

# Seminole High School

# Band Handbook 2011-2012

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Seminole High School Band Program! Your decision to join the Seminole Band has placed you in a group that is consistently regarded as a top band program in Florida. Over the years, dedicated students, parents, directors, and administrators have worked together to develop and maintain a program that accepts nothing less than “Superior”.

The band program will continue its tradition of excellence. The quality of the program will be determined by your individual effort. To assure success of the Seminole Band Program, you must make a decision to be dedicated. In return, your dedication will ensure that the tradition of excellence will continue for the Seminole Band. Furthermore, your commitment will provide you with opportunities not available to many students.

To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to learn, achieve their goals, and have a successful year at Seminole, guidelines have been developed and are stated on the following pages. Each individual member is responsible for knowing all information presented in this book-please read it carefully. The information in this handbook is as complete as possible with the limited space available. Mr. Malcolm and Ms. Newhouse reserve all rights to add to, delete from, and change any policies pertaining to the Seminole High School Band Program.

Together we can achieve unlimited success. Let's have a great year!

Musically Yours,

P.L. Malcolm  
Director

Andrea Newhouse  
Director

## DREAM BIG

If there ever were a time to dare,  
to make a difference,  
to embark on something worth doing,  
it is now.  
not for any grand cause, necessarily  
but for something that tugs at your heart,  
something that's your aspiration,  
something that's your dream

You owe it to yourself  
to make your days here count.  
Have fun.  
Dig deep.  
Stretch.

Dream Big.

Know, though, that things worth doing  
seldom come easy.  
There will be good days.  
And there will be bad days.  
There will be times when you want to turn around,  
pack it up,  
and call it quits.  
Those times tell you  
that you are pushing yourself,  
that you are not afraid to learn by trying.

Persist.

Because with an idea,  
determination,  
and the right tools,  
you can do great things.  
Let your instincts.  
your intellect,  
and your heart  
guide you.

Trust.

Believe in the incredible power of the human mind.  
Of doing something that makes a difference.  
Of working hard.  
Of laughing and hoping.  
Of lazy afternoons.  
Of lasting friends.  
Of all the things that will cross your path this year.

The start of something new  
brings the hope of something great.  
Anything is possible.  
There is only one you.  
And you will pass this way only once.  
Do it Right!

## **Seminole Band Ensembles**

The purpose of the Seminole High School Band Program is to provide a positive atmosphere for musical and personal growth. This will be achieved through participation in the following activities: large ensemble performance (Marching Band and Concert Bands), student leadership program, social activities, performance evaluation and adjudication, small ensemble performance (Jazz Band, Brass & Woodwind Choir, Percussion Ensemble), and solo performance (FBA Festival, selected concerts, and private and group instruction). The following ensembles are all active groups in our program. Together they represent the entire program and as individual ensembles they cater to every students' individual needs.

### **The “Marching Seminoles”**

The “MARCHING SEMINOLES” is the combined forces of the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Percussion Class, and Dazzlers. The purpose of this organization is to provide entertainment for football games, pep rallies, band festivals, parades, and concerts. It is an integral part of the instrumental music education curriculum at Seminole High School. All members are expected to devote TOTAL DEDICATION, MAXIMUM EFFORT and INVOLVEMENT in all aspects of marching, playing, and performance. Rehearsals are 1:45 PM to 5:00 PM on Wednesdays and 2:45 PM to 5:00 PM on Thursdays. Report time for football games are 4:30 PM unless otherwise notified.

### **Wind Ensemble**

The WIND ENSEMBLE is the top performing ensemble at Seminole High School. Admittance into this class is based on auditions and demands the highest commitment to a performing ensemble. Private study is highly recommended. In addition to the performance of difficult modern wind literature and transcriptions, the fundamentals of wind performance such as breathing skills, embouchure strength and flexibility, finger strength and speed, and articulation ability will be emphasized. The Wind Ensemble is a class that meets (for credit) every school day and performs several concerts and festivals each year. After school sectionals (brass, percussion, and woodwind) are required one day every other week. Sectionals will begin February through March. Students will also be required to perform in smaller chamber groups for the first semester.

### **Symphonic Band**

The SYMPHONIC BAND is open to wind and percussion instrumentalists who have achieved a specific level of playing ability. Admittance into this class is based on auditions and demands the highest commitment to a performing ensemble. In addition to the performance of modern wind literature and transcriptions, the fundamentals of wind performance such as breathing skills, embouchure strength and flexibility, finger strength and speed, and articulation ability will be emphasized. The SYMPHONIC BAND is a class that meets (for credit) every school day and performs several concerts and festivals each year. After school sectionals (brass, percussion, and woodwind) are required one day every other week. Sectionals will begin February through March.

### **Concert Band**

The CONCERT BAND is a performing ensemble open to all wind and percussion students. The group will perform several concerts during the year and will emphasize the study of basic musicianship skills and improvement of fundamentals. The CONCERT BAND class meets every school day (for credit). Opportunities for playing in small groups and solos will also be available.

### **Jazz Chiefs**

The JAZZ CHIEFS will study Jazz and other related literature. The JAZZ CHIEFS is a class that meets (for credit) every school day and performs at several school and civic events each year. Membership in this group is based on level of experience and by audition only.

### **Jazz Combo Class**

The JAZZ COMBO CLASS is open to students who wish to study Jazz. This class will focus on the fundamentals of Jazz performance as well as learn Jazz Theory and History. The JAZZ COMBO class meets (for credit) every school day and performs at several school and civic events each year.

### **Percussion Class**

The PERCUSSION CLASS is open to students who wish to study percussion instruments in the band department. The class meets every school day (for credit). Students will learn basic fundamentals to advance playing skills on a variety of percussion instruments. During the Fall semester all students work in the marching portion of the band. In the Spring semester students will focus on percussion ensemble literature and many students will transfer into one of the band classes.

### **Dazzlers**

Membership in this organization is by audition (held in the spring each year) and is open to all students at Seminole. Although prior experience is recommended, it is not mandatory in order to audition. The AUXILIARY CORPS is an integral part of the "Marching Band" and performs throughout the year. Interested students should see Mrs. Maguire.

## **Seminole High School Band General Requirements**

The Seminole High School Band Program has traditionally sought discipline through individual responsibility and student leadership. This is a high ideal and works with the top band programs in the State. However, it does not always work perfectly. With a band this size there will always be some student who has not reached an acceptable level of responsibility. With that philosophy in mind, and knowing that no one is perfect all of the time, the following criteria has been set up as a MINIMUM standard which all band personnel shall follow:

1. Attend all rehearsals and performances with the appropriate attitude and materials. As a musician being on time is late and early is on time!
2. Know your assignments/music and know it to the best of your ability. Giving anything less than your best is not acceptable for the band and should not be acceptable to yourself.
3. Be attentive to all instructions
4. Work hard to become a part of the team. Only through teamwork can we achieve success.
5. To achieve our goals, you must decide to make the band a top priority.
6. Complete all required forms and paperwork on time.
7. Always strive to keep a positive attitude.
8. Follow all rules and regulations.

**The above are explained in detail on the following pages**

# **Motivation, Dedication, Discipline!**

# Music Building/Band Room Guidelines

It is the general responsibility of each and every band student to make sure that our building stays neat. Visitors in our building should know that they are in a place where a superior organization lives and works. To make sure that this is the image we uphold, the following rules must be obeyed. All school enforced rules apply to the band room and that includes dress code.

1. Loud and boisterous behavior is inappropriate in the band room.
2. Courtesy and respect must be shown to any person who is visiting our area.
3. Non-Music students are not allowed to enter the band room at anytime. If an occasion arises when a non-music student must speak to a director he/she should be escorted by a music student at all times.
4. No food or drinks are allowed in the music suite. This includes chewing gum and candy.
5. No hats, bandannas, or sunglasses are to be worn inside the building.
6. Respect your environment and pick up after yourself.
7. Textbooks, folders, etc. are to be placed in the proper locker facilities in the main building. **DO NOT STORE BOOKS IN THE BAND ROOM UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.**
8. All instruments shall be stored in the instrument room unless specified by the director. Instruments must be kept **IN THEIR CASES** and no instrument should be left in the band room over night or the weekend.
9. Percussion equipment is for the use of the percussionists only. Percussion instruments (including the piano) are not to be played without the Director's permission.
10. The phone in the band room may be used by band students before and after school only. Use during school is permitted only in emergency situations. Forgetting something is not an emergency.
11. Never leave money, books or valuables in the band room. Please keep these items with you or in your locker. Your music, instrument, and other related materials are the only things you should keep here. The directors and Seminole High School are not responsible for any items lost or stolen.
12. Report all acts of vandalism to the directors, no matter how small.
13. All notices will be posted well in advance. It is your responsibility to check the board to find out the announcements.
14. There is a time and place for everything-public displays of affection and profanity are strictly prohibited during any band function including class.
15. Respect our band property. Please refrain from leaning on the stands, setting things on the percussion equipment, and sitting on chairs inappropriately.
16. Ask for permission before using any computer located in the band room. The computers are for music students only. If you need to print, ask the directors for permission - Students will be limited to how many pages they will be allowed to print. If you have downloaded a file onto the computer, you must remove the file when you are finished with that session on the computer. Using the band computers is considered a privilege - Misuse will result in suspension of computer privileges.
17. Before entering the band office, please knock. The directors will ask you to come in.
18. Don't do drugs.

## Guidelines for Riding Band Buses

While traveling on buses to and from any band event, YOU will be required to abide by the following rules:

1. YOU must treat the driver and chaperones of your bus with courtesy, obedience and respect. This rule will strictly be enforced and those who break this rule will be disciplined.
2. YOU must sign up for a specific bus and you will ride that bus to and from the event. You may not change buses for any reason.
3. Once you have selected a seat you must STAY IN IT. You may not change seats or leave your seat until arriving at our destination. You may not stand up while the bus is in motion.
4. You are strictly prohibited from putting hands, arms, heads, or any other part of your body out a window. In addition, no one is to ever throw anything out a window for any reason what so ever.
5. While on the bus, you are expected to conduct conversations in a normal talking voice with the people immediately surrounding you, and not scream at someone on the other end of the bus. If your voice is loud enough to be heard above the conversations of others you are TOO LOUD.
6. Cheering or singing on the bus may be done only with the permission of the driver. The person in charge of your bus will check with the driver to determine whether or not cheering or singing will interfere with driving safety. If the driver says okay, then use good judgment in volume of your cheers. If it gets too loud, the driver will tell the person in charge and that person will immediately tell your bus to keep the noise down and quit entirely.
7. Chaperones on the bus are to be respected and obeyed. They have the same authority as a teacher and are the Band Director's delegated adult in charge.
8. Band buses are not to be used for your extracurricular love making. Public displays of affection are inappropriate while with the Band and a bus is definitely not the place for such matters.
9. Sometimes for security sake, it will be necessary to ask you to put up the windows of the bus when entering and leaving certain games. If you are told to put the windows up on the bus, please do so without disagreement.
10. Food, gum, candy, and drink **are not** allowed on buses.
11. Tape decks, stereos, CD's, etc. are not to be brought on buses unless previously approved by a director.
12. Your bus captains are assigned to take roll and maintain discipline on the buses. They are to be respected and listened to. While roll-call is being taken, it is to be absolutely quiet.

## **Rehearsal Guidelines**

Rehearsal time is extremely valuable for producing any fine music organization. If you delay the rehearsal by only one minute, you have actually wasted over one hour of the groups time because each member of the group is forced to waste a minute. the following guidelines are necessary for good rehearsal procedures.

1. Arrive to rehearsal/class on time. You will have two minutes after the bell rings to get your materials ready and sit in your seat quietly. Those who are not ready will be marked tardy. The class lesson plan will be on the board, so you may get your music ready before class begins.
2. Always be in your seat with the necessary equipment (music, pencils, reeds, mutes, valve oil, etc.).
3. The time before rehearsal is important for the directors to get organized to ensure an optimum rehearsal. Please do not bother the directors with items that could be answered by yourself or a leadership member.
4. Give your undivided attention to anyone on the podium. There is no talking-even if it deals with the music. You must be silent when someone is directing or addressing the band. Raise your hand if you have a question.
5. You are not allowed to leave class/rehearsal for any reason unless approved by a director. This includes bathroom breaks. Please take care of this before rehearsal.
6. Never argue a point of policy during class. Any private discussion may take place after class in an appropriate manner. this means that if you disagree with something that a director says, approach them after class to discuss the problem.
7. If your instrument is in the shop getting fixed, we need to see a repair tag with the date on it. Other wise you'll lose points

# Attendance

Band members are expected to attend all rehearsals and performance. As a co-curricular course, rehearsals and performances are part of the grading process. Students must be on time for all band functions. Remember Early is On Time and On Time is Late". Any student who is habitually tardy or has any unexcused absences from any performance could be removed from the program.

**EXCUSED ABSENCE FROM REHEARSAL:** Except in cases of extreme emergency or illness, band members will not be excused from rehearsals. In the case of illness, students are asked to call the band office (320-5161) as early as possible so that substitutions or replacements can be made. It is imperative that your music be on hand for the rehearsal or performance. **A written excuse from the parent or guardian is due within two days of the absence, and if you know ahead of time about an absence, you must notify the directors BEFORE the day of the conflict.** Please give your excuse to the band secretary. **E-mails will not be accepted as a form of excuse note.** Appointments or personal problems will be reviewed by the director. You should try to make appointments on days when there are no rehearsals. Check your calendar. Requests to miss rehearsals should be submitted five days prior to the intended absence. **All absences affect the grade because of lost instruction time.** Two or more absences may result in the individual being placed on permanent alternate status.

Excused absences from performance or rehearsal:

1. Extreme personal illness.
2. A death in your immediate family.
3. Religious holidays
4. Pre-excused with the director for extenuating circumstances.

**UN-EXCUSED ABSENCE FROM REHEARSAL:** **Any student receiving an unexcused absence from rehearsal will receive a zero for that rehearsal grade.** An unexcused absence may result in the student being placed on alternate status or moved to a non-performing band class. Please understand that full attendance is needed to make rehearsals work. The following statements are a collection of statements that are not acceptable:

## UNEXCUSED REASON

1. "Had to work"
2. " Couldn't get a ride"
3. " I didn't know about it"
4. "Parents are leaving town"
5. "I have a big test/lots of homework"
6. "I have a doctor's appointment"

## SOLUTION

- Make arrangements with employer in advance
- Be responsible-find one
- Be responsible
- Let your parents know about your schedule
- Don't procrastinate
- Schedule these around rehearsals

TARDY TO REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE: Attendance will always be taken at the beginning of rehearsal. Students will be counted as tardy to rehearsal if they are not in their assigned position two minutes after the bell sounds. **If a student is late three times, it will count as one unexcused absence.** Any person arriving late for a performance will receive a double tardy and may forfeit the opportunity to perform.

ABSENCE FROM PERFORMANCE: Performances are major exam grades. Excused absences must be approved by the director in advance. Any absence which is not brought to the director's attention for approval prior to the performance will be considered unexcused. **Unexcused absences count as zeros for a major exam grade and will adversely affect the student's grade.**

## **Enforcement of Guidelines**

The guidelines listed in the previous sections of this handbook are important to maintain the high quality and dignity which have long been associated with the Seminole Band Program. they are also a matter of common sense. Any and all infractions of any of these guidelines listed in this handbook will be viewed as open defiance to the program and will be dealt with swiftly.

If necessary, the directors may dispense with disciplinary actions for negative behaviors. Enforcement may include, but not limited to: push ups, detentions, work duties, revocation of privileges, parent/student conferences, and any other disciplinary action which the directors deems necessary. Any infraction of any kind will certainly effect your grade adversely and may jeopardize your continued participation in the program.

## **SEMINOLE BAND GRADING POLICY**

Band is a co-curricular activity meaning that after-school activities are graded as well as their in-school activities. All Band rehearsals and performances are mandatory and make up the majority of the students' grade. Rehearsals (in-school and after-school) are regarded as classwork assignments, while Performances are treated as tests or exams. Major Performances (i.e. FBA Marching and Concert Assessments, etc.) are graded as Semester Exams. **Missing a major performance will result in a 2 letter grade reduction and possible expulsion from the Band Program.** Students will also be graded on participation and individual assessments.

# Grading Rubrics

The following rubrics should be followed when performing for a test/grade:

A performance that earns an “A”

1. Correct posture
2. Superior tone quality
3. All correct notes
4. All correct rhythms, steady tempo
5. Musical interpretation
6. Musical energy
7. Sense that the music is well prepared, musician is confident in performance, and there is no question that the musician knows the material

A performance that earns a grade of “B”

1. Correct posture
2. Excellent to superior tone quality
3. Very few missed notes
4. Very few missed rhythms, steady tempo
5. Most dynamics and articulations followed
6. A sense that the music has been practiced but is not “A” quality yet

A performance that earns a grade of “C”

1. Correct posture
2. Good to excellent tone quality
3. Several missed notes
4. Several missed rhythms, tempo shifts and is unsteady
5. Articulations and dynamics followed but irregular
6. A sense that the music has been practiced, although not often. It is clearly not ready yet.

A performance that earns a grade of “D”

1. Correct posture
2. Fair to good tone quality
3. Many missed rhythms, tempo is not steady
4. Very few articulations and dynamics followed
5. A sense that the music has been looked at but has not been practiced

A performance that earns a grade of an “F”

1. Incorrect posture
2. Poor tone quality
3. Most notes are missed
4. Many missed rhythms, tempo is not steady
5. Very few articulations and dynamics followed
6. A sense that the student may be sight-reading and has not attempted to practice

# **SEMINOLE BAND**

## **STUDENT ACCOUNTS**

The Seminole High School Band offers students a unique opportunity to raise money. Through participation in Band Booster fund raisers, students can use the money earned towards band expenses. All records of maintenance of student accounts is done through the Band Boosters. The following explains the guidelines of participating.

1. Student accounts are individually accumulated for band members from Monies collected through special student fund raisers.
2. THIS IS NOT A MANDATORY PROGRAM,
3. This program is available to ALL band members.
4. All student fund raisers are discussed with the Band Directors and the Band Boosters Board prior to being presented to the students.
5. Students' accounts fund raisers are separate from the Band Booster fund raisers.
6. Monies are accumulated by each individual student based on his/her participation in fund raisers for the individual account.
7. A student can maintain his student account for as long as he/she is a member of the Seminole High School Band.
8. The balance in the account of a student who is graduating (Senior) will automatically transfer to their sibling , if they are in band. If there is no sibling in band for the next year, the remaining balance will be transferred into the SHSB scholarship fund.
9. Students who decide to no longer be a part of the SHSB automatically forfeits any and all funds in his/her student account, unless it is at the end of a school year, with an upcoming freshman or current sibling band member in the SHSB.
10. Each student is responsible for any merchandise/product or Monies related to the student account projects and fund raisers. (IF YOU LOSE IT, MISPLACE IT OR IT'S DAMAGED, YOU PAY FOR IT).
11. Any account that is not current, (merchandise not returned, Monies not turned in, etc.) will be frozen immediately until that time it is brought up to date.
12. Students will be notified of those dates when collection of Monies or merchandise/product return will take place.
13. Monies from these accounts are to be used strictly for BAND RELATED EXPENSES (uniform accessories, band trips, band transportation) and any other band related need that is approved by the Band Director.
14. The only way to place money in the student account is through an approved project or fund raiser.

## EQUIPMENT

1. School owned instruments will be issued by the Equipment manager with the LEASE CONTRACT and necessary assessments (\$50 per semester).
2. NO equipment is to be used by person(s) other than the band member to whom it is assigned.
3. There will be NO LOITERING in the equipment areas.
4. Equipment inspections will occur prior to performances.

## STORAGE OF INSTRUMENT

Naturally, we can not be responsible for your instruments...that's your job!!! It is strongly recommended that you keep your horn or other large instruments (except for the tubas) in the Instrument Storage Room. Measures will be taken to protect it from the "wrath" of others. If you would rather keep it elsewhere; however, that is fine, as long as you keep it out of the other rooms in the Music Department. Instruments can **not** be left lying around. Your school locker is **not** a very good place either. So try the Instrument Storage Room.

If you are renting an instrument from the school, it is required that you keep your horn in the instrument room, except of course, when you take it home to practice.

And just a small word of advise. Do not use the instrument room for practicing, chatting, or gathering. You may become the first suspect in the event that an instrument gets damaged.

## CARE OF PRIVATE and SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

If you own and are using your own private instrument, you are advised to take care of it in an extremely conscientious manner. Achieving maturity is an important part of your education and it is going to be handled as such in this program. You shall be expected to handle your instrument at all times in the correct manner and do periodic maintenance and cleaning on it (especially during Marching Season--suggested weekly). **AT NO TIME is your instrument to be handled or played by any other person in this band with or without your permission.** It is certainly a poor environment when a person can not leave an instrument without being afraid that it may be used or abused.

The same rules as stated above, shall apply to all school-owned instrument. These instruments are being loaned to you by the County and are not your property. Therefore, a proper and mature treatment will be enforced at ALL times. **You are the ONLY person who is to use your instrument at any time unless cleared by the Band Director.** Violators will be dealt with individually. **ALL percussion equipment and drum sticks are no exceptions.**

The larger, more expensive, instruments are provided by the school at a \$50.00 per semester rental fee. **All school-owned instruments will be assigned to one person that shall thereafter accept FULL responsibility for that instrument.** The instrument will be given out in good condition and must be returned in the same. It is the financial responsibility of the individual to maintain the instrument in proper working condition. Any repairs will be assumed by the individual.

#### BRASS

1. Brass players need to have valve/slide oil, cleaning snake, and mouthpiece brush
2. All brass players should own a straight mute. Trumpets and trombones should also have a cup mute
3. Brass valves and slides should be well oiled and in excellent working condition
4. Brass spit valves must be in good condition and perfectly sealed
5. Brass leadpipes should be cleaned weekly

#### WOODWINDS

1. Woodwind players are required to have at least three working reeds at any given time
2. Woodwinds also need to own their own swab. Use it every time you play on your instrument
3. Woodwind pads need to be checked regularly- no fuzz around the edges
4. Clarinets need to clean the tone holes with a Q-tip monthly
5. All woodwinds need to clean under the rods monthly

#### PERCUSSION

1. Percussionists need to expect that they will work on every aspect of percussion playing- i.e. mallets, timpani, snare, and accessories
2. Percussionists will be responsible for the cost and replacement of any items they may break
3. Cymbal players will polish all cymbals before each performance
4. Mallets will be signed out with a mallet "rental" form.

## MUSIC LIBRARY

1. Students are not permitted in the music library unless they are in need of assistance from the librarian. **Backpacks, books, and other items should not be left behind the music library area.**
2. Music is to be distributed by the librarians or section leaders.
3. Lost music charges include
  - a) Marching \$ .50
  - b) Marching Folder \$ 5.00
  - c) Concert/Jazz/Solo Ens. \$2.00

## USE AND CARE OF MUSIC

1. Write your name at the top of each piece of music (only for marching music)
2. Each student **MUST** have their own lyre and flip folder. **This will be checked at inspections.**
3. Do not fold, tear, or otherwise mutilate music.
4. Absence from school does not relieve students of the responsibility to have their music at rehearsal or performance.
5. Do not make excessive marks on music -- **ALWAYS USE PENCIL, NEVER INK!**
6. Students will be charged for music that is lost or not cared for properly.
7. Concert folders will be assigned according to instrumentation and parts. Parts will be assigned by the directors.
8. Students should not take the music out of the folder. The entire folder should be checked out.
9. Students needing a music part should fill out a music request form and place it in the librarian's box in the band room.

## ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS/ELIGIBILITY

Rules for eligibility in all band functions are set forth by the FMSA and FHSAA. All students must maintain a 2.0 GPA. These are minimum requirements and most students will exceed them with ease, however it is important to remember that one ineligible student can lower the performance level of the band by his/her absence.

The director will check student grades each marking period to determine eligibility and if necessary, help individual students establish good study habits to improve their academic performance.

# BAND AWARDS

There are (4) general awards for each eligible band member.

1. First year band letter.
2. Second year numbers for your class.
3. Third year patch.
4. Fourth year medallion.

The criteria for receipt of the general awards are:

1. Overall 2.0 school GPA.
2. Overall 3.0 band GPA.
3. Participation in the following:
  - a) Both district marching and concert festivals
  - b) All rehearsals and performances

Other awards include: The John Phillip Sousa Award; Louis Armstrong Jazz Award; Outstanding Musicians; Student Superlatives; STUDENT Superlatives are by band membership majority vote, while other awards are decided by the BAND DIRECTORS.

## Other Events

### Public Performances

Every student will receive a schedule of performances the band will be attending throughout the year. Information regarding these events will be posted on the bulletin board. It is the student's responsibility to know this information. The bulletin board and chalkboard should be read daily. Always report (rain or shine) to the designated meeting place. The telephone committee will call if plans are changed. Do not call the director unless there is an emergency. If in doubt, phone a band officer.

### Solo & Ensemble Festival

The Solo and Ensemble Festival of the Florida Bandmasters Association is held in the early spring each year. The opportunity to be evaluated as a soloist or member of a small ensemble is a wonderful learning experience. Participation in the ensemble portion of the festival may be required at the director's discretion.

1. You must select music from the F.B.A. Selected Music List.
2. You must provide an original score for the judge.
3. You must provide an accompanist, if the piece calls for accompaniment.

You must contract with the director to perform at Solo and Ensemble Festival. Once contracted for S & E performance, failure to perform will result in a lowering of your grade. Choice of ensemble partners becomes important because you then rely on the members of your ensemble for your grade.

## **All State Bands**

The All State Bands are ensembles drawn, through auditions, from the finest musicians in the state of Florida. They perform at the Florida Music Educators Association Convention each January. Participation in the All State Bands is a great honor. All students are required to prepare the All State audition materials, and although auditioning is not a requirement, we encourage it strongly. Auditions are held in September each year. Summer is the ideal time for preparation of those materials.

## **HOW PARENTS CAN HELP**

### **AT HOME**

1. Show an interest in the music study of your child.
2. Arrange a regular time for your child to practice.
3. Find a quiet place where he/she can practice without interruption.
4. Help him/her with practice as much as possible by counting, studying music, music texts, etc.
5. Help the student keep a daily record of his/her practicing.
6. Give him/her a safe place to keep his/her instrument.
7. Keep the instrument in good repair with reeds, etc. in the case. Each student needs his/her own metronome.
8. Be very careful with school-owned instruments. The cost of repairs is very high.
9. Teach your child to be prepared and on time for each rehearsal and lesson.
10. Even though private study is not required, it is strongly recommended as an extension of the classroom.
11. Encourage your child to play for others when the opportunity arises in the home, at school, at church, or in the community.

### **AT SCHOOL**

1. Keep a record of the student's various musical activities.
2. Notify the teacher if the student is to be absent or tardy at lessons, rehearsals, etc., and explain why.
3. See that they take their instrument and music to school.
4. Teach him/her to be punctual at lessons and rehearsals.
5. See that your child keeps up with classroom studies and makes up work he or she missed.
6. Visit rehearsal and lessons occasionally.
7. Discuss with your music teacher anything that will help them to understand your child.
8. Attend concerts and other performances whenever possible.
9. Attend Band Booster meetings whenever possible.
10. Volunteer for parent committees.

# Seminole High School Marching Band

Marching band rehearsals will begin promptly at 1:45 & 2:45. Students should take care of other personal matters BEFORE practice begins.

## REHEARSAL TIMES

Rehearsals for the Seminole Marching Band will be every Wednesday and Thursday during football season 1:45 p.m. (Wednesdays) and 2:45 p.m. (Thursdays) - 5:00 p.m. With only three hours to rehearse, and with a large amount of people, it is important to arrive on time. Remember that marching band rehearsal attendance counts for your grade!

## REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

**1:45/2:45** Report to the band room, gather instrument and music, and head out to practice.

**2:00/3:00** Whistle blows indicating that all members should take their place in the attendance block. Leaders will take attendance and report it to the band secretary.

**2:05/3:05** Band is called to attention. Anyone not in their place at this point is tardy.

## UNIFORMS

Band uniforms will be issued to all participating band members. The fee for uniforms is included in the Band membership fee. The following items will be issued before each performance and returned after each performance.

Each member will be responsible for providing:

- Band T-shirt
- Black Socks
- Black Band Shoes
- Black Shoe Laces
- Black gloves
- Music Lyre for instrument
- Music Flip folder

Band T-shirts, shoes, and gloves are covered by the band fee for new students. Vets who need replacement items will have to pay for themselves

## INSPECTION GUIDELINES

In order for the band to look its best for a performance the band will go through an inspection process. The following list of guidelines has been prepared:

1. Overall good general appearance
2. Clean Uniform
3. Clean Shoes and Laces
4. Clean instrument
  - a) Clean mouthpiece or reed
  - b) Working slides

- c) Memorization of serial number
  - d) Clean pads and tone-holes
  - e) Working keys
  - f) Corks not frail or torn
5. Uniform completely hooked and buttoned
  6. Pants length just touch the top your shoes
  7. No talking or moving in ranks
  8. Hats should be straight and clean
  9. Heels together - toes at a 45 degree angle
  10. No Jewelry
  11. No lipstick
  12. No heavy makeup
  13. Drum heads clean and in good condition
  14. Sticks in good shape
  15. Neck straps properly adjusted
  16. Hair should not touch the collar of uniform
  17. All questions answered with "Yes sir/mam" or No sir/mam"

#### FEES

The cost of participating in the Seminole High School band is relatively low compared to the benefits of being a member. Due to the cost of running a successful band program, and the small amount of financial support we receive from the school/county, students and parents are expected to pay a fee. Although we do coordinate several fund raisers throughout the year, your financial support is required to contribute to the success of the program. The fee covers band T-shirt, gloves, shoes (for freshman), uniform cleaning, Transportation, and other expenses. The following fees apply to students:

#### FRESHMAN OR FIRST YEAR MEMBERS

\$300.00

#### ALL OTHER MEMBERS

\$225.00

All fees can be paid in installments, but the must be paid by the first football game. Fees must be placed in an envelope, with student name clearly written on the outside and placed in the fees box located in the band office. All checks can be made out to Seminole Band Boosters unless told otherwise.

## The Challenge

It sounds like a lot is to be expected. IT IS A LOT TO BE EXPECTED. The Seminole Band Program is a top one in the State of Florida. You want to be a part of that program. You must accept the “challenge of success”. When all of these costs, both money and time, are added up, the total is small if the end result is a responsible adult with a positive attitude, good self image, and a strong work ethic. These “other music” goals are just as valid as the musical ones. This handbook is made available for your reading so you are not surprised in any way. Your signature (on the handbook agreement page) attests to the fact that you have read, understand, and accept all parts of this contract.

This agreement is to reinforce the importance of the handbook. It is crucial that you and your parents read and understand the contents. this will solve many mishaps before they occur. Please direct any questions you have to Mr. Malcolm at 320-5161 or Ms. Newhouse at 320-5173.

Please sign the bottom of this form, DETACH and return to the band office no later than Friday August 19, 2011.

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I have READ and UNDERSTAND the Seminole High School Band Handbook. I understand that this handbook includes all policies which may govern the band, and in the event of a conflict, will be referred to this handbook for policy verification as well as actions that may be taken.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_