

2015-2016 ECHS Bands Handbook



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Band Program

What is a band? What makes band different from other courses in the school curriculum? What are the benefits of the band to the student body?

First, a band is a group of individual instrumentalists working together toward a common goal. That goal is to perform music in such a way that it is aesthetically pleasing to both performer and listener and at the same time advances the skill of the individual player. Band differs from other courses in the curriculum in that it requires more time, energy, and commitment than almost any other subject or activity. A student who joins the band must be prepared not only to attend regularly scheduled rehearsals, but also extra rehearsals, sectionals, and put in a large amount of individual practice. For a band to reach its potential, every member must be completely dedicated to the organization and to its members.

In spite of the great demands placed on a student, the benefits he gains from band justify the cost. Band is the only course that reaches all aspects of the student's mind including the intellectual, the physical, the psychological, the spiritual, the emotional, and the social. Band has the potential to expose the student to the arts, which are the only lasting aspects of our culture. In band the student learns an appreciation of music through performance, repertoire, interpretation, and trained listening. Band teaches discipline of mind and behavior. Playing an instrument combines coordination of mind and body to a greater degree than any other single activity. Through the band experience the student learns techniques of artistic discrimination, judgment, insight, and problem solving. As well as teaching the benefits of hard work, band can also be a form of recreation and a much-needed creative outlet.

Participating in a band gives a student a sense of belonging and an opportunity to be a part of something that is bigger than him and better than any of the individual parts. It puts him in a position of responsibility and gives him an opportunity to achieve. Through band a student can raise his/her self-concept and develop confidence by knowing that he is an important part of the sum total.

Because of the variety of people who join band, it becomes the embodiment of all society. Through contact with these different individuals, a student enriches his own personality and learns to work and live successfully in cooperation with others. The band offers opportunities to develop leadership skills and is a means to help students become responsible adults. It offers students a sense of purpose, value, and discipline.

The band serves to represent the school and the community. More people see the band than any other program or school organization. Because of football game, parades, and concerts, it is constantly before the public and acts as the chief booster of school spirit. In many ways, the band acts as a showcase for the school's achievements and successes.

We feel that this is your band and these experiences are at your disposal, but you must make the decision to claim them. You must follow up that decision to be a band member with dedication, practice, and hard work.

This season promises to be a great year. We are looking forward to wonderful successes for our program and are glad that you have decided to be a part of Effingham County High School Band Program.

Purpose

The Effingham County High School Band Program is a total music program that reflects self-discipline, maturity, pride, positive attitude and responsibility. This organization strives for the high standards and ideals for school and community.

Participants in the Effingham County High School Band Program will develop personal responsibility, commitment and a sense of community. Each member must know they are vitally important to the program. Furthermore, as each member increases his/her musical ability and/or learns skillful routines we will successfully entertain our audiences.

Our Goals

1. **The most important aspect of the school music program is the attitude by which it is surrounded.** Attitude is the single largest contributing factor to the success of a band program because it not only involves the students and the director, but the community as well. We must cultivate a balance of enthusiasm, confidence, and discipline to build a winning attitude.
2. **Each member of the band should commit himself to doing the very best in every practice and performance.** Doing anything halfway is not worth the effort. Every member should strive to give 110% during every facet of a band function. Remember that you perform only as well as you practice.
3. **Organizations are only as strong as their weakest member.** By learning your part and performing it to the best of your ability, we can raise the level of comprehensive musicianship throughout the band. Every member has an individual responsibility to do his personal best when working toward a group effort. By achieving this goal, the level of musicianship rises in the band; we as individuals and as a band become better.
4. **As representatives of Effingham County High School we must strive to entertain audiences and affect them with our energy, enthusiasm, and intensity.** We must always show the crowd that we enjoy performing for them and that we are glad to perform to the best of our ability. The band program supports Effingham County High School by its quality of performance, unparalleled standards, and high levels of school spirit.
5. **Building a successful band program requires parental involvement and community support.** We must strive to involve as many parents as possible in the Band Booster organization. We must also continue to educate the community on the benefits of a successful band program through service and participation. We must involve every band member's family in fundraising activities and try our hardest to attain the set goals. These goals are necessary if we are to become an even stronger performing group.

These are realistic and attainable goals. It will take the efforts of every member and parent, along with dedication, hard work, a love of music, and a high standard of excellence to be successful. When these goals have been reached, the Effingham County High School Band will have risen to a higher level of performance and excellence, and indeed be a great band.

Performance Opportunities

Rebel Regiment Marching Band: The ECHS “Rebel Regiment” Marching Band is the most visible ensemble at Effingham County High School. Membership in the Rebel Regiment is open to anyone enrolled in a band class, plus auditioned members of the color guard. The Rebel Regiment represents Effingham County High School and the community at football games, parades, and other events.

Wind Ensemble: The ECHS Wind Ensemble is made up of the best instrumental musicians at Effingham County High School. Membership in the Wind Ensemble is based upon audition. The members of the Wind Ensemble will perform challenging wind band literature. All members will be expected to participate with all concerts and festivals as announced by the directors. Members will also be expected to attend occasional after-school rehearsals in preparation for concert and festival performances.

Symphonic Band: The ECHS Symphonic Band works diligently throughout the year to improve the musical skills of its members. Each student will work on general music skills and specific technical aspects of his chosen instrument. All members will be expected to participate with all concerts and festivals as announced by the directors. Members will also be expected to attend occasional after-school rehearsals in preparation for concert and festival performances.

Concert Band: The ECHS Concert Band works diligently throughout the year to improve the musical skills of its members. Each student will work on basic music skills and remedial technical aspects of their chosen instrument. All members will be expected to participate with the all concerts and festivals as announced by the directors. Members will also be expected to attend occasional after-school rehearsals in preparation for concert and festival performances.

ECHS Jazz Band: The Jazz Band is an after-school ensemble that meets after marching season (usually beginning in early October). Membership in the Jazz Band is by audition. Specific rehearsal days and times will be announced at a later time. Members of the Jazz Band will be expected to perform at all concerts, Festival, ECHS Jazz Night, and other performances to be determined by the directors.

Private Lessons: From time to time, instructors are made available to the students for individual or group instruction on their instrument. Participation is not mandatory and there is a fee to cover the cost of the instructor.

Band Policies

Student Expectations

The success of the band depends solely on the successes of its members.

Please keep these three things in mind at all times:

RESPONSIBILITY-	I am responsible for myself. No one else is accountable for my actions other than me.
RESPECT-	I am a part of a superior band. I respect its traditions, and the members that have gone before me. My band will continue to be superior. By having respect for my peers, leadership, and band directors I can be a part of continuing the tradition.
RESULTS-	If I am responsible for myself the band will succeed. If I respect myself, my group, my peers, and my leaders, the band will succeed. We will achieve all of our goals together as individuals.

Band Rules and Regulations

WE MUST SET A HIGH STANDARD.

WE ARE AMBASSADORS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY.

1. All school policies of conduct and behavior apply to all band functions.
2. Be on time! If you're early, you're on time, if you're on time you're late.
3. Tobacco, alcohol, and non-prescription drugs are clearly prohibited under school and state law.
4. Food, drinks and gum are not allowed in the band room at any time.
5. The use of obscene language or gestures including those on clothing items is prohibited.
6. General disrespect to the director, other members of the faculty, chaperones, band staff, or substitute teachers will not be tolerated.
7. No public display of affection in the band room or during band time.
8. Hats are not to be worn in the band room during rehearsal or the school day.
9. You are responsible for all personal and school equipment. Only touch what is assigned to you, and take care of equipment. You will be held responsible for intentional misuse or neglect of band equipment.
10. Only students that are members of the band are allowed in the band room.
11. Only authorized personnel are allowed in the library and uniform rooms. If these are not your assigned areas, please do not enter these areas.
12. Help keep the band room clean. This is our home away from home and we must work to keep it clean. Do not store things in inappropriate places. Items left in the band room will be **THROWN AWAY.**

Rehearsal Procedures

1. Do not carry on conversations when anyone is addressing the group or any part of the group.
2. Be prepared for all rehearsals; i.e. bring a PENCIL, music accessories, etc.
3. Classroom rehearsals will begin promptly 5 minutes after the Tardy Bell rings.
4. Make the best possible tone each time you play.
5. Use down time in rehearsals to finger difficult passages or work on written assignments.
6. If you have an emergency situation, please leave the room as you need to. In non emergency situations, you must ask for permission to leave the room (including the bathroom!).

Attendance

- The attendance of every member of this band is paramount. When one person misses rehearsal, everyone suffers the consequences. Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled rehearsals; notification for absences is due to the director beforehand.
- PLEASE KEEP THE BAND CALENDAR CLOSE AT HAND. IGNORANCE OF REHEARSALS IS NOT AN EXCUSE.
- Unexcused, unarranged absence from a concert will result in dismissal from the band program.
- Chronic absences from rehearsals will result in dismissal from the band program. Any student who misses more than 50% of after school rehearsals will not be allowed to perform in the concert.

Excused Absences

1. Personal illness
2. Religious holidays
3. Close family wedding or funeral
4. Other school acknowledged reasons

Unexcused Absences

1. Non-Emergency Doctor or Dentist Appointments
2. Work schedule/transportation conflicts
3. School club meetings without advance notice
4. Too busy or forgetful

Conflicts with Athletic Activities

Students in the band program are encouraged to be involved with many other school sponsored after-school activities. The band directors and coaches cooperate well to work out conflicts. It is the responsibility of the student to work out such conflicts with the coach and the band director. These conflicts should be worked out at least one week prior to the rehearsal/practice/tryout. Absences from rehearsal without making such arrangements will be considered unexcused.

Consequences

Consequences for violating policies of conduct or attendance include:

- Student conference
- Contacting parents
- Loss of 3rd Quarter Break – must stay in the band block during break
- Parent conference

- Detention – Band room clean-up
- Performance Suspension
- Suspension from Extra-curricular ensembles
- Referral to administration
- Dismissal from band program

*If you simply use common sense, you will avoid many problems.
Most of all, if any action you consider is questionable – Don't Do It
If you have any doubt –Don't Do It.*

Use of the Band Facility

The Band room is your home away from home, Do your part! If you see a mess, clean it up! If you see something out of place, put it back!

BAND DIRECTORS' OFFICES: The Band Offices are for administrative work and teacher planning. However, if you ever need to speak with the directors do not hesitate to approach them. If the doors are open, then students are welcome anytime. If you need to enter the office and the door is closed, knock first and wait for a signal to enter. Many times the directors may be on an important phone call, in the middle of an important project, or dealing with private information. **WHEN THE BAND DIRECTORS ARE ABSENT, THEIR OFFICES ARE OFF LIMITS!!!**

Telephone Use: The band office telephone is for official band business only. The telephone may be available for students who need to call home after band events. Personal/social calls are never permitted.

Storage Rooms: Our storage rooms each have a specific purpose and are off limits to anyone not on official business. Do not enter those rooms unless you have been given permission.

Bathrooms: Please do not abuse the bathrooms between the Band and Chorus rooms. Use of these bathrooms is a privilege that may be suspended if the bathrooms are not kept clean.

Transportation Guidelines

- Students must ride on school provided transportation to all events when offered. This is for the students' safety.
- Students may ride home from performances with parents. To do so, they must provide the director with a note by the parents 24 hours in advance. Students are only allowed to sign out with parents. This policy is for the student's protection and is provided to ensure that students are not leaving with persons other than their parents.
- Follow all rules as set forth by the county policies regarding buses.
- Use of hairspray, perfumes, colognes, or deodorants on the school bus is strictly forbidden.
- No Public Display of Affection.

Uniforms

Each band member of the Effingham County Band Program will be supplied with a marching/concert band uniform. Prior to the issuing of a marching band uniform, the band boosters require a \$30 rental fee. The uniforms are extremely expensive and must be treated with great care. Lost or damaged uniform parts must be replaced at your expense. Each band student that participates in the Regiment is required to purchase a pair of black shoes from the band department. These are a necessary investment and can last the duration of the student's term with the high school band program. Orders for these shoes are taken during band camp so we can have them before the first game. Payment for these shoes (approximately \$30) must be received before the shoes will be issued to the student. The student is required to wear black calf-height socks and the band shirt. In order for our band to look the very best, these items will be inspected prior to each performance.

Wind Ensemble students will also be required to have a tuxedo or formal dress for their concert uniform. Rental for Wind Ensemble uniforms will be \$35. Their uniform may also be purchased if so desired. Other uniform parts for Wind Ensemble include black formal closed toe shoes. Men in Wind Ensemble will be required to wear black calf-length socks as well.

Proper Uniform Care

1. Your uniform should be either on a hanger or on your body, no exceptions.
2. In public, your uniform is either all the way on or all the way off; i.e. pants zipped up, jacket buttoned up. Jackets may be taken off with director permission during hot weather in the stands and during breaks.
3. When we travel, Uniform Jackets need to be in a travel bag. Athletic Shorts and color guard uniforms will be worn at all times.
4. Have on a current band-shirt at all times when in uniform.
5. Wear your band shirt tucked in any time it is worn.
6. ECHS Rebel Regiment baseball caps or ski caps are the only headwear permitted with the uniform, and only when allowed.
7. Never wear anything over your uniform unless approved by the director.

Inspection

Before every performance, students will be required to pass an inspection proving that they have their uniform complete and are wearing it properly. The band directors will inspect the officers and section leaders who in turn inspect the rest of the band. Inspection will consist of the following:

1. Have all parts of the uniform. (Bibs, jacket with sashes, gauntlets)
2. Black calf-length socks.
3. Black shoes.
4. Black gloves.
5. Band t-shirt.
6. Pants pulled up so that the hemline is just touching the shoes.
7. Removal of all visible jewelry

Continuous Enrollment

Due to the progressive nature of instrumental music, it is necessary for our students to remain enrolled in band for every term that they wish to participate in the band program. 9 grade students coming from an ECHS feeder school will not be accepted for enrollment if they have participated and quit at any point in middle school band. Incoming freshman from out of district will be considered on a case by case basis. Once at ECHS students may not “take semesters off” from band class at their pleasure. The only exception is when it is determined that a student will not graduate on time without dropping a band class for a semester. These situations must be verified by a counselor before an exception will be granted.

MARCHING BAND

Effingham County High School Rebel Regiment

1. All members of the Effingham County High School Rebel Regiment must be in good academic standing with the school. A student’s academics come first. A student must pass an average of three classes a semester and be on track for graduation in order to participate in the marching band.
2. Students are expected to adhere to the policies of the Band Handbook and sign a form stating their understanding of these policies.
3. Participation in marching band is based on a invitation. Invitations are generally offered to every band student, however they will be withheld for financial, attendance, or behavioral reasons. Students who quit marching band, will not be offered an invitation the next season.

Band Camp

Summer camp is the most important series of rehearsals during the entire school year. Attendance and perfect discipline are essential to the success of the Rebel Regiment for the entire year. Camp is a mandatory activity that takes place during the 3-4 week period before the start of school. Please plan summer activities and trips around the camp schedule. Missing camp may mean that you are not permitted to march that season.

What to Bring to Band Camp

- Instrument, music (in a flip folio), and your drill (to be handed out the first day).
- Hat (baseball cap or other hat with a brim).
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen (minimum SPF 15; SPF 30 preferred).
- Light comfortable clothing. Shorts must be worn (no long pants). Tank tops and muscle shirts are not permitted.
- Sneakers and socks. Must have shoestrings. Sandals, “flip-flops,” and bare feet are not permitted.
- Water Bottle.

After School Rehearsals

During the school year, the Rebel Regiment meets after school. Rehearsals are scheduled as followed:

August-November:

Tuesdays: 3:45pm to 6pm

Thursdays: 3:45pm to 6pm

A sectional will be held every Monday from 3:45-5:30 for percussion and guard members. Occasionally wind players will be required to rehearse during this time as well.

The band calendar will include exact dates, as well as any changes/cancellations.

Marching Band Attendance

In addition to the above attendance guidelines, the marching band will also use the following:

1. All performance and rehearsal requirements for marching band last until the football season ends. The football season lasts until the last football games have been played and all parades have been completed. **THIS INCLUDES ALL PLAYOFF GAMES AND THE MLK PARADE.**
2. One unexcused absence means not performing at the following performance as well as loss of third quarter privileges at the following football game.
3. One excused absence means you might not be allowed to perform at the next performance. The band directors will make this determination.
4. Three excused absences or one unexcused absence may lead to dismissal.
5. Students attending less than half of a rehearsal will be counted absent – excused or unexcused.
6. Two tardies, either excused or unexcused, will equal to one absence.
7. The rehearsal before any performance (usually Thursday rehearsal) is considered a “dress rehearsal” when specific items to the performance (logistical, musical, etc.) are covered. It is imperative that all members are present. Any student not in attendance may not be allowed to perform or may only perform in a limited manner.

Field Rules

1. Do not move or talk at attention. You are to be at attention unless otherwise notified.
2. Do not sit down when at ease unless told you can do so.
3. Do not be disrespectful to drum majors or any other officers.
4. Do not talk while the band director or drum major is speaking.
5. Make sure all needed materials are present at the beginning of rehearsal (music, instrument equipment, drill, etc.)

Performance Procedures

- Game/Competition
 - Arrive in stands (rank & file), and stand at attention until Drum Majors give you at ease.
 - Students are expected to stay in the block for the entire time we are in the stands. Students may not leave their sections to socialize with friends.
 - No non-band students are allowed in the band block. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

- No food or drink except water is allowed in the block.
 - All students play every time the group plays.
 - NEVER PLAY UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY THE DIRECTOR OR DRUM MAJOR.
 - Pay close attention to the drum majors to know what song is about to be played.
 - Watch the game, and always be ready to play the fight song.
 - Inappropriate cheers are not allowed under any circumstances.
 - Students may not leave assigned areas without a chaperone. No one will be allowed to leave the area during 4th quarter.
 - Always stay in uniform unless told otherwise by the director.
 - Have lyres, flip folders, and all music at all times.
- 3rd Quarter Break
 - Feel free to go to the concession stand or to visit friends and family during break. ALWAYS TRAVEL IN GROUPS.
 - Do not go to the opposing side of the field during break. AT Home games be sure to walk behind the home stands, not through them!
 - Do not eat messy foods or condiments in your band uniform. This includes, but is not limited to: ketchup, mustard, chili, cheese sauce, funnel cakes, etc... NO colored beverages are allowed while in uniform!
 - BE BACK IN YOUR SECTION, READY TO PLAY WHEN THE CLOCK SHOWS 1:00 IN THE 3rd QUARTER. If you do not play the first note with the group, you are late. No discussion.
 - After the game
 - No one should leave the band room until dismissed by the drum major.
 - Be sure to pick up any and all trash before leaving. This includes the percussion room, instrument storage rooms, and the color guard room.
 - An assigned section as well as the Drum majors and captains are responsible for the overseeing of cleaning the band area.

Color Guard

The Color Guard Corps of the Effingham County High School Rebel Regiment is a competitive performance group whose purpose is to provide visual enhancement to the marching band programs. The color guard performs at all marching band activities. Membership is based on tryouts, which are held every spring for students in grades eight through eleven. **Students must be a band or chorus member (enrolled in the course) to participate in the ECHS Color Guard.** Guard students are also required to purchase their uniforms, typically at a cost of \$140-\$180.

Financial Policy

Funds to support the Effingham County Band Program's budget will generally come from two major sources: payments from band members and fundraisers. Gifts and funds from other sources are also encouraged.

No student will be denied participation in the band program because of financial inability to make payments. A family in this situation should contact the band director and/or treasurer to discuss this in confidence. The Band Boosters will work with the family to restructure the payment or to arrange participation in additional activities in lieu of payment. These arrangements must be made before the first payment is due or as soon as the hardship arises. Hardship cases will be determined by the Band Director and Band Booster Treasurer.

Payments from Band Members and Their Families

Marching Band:	
Participation Fee	\$125
Uniform Fee	\$35
Instrument Rental (if applicable)	\$50

Fees are payable in installments and must be paid prior to band camp or the assigned due date. Students who do not make an effort to pay or seek a financial assistance/payment plan may be suspended from performances until arrangements can be made. No student with excessive outstanding fees from a previous year will be issued an invitation for marching band

All students are required to purchase the school band shirt at \$10. A band hat and toboggan are also available for an additional \$10 each. These purchases will only be required once, unless the student requires a replacement of the above items

If a family has more than one student in the marching program, only one of the students will be required to pay the \$125. Each additional student will pay \$100 per year. Students transferring into the ECHS band program and joining after marching band camp will pay a \$50 fee. This payment may be made in two installments, with the first payment due the month after the students enters the program.

Students who do not participate in the marching band are required to pay band fees of \$25 per year. These students also benefit from instruments, awards, transportation, and music provided by the Band Booster Organization, and this payment is required to help defray the organization's expenses. This fee is due by August 15th. Non-marching students will also be required to pay a uniform rental fee of \$15.

Fund Raisers – General

Fundraisers will be used to raise the additional funds required to completely fund the Band Booster Association's budget. All parents and students are expected to participate in order to minimize the burden on each participant. Amounts raised through these fundraisers will be used to fund the Booster's budget and will not accrue to the individual benefit of the student.

Fundraisers – Students Accounts

Fundraising activities in addition to those required to fund the Boosters' budget may be undertaken to help the student and parents defray some of the costs of the students' activities. The profit earned from such fundraisers shall be kept in a special account for the benefit of the student and will be kept for his or her use in connection with activities of the band. This money may be used to pay for band fees, trips, clinics, and any other band expenses. This account will be kept for the student's benefit throughout the time he/she is enrolled in the band program. If the student drops out of the program, the amount will be forfeited to the Band Boosters and will be used to fund the budget of the Band Boosters. Upon graduating, if any money remains in his/her account, the student has the following options: (A) pass the money on to a brother/sister in the band program; (B) donate the money to another student in the band program; or (C) give the money to the Boosters for a specific purpose. If one of these options is not chosen, the money will be transferred to the general fund of the Band Boosters on September 1. No refunds may be made to a student.

Other Costs

It will be necessary for participants in the band program to bear individual expenses in addition to that necessary to fund the Booster's budget. These include but are not limited to GMEA events, honor bands, All-State, solo & ensemble, trips, shoes, and gloves. At the beginning of each year the band director shall provide a detailed listing of anticipated expenses for the school year. This is necessary so that the students and parents will be able to plan for the full financial commitment needed. All mandatory band fees must be paid in full before these other costs can be incurred.

Band Trip Costs

The costs of any trip the band may take are in addition to all other costs. To determine the cost per students of an anticipated trip, the band directors, with the advice and consent of the executive board, shall estimate the total cost of the trip. This total amount shall be divided by the number of students taking the trip to arrive at the per student cost. The Band Boosters should provide a detailed listing of anticipated trip expenses to the students and parents in advance of the trip for approval. Trip costs must be paid in full before a student is allowed to participate with the said trip.

Addendum

No Handbook is perfect. It is impractical and unnecessary to account for every conceivable situation and include it in this handbook. The band director at ECHS, in counsel with the principal, is the final authority on all policies, procedures, and disciplines set forth by the ECHS Band program. In the event of a unique situation occurring for which this document offers no explicit treatment, the band director will make a decision using good faith and judgment. The rules in this document are subject to change, addition, or reduction as needed with the goal of the safety and quality performance of the ECHS Bands foremost.

Dear ECHS Band Students/ Parents,

The following handbook includes policies that you and your student will need this year. Please read all information carefully with your student and retain for your records.

Your signature at the bottom of this letter indicates your approval of the policies in this handbook, and your knowledge of the agreement between your student and the ECHS Band Department.

If you have any questions regarding the policies of the policies of the Band Department please call us at any time (754-6404). The bottom of this form is to be returned by the end of the first week of class.

(Student's Name)

I have read and understand the policies of the ECHS Band Department as discussed in this handbook.

(Parent's Signature)

I have read and understand the policies of the ECHS Band Department. I agree to abide by the policies as set forth in the 2013-2014 handbook.

(Student's Signature)

**Parents: If you are interested in chaperoning and and/or helping the band program this year, please insert your name/number.

Name: _____ Number: _____