

# **HANOVER PARK 2023 COMPETITION MARCHING BAND** **GUIDELINES AND COMMITMENT FORM**

Welcome to the Hanover Park High School Band Program. We are extremely excited to begin this incredible season ahead of us. It is important to understand that there are certain guidelines that must be followed in order for us to be prepared for success. Within this packet you will find the following:

- Attendance Policy
- Uniform Expectations
- Rehearsal Expectations
- Performance Guidelines

Once you have read and fully understand and consent to these policies, please fill out the Commitment Form on the HP Band Website.

## **GOOGLE FORM MUST BE COMPLETED ONLINE AND SUBMITTED IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HP BAND.**

Being a member of the **Hanover Park High School Band** affords you many opportunities. With great opportunity, however, comes responsibility. These responsibilities including the following:

\*You are expected to work cooperatively with all staff members and other students. There is zero tolerance for disrespect here.

\*You must report promptly to ALL rehearsals, performances, and functions.

\*You must practice your music and/or guard work regularly.

\*You must give it your BEST EFFORT every time, all the time.

Our success is dependent on our ENTIRE ENSEMBLE rehearsing and performing together as ONE. We insist on a commitment to excellence through your consistent hard work, high expectations, and attendance.

*Thanks and Welcome!*

*Mr. Spina*  
*jspina@hpreg.org*  
*973-515-7696*

*Mr. Finkelstein*  
*dfinkelstein@hpreg.org*  
*973-887-0300 ext. 2526*

# HP ATTENDANCE POLICY 2023

The attendance policy for the Marching Band is actually quite simple. Summer rehearsals are mandatory if you are home. Band Camp will be a REQUIREMENT as this is our only opportunity to learn the show for the upcoming season. All regular season rehearsals, performances, and activities listed in the calendar are **MANDATORY**. When joining the HP Marching Band, you accept the rehearsal/performance calendar as your personal responsibility. Realize that successful performances can only be achieved through effective rehearsals. Absences from rehearsals have a significant effect on the band's ability to move ahead. Since we must perform as a complete group, it is therefore **imperative** that we rehearse as one.

## Preparation

You are required to be prepared for each rehearsal so that rehearsals may begin on time. Prior to every rehearsal, directions as to where you are expected to begin that day's events will be posted on the blackboard, or relayed to you by a drum major/section leader. That means that you are expected to be at the specified starting spot with your instrument, music, pencil, organized drill book (with your spot **highlighted**), a miniature spiral dot book, and other necessary materials **ready to rehearse**. Students should arrive approximately fifteen minutes before each rehearsal time.

\*\* Section leaders will take attendance at the moment a rehearsal is scheduled to begin. Students will be marked present or absent, and we will promptly move on. To avoid wasting time, a student who arrives late must change the "absence" to a "late" with Mr. Spina and Mr. Finkelstein directly after that day's rehearsal. \*\*

## Absences

An absence from rehearsal occurs when a student misses a complete rehearsal or when he or she is more than thirty minutes late. Excused absences from rehearsal are limited to the following:

- \* Personal illness that confines you at home (excused absence from school)
- \* Death in the family
- \* Religious holiday (please notify the Band Directors in advance)
- \* Other prearranged absences approved by the Band Directors (one week advance notice (including sports))

Unexcused absences include reasons not listed above. Remember that you have regularly scheduled rehearsals that have been given to you in advance. Please make sure that you do not schedule college visits, medical or dental appointments, academic tutoring, private music instruction, or any other activity during these specified times.

If you believe that a conflict is unavoidable, see Mr. Spina and Mr. Finkelstein as far in advance as possible.

## **Unexcused absences and tardiness will result in disciplinary action.**

Unexcused tardiness first offense: Student conference with Marching Band Directors

Second offense: Phone call to parent, grade impact/performance participation affected.

Third offense: Suspension from one performance, grade impact/performance participation affected.

Subsequent offenses will be dealt with accordingly.

Unexcused absence first offense: Student conference with Band Directors, Call to parent, Participation affected

Second offense: Suspension from one performance, Overall participation affected, Removal from Overnight Trip

**If you miss a rehearsal for any reason, the staff reserves the right to prohibit you from marching in the next performance.**

## Communication

Communication of absences must be done directly through the Band Directors only. For example, **you cannot tell a friend, section leader, etc. to tell the Director that you will be absent!** Even if the reason is legitimate, this will be considered an unexcused absence. The communication must be made in person from student to Director, or it must be provided in writing from a parent. If you are sick at home, it is helpful if you or your parent call or email to notify the Directors that you will not be present at rehearsal.

# Uniform Guidelines

## GENERAL RULES:

\* Everyone must maintain the same level of dress at all times. This includes the following items:

- Uniform Pants
- Uniform Jacket
- Uniform Raincoat
- Show Shirt or PLAIN Black shirt\*
- Uniform Gloves
- Uniform Shoes
- Black socks

\* Show Shirt MUST BE WORN under uniform at ANY AND ALL Performances

\* Pants should not drag on the ground.

\* The hat MUST be kept upright at all times. The hat should NEVER be carried by the plume or upside down by the strap.

\*The hat must always be worn properly, NEVER BACKWARDS!

\* Gloves are to be kept as clean as possible at all times. Gloves may be taken home and washed but they must be hung to dry (dryer will melt gloves). Students are responsible for returning gloves to the uniform room before the next performance day.

\*Any clothing worn underneath the uniform must not be visible. Thermal Underwear is suggested in colder temperatures. For all occasions it should be understood that the student may need to change in a large room or bus and should wear appropriate undergarments.

\*Jewelry (rings, watches, earrings), and heavy makeup may not be worn while in uniform, unless it is part of a specific costume. Hair longer than collar length must be worn up in the hat.

\* Damage to or loss of any part of the uniform is your financial responsibility.

\* In extreme weather conditions additional clothing may be permitted at the discretion of the staff.

\* Students are encouraged to bring extra clothing on the bus if it is necessary.

\* I consider you all professional musicians while you are in uniform. Avoid the following unprofessional actions: Shouting, Swearing, Smoking, Spitting, Arguing, etc.

**A uniform can only represent what those who wear the uniform want it to represent. When you wear your uniform, remember who you are and how hard you have worked, and you will project an image of PRIDE and DIGNITY that will command RESPECT.**

# Performance Guidelines

- \* Sit in the assigned area and play your instrument – *but only when directed to!*
- \* Complete uniforms will be worn at all times in the proper manner.
- \* Cheer with the cheerleaders and support the football team.
- \* **ALWAYS** play in a musical manner. Even outdoors, you can play in tune, with a good tone quality, good articulations, and good dynamics. Our marching band is first and foremost a **musical** organization.
- \* During the third quarter of home football games, refreshments will be available from the band parents. Uniforms must remain on during this food/drink break (Be careful!) The entire band must be back in the stands, ready to perform, with 2:00 left in the third quarter.
- \* When visiting other venues, always be respectful of their grounds and buildings.
- \* When you are not seated with the band (for example, getting refreshments at a competition, or going to the restroom) you must travel in a group of at least three band members or with a chaperone. This is for your protection.
- \* Chaperones are present at all games and competitions, and are there to help you. Please be courteous and cooperative at all times.
- \* You are responsible for your own personal property. Therefore, it is suggested that expensive items are not brought on bus trips.
- \*\* RULES AND SANCTIONS OF HANOVER PARK HIGH SCHOOL CONCERNING THE USE OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED AT ALL TIMES!** Suspicion of any kind will immediately result in notification of parents, administration, paramedics, and police.
- \*\* FINALLY – The staff believes that EACH and EVERY person taking the time to watch our show deserves to see us perform at 100%. Whether we are showcasing at a competition for hundreds of knowledgeable marching band fans, or playing a pregame show for two families and our pit crew, we are a professional music organization that will take pride in delivering our best, every single time. You have just as good a chance to inspire a young musician in a crowd of 12 as you do in a crowd of 200!**

# Rehearsal Guidelines

Most rehearsal guidelines are covered in the enclosed "Attendance Policy." Here is some additional information, mostly for new students:

- A miniature spiral bound notepad (dot book)
- A "Drill Book" (mentioned in the attendance policy) is a **three-ring binder filled with clear plastic sleeves**. This allows every band member to create a flipbook of their drill (marching coordinate sheets) that will be given to them prior to each rehearsal. Each member must have their own drill book at the START of band camp, and must keep it updated and organized throughout the season (details to follow).
- Keep a pencil in your drill book at all times.
- We will be outside for the majority of marching band rehearsals. Dress and prepare accordingly. For band camp/summer/early fall rehearsals, bring water, hats, sunscreen, etc. Dress comfortably. For late season rehearsals, bring layers and/or jackets. Sneakers and socks must be worn at ALL rehearsals.
- You will be given breaks -- plenty of them. Spend break time wisely. Drink water, use the restroom, sit down and relax, check your phone. When we are rehearsing, shut everything else out. Phones included. (You can do it!)
- Confused about something related to marching band? Ask your section leader first. If you AND your section leader can't solve the problem, ask your drum majors. If still no solution, ask a staff member. Communicate early and often.
- Personal issue/conflict with a band member, staff member (... or anything else)? See Mr. Spina at the next break, or if urgent, immediately. Do not let anything linger that can turn into a bigger issue. Communicate early and often.
- Keep the band room, theater, parking lot, stadium (and any other space we might rehearse in) completely clean and organized! It shouldn't look the same as when we started that day – it should look better!