

Albert Gallatin High School Band



Welcome Letter



DATE: August 2016

TO: New, Returning Band and Auxiliary Members and Parents

FROM: Mr. CJ Durso, Director of Bands, Albert Gallatin High School

Welcome! In this letter, you will find all necessary information regarding the band program at Albert Gallatin High School. Please read **ALL** of the information in this packet and review it with your child. I look forward to working with you as we prepare for another excellent year!

Our Purpose: The AGHS Band program is designed to provide students with outstanding opportunities to experience music. It is the goal of our program to present excellence in everything that we do. Our attitudes, work ethic, and performance are all reflections of our school and our community. We strive as members of this organization to always represent Albert Gallatin with pride. Being a part of this band is a privilege, and is something very special. We hold ourselves to a very high standard, and as a result, have quite a bit of fun while we are at it.

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
AGHS

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. 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, 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 go 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. 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.

2.3 - During cold weather, bring heavy gloves, warm hats, heavy coats, warm blankets and such for protection against the weather. These need to match the school's 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.

3.0 Attendance

3.1 - Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is expected. The only excuses acceptable are significant personal illness or true family emergency. Band members are expected to adjust their schedules and do homework around the rehearsal and performance schedule. The only additional excuse for missing a performance is the wedding of an immediate family member.

3.2 - There are two types of absences: Excused & Unexcused. Unexcused absences may result in a grade reduction or suspension from performances. 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.

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 two weeks 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.**

3.6 - Members who wish to travel from a performance site to home with their parents **MUST** complete the NOT RETURNING FORM on the band's website at least 24 hours in advance of the performance. Parents are expected to see the band director when they meet their child. This will insure two things: 1) that the chaperones are aware of the student's absence on the return trip, and 2) that the student has in fact been met and been properly cared for.

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 students 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 - letter grade drops one letter

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 - grade drops 3 points

Second Offense - grade drops 3 points

Third Offense - grade drops 3 points and / or Revoke leadership eligibility or current position

Fourth Offense - grade drops 3 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. 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 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. Please text @mrdurso to 81010 to sign up!

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

2016 - 2017 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 Thursday, September 8, 2016.

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 _____