

**TUSCOLA
HIGH
SCHOOL
BAND
HANDBOOK**

2018-2019

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Dear Band Parents and Students,

On behalf of the entire Tuscola High School Band staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to the Tuscola Band Program. We think you will find your experience with us both fulfilling and rewarding.

Tuscola High School has a long and proud tradition of having one of the finest band programs anywhere. Starting with the great bands of Charlie Isley at Waynesville Township High School through the long tenures of Jim Crocker, Sandy Boone and Winford Franklin, this program is one of the oldest and proudest in the state. Your present band staff continues that tradition through our mission and philosophy.

In the following pages of this handbook you will find useful information concerning the operations of this band program. In these pages we have outlined as much material as possible in regards to procedures, expectations, and guidelines for our program. Please keep this handbook handy and refer to it often.

Again, welcome to the Tuscola High School Band. We all look forward to working with each of you in our "*pursuit of excellence*".

Sincerely,

Tim Wise
Director of Bands

Dillon Ingle
Assistant Director of Bands

Tuscola High School Band

Tim Wise, Director of Bands
Dillon Ingle, Assistant Director of Bands
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Mission and Philosophy

Throughout our long history, the Tuscola High School Band has achieved many accolades and awards through all of its various ensembles and groups. From consistent superior ratings on the concert stage, to performances at national events with our chamber groups, to being named a Grand National Finalist, the Tuscola Band has developed a local, regional, and national reputation of being one of the elite band programs. Our present staff continues that tradition through our primary mission statement, which reads:

To create a comprehensive music program designed to guide our students in the pursuit of excellence. Secondly, it is our mission to produce superior level ensembles that will establish unparalleled pride from our parents, school, and community.

Our philosophy has always been predicated by the fact that anyone can learn and benefit from the joy that is music making. Through your participation in our program we hope to instill a life-long appreciation for this unique art form. Music is different than any other subject in that it not only incorporates science, math, language, and history; it develops an aesthetic appreciation for why these other subjects exist. While it is essential to survival that you be able to read and write, the arts help us understand what we read and write about.

At Tuscola, we believe the study of music is much more than listening to and learning the history of musical compositions. We believe that music is best understood through the creative process. Through performance, music is felt at many different intellectual and emotional levels. This process is the foundation for our very existence and for our program.

Ensemble Offerings

The Tuscola Band Program offers multiple programs containing many varying types of ensembles, which you may choose to participate. Each group is open to anyone interested although they each have different expectations and audition requirements.

Concert Program:

The foundation of the music education experience is in the concert program. Each band meets during school and receives one credit. **All Concert Program ensembles require a \$20.00 per year fee.**

Symphony Band:

The Symphony Band is the top-performing ensemble at Tuscola. It is comprised of the most advanced instrumentalists in the program. These individuals must have a high level of commitment toward obtaining the highest levels of musical excellence. Along with meeting each day during school, Symphony Band members will be expected to participate in periodic before and/or after school sectionals and rehearsals. They perform several concerts during the school year. Selection is by audition only regardless of grade level. Second semester 11th and 12th grade students may be awarded honors credit with their section being a five point GPA class if they so choose.

Concert Band I:

Concert Band I is the second performing ensemble at Tuscola. The goals of the group are: one, to provide students the opportunity to improve both individually and in ensemble playing and two, to obtain a high level of musical excellence through rehearsal and consequent performance of quality literature. They perform several concerts during the school year. Selection is open to anyone with instrumental playing experience.

Percussion Class:

Percussion class is for anyone whose primary instrument is percussion or those with a strong interest in learning percussion. Students will learn playing techniques on all percussion instruments including mallets, drums, and instruments from other cultures. The class performs separately in various percussion ensembles and as part of Symphony and Concert band on concerts. Second semester 11th and 12th grade students may be awarded honors credit with their section being a five point GPA class if they so choose.

Marching Program:

The Tuscola marching program consists of the nationally acclaimed and award winning Marching Mountaineers. This group is active throughout the football season including performances at football games, local parades, and competing in regional and national contests. Rehearsals are strictly after school and evenings beginning with two weeks of band camp prior to the beginning of school. Selection is open to anyone that has the highest commitment level with no audition required. **Marching Program Ensembles require a fee which will be set at the beginning of each season.**

Color Guard:

The Color Guard is part of the Marching Band and serves as its primary visual unit. The members of the Color Guard are non-playing members using equipment such as flag, rifle, saber, and extensive body and dance movements. You do not have to have any musical background to be a member. Selection is open to females only and an audition is required.

Winter/Spring Program:

In order to give our students the best possible musical education, many ensembles and groups exist during the school year once marching band concludes. All groups meet before or after school and have their rehearsal and performance schedule.

Percussion Ensemble:

The Tuscola Percussion Ensemble is one of the finest percussion groups in the Southeast. The focus of this ensemble is to advance our student's percussive technique through preparation and performance of quality ensemble literature. Students get the opportunity to perform music with challenges and opportunities often not found in typical concert band music.

Jazz Band:

The goal of this group is to give students the opportunity to study America's native music, Jazz. We will focus on the many various styles unique to this idiom through literature selections. The teaching of improvisation will also be a part of the curriculum.

Winter Guard:

Our award winning Winter Guard is the spring extension of the Color Guard allowing members to continue training and performing for large audiences throughout the Southeast. While the performances are downsized to fit on a basketball court, the energy and excitement are raised to a new level. **Winter Guard requires a fee that will be set at the beginning of each season.**

Small Ensembles:

Throughout the year ensembles of various size and scope are created to perform at local functions such as Christmas concerts, downtown events, and local performances. Many of the groups continue to exist past these events and perform quality literature giving the performers the opportunity the unique experience of one on a part playing. The Tuscola Solo and Ensemble Night held in April is one major showcase for these players

Concert Program

As previously stated, the Tuscola Concert Program is the musical foundation of the program. It is in these classes that you learn the fundamentals of individual and ensemble performance through various methods and performance of the finest quality of musical literature. We perform on average 4 concerts a year, two per semester.

Grading Policy:

Band Class members are assigned grades each nine weeks. Each student begins with zero points on the first day of the nine weeks. As the grading period progresses, students will have opportunities to gain points toward their final grade. Final grades will reflect the percentage of points earned from the total points available. (See grade computation below)

Points are awarded as follows:

REHEARSALS: variable points possible depending on number of rehearsals

- Attendance at before and after school rehearsals

PERFORMANCES: variable points possible depending on number of performances

- 50 points per performance
- Late to performance = 40 points
- Absent from performance = 0 points
- *Excused absence = 50 points

MUSICAL ASSESSMENTS: various points possible during nine weeks

- 5 to 100 points for each assignment given for a grade

GENERAL WORK HABITS: 45 points possible

- Proper equipment (especially reeds)
- Instrument to class and in working order (verified repairs withstanding)
- Having all needed musical materials (notebooks, music, etc.)

OUTSIDE PERFORMANCES: 10 points required (extra credit up to 10 additional pts.)

- 10 points per attendance at any outside musical performance or report on any approved televised performance

Honors Classes Grading Policy

Symphony Band members and Percussion Class members in the 11th and 12th grade may be awarded Honors Credit for their participation. This is *ONLY* available in the Spring Semester. Since this is an honors weighted course, the expectations will be higher than for the other symphony band members. Each student begins with zero points on the first

day of the nine weeks. As the grading period progresses, students will have opportunities to gain points toward their final grade. Final grades will reflect the percentage of points earned from the total points available.

Points are awarded as follows:

REHEARSALS: variable points possible depending on number of rehearsals

- Attendance at before and after school rehearsals

PERFORMANCES: variable points possible depending on number of performances

- 50 points per performance
- Late to performance = 40 points
- Absent from performance = 0 points
- *Excused absence = 50 points

MUSICAL ASSESSMENTS: various points possible during nine weeks

- 5 to 100 points for each assignment given for a grade

GENERAL WORK HABITS: 45 points possible (1 pt per day)

- Proper equipment (especially reeds)
- Instrument to class and in working order (verified repairs withstanding)
- Having all needed musical materials (notebooks, music, etc.)

OUTSIDE PERFORMANCES: 20 points required (extra credit up to 10 additional pts.)

- 10 points per attendance at any outside musical performance or report on any approved televised performance

INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS: 100 points possible

- 3rd nine weeks project: All-District Band
- 4th nine weeks project: Solo/Ensemble Night

Grade Computation for All Classes:

STUDENT TOTAL divided by POINTS POSSIBLE = **FINAL GRADE %**

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

BELOW 59 = F

Facilities

Tuscola is blessed with fine rehearsal and storage facilities. Over the last 40 years, the quality of the rooms have been maintained by past generations diligence in maintaining their cleanliness and organization, a tradition that will continue.

Auditorium:

This performance hall has had major renovations over the last several years making it a top-notch facility. Maintenance rules include:

- 1) No food or drink of any kind in the auditorium
- 2) No one is allowed in the auditorium at any time without director permission
- 3) Restrooms are off limits without director permission

Band Room:

This room serves as the primary rehearsal facility and doubles as large instrument storage room. Maintenance rules include:

- 1) No food, drink, or gum during rehearsal. Food and drink are allowed outside of rehearsal providing students can demonstrate they can clean up after themselves
- 2) Personal items including books, book bags, and cases should be stored in the front area of the room or instrument storage areas. Do not place items on riser stairs. Flute and clarinet cases may be placed under chairs during rehearsal.
- 3) Valuable items, such as purses, should be kept with students at all times.

Music Library and Uniform Rooms:

These rooms are primary storage facilities and not for student use with the exception of Uniform and Library student staff members. If you need an item from one of these rooms ask the appropriate student staff member

Drum Major, Color Guard, Outside Storage, and Percussion Rooms:

These are storage rooms not meant for general student use unless you store your equipment there.

Computer Room:

We are fortunate to have a computer set-up in our area that is Internet capable and fully school networked. This room is equipped with music programs including Finale Notepad and SmartMusic. It is available for use anytime with director permission.

Director's Offices:

Please be courteous of our offices. Enter only after permission and always knock first. Never enter when the director is not there unless specifically directed to do so. If the door is closed, knock only on the direst of emergencies.

Attendance Policy

Attendance directly effects performance and the success of performance-orientated activities such as band depend upon full participation. Even though you may “know your part”, your presence is vital to the group outcome. Remember the role of rehearsal is not work on the individual but the ensemble.

You will receive a calendar of events published in advance for your planning. Typically, it is passed out at the beginning of each semester outlining all performances and after-school rehearsals for that semester giving you from four weeks to four months to plan. Attendance at all events is required.

Excused Absences:

Excused absences will be granted only for certain unforeseen conflicts such as illness, death in the family, and other potential problems. Personal conflicts such as doctor’s appointments, jobs, homework, important date, etc. are not excused.

If you wish for an absence to be excused, you must do so in writing *in advance*. Failure to do so will result in an excuse being unexcused. In the event that an emergency exists and advance notice is not possible, the student or parent *must* call the band room (456-3783) to inform us of the absence. If a student is well enough to be in school we expect them to be in rehearsal, even if full participation is not possible. We will respect your time outside of band, but we must insist you respect all of ours while in band.

Unexcused Absences:

Any absence not outlined above is considered unexcused. In the spirit of fairness, we want to avoid as many judgment calls as possible. Not having a ride to rehearsal is not an excuse. If no rides exist, we can make it work for you with advance notice.

Unexcused absences from rehearsal will result in the student being required to make up that time under contract with the band director before the student will be allowed to perform. Multiple unexcused absences will result in a student not being allowed to perform on an ensemble’s next performance and possible dismissal from ensemble.

Marching Band: Marching Band has additional requirements. Students with an unexcused absence the week of a game will be required to attend the game but not allowed performance privileges at half-time. Unexcused absence during a contest week will result in being moved to pit crew for that weeks contest. Multiple absences during a season may result in dismissal from the marching band.

We understand the many sacrifices students make to be members of the Marching Band but must insist they take their responsibilities seriously. Learning to budget their time is one of the best non-musical skills they will learn from being in the Marching Band!

Promptness:

Learning the value of being on time is another valuable non-musical trait we will learn while in band. The only thing we are all exactly the same in is the amount of time we have each day. We will respect you and your families by beginning and concluding rehearsals on time. We require you do the same for the ensemble.

Being on time does not mean arriving at the band room door at the precise moment rehearsal begins. To do so is to be late. You must have time to get your needed equipment and have it in the proper rehearsal area, be it in the band room, the parking lot, or practice area. It is the responsibility of the student to be on time, do not blame your parents. Tell them you have to be there 15 minutes early!

You will have a crisis at the most inopportune time causing lateness. We understand and will be very sympathetic. However, if this becomes a pattern (i.e. two or more unexcused tardies) we will treat it as an unexcused absence.

Performances:

The performance is the culmination of many weeks of hard work and effort on the part of the group and of each student. Missing a performance has a devastating effect on their grade (as outlined in the grading policy). If missing a performance is due to an excused absence as outlined above, partial grade credit may be made-up. In the case of Marching Band or other outside school ensembles, performance status due to missed performance for an unexcused reason will result in dismissal.

Band Procedures

General Band Procedures

In order to reach our expectations, we must require a high level of discipline and positive attitude from the band members. Being a part of a group takes a great deal of personal responsibility on the part of all its members. Please follow these general guidelines:

- 1) Be on time for class. Tardiness will be dealt with through the Choices program. Although you will be dismissed from class early to put your instrument away, do not leave the band room before the bell rings.
- 2) Be in the right place at the right time. Refer to the Facilities section for guidelines on where not to be.
- 3) When issued a music folder, keep it in the music rack. Do not keep music in instrument case or instrument slot.
- 4) Show respect to anyone addressing the group be it directors, parents, administrators, or guests.
- 5) Even though it may appear so at times, the band director's do not live at school. Ask permission to have a sectional or practice and please leave if asked to.
- 6) Do not play other people's instruments (especially percussion)
- 7) Poor language is not acceptable. If you can't say it in a "G" rated movie you can't say it in band.
- 8) Reckless driving on school grounds in or out of the parking lot is dangerous and will not be tolerated.
- 9) Do not park in marked No Parking areas at any time.
- 10) Public displays of affection are inappropriate in any facility, on a bus, or at a band function at any time. Couples remember this is a band function, not a date!
- 11) All school policies are in effect at all times you are with the band.

Rehearsal Procedures

In order to make rehearsals smooth and effective please follow these guidelines:

- 1) Be in the right place, at the right time, and with the correct equipment at the beginning of rehearsal
- 2) Do not place personal items such as backpacks, books, or cases on the stairs or in the hall. Use the areas away from the rehearsal. Do not bring books, cases or other items you don't use during rehearsal into the rehearsal setting.
- 3) **No cell phones in rehearsal**
- 4) Bring all materials to class every day. This includes all music, instrument, notebook (when needed) and a PENCIL! Supplies such as reeds, cleaning supplies, etc. may be purchased from your class assistant however, do this BEFORE class begins.
- 5) There should be absolutely no food or drinks in the band room during class time. This includes GUM and candy.

- 6) You must demonstrate self-discipline while in rehearsal. These behaviors include but are not limited to: not talking during rehearsal, not disturbing instruction in any fashion, maintaining the interest and focus toward the goals of the organization.
- 7) Percussion equipment should be put away and instruments covered at the end of rehearsal.
- 8) Marching band rehearsal consists of comfortable clothing and *tennis shoes*.
- 9) In marching band always march at attention. Obey the five-second rule; remain at attention for five seconds following a halt. You may then relax your upper body but keep feet together.

Bus Rules

Bus rides can be enjoyable experiences for everyone if a few simple rules are followed:

- 1) Band members are expected to ride the bus to events and ride the bus home. If you want to ride home with a parent you must give a *written* note to the band directors.
- 2) Do not change busses. We ride the bus we signed up for the entire trip
- 3) No large radios. Small radios/CD players require use of headphones
- 4) Remain seated while the bus is moving.
- 5) Noise level should be moderate. A director or chaperone should not have to ask you to be quiet and never twice!
- 6) No singing.
- 7) Students should remain seated and quiet when roll is called and answer for her/himself.
- 8) Never toss anything out of the windows.
- 9) Put trash in garbage bags. Buses should look better when we leave than when we boarded.
- 10) Members will be seated and remain quiet when the band director boards the bus to give instructions.
- 11) When within sight of the performance facility everyone is to be seated and quiet. We will act and be viewed as professionals at all times.

Games/Stands

Please observe the following rules while in the stands:

- 1) Sit with your sections in the assigned area.
- 2) Your hats are to be taken off and placed in front of you, never on its top. Gauntlets and gloves go inside hat. We may take off jackets in hot weather.
- 3) Be prepared to play at all times. There is no random playing of instruments or “pittering” on drums. We play as a group.
- 4) Please visit with your friends and family during third quarter breaks. Ask them to stay out of the band seating area at other times
- 5) Food and drink (other than water) are not permitted in the stands at any time. Eat or drink in the concession area during break.

- 6) Band members typically receive third quarter off to go to the concession stand, bathroom, etc. All members (including Color Guard) are expected to be in stands at the *end* of 3rd quarter ready to play. It is your responsibility to watch the game clock. Lateness will result in future breaks being shortened or eliminated.
- 7) Take care of the WMS band room. Replace all items you moved and clean up your stuff!

Discipline Policy

As directors, we believe in treating students as young adults and with respect. It is our expectation that all the procedures and rules in this handbook be followed. However, it is necessary to outline a system to help students in learning how to work as part of a large group. Discipline problems will be dealt with in the most expedient ways possible.

The following steps will be taken for any student not following any of the previously outlined procedures. They are cumulative and based on the number of incidences of misbehavior. The severity of the problem may dictate skipping to a more severe step immediately.

- 1) Students will always be warned and corrected of their behavior.
- 2) If the problem continues to persist, a conference with the student to discuss the situation will occur. In the event the problem is a large distraction to the rehearsal, the student may be removed from rehearsal at that time to await the conference or sent immediately to the principal's office.
- 3) Following the initial discussion with the student and director, the student will be given extra "activities" following the next offense. These will include any of the following: detention, extra report assignments, extra duties in the band room, laps or push-ups for marching band members, etc. Also, the parent will be called to discuss actions taken.
- 4) Further problems will result in all of the above plus parent, teacher, student, and counselor conferences to discuss problems and possible solutions.
- 5) The final stage will result in the student being sent to principal with possible consequences of being dismissed from ensemble.

Parents will be contacted immediately when drugs and alcohol are involved with the possibility of a student being dismissed from band. If we are traveling while this occurs, they will be sent home immediately.

Uniform Policy

Concert Program:

Symphony Band will wear formal attire (provided by the school) while Concert Band will wear the attire below at all concerts. We strive to look as uniform and professional as possible. You must wear the proper uniform to perform.

Men:

- White long sleeve collared shirt
- Dark color tie, no wild patterns
- Black belt
- Solid black pants, no dark blue jeans
- Black (not dark blue) socks
- Solid black dress shoes

Ladies:

- White solid long sleeve blouse or shirt
- Black dress pants or below the knee length skirt
- Black socks or dark hose
- Black shoes

Symphony Band members must provide the following:

Men:

- Black shoes (ordered by the school)
- Black socks
- Tux Shirt (ordered by the school)

Women

- Black shoes (ordered by the school)
- Black hose

Marching Program:

The school system and/or the band boosters will provide all main uniform parts.. In order for our future band members to look as good as we do we must *insist* that they are treated with the utmost care. You will be asked to sign a uniform agreement at registration. Please refer to the guidelines below and follow them carefully.

Distribution and Storage:

Uniforms are to be kept in the uniform room at all times. Uniforms will be passed out immediately prior to all away games and contests by the uniform staff. For all home games, uniforms can be picked up after Friday's rehearsal at the WMS band room. All uniforms *must* be returned to the uniform room or to the storage racks (home games only) *before* students go home. We will take care of all uniform cleaning.

Upkeep and General Rules:

We expect you to treat these uniforms with the highest level of respect. Take pride in representing our band! The following are upkeep and rules:

- 1) Uniforms are to be hung properly on the hanger issued.

- 2) Shoes are to be placed in shoe pouch, never in the bag with the uniform.
- 3) Plumes are always returned to plume bag, never stored in hatbox.
- 4) Following a performance, leave uniform bag unzipped 1” to 2” from top so they can dry out.
- 5) Always wear the appropriate band shirt under your uniform. If the weather is cold, wear something under the band shirt.
- 6) Shorts or long pants must be worn under the uniform.
- 7) Never wear the uniform half on. The jacket remains zipped up and the sash on.
- 8) When you are instructed to take the jacket off, keep the suspenders up.

Uniform Parts:

Along with the issued uniform each student will be asked to provide band shoes, gloves, and socks (color guard excluded). Shoes and gloves can be purchased at the beginning of the year through the band while any standard **black** socks (not ankle length) will do.

Students are to be responsible for having all items at each performance. Replacement costs for lost or damaged items are as follows:

Jacket: \$150.00	Trousers: \$100.00	Gauntlets: \$35.00	Sash: \$40.00
Hat: \$40.00	Hat Box: \$20.00	Plume: \$20.00	Socks: \$2.00
Gloves: \$2.00	Shoes: \$27.00	Band Shirt: \$10.00	

Inspections:

Before each performance you will be inspected by the drum majors or section leaders to make sure you are wearing the proper attire. We are striving for a uniform look. This is the checklist they will use:

- 1) All uniform parts worn.
- 2) If hair is long (touching uniform collar) it is put up in hat.
- 3) Hat is proper level, two fingers above eyes.
- 4) No jewelry is to be worn.
- 5) No fingernail polish in uniform.
- 6) Jacket is zipped and collar fastened.
- 7) Gloves are *clean!*
- 8) Gauntlets are clean.
- 9) Pants are pulled up properly.
- 10) Socks are solid black. Regular socks only not short “footies”.
- 11) Shoes are clean and polished.

Inspections occur *before* report time to warm-up. If you have uniform issues it is your responsibility to report them to the uniform staff and help fix them. However, you must do this in a timely manner. Five minutes before inspection is not appropriate. Any failure on inspection must be corrected before performance. Consistent problems (two or more failures) will result in discipline procedures and possibly lead to non-performance.

Student Leadership

Our student leadership program at Tuscola is a tribute to the fine students we have had over the years. They make our band work by taking responsibility of all aspects of the program. The directors through an audition/interview process select all positions. The various positions are as follows:

Drum Majors:

The highest level of student leadership rests on the shoulders of the Drum Major(s). They not only conduct the Marching Band, they are responsible for all aspects of its logistical survival. They serve as the primary advisor to the directors in all matters relating to students. They oversee the Coordinators in making sure all individual responsibilities are met. They are meant as the most visible role model of the band and conduct themselves accordingly.

Section Leader:

Each section will have a section leader and possibly an assistant section leader. The main section leader responsibility is to assist their section in any way possible to help them be more successful. They help with individual and group music rehearsals. Section leaders are responsible for music pass offs and marching assistance. They are expected to communicate with the coordinators before each rehearsal and to understand the rehearsal plan and goals. They are expected to set the example. They are also responsible for many logistical areas including: attendance reporting, music pass offs, rehearsal set-up, trip assistance, and other duties.

Librarian:

Librarians are responsible for music and all aspects of the music library. They sort, collate, and organize music and musical materials. They are responsible for the upkeep and organization of the library. They communicate directly with the directors and coordinators to make sure all musical needs are met.

Uniform Staff:

Uniform staff members are responsible for all aspects of uniform organization, upkeep, and distribution. They are to coordinate uniform pass out at the beginning of the year and at each performance. They are also responsible for the upkeep and organization of the uniform room.

Equipment Staff:

The equipment staff is responsible for areas such as props, guard equipment, and instruments. They are expected to work closely with the coordinators to make sure all needs are met. Another major responsibility is the loading, unloading, and upkeep of the truck.

Practice Habits

Absolutely essential to improving as a player is practice on your instrument. Rehearsals are meant as times for the group to put things together, not as a place for you to learn your part. Here are some practice tips for making the most of your practice time:

- 1) Practice on a regular basis with a goal of at least 30 minutes a day. Consistent practice is the key. If you can only practice every other day, make it consistent.
- 2) Have a set place where you practice. Make sure this place is where you will not be disturbed and may concentrate on your playing.
- 3) Practice at a time that is consistent and convenient to the people you live with. Practicing your high range at 11:00pm will not make your family happy!
- 4) Practicing in the band room is encouraged and may be easier for everyone, especially if you play a large instrument; however refer to tip #2 and #3. However, make sure a director is planning on being present to make sure the facilities are available.
- 5) Have a goal or goals for every practice session-Be careful not to fall into the trap of simply playing your instrument or stumbling through a practice session.
- 6) Only perfect practice makes perfect-don't practice mistakes.
- 7) Every practice begins with a warm-up and fundamentals. Even in a very short session you have time for long tones, lip slurs, and scales.
- 8) Practice difficult passages in small chunks. Break that run that lasts three measures down and practice just the first three notes.
- 9) Practice in tempo even if it is very, very slow! Gradually increase speed but stay in time.
- 10) Every practice time should consist of the following: long tones for sound, lip slurs for brass and technical passages for woodwinds, scales and scale patterns, music for performance, and sight-reading. Other time can be spent on range studies, articulation exercises, and endurance.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are one of the best ways to improve on your instrument. While we as directors can help you improve greatly, the opportunity to study in a one on one session with a specialist on your instrument is invaluable. There are many local teachers that are qualified and already teach many of our students. Please talk to one of the directors about teacher recommendations before beginning any program.

SmartMusic

SmartMusic is a computer based performance assessment and practice tool that we use in all band classes. It allows you to practice assignments, take tests, work on concert music and practice solo literature. It is one of the best tools that have come out in many years. We have two computer stations set up for student use. You may also by a subscription and use it on your home computer. While home subscriptions are optional they are **highly** encouraged.

To order SmartMusic follow the instructions below.

- Go to www.Smartmusic.com
- Click on Order SmartMusic at the top drop down area
- Under Students and Performers click \$36.00/year and hit Order Now
- You will want to select the SmartMusic Instrumental Microphone (quantity 1)
- Type in your email and password that you created at THS. If you have not created a login at THS, **DO NOT ORDER** SmartMusic at home until you do so.
- ENJOY

Instruments and Equipment

School Owned Instrument:

Tuscola provides large instruments, marching brass, and percussion instruments for use by our students. These instruments are very expensive with some costing in excess of \$5000.00 each. We expect you to care for your instrument, which includes routine cleaning. You will be asked to sign a loan contract, which holds you responsible for any damage while the instrument is in your name. If a school owned instrument needs repair, the director must take it to the shop. You are to purchase any mouthpieces, sticks, or mallets needed.

Maintenance:

Instruments are machines just like automobiles, without regular maintenance they don't run as well or may not run at all. Cleaning your instrument is an absolute must. At the beginning of the school year, the directors will show you how to clean and lubricate your instrument. The following are items you should have in your possession:

Brass:

- 1) Mouthpiece brush
- 2) Valve oil (valved instruments)
- 3) Slide cream and water bottle (trombones)
- 4) Snake
- 5) Tuning slide grease
- 6) Polishing cloth or rag

Woodwinds:

- 1) Polishing cloth or rag
- 2) Small screwdriver set
- 3) Pad protector
- 4) Reed guard (reed players only)

Reeds/Supplies:

You may purchase cleaning supplies or reeds at several locations in Waynesville or Asheville. We also carry a limited selection of basic supplies for purchase. A student manager for your class will be assigned the duty of keeping up with inventory and the sale of all items. Please refrain from asking the directors for a reed, see the student manager. Also, not having a reed is *never* an acceptable excuse for not playing in class.

If you are a reed player, have more than one reed. The minimum is to have three playable reeds in your possession. Circulate your reeds. Don't play one until it wears out (or breaks) and then try to play on a new one. Have three that play at all times.

Percussionists own your *own* sticks! We spend a huge part of our budget each year on percussion equipment but we expect you to provide basic mallets. We also expect you to take extremely good care of the equipment!

Instrument Upgrades:

Most of you began band with a new instrument purchased at a music store. While it is a quality instrument and has performed well for you, most are beginner level instruments. You have now made a greater commitment to your playing and should consider obtaining the many great step-up instruments available. The directors will post recommendations for each instrument at the beginning of school and help you obtain the best instrument at a great price. Quality professional instruments have a long lifespan if taken care of. We will also help you look into a used instrument. If used scares you consider this; would you rather have a low mileage used Porsche or a brand new Yugo!

While purchasing a new instrument may seem impossible, a new mouthpiece should be in everyone's price range. Even a beginner instrument with a step-up mouthpiece will sound significantly better. Again, your directors will help you with quality recommendations.

Trips and Travel

Taking trips and traveling with the band has always been one of the more enjoyable parts of being in the band. We travel extensively and over the past twelve years have traveled to 15 different states including much of North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Connecticut, Tennessee, Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. Traveling with such a large group is very rewarding and enjoyable but can at times be of concern if everyone is not on the same page.

Contests and Day Trips:

You will know all report and return times at least one week before departure through a handout of a detailed itinerary. This itinerary will include all details of the trip including times, places, items to bring, and expected spending monies needed. All detailed itineraries are also posted on our website. Trips of this nature are taken by Haywood County activity buses.

Overnight Trips:

Most overnight trips require a hotel visit and often times riding a charter bus. Students will receive written detailed itineraries several weeks prior to departure. These itineraries will include our specific travel plans and emergency contact information for each minute of our trip. Like other trips this itinerary will include all details of the trip including times, places, items to bring, and expected spending monies to provide. It will also include information on dress and expected behaviors. Again, all itineraries are provided on our website.

Travel Rules:

The following rules are to be followed at all times while traveling with the band.

- 1) All school rules apply at all times including drugs and alcohol, dress code, etc.
- 2) No member of the opposite sex is allowed in your room. Hotel lobbies are considered common areas.
- 3) No one is to be outside of rooms after curfew.
- 4) Each room will be assigned a chaperone responsible for room checks. In the case of an emergency contact this adult first.
- 5) Treat chaperone requests as if they come from a director. Follow directions.
- 6) Members are to be in groups of two or more, never alone. At large places, like theme parks, groups of four or more may be required.
- 7) In the case of property damage, you and your parents are responsible for repairs and severe discipline will be issued.
- 8) Rooms are to be locked at all times. Each room will be issued one key and the director will have one in case entrance is warranted.

- 9) Room telephones will not have long distance connections. Room to room calls will be permitted. Abuse of this privilege will result in phone disconnection and discipline.
- 10) Directors will search your belongings prior to departure. Room or personal searches may be undertaken if probable cause is determined.
- 11) No instrument playing in hotel rooms. Percussionists may drum on drum pads if the noise level is acceptable but never on furniture.
- 12) In respect to other guests, hotel hallways are quiet zones.
- 13) Group check-ins at large areas are to be followed on time.
- 14) Above all else, members are expected use good judgment at all times while representing our band whether in a hotel, restaurant, theme park, or contest site. We have a long tradition of getting compliments when we travel on our positive behavior and professionalism. The directors insist this tradition continues.

Chaperones

It is simply impossible for this band to do any function without the help of our parents serving as chaperones. Chaperoning is an event that is very simple and requires little effort on the parent's part. Parents are not expected to act as disciplinarians. That is the role of the band staff. Their job is to make sure that everything runs smoothly. We will need parents on all trips and events.

Sign-ups:

All events require chaperones. For each event sign up sheets will be posted. Parents may also receive a call requesting your assistance. We like for as many different people to be involved as opposed to the burden being placed upon a very few.

Duties:

Before each event, we will meet as a group to discuss the schedule and any pertinent information. At this time we will go over bus assignments, assign role takers, and discuss any special needs we will have. Again, there is little real responsibility other than act as supporters and assist where necessary. *All* problems and concerns will be handled through the band staff.

Band Booster Organization

The band booster organization is a non-profit organization that exists to support the Tuscola Band program and its activities. It is an integral part to our continued success. They provide the necessary support both financially and in the form of our #1 cheering section. Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30 pm in the chorus room. I hope each of you will become involved.

Membership:

Membership is open to anyone interested in the band program. Official booster shirts, buttons, and other items will be available for purchase at the first booster meeting in August.