

# SOUTHMORELAND MARCHING BAND

## HANDBOOK



2006-2007

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Approved by High School Principal, Dr. Carolyn Adams

## WELCOME

*Welcome to the Southmoreland Marching Band Family. Please read this entire handbook carefully and refer to it with any questions. This handbook will help to acquaint you and your parents/guardian with the rules and regulations of our organization. You are responsible for the entire contents of this manual. Members are also subject to **all** rules set forth in the Southmoreland school district student handbook.*

## MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Southmoreland Marching Band is to strengthen school and community pride through the public performance of music. We strive to develop proficiency in instrumental music with visual enhancement and aim to develop the maturity of members through a positive, life-preparing experience.

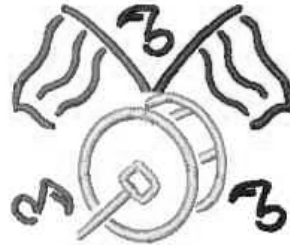
## THE BAND ROOM AND EQUIPMENT

- The band room (and any facility used by the band) should be kept clean and orderly. Always leave it in better condition than when you came. Every item has a place.
- No food, candy or drink (excluding water) is to be in the band room.
- The band room and storage facilities are not a locker. Personal belongings are not to be left in the room. Storage is for music materials only.
- The band room is not a place for students who are not currently in band or instrument lab.
- Do not touch any equipment that does not belong to you.
- ANY person that damages school owned equipment/property is subject to penalty of the district. This may include replacement of the damaged property and possibly further punishment at the discretion of school personnel.

## ATTENDANCE

It is mandatory for each member to attend every rehearsal and performance on time and ready to work the entire scheduled time. There are four acceptable reasons for missing a rehearsal or performance:

- 1.) Personal Illness
- 2.) Death in the family
- 3.) Day of religious conviction
- 4.) Emergency



Any excuse that does not fall in the above mentioned criteria will be reviewed individually and may result in a parental conference, suspension from future performance(s), or dismissal from the organization. If you are medically unable to perform at a rehearsal or performance, you are still expected to attend if cleared to do so. You will benefit from listening and watching the performance. If you know you will be missing a performance, you are still expected to attend rehearsal prior to the performance. If you are suspended from a performance, you are still expected to attend. If the performance is a football game, you are expected to play in the stands.

Please plan any *appointments* to avoid rehearsal and performance conflicts. **Any conflict that does not fall in the four acceptable reasons for missing must be approved by the band director prior to missing the performance/rehearsal.** Students who neglect to take this step will be subject to penalty at the discretion of the band staff.

**Written note must be presented for each absence.** Excuses must include student's *name, date of missed event, date turning excuse in (if different) and reason* for missing rehearsal. Excuses should be turned in prior to missed event of the next date in attendance at band. **Students that have excessive absences may be subject to dismissal from the organization.** Students participating in other activities **MUST** split time- this will be at the discretion of the director and coach/advisor. The student must provide a season calendar to the director. It is important that every student attends each rehearsal prepared and on time to promote group success. Students who are not on time (and do not have an acceptable reason) may be subject to disciplinary action- i.e. running/walking a lap, cleaning the band room or practice area, etc

## INDIVIDUAL PREPARATION

Rehearsal time will be used for the shaping of music and routine- not the learning or memorizing of notes/ work. A great performance is a result of many great rehearsals, and great rehearsals are the result of intense preparation. Each member must be prepared prior to group instruction for the season to be productive and our work to be successful. Those who are not prepared in any facet may be subject to missing performances until the student is completely performance ready.

## NECESSARY REHEARSAL ITEMS

1. Instrument/ Equipment
2. Music
3. Pencil/ Highlighter(s)
4. Drill Book (3 ring binder with enough sheet protectors to hold entire drill and music)
5. Mini-notebook for personal instructions
6. At least 4 poker chips
7. Proper weather protection- sunscreen, raingear, scarf (as needed)
8. Proper shoes- Tennis Shoes (no sandals, dress shoes or boots)
9. Hat with visor/ sunglasses
10. Shirt that covers the entire shoulder area (must be in good taste)
11. Filled Water cooler

## NECESSARY PERFORMANCE ITEMS

### **Winds/ Percussion**

1. Instrument/ Equipment
2. Music/ Flip-Folder
3. Uniform
4. Black Socks/Shoes (no short socks)
5. Gloves (wind instrumentalists- clarinets only cut down to first knuckle)
6. Shako

### **Color guard**

1. Equipment
2. Uniforms/ Body Suit
3. Black/ White socks and Shoes
4. Make-up
5. Bobby Pins/ Hair ties/ Hairspray (Hair must be fixed prior to call time)
6. Warm-ups

## UNIFORM

Our band boosters will supply you with a full uniform. It is your responsibility to have it dry cleaned throughout the season. Please take it only to a reputable dry-cleaner with insurance (Girard Goodwin's Cleaners, Pittsburgh St., Scottsdale PA)

**IMPORTANT:** Do not alter, cut or otherwise tamper with the uniform without clearance from the band director. Because these were purchased by and are maintained by the school board, they are school property and should not be altered without permission. Uniforms, shakos and plumes are issued with bags and boxes. These must be used at all times. Always hang uniforms and allow all parts of the uniform to dry before putting away. Your uniform is your responsibility. Uniforms are inspected seasonally, and damages that incur through abnormal usage could result in repair/replacement at the expense of the student.

***The uniform must always be worn with pride and respect.***

- There are no public displays of affection made in uniform or while at a band function.
- Do not wear nail polish or visible jewelry while in uniform. All *new* piercing must be covered with a skin colored band-aid.
- Make-up on instrumentalists is prohibited. If you wear it, you will remove it.
- Hair below the collar must be tucked into the shako. Guard must always have their hair pinned back.
- The jacket is either all the way on or all the way off. When on, the jacket must be fully zipped.
- Members may only wear a *plain* white shirt or current band shirt under jacket. It should not be visible when wearing uniform.
- Gloves must always be clean and shoes must always be polished.
- Wear shorts *without* buttons or zippers under your uniform pants. Students may wear black sweatpants/ leggings/thermals under their uniform as long as they are not visible.
- Socks must be black. Guard uniform also requires white bobby socks for pre-game attire.
- NEVER run in uniform unless it is an intended effect on the field.
- The only person who should ever wear any part of your uniform is YOU.
- Uniforms are only to be worn at designated events, all football games, festivals/competitions.

## UNIFORM ADDITIONS/ ACCESSORIES NOT PROVIDED BY THE BAND

- Shoes
- Black Socks
- Plain white t-shirt
- Hosiery/undergarments
- Black Gloves
- Warm-up suits (Guard)
- Band Jackets/Lettermen



One evening during mini-camp there is a representative from Palumbo that fits members for shoes and gloves. It will be on your schedule. During the season, gloves and guard socks may be purchased through the band boosters.

## FUNDRAISING

Instruments, Staff Members, Props, Flags, Uniforms and our year-ending banquet are some of the purchases we make through fundraising. In addition, fundraising helps to cover or defray costs for students that choose to go on marching band trips/events. It is important to realize that each acquisition the marching band makes has an impact- whether direct or indirect- on every member. Also, funds for your uniform additions/ accessories can be raised here. While we try to keep fundraising to a minimum, participation is crucial, and we ask that all members do their part to help with the needs of our organization.



## MISCELLANEOUS

- You are expected to be the best band member that you can be. Conduct must always be favorably representative of the school and community.
- You are expected to respect your instructors and student leaders.
- If an emergency arises and you know you will not be at a rehearsal or performance, please contact the school at 724-887-2010, extension 118 so that the staff may be made aware.
- Make every effort to arrive early for rehearsal. We have a saying in marching band.... To be early is to be on time; to be on time is to be late. Practice starts at the time listed- students need time to prepare for practice before rehearsal begins.
- Our time together must be used very wisely. If a staff member is not working with you, use the time to quietly become better. Mark music with drill notes, phrasings, articulations, fingerings, slide positions, or rhythms. Please do not talk during rehearsal time.
- Do *not* have gum or candy at rehearsals.
- You are expected to be respectful at all time. Please respect the staff and fellow marching band members. Though we may have different opinions or styles, issues are not to stand in the way of a successful season.
- Practice like you are the worst member; Perform like you are the greatest.



Welcome to the Southmoreland Marching Band! Let's have a fantastic season.

Remember ... "The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step."

You've taken the first step of hopefully a long and devoted road surrounded by the joys of music and marching band.

After reading the Southmoreland Marching Band Handbook, please complete and return the following portion. Both portions must be signed before the student is allowed to participate in the organization.

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, a Southmoreland Marching Band member, have read all of the rules and regulations as set forth in the Southmoreland Marching Band Handbook. I agree to abide by the policies contained therein that will serve to govern our organization in the most equitable and educational way.**

**Date \_\_\_\_\_**

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, as parent/guardian of the above named student have read the policies and procedures contained within the Southmoreland Marching Band Handbook. I agree to facilitate my student in upholding these procedures. I understand that my student is also held accountable for violations of these policies.**

**Relationship to Student \_\_\_\_\_**

**Date \_\_\_\_\_**