come to band prepared to learn and give 100% effort.
- B. Proper rehearsal etiquette will be maintained at all times:
 - a. all rehearsals are to be quiet – talking detracts from your valuable (and limited) rehearsal time
 - b. respond to directors', instructors', and section leaders' requests promptly and to the best of your ability at all times
 - c. show respect to staff, parents, and other students at all times
- C. Students will bring to rehearsal every day:
 - a. Instrument with all necessary supplies
 - b. music in a 3-ring binder (with plastic sheets)
 - c. pencil (not pen); a highlighter is also recommended
 - d. coordinate sheets (at EVERY rehearsal, even the day before Finals)
 - e. water bottle (regardless of weather -- proper hydration is crucial)
 - f. proper footwear: athletic shoes with white socks; NOT flip-flops, sandals, etc.
 - g. comfortable pants or shorts (jeans not recommended)
 - h. hats, sunscreen, sun-glasses, rain gear as appropriate
- D. Students will respect all equipment and instruments that are not theirs. Students may not play or touch instruments or equipment that are not theirs under any circumstances. Students are financially responsible for any damage they do, through repair or replacement.
- E. Students will keep both personal and school-owned instruments and equipment they may use in good condition.
- F. Students will put every instrument and piece of equipment, including percussion, in its proper place at the end of every rehearsal or performance.

IV. Performance / Competition Etiquette

- A. The Ferndale High School 'Golden Eagle' Marching Band uniform is to be held in the highest respect – **wearing it is an honor**. When wearing it you are representing not only yourself, but your band, your school, and the Ferndale community. You are expected to demonstrate everything we aspire towards – in a word “**excellence**”.
- B. When in uniform, you will wear the full uniform: jacket, pants, shoes, gauntlets, and shako (hat), with the jacket zipped and shako on. If instructed by a staff member or student leader to wear 'half-uniform' you may take off the jacket and shako. In this

- case, the jacket must be properly folded with the shako on top. When carrying the shako, you must carry it right side up and tucked under your arm.
- C. Even when out of uniform at a competition, performance, home football game, or parade, you will maintain the same standards as if you were in uniform.
 - D. When awards for any band are announced, when the National Anthem is played, or during any ceremony, the band and each member of the band will show respect to all those around them. This usually means standing at attention (with hands at your sides), even without being asked by a staff member or student leader.
 - E. Above all, always act as if you are performing and being judged by those around you; **because you are!**

V. Performance / Competition Policy

- A. Performances (parades and home football games) and competitions are the culmination of the work we do in marching band and are required activities.
- B. The only excused absence is personal sickness or a death in the family. As with regular rehearsals, parent notification must be provided by phone or in person at least 30 minutes prior to call time.
- C. Each performance will have a specific call-time. Again, the same tardy policies as for regular rehearsals will be followed.
- D. Students will be dressed appropriately. Most of the marching band uniform is supplied by the school, BUT long black athletic socks and the 2010 Marching Band show t-shirt are required as part of the uniform for all wind and percussion players. Also, please make sure that, as a bare minimum, you are wearing a t-shirt (not a tank top) and underwear underneath your uniform. When the weather gets colder, extra layers are often necessary, but especially bulky materials (like fleece sweatshirts and sweat-pants) will show. Long underwear or 'Under Armor'-style garments are strongly recommended to maintain a clean athletic look.
- E. Accompanying this document is an exhaustive list of performance commitments for the marching season. **Students are responsible for attending every performance according to that schedule.** The directors will inform parents and students as early as possible about specific competition information and about any changes or added performances that may arise during the season.
- F. The TAG DAY and MARCH-A-THON Fundraisers are also required commitments. Everyone in the band must take part in these crucial fundraisers.

VI. Assessment Procedures / Consequences

- A. All music, guard work, and drill maneuvers must be MEMORIZED! For instrumentalists, all music (including the fight song and Star-Spangled Banner) must be memorized no later than the mini-camp immediately before Interlochen band camp. Memorization, however, does not negate the need to have music and coordinates at every rehearsal.
- B. From time to time, it may be deemed necessary by the staff to have playing / marching tests or 'down-the-lines' to assure that every student is doing his/her job. It is crucial that EVERY STUDENT be able to perform every aspect of the show from memory for us have to the maximum opportunity for success and excellence.
- C. While we try at every opportunity to emphasize the positive and to reward good effort and behavior, it is sometimes necessary to provide consequences to students who do not live up to the standards and expectations detailed above. It is up to the discretion of the directors and staff to provide appropriate consequences to students who have not done their best to raise the Ferndale HS Marching Band to its maximum potential. These consequences may include detention, extra rehearsals, work-duty, and in worst-case scenarios, dismissal from the band. Please see item II-F above for specifics regarding tardies and absences.

VII. Opportunity for Extra Help

Mr. Jamison, Mr. Moy, Jason McIntosh, the percussion instructors, and the student leaders are often available for extra help before school, after school, before rehearsals, and during lunch. However, it is the student's responsibility to arrange a date and time that is convenient for both parties.

VIII. Sectionals

Sectionals will from time to time be a required part of your son/daughter's duties in the marching band program, and may be required by the director, sectional instructor, or the section leader. Sectionals will generally be scheduled right before or after school, or right before or after regularly scheduled rehearsals.

IX. Membership in Marching Band

Participation in co-curricular music activities such as Marching Band is contingent upon a student being simultaneously enrolled in a regularly-scheduled music class at FHS, preferably a band class. Marching Band is a subordinate extension of the crucial music-learning that takes place in class, and as such it would be inappropriate to have musicians in Marching Band without the requisite fundamental musical knowledge required to fully function as a young musician. Exceptions may be made by the director on a case-by-case basis for educational reasons (i.e., a junior or senior's schedule does not allow room for band class), especially in the case of members of the Color Guard. This requirement is non-negotiable for Drum Majors and Section Leaders.

X. Communications

Feel free to contact Mr. Jamison or Mr. Moy at any time with questions or concerns by phone or email, listed at the top of this document. We check both regularly, and we will make every effort to return calls or email within 48 hours.

XI. Payments and Fees

The base fee to participate in the 2010 Ferndale HS Marching Band is **\$415**. It is payable in four installments over the course of the summer and fall, and covers instruction, Interlochen band camp, show design, and most uniform and prop costs.

In addition, there is a **\$25 mallet and head fee** to all pit and battery members to partially cover the cost of sticks, mallets, and heads – these materials are often broken during the course of a season under heavy marching band use.

Further, there is a **\$30 uniform fee** for each new member of the band – this fee will only be paid once during a student's 4-5 years in the band. It covers the maintenance of our uniforms and costumes, as well as the purchase of new items as necessary.

All fees must be paid on time. To do otherwise jeopardizes your participation in Marching Band this year and other FSFAB-sponsored activities in the future, and is unfair to other band-members that have paid on time.

On the next page is a form indicating that both student and parents have read, understand, and will abide by all the contents of the preceding document, including all rehearsals, performances, and fees. This form also includes crucial contact information. Following this form are a calendar, t-shirt order forms, and payment schedule. Please complete, sign, detach, and return all appropriate forms to Mr. Jamison or Mr. Moy by Wednesday, June 9, 2010.

We have read and understand the Goals, Expectations and Policies for the 2010 Ferndale High School 'Golden Eagle' Marching Band and agree to abide by them. We are also aware of and responsible for the performance, competition, and rehearsal dates, as well as all the participation fees.

Student Name (please print) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Director Signature _____ Date _____

2010 Ferndale Marching Band Roster Information

Each year, the FSFAB Marching Band Committee creates a Marching Band directory listing the names, addresses and contact information for the Marching Band members. The intent of the directory is to make communication easier between Marching Band parents. Please take a minute to review and complete the information below. Then have your student return this form to Mr. Jamison.

Student's First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mother's Name _____ Father's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Parents' Email _____

Mother Work/Cell # _____ Father Work/Cell # _____

Additional Parent Email _____

Year of Graduation _____

Involved in: Color Guard Pit Band _____
(instrument)

Parents – We need your help! There are many opportunities to join your fellow band parents in helping the Golden Eagle Marching Band program. Please contact Stephanie Melnick at 248-543-4060 to learn about ways to volunteer and to sign up!

This form must be signed and returned to Mr. Jamison or Mr. Moy no later than Wednesday, June 9, 2010.