



# AGHS Band



## Handbook

The Albert Gallatin High School (AGHS) Band program is dedicated to providing students with exceptional opportunities to experience and engage with music. Our program is committed to excellence in every aspect, from our attitudes and work ethic to our performances.

Our mission is to ensure that every member of the AGHS Band upholds the highest standards, both on and off the field. We believe that being part of this organization is a privilege and an honor, offering a unique and enriching experience that goes beyond music. Participation in the band fosters personal growth, teamwork, and a sense of belonging.

We take immense pride in our work and strive to embody the values of dedication, discipline, and excellence. This dedication allows us to deliver outstanding performances and create lasting memories. While we are serious about our commitment to high standards, we also understand the importance of enjoying the journey. The camaraderie and fun we share as a band make all of the hard work worthwhile!

In this packet you will find rules, regulations, and procedures necessary for the success of this band. Please read carefully, and let's have a great year,

Sincerely,

Mr Durso  
Director of Bands

Mr. Gibson  
Associate Director of Athletic Bands

## **1.0 GENERAL CONDUCT**

*NOTE: All rules in the Student Handbook are in force at all rehearsals, performances and trips.*

1.1 - Members of a prestigious organization such as the Colonial Band are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a decorous manner and to exercise common sense! Among considerations are:

1.2 - Members are expected to follow the instruction of any teacher, instructor, chaperone, or student leader without question unless said instruction violates civil or moral law, or places someone in harm's way. Should you be displeased with what is being requested, follow the request first, then, when the time is appropriate, bring your dissatisfaction to the attention of the band director.

1.3 - Members should **not** play on or with the instruments or equipment of others. Unfamiliarity leads to potential damage and a general lack of respect for the belongings of others. If you see someone picking up an instrument or equipment that is not theirs, kindly remind them.

1.4 - Whenever we are on site at a performance or overnight trip, band members should move from place to place in groups. Do NOT travel by yourself.

1.5 - Members who conduct themselves in a boisterous manner at rehearsals, performances or on trips will be asked to refrain from such or be removed from the group.

## **2.0 Performances**

2.1 - Our numerous performance opportunities include: Football games, Parades, Marching Band Festivals or Contests, Band Concerts, and Small Ensemble Performances.

2.2 - While away at performances, band members are expected to conduct themselves in a decorous manner. The uniform will stay complete and neat unless the band director instructs otherwise. Hats are to remain on at **all** times unless directed by the band staff. Band members will check with the band director when it is necessary for them to go to the restroom or to leave the seating area for any reason. Hats, gloves and blankets must match school colors.

2.4 - Our image depends upon every individual. Our public manner, appearance and projection of pride (our posture) and organization are everyone's responsibility. This includes careful attention to the required attire for each performance.

### **3.0 Attendance**

3.1 - Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is expected. The only excuses acceptable are significant personal illness (doctor note required), a conflicting school event, the wedding of an immediate family member, or true family emergency. Band members are expected to adjust their schedules and do homework around the rehearsal and performance schedule.

3.2 - There are two types of absences: Excused & Unexcused. Unexcused absences will result in a grade reduction or suspension from performances. Examples of unexcused absences would be for work and transportation. Should you have a transportation problem, have a backup available such as a band member who lives nearby who could pick you up. **YOUR TRANSPORTATION IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.** All other reasons are up to the discretion of the band staff. The sooner you come with a possible absence, the more likely it is to be excused.

3.3 - If a student must miss a scheduled rehearsal or performance, it is the student's responsibility to notify the staff via the band website **at least** one week in advance. Verbal communication will not be accepted as a valid form of communication. The director reserves the right to dispute the request of a member to be absent, to ensure the policy is not abused. (Please note: Excuses must be more specific than claiming students will be "out of town".) Emergencies will be dealt with on an individual basis for the protection of the member's eligibility.

3.3 - Unexcused absences will result in a grade reduction of 2 points from the final average for after school rehearsals, and 1 full letter grade for performances. Excessive abuse of excused absences will result in suspension from performances (i.e. sitting out a football game)

3.4 - If a student is suspended from a performance they will still be required to attend the performance and support the band and our school. Failure to attend a suspended performance will be considered an unexcused absence.

3.5 - Students who find that they must be absent from a rehearsal or a performance due to a true family emergency or significant illness should contact the band director **prior** to the report time. A student will be excused from a rehearsal or performance if they are ill or injured and the absence is accompanied by a doctor's excuse verifying that the illness or injury prohibits the member from participating in the specific band activity. **Telling a friend to tell Mr. Durso is not acceptable.**

3.6A - Students must ride the bus to and from each performance. This ensures that uniforms and equipment have been properly loaded and unloaded, and makes it much easier for our staff to keep track of each student. Parents are expected to pick up their students within 30 minutes of our arrival to the high school. After that, students will be sent to the security office to wait with the guard.

3.6B For ***special circumstances*** where a student must ride home with their parents after a performance, a form must be filled out on the band website. This form must be submitted by 11:59pm the day before the scheduled event. There will be no exceptions to this. If the form is not filled out, the student will be required to ride the bus back to the High School. Students are responsible for their own instrument and uniform. These cannot be left with another student to take back to the school. The student will be required to check in the following school day to return their uniform. Failure to check in will result in the loss of this privilege. Students must ride on the bus to the event, no exceptions.

3.7 - Students are expected to bring music, a pencil, and a working instrument to each rehearsal and performance. If music has been misplaced, or your instrument is not working, it is YOUR responsibility to rectify that BEFORE the start of rehearsal. Arrive early, and I will do whatever I can to assist.

3.8 – Students are expecting to split time evenly with other school activities. It is the responsibility of the student to communicate with coaches and staff to find an acceptable schedule for conflicts well in advance.

## **4.0 Grading**

4.1 - Grading for band will be mostly by attendance, however, the director reserves the right to “create” any assignment that will also have an impact upon a student's grade. Examples could be flip folder checks, marching proficiency, playing proficiency, etc. These assignments are worth points that effect your grade in marching band. Any questions, see Mr. Durso

4.2 - Grading policy for **UNEXCUSED PERFORMANCES**

**First Offense** - First one is free

**Second Offense** - grade drops another letter grade and / or revoke trip eligibility / leadership eligibility or current position

**Third Offense** - grade drops another letter and / or revoke banquet eligibility

**Fourth Offense** - grade drops to an F and / or possible suspension from band or membership revoked

#### 4.3 - Grading policy for **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES AT REHEARSALS**

**First Offense** - First one is free

**Second Offense** - grade drops 2 points

**Third Offense** - grade drops 2 points and / or Revoke leadership eligibility or current position

**Fourth Offense** - grade drops 2 points and / or revoke trip eligibility

#### 4.4 - Grading Policy for **Tardies**

Coming late to class is not acceptable for any member of the AGHS band. Students are expected to arrive on time. Every three (3) tardies will be considered equivalent to an unexcused rehearsal absence (refer to 4.3 for consequences).

#### 4.5 - **GENERAL ATTENDANCE INFORMATION**

While the attendance policy is in place to discourage unexcused absences, it is our hope all students will understand the importance of faithful attendance at every AG Band event. In the end, the overall quality of the Colonial Band will be determined by the dedication of the students involved.

## **5.0 Communication**

5.1 - All up-to-date information is now available on the band's website ([www.aghsband.com](http://www.aghsband.com)). This website has the band calendar, upcoming events, news releases from the band as well as all documents in this hand book and all forms needed for membership.

5.2 - Students are expected to regularly check the online calendar online to see a detailed description of rehearsals and performances.

5.3 - In addition to the website, Information and updates will be sent via Remind 101. Remind 101 is a text alert feature that is easy and free to sign up for.

5.4 - We also have a band Facebook page. This page is useful for sharing photos, videos, comments, and even information. The Facebook page is **NOT** to be a forum for negative comments toward our band, leaders, boosters, or any other organization. Anyone, student or parent, who posts complaints or negative comments on this page will be removed without exception.

5.5 - If you have a question, problem, or issue of any kind, it is important that you contact Mr. Durso directly. It is the goal of our staff to do everything that we can to make band a great experience for everyone, however, it is impossible to solve a problem that we are unaware of. It is not appropriate to voice these issues in any public forum. The most effective method of resolution will occur if you contact the staff via the contact page of the band website. This will notify our staff of your issue, and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

*Facebook messages or texts are NOT considered acceptable means of communicating absences.*

I look forward to working with each of you this year. I consider it a privilege to be your band director and I am excited to see what we can accomplish together in the coming years!

Sincerely,

CJ Durso,

Director of Bands - AGHS

# 2024 - 2025 Band Agreement

*After you have read the handbook, please return this agreement form to the band office. Keep the handbook for future reference.*

Student and Parent/Guardian:

Please read the following statement, print the student's name, and place both student and parent/guardian signature on the appropriate line at the bottom of the page. Also fill out the permission/medical information form on the next page of the packet, or online. Return both the band agreement and the medical form to the director no later than Friday, August 9, 2024.

We (band student and parent/guardian) have read the Albert Gallatin High School Band Handbook online and understand the rules, regulations, policies and procedures contained within it. We realize that failure to observe these rules as well as school district rules while with the band may result in disciplinary action. Furthermore, we understand that if these rules are continually disregarded or ignored that the student may be dismissed from the band program. We also understand that the student will not be allowed to participate in any band function after band camp until this agreement and permission/medical form have been filled out, signed and turned into the director.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_