



*Huntington
High School
Blue Devil
Band Program*

2014 – 2015 Member Handbook

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Commitment to Excellence in Music Education

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind,
flight to the imagination, and life to everything.”

-Plato.

MEMBER NAME: _____

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****BE SURE TO READ ALL PARTS OF THE HANDBOOK****

Every year, students lose points on their grade because they were not aware of the course requirements and/or policies as a result of not reading this handbook. Each student is responsible for all of the rules/policies/requirements/etc. in this handbook AND of the district policies and the Student Code of Conduct.

Welcome!



Welcome to the Huntington High School Band Program! As a member, you have a unique opportunity to be part of something special that has carried a *Tradition of Excellence* for more than 75 years. You will be offered many opportunities unlike anything you have experienced before. You will be given tools that are essential to succeed in this ever increasingly competitive world. You will make friends that will last a lifetime and create memories that will be with you forever.

Our Mission



The mission of the Huntington High School Band Program is to develop character, professionalism, pride, dedication, appreciation & respect for music and a commitment to our *Tradition of Excellence*. Our aim is to provide every student with the opportunity to experience a well-rounded, high-level music program while at the same time have fun, and develop the essential skills needed for success.

Purpose of this Handbook



The purpose of this handbook is to provide information to ALL members and families of the Huntington High School Band Program. The policies of this handbook are in accordance with the Huntington Union Free School District approved policies. Please be sure to read through all parts of this handbook. It is impossible to include everything, so if you have questions, please ask.

Handbook Highlights



- ❖ **All members of the Huntington High School Band Program are required as part of their grade to perform in community service events.**

- ❖ **Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances (see attendance)**

- ❖ **Students who are issued a uniform must treat it properly**

- ❖ **Everyone must work together to keep our facilities clean**

- ❖ **Grades are mainly based on participation & progress**

- ❖ **Every band member must fill out and return the required forms at the end of this handbook**

Grading Procedure






The determination of a grade for a performance ensemble will be based on the level, knowledge, preparedness, participation, progress and effort demonstrated by each student in the following areas:

Rehearsals – 40%

Attendance is required at all rehearsals (see Attendance).

Band is a participation-based class.

Students will be evaluated on:



-  Following classroom rules (See Classroom Rules)
-  Quality of Participation (See Performance Expectations)
-  Demonstrate appropriate rehearsal etiquette (See Rehearsal Etiquette)

Performances – 20%

Attendance is required at all performances (see Attendance).











Concerts, parades, and performances are considered to be major examinations for members of the Band Program.

Students will be evaluated on:

-  Quality of Participation (See Performance Expectations)
-  Demonstrate appropriate performance etiquette (See Performance Etiquette)

Grading Procedure (cont.)

Lessons & Tests – 40%

-  Students are required to attend a lesson each week
-  Lessons are scheduled on a rotating basis
-  Make-up lessons are on the last day of each week during the same period as the schedule lesson
-  There is an after school make-up opportunity each week
-  **All lessons must be made up by the end of each week**
-  Each student is responsible for keeping track of their own lesson attendance
-  Each student will be given 1 “free-be” per quarter
-  Students are responsible for making up all missed lessons regardless of the reason for missing. This includes but is not limited to tests, sickness, field trips, etc.
-  **If a student has an unexcused absence from school and/or the scheduled lesson period, the student will be given the opportunity to make up the lesson but will NOT be eligible to receive credit (see Attendance).**
-  Students are responsible for making up all work missed in the class when attending lessons.








During lessons, students will be evaluated in a number of areas that may include but are not limited to:

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Scale Tests |  Solo and Ensemble Playing |
|  Folder Checks |  Concert Music Preparation |
|  Music Checks |  Musical Growth and Progress |
|  Memorization Tests |  etc. |
|  Drill Book Checks | |
|  Rhythm Tests | |

***If there are no Performances for a given marking period, the grading breakdown will be 50% Rehearsals and 50% Lessons & Tests.**










Attendance

The Huntington High School Band Program follows the Huntington High School Attendance Policy (see attached). Adaptations of the district's Attendance Policy to the High School Band Program are as follows:









-  Only excused absences from a performance, lesson and/or rehearsal will be eligible for make-up credit.
-  All unexcused absences will result in an automatic ZERO for that event, regardless of the reason.
-  For every four (4) excused absences, you must make up one rehearsal in order to receive credit. If not, the student will receive a zero for those rehearsals.
-  Every four (4) unexcused latenesses will equal one (1) unexcused absence.
-  Late passes to class will not be accepted and will become unexcused latenesses if abused.
-  Students with Late passes from the front desk will be marked "UNEXCUSED LATE"
-  A note must accompany any absence from any performance. This does not guarantee eligibility for a make up assignment. Only excused absences will be eligible for a make up assignment.



General Conduct

-  Have a positive attitude
-  Demonstrate appropriate and professional behavior
-  Respect is a must
-  Never speak about another band in a demeaning manner
-  Always try your best
-  Follow the rules
-  To do my very best to carry on the *Tradition of Excellence*
-  Practice!
-  Properly care for your instrument, uniform, facilities, etc.

Performance & Rehearsal Etiquette

-  All performances and rehearsals are required and attendance is absolutely mandatory
-  Arrive 10 – 15 minutes early to all rehearsals and performances
-  **Follow classroom rules (see Classroom Rules)**
-  You are expected to stay for the entire concert or performance to show support to all students and performing groups
-  Absolutely NO talking during rehearsals & performances
-  Absolutely NO food, drinks & gum in the rehearsal/performance area
-  Absolutely NO electronic devices in the rehearsal/performance area
-  Any behavior that interrupts with the learning process or interferes with the learning environment will be dealt with in a disciplinary manner

Practice



Every member of the High School Band Program is required to practice. This is your “homework.” Trying to cram before a test simply does not work. 20 – 30 minutes of practice every day is the recommended. This is the only way you can make progress. Remember, much of your grade is based on your progress.

The Music Wing



- Students are permitted down to the music wing for Rehearsals, Lessons or to Practice.
- Students are NOT permitted to be in the music wing unless supervised by a teacher.
- There is absolutely NO food or drinks permitted in the music wing.

Classroom Rules








- Attend all rehearsals
- Be on time
- Participate in a positive manner
- NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES!
- No talking
- Show respect
- No food or drinks
- NO GUM!
- Keep the facilities clean.
- Act professionally
- Be Prepared (includes a working instrument, oil / reeds / sticks / etc., music, folder, PENCIL)
- Immediately report any instrument issues
- Instruments must be properly put away
- HAVE FUN!

Performance Dress






During major performances including but not limited to Concerts and NYSSMA Major Organization, etc. students are required to dress as follows:

Men:

-  Black Pants
-  Black Socks
-  Black Shoes (not sneakers)
-  Black Dress Shirt
-  Long Tie

Woman:

-  Black Bottoms (pants are preferred, skirts are acceptable as long as they fall below the knees when seated)
-  Black Dress Shoes (no flip flops or sandals)
-  Black top (no spaghetti strings or tank tops)

Uniform Etiquette



- Members of the **HBDMB** are issued a Marching Band Uniform
- When you are in uniform, you are no longer an individual, but a representative of our Band, School and Community.
- Your uniform is to be worn completely and properly at all times (unless instructed otherwise). The uniform includes black marching shoes, black socks, white gloves, member shirt, aussie, plume, gauntlets, pants, and jacket.
- The general rule is that if you have any concerns as to whether or not you should or should not be doing something in uniform – DO NOT DO IT!

Uniform Musts



- Long hair must be put up in the aussie and cannot be visible
- Have your uniform dry cleaned throughout the season according to the signed contract.
- Treat the uniform with the utmost care and respect
- Thank the band parents for all their hard work
- If any portion of the uniform is damaged or missing, the student will be responsible for the replacement cost. These costs are listed on your uniform contract.

Uniform Must Nots



- NO eating, drinking, chewing gum, smoking, etc. in uniform
- NO running in uniform
- NO sitting or leaning in uniform (unless instructed to do so)
- NO inappropriate language in uniform
- NO nail polish, jewelry, (anything not part of the uniform) in uniform







* Any abuse or mistreatment of any uniform will result in a financial reimbursement for any damage caused and a lowering of the student's grade. In extreme cases the student will be required to return the uniform and/or be dismissed from the program.

Instruments






Whether you are using a school instrument, a store rental, or your own personal instrument you must:

-  Treat every instrument with respect.
-  Properly put away your instrument (case closed and on a shelf).
-  Properly maintain your instrument (cleaned / oiled / etc.).
-  Provide your own mouthpiece, neck strap, oil, reeds, etc.

School owned instruments – Students are responsible for paying for repairs beyond normal wear and tear.

If there is a problem, with your instrument:

-  Notify a band director immediately
-  DO NOT try to fix the instrument yourself.
-  If you make the problem worse, you will be responsible for paying for the repair.



Any abuse or mistreatment of any instrument will result in a financial reimbursement for any damage caused and a lowering of the student's grade. In extreme cases the student will be required to return the instrument and/or be dismissed from the program.

Travel Conduct



While traveling as a member of the Huntington High School Band you are a representative of your Band, School and Community. All students are to abide by the guidelines established in this Handbook, their Huntington High School Student Handbook, the Student Code of Conduct and any other guidelines set forth by the Huntington School District Board of Education.

Fundraising



General Fundraising – Money raised by the student body to be used for purchases that benefit the group as a whole.

ISA Fundraising (Individual Student Accounts) – Money raised by the individual student to be used for purchases that benefit the individual such as trip costs.

Opportunities to fundraise will be provided for the students at several points throughout the year.

Ensembles



Competitive Marching Band (Jr./Sr. Band – Honors)– Members of the award winning competitive Blue Devil Marching Band will prepare a field show for half-time performances and marching band competitions/exhibitions. These members will receive a weighted grade for their efforts and extra rehearsal time. The competitive marching band will travel throughout the months of September and October to various competitions in New York State as well as to Syracuse for Championships. Attendance

at summer rehearsals, band camp and after school rehearsals, parades and football games is mandatory.

***BAND CAMP:**

All members of the **HEDMB** are required to attend all of band camp.

Each day, ALL members must stay on school premises during the lunch break.

Each day, ALL members must leave school premises during the dinner break.

During the dinner break (4:00pm - 6:00pm), supervision will not be provided and the directors/staff will not be responsible for the members of the program during this time.

Non-Competitive Marching Band – Members who are not in the competitive marching band are registered for Jr./Sr. Band (aka non-competitive band or Pep Band). **These members are required to be at all football games as part of their performance requirements for the high school band program.**

Concert Bands - After the marching season, Huntington High School Band offers two ensembles musicians may be a part of. The band will split into the **Junior Band** (consisting of members in 9th and 10th grade and performing Level IV music) and a **Senior Band** (consisting of members in 11th and 12th grade and performing Level V-VI music). The two bands will perform separately at the Winter Concert and the Spring Concert.

Honor Ensembles - The honor ensembles offered at Huntington include, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Pit Orchestra, Orchestra Winds, Winter Percussion Ensemble, and various chamber groups depending upon interest and time. Some of these groups require an audition for membership. These groups meet primarily after school and during evening hours through out the school year. Attendance at these rehearsals and performances is absolutely mandatory to maintain membership in these ensembles.

Pep band is a very critical part of the musical experience at Huntington High School. We are here to support our school and to enhance these home-sporting events. Pep band is meant to be an enjoyable activity for all. **Participation for these events is mandatory for members of the non-competitive marching band and will be incorporated into your performance grade.**

**Parades* – ALL MEMBERS OF THE HBDMB ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ALL PARADES which are schedule throughout the school year. These include but are not limited to the Homecoming, St. Patrick’s Day, and the Memorial Day Parade.

*Any member not registered for the HBDMB will have the option to participate in parades on a volunteer basis. Students must commit to this option by the end of the first full week of school in September. By committing, you are agreeing to participate in the THREE parades listed above. Non-HBDMB members selecting this option, may use the parades for community service hours. HBDMB members may not, since it is a required part of their course.

Throughout the year, the band is asked to perform at various “community” activities. These may include but not be limited to performing for opening ceremonies, promotion events and sporting events. Unfortunately, since these events arise on short notice, they are not always on the school schedule. However, the students in the band program will be expected to take part in these community services as they arise

The directors reserve the right to amend this handbook and the policies within it as needed during the course of the year.



Contact Information

631-673-2053 – Office Phone

www.huntingtonband.net

jgiachetti@hufsd.edu - Mr. Giachetti email

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Please call if you have any questions regarding scheduling and performances.

For emergencies, the Directors will have available a special cell phone number prior to trips.

**Welcome to the
Huntington High School
Blue Devil Band!**