

**GAR-FIELD  
HIGH SCHOOL  
2020-2021**

**Band Hand Book**



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## MISSION

The mission of the Gar-Field High School Instrumental Music Department is to make a positive difference in the lives of the band members by providing musical experiences and performances, and to assist them in achieving their potential as they develop confidence, cooperation, leadership, responsibility and high standards of excellence and character.

## GOALS

- Demonstrate excellence in all things on and off the field, at home and at school.
- Each member will develop a sense of responsibility for attendance, preparation, and each other.
- Each member will expand his/her awareness in rehearsal and performance to enhance the overall individual and ensemble quality.
- Each member will develop self-discipline in and out of rehearsals.

## DEAR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year. If you are new to the Ga-Field Band Program, welcome to our band family! I am excited about the opportunity to get to know you, and I am looking forward to a happy and productive school year.

Students, my job is to consistently challenge and inspire you to elevate your musicianship and citizenship. Your job is to practice consistently, collaborate respectfully, and disconnect from a distracting world.

In Band, our success and failure is a shared team experience. This means that everyone must be accountable and positively contribute to the group's goals. It is my duty to encourage and support your growth and development in music and in life. You will come together as a team to succeed on your instrument and on your report card. Yes, you will be graded on your knowledge and skill, but true success in music is not captured by a GPA.

Families, I will encourage and embrace your participation in our Band Program. As the program grows, we will be looking into more consistent and official ways for Parents to get involved. The hard work and dedication of our parents will be one of the many reasons why we will have a successful band program at Gar-Field. Please contact me if you are looking for more ways to get involved.

Sincerely,



Mr. Timothy Turner, MMed



## Expectations

- BE PROFESSIONAL. This is the most important expectation in the band program. It encompasses everything we do during rehearsal, individual practice, and performance. This includes supporting each other's musical training and holding yourself to a standard of excellence in the community at all times.
- RESPECT YOUR INSTRUMENT/EQUIPMENT. Keeping your instrument in good working order is paramount to creating good sounds. Failure to properly maintain your instrument completely nullifies any attempts to create the best possible sounds. If you are using a school-owned instrument, treat it as though it were your own. Keep your instrument clean and polished, put it properly in its case, store the case appropriately, and have all necessary repairs made in a timely manner. Only items necessary for band class (instruments, music, pencil) are to be placed in student band lockers. All other items should be stored in the student's locker.
- RESPECT YOUR FACILITY. This is your school. Gar-Field is extremely fortunate to have a our equipment. All students, parents, and staff are expected to pick up after themselves and store equipment in the proper location. Storage areas in the band room will be used for instruments and band equipment only. Personal items, such as clothing, books, and other class materials, will not be stored in your band locker outside of class or rehearsal time. The only items permitted in a rehearsal setting are those required for rehearsal. Instrument cases, other school materials, and all other miscellaneous items must be in the instrument locker room during rehearsal.
- RESPECT ONE ANOTHER. Showing respect for one another at all times is critical to our growth and success. During rehearsals and performances, do not worry about anyone other than yourself. Showing respect for each other, your instrument, each other's instrument, and each other's personal property is a priority.
- LEARN YOUR MUSIC/WORK. Students are expected to prepare notes and rhythms during personal practice time outside of class . Failure to do so hinders our growth and success.

### **THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE PROFESSIONAL...**

- Be ON TIME . "To be on time is to be late. To be early is to be on time."
- Be prepared for rehearsal. This includes having the proper materials and a positive attitude.
- Remain quiet during rehearsal. This allows those being addressed to focus on improvement.
- 99% of the time, a reply of "Yes" or "No" is more than adequate.
- Practice at home...NOT DURING REHEARSALS. "Amateurs practice until they get it right...professionals practice until they cannot get it wrong."
- Always mind what you say when representing the band. Profanity is NOT tolerated.
- Extend respect to those outside the band. Leave a positive impression in the mind of others about the band and the school.
- Kindness can have the most profound impact of all. If you have nothing nice to say, keep it to yourself. If you will brighten someone's day... say it!

## Performance Attendance Policy

Performances are **REQUIRED** for all curricular and extracurricular activities. Remember, there is no replacement for YOU in our performance. Excused absences for a concert will be handled on a case-by-case basis. These must be established at least two weeks before the performance in question and can be granted or denied at the discretion of the ensemble's director. Extenuating circumstances existing within the two-week period will be handled on a case-by-case basis. A make-up assignment will be provided for excused absences. The assignment will equal or surpass the time commitment required for the concert. Failure to turn in the make-up assignment on time will result in an unexcused absence.

For curricular courses, each unexcused absence from a performance will result in a zero for that event's performance grade (grade lowered by one letter grade for overall course grade per nine weeks).

- **As per PWCS regulation 643.04-1,**

*"Members of performing musical organizations are to be present at all public performances except when excused by the music teacher and/or principal. An unexcused absence from such a performance may lower the achievement grade which the student normally would have received not more than one letter grade for the marking period and, in no case, fail the student for the year."*

For non-curricular courses, consequences for unexcused absences will be assigned. Examples of these consequences include: inability to perform at the next performance, running or other physical activities, and/or removal from the activity (without refund). Performances are REQUIRED. Plan ahead! For a complete performance schedule, reference the "www.gfhsband.org" website calendar.

Examples of excused absences:

- Funerals for a family member (documentation may be required)
- Illness/injuries (documentation by the attending physician may be required)

Examples of unexcused absences:

- Vacations
- Homework
- Non-IMMEDIATE family weddings
- Outings with Family and Friends.
- Being "grounded"
- Work (Students should provide their employer with a performance schedule and must resolve any conflicts in advance with the director and employer)
- "I couldn't find a ride." (Students can stay after school until the concert)

## GFHS Band/Activities Conflict Resolution

The following policies have been approved by the Principal, Athletic Director, and band directors. Use these policies to determine which event you will attend (the sport, the band event, or both).

- An overlapping band practice and team practice will utilize a 50/50 split in time.
- A game/meet takes precedence over a band practice.
- A band competition/performance takes precedence over a team practice.
- A VBODA event (marching band, concert band, etc) takes precedence over a regular-season game/meet.
- If a conflict occurs between a conference/play-off and a VBODA event, the coach and band director will determine which activity the student will attend. Attempts will be made to see if the student can attend both events, even if this means missing the band's practice, the sport's practice, or both.
- It is the student's responsibility to notify a coach AND the ensemble's director of conflicts as soon as possible.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Parents may be responsible for providing transportation between activities when two events occur the same day.

## Marching Band Fees

**All payments should be made by cash or check, payable to:**

(Please be sure the students name and the purpose of the payment are clearly printed on the check)

Marching Band Fee .....\$150

- This is an "everything included" amount, with the exception of instrument rental for those using school-owned instruments.
- The member fees for marching band include uniform rental and maintenance fees, gloves, music and drill supplies.
- *Additional fees are required for members of some marching band sections.*

*\*Students have numerous opportunities during the fall to earn money to pay for band fees. The GFHS Music Parent Association provides a number of fund-raising events so students and band families can make the marching band experience more affordable.*

**Marching Band Fee Payment Schedule:** (The first payment is the Deposit and is Non-Refundable)

August 17, 2020.....	\$50
September 18, 2020 .....	\$50
October 16, 2020 .....	\$50

**Marching Band Fee Policy**

- The initial Marching Band Fee deposit assures your position within the GFHS Marching Band. Students who do not have their deposit paid on time may not be considered for a regular position on the marching band field. The marching drill and the music is customized for the specific number of students and the specific instrumentation for those who have paid their fees.
- The deposit reserves your position as the marching band show is designed and written over the spring and summer months. Students deciding to join marching band after this due date will be allowed on a space-available basis and will only be accepted as an alternate awaiting an open position in the drill. Students moving into the GFHS attendance area who are new to Prince William County will be accepted into marching band on a reserve basis, but will be given priority as positions become available.
- Students who are late with their Marching Band Fee deposit or students who move in after the drill has been written will still have an opportunity to be a part of the marching band. They may not, however, be assured of marching within their desired section in the drill. These students may be added to the "Front Line" ensemble or used to fill positions that may come open during the course of the season.
- All fees are delinquent after the date on which they are due. Any member more than 30 days delinquent may be prevented from participating in performances until fees are current, in which case the member may forfeit his/her position on the field.
- Fees must be paid by check or cash. All checks should be clearly marked with what is being paid and should include the name of the student. Checks should be made payable to GFHS BAND and turned into Mr. Turner directly.
- Members are responsible for the full membership fee, regardless of when they join.

**Sponsorship & Fundraisers are great ways to off-set your fees!**

- SPONSORSHIP - A donation solicited by an individual band member and made to GFHS Band by a third party (friend or business) will offset that member's fee by the full amount of the donation. Any donations beyond the amount of a member's fee will be used by the Music Parent Association to assist other students.
- FUNDRAISERS - Our fundraisers are the BEST and EASIEST way for band members to reduce participation fees and help support the GFHS Marching Band. Each member will have opportunities to participate in fundraising events during the fall with a portion of the proceeds applied towards band fees.

*Any band family in need of an amended payment schedule or payment assistance should contact the Mr. Turner to arrange a confidential meeting to discuss available options. This meeting should be arranged by the parent or guardian. Student attendance at this meeting is not required.*

## Instrument Rentals

### RENTAL FEES

Instrument Rental - \$60.00 for the year

- Rental fees must be paid in a timely manner.

All equipment owned by the school and borrowed by the student are the student's responsibility. Loss or damage to this equipment due to neglect and/or carelessness will be repaired or replaced at the student's expense. Band programs are extremely expensive to operate and maintain. Students should be aware of and considerate of the fact that they are allowed to use school-owned equipment.

- Students are responsible for all repairs due to neglect and/or carelessness.
  - Signs of neglect and/or carelessness are obvious to the trained eye. The band director and our primary instrument repair vendor, KBI Music, will make all final decisions regarding what is deemed neglectful and/or careless damage.
  - Neglect of an instrument may result in the student being denied usage of ANY and ALL band equipment for a length of time determined by the band director.
- Instruments must be latched in their case and stored properly when not in use.
- Any lost items from your instrument (such as mouthpieces, ligatures, percussion equipment, etc.) will be replaced at the expense of the student renting the instrument.
- The only person permitted to play a school-owned instrument is the student renting the instrument. This includes percussion equipment.

## Individually Owned/Rented Instruments

### Instrument Care

Individually-owned instruments must be in good working condition at all times. Musicians cannot make high-quality sounds on their instrument if it is not in good working condition. Any damage or normal wear and tear must be tended to as soon as possible.

### Liability

The school does not insure any privately owned equipment against loss, theft, and/or damage. We advise you to take out insurance on your instrument through a personal insurance organization in the event of loss and/or theft while the instrument is in use or stored at school. Be sure to keep a record of the make and serial number of your instrument and keep it in a safe place.

## Instrument Storage Rooms, Lockers, and Locks

Students will be assigned a designated locker for their classroom materials. For the safety and security of all band equipment, instruments assigned to a band locker must be in their assigned locker and LOCKED when not in use. Instruments must also be secured in their appropriate case and closed when not in use. Students using unassigned lockers, sharing lockers, or "pretending" to lock lockers may lose their instrument locker room privileges for the remainder of the school year. The contents of each locker should be limited to the equipment necessary for class.

Locks are purchased by the school and must be handled with care. Lost, stolen, and/or damaged locks will be replaced by the student assigned to that lock. To prevent theft and damage by others, keep your lock LOCKED to your locker at all times, even when using your instrument.

# Curricular Course Information:

Concert Bands

Percussion Class

## Concert Bands – Materials

1. Your Instrument; with required reeds, grease, and oil.
2. A pencil
3. Published band literature – Concert Music
4. Supplemental Material

The above items are required for all practices and must be available for use during class. Reed players are required to have a minimum of 4 reeds in their cases at all times, and cork grease. Brass Players are required to have their own grease, oil, and/or cream in their cases at all times.

## Percussion Class – Materials

The following materials are mandatory for all high school percussionists. Ordering information can be found at the bottom of this page. During the first week of school, we will determine what needs to be added and/or replaced to each student's collection.

### **Percussion Class** (Only one pair of snare sticks needed in bag)

- Vic Firth SD-1 General Snare sticks                      1 Pair – the sticks from your rented bell kit are acceptable.
- Musser M212 Mallets    1 Pair – the mallets from your rented bell kit are acceptable
- Vic Firth M124 Yarn Mallets                                      2 Pair
- Stick/Mallet Bag
- Habits of a Successful Musician – Percussion

### **Concert Band**

- Vic Firth SD-1 General Snare sticks                      1 Pair – the sticks from your rented bell kit are acceptable.
- Musser M212 Mallets    1 Pair – the mallets from your rented bell kit are acceptable
- Vic Firth M124 Yarn Mallets                                      2 Pair
- CT4 – Timpani Mallets    1 Pair
- Stick/Mallet Bag

### **Symphonic Band**

- Vic Firth SD-1 General Snare sticks                      1 Pair – the sticks from your rented bell kit are acceptable.
- Musser M212 Mallets    1 Pair – the mallets from your rented bell kit are acceptable
- Vic Firth M124 Yarn Mallets                                      2 Pair
- BB34 Xylo Mallets    1 Pair
- CT4 – Timpani Mallets    1 Pair
- Stick/Mallet Bag

### **Ordering Information**

- In store:
  - Dale City Music
  - Music and Arts Center.
- Online ordering:
  - <https://www.steveweissmusic.com/>



# Gar-Field HS Band Grading Policies

## 2020-2021 GRADING POLICY

### **Standards Based Grading (SBG):**

The GFHS instrumental music courses use Standards-Based Grading (SBG), which is a way to provide students and parents with growth-producing feedback about classroom achievement in a reliable and valid way. More specifically, SBG allows for the evaluation of students based on how close their classroom performance is to meeting curriculum standards or specific learning targets.

Gar-Field HS defines mastery as 87%. So, if a student demonstrates understanding below this level, they may talk to the instructor about a desire to relearn the missed standard, then make arrangements to re-do the assignment. Once the student shows a better understanding of the concept, the grade will be changed to indicate a higher proficiency score. In other words, the grades students receive can be improved based on a demonstrated improvement in their understanding (with a mastery level of 87%).

Teachers will follow the Prince William County guidelines for grading for high school instruction (PWCS 661-3). Although grades will be weighted to show importance, no single grade will count more than 20% of the marking period grade. The final exam accounts for 10% of the final grade. Grades are determined by the following which may be gathered synchronously or asynchronously:

- 70% Summative Assessment: (including but not limited to) unit tests which may include on-line assessments, written submissions, and/or oral presentation
- 30% Formative Assessments: (including but not limited to) homework, classwork (synchronous and asynchronous), daily checks

### **Late Work and Reassessment Policy**

- All students will have the opportunity to reassess their level of mastery. Prior to a reassessment (which includes, but is not limited to a retake, spiraled assessment, or cumulative assessment) teachers may require students to reflect on previous practice or demonstrate additional preparation on the knowledge or skill. In order to reassess, students must have completed all assignments leading up to that assessment.
- Due to variations in student access to technology, grading penalties for late work will not be assessed. However, late submissions are ineligible for reassessment. Additionally, all reassessments must take place within the assigned marking period.
- While we are not permitted to take off points for late work, for students to receive timely feedback, they must meet the deadline.
- Teachers will mark late work in TeacherVue to indicate that the assignment was submitted late.

These will be assessed through playing and theory tests, daily demonstration of rehearsal technique, and miscellaneous assignments.

**Grade Assignments:**

Score	Meaning
Far Above Standard (90-100)	Student is beyond proficient in a manner that is clear, unique, well-defined, and exemplary
Above Standard (81-90)	Student is beyond proficient in a manner that is clear, unique, and/or well-defined
Meets Standard (71 - 80)	Student demonstrates what he/she should know and be able to do at proficient level.
Approaching Standard (66-70)	Student is close to mastery, but improvement is needed
Below Standard (60-65)	Student demonstrates partial understanding of the concept/skill
Well Below Standard (56-60)	Student requires help to demonstrate partial understand of the concept/skill.
No Attempt (50)	Student has not yet completed the assignment

Note: students cannot demonstrate proficiency levels above standard unless all assignment requirements (including deadlines) are more than satisfactorily met.

**Playing Test/Theory Tests**

Playing tests and/or theory tests will be administered throughout the school year. Playing tests can occur in class or via recorded submissions. Students will be able to submit video recordings via Canvas.

**Rehearsal Technique**

Rehearsal Technique starts at 100% for each student. Students will lose points for anything preventing ensemble success of professional rehearsal etiquette. Examples of are as follows:

- No music/instrument/pencil
- Not having the correct equipment (reeds, valve oil, having an instrument that is broken, etc.)
- Disrupting class (excessive talking, speaking out of turn, playing out of turn.)
- Unexcused tardy

**Assignments**

Miscellaneous assignments will occur periodically throughout the school year. These assignments may include but are not limited to: recording analysis, listening activities, music worksheets, and eLearning assignments.