



Sickles High School

# BAND HANDBOOK 2021-2022

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## PREFACE

As a member of the Sickles High School Wall of Sound Band program, you represent not only yourself, but also your school, your program, and your colleagues in band. Wall of Sound students are expected to set high goals for themselves and for the program. The dedication that students put towards the program will help the program continue to strive to meet goals and achieve at high levels. Students in the Wall of Sound will not only become better musicians, but more well-rounded individuals.

An emphasis is placed on the development and growth of each individual student, not just on specific performances. Members of the SHS Band Program develop musically, emotionally, mentally, socially, and physically during their time in the program. Students will learn life skills such as character building, commitment, cooperation, dependability, determination, discipline, leadership, punctuality, respect, responsibility, and self-control.

This handbook contains the procedures and information to ensure the success of **YOUR** band. Please read this handbook carefully so that you may understand what is expected of you and what you should expect as a member of the band. Knowledge of the contents of this handbook will provide each student and family member with an understanding of how he/she may best contribute to the productivity and overall success of the program, resulting in the optimum individual experience.

Some concepts that will help students achieve the programs goals are:

1. Early is on time, on time is late.
2. Come prepared to rehearsal with reeds, oil, grease, pencil, and music.
3. Appropriate rehearsal attire (proper shoes, shorts, hat, sunglasses, sun screen, etc.)
4. Always have your part prepared.
5. Listen and Silent are spelled with the same letters
6. Make work fun.
7. Try to learn something new everyday.
8. Help those around you.
9. With Professionalism we gain respect.
10. Be excited, enthusiastic, positive, self-motivated.
11. Disciplined at all times with concentration and dedication.
12. Remain humble in success.

***“The Band will only be as good as my attitude and my contribution.”***



## OVERVIEW OF EXPECTATIONS

1. Attend all rehearsals and performances – **the minimum expectation is 100% attendance.**
2. Be on time for all classes, rehearsals, and performances.
3. Be prepared for rehearsals and performances having your instrument, music, pencil, and extra reeds, valve oil, mutes, etc.
4. Keep instruments and equipment in performance condition.
5. Understand the duties of the Officers to work with them and not against them.
6. Practice regularly at home (30 minutes per day minimum) and study privately if at all possible.
7. Practice time should be spent on scales, music, and etudes assigned by the Director(s) or private instructor.
8. Keep the band facility neat, orderly, and free of trash. Store instruments and music in assigned places, NOT ON THE FLOOR. Do not leave books or personal belongings in the band room.
9. If you use something, PUT IT BACK (stands, chairs, music folders, etc.)
10. Keep up with and be responsible for the music and equipment issued to you.
11. Students must abide by the Hillsborough County Schools Code of Student Conduct, Sickles High School Code of Conduct, and the SHS Band and Sensations Handbook.
12. Any instrument or equipment not belonging to or specifically assigned to you is strictly off limits.
13. No gum, food, or drink is allowed in the band room.
14. No gum is allowed at any rehearsal or performance, or while in uniform.
15. No hats inside during rehearsal.
16. During the regular school day, the band facility is to be used for regular classes, rehearsals, sectionals, and pre-arranged help sessions only. The area is off limits during lunch unless you are practicing. For security reasons, non-band students are not allowed in the band room, NO EXCEPTIONS.
17. REMEMBER to be at the right place at the right time, give 100% always and treat others as you want to be treated.

***“Compete against yourself - are you better than you were the day before?”***



## ATTENDANCE

**ATTENDANCE at all rehearsals, performances, etc. is REQUIRED and counts for your GRADE.**

As a member of the Wall of Sound, you occupy an important part and space in each band function. Just as any sport, the band works as a finely trained team. It is essential that every member be present for ALL functions, which include *rehearsals, concerts, festivals, football games, and out-of-town trips*. Any member who is absent makes the band less effective and has an adverse effect on the morale of the band. **Parents, if you plan to schedule an out of town vacation or doctor's appointment, please check the band calendar as to not schedule these during a rehearsal or performance. It is important to notify the Director(s) at the beginning of the year of any vacations or appointments.**

## PROCEDURE FOR ABSENCE

Naturally, sickness and other hardships make it necessary to miss on a rare occasion. The PARENT must notify the Director(s) as far IN ADVANCE as possible if a student must miss a rehearsal or performance by **emailing** Mr. Griffis and/or Mrs. Lundahl with the date and reason for absence.

**AN ABSENCE WILL FALL INTO (1) OF (3) CATEGORIES:**

**PERMITTED** (Advance notice given was *at least* 10 school days)

Reason: SHS-sanctioned activity

Student will not lose points for the activity/event.

Note: A permitted absence may not be granted for a day on which the band gives a public performance.

**EXCUSED** Reason: Family emergency or illness.

Director(s) and coaches must receive notification within 2 days of returning to school.

Student may lose points for the activity/event; make-up is allowed

**UNEXCUSED** Reason: Any absence, which is not permitted or excused.

Student will lose points for the activity/event; no make-up is allowed.

## CONSEQUENCES FOR ABSENCES

1. The first unexcused absence to a performance or rehearsal (outside school hours) will result in losing third quarter privilege and loss of points for that rehearsal.
2. The second unexcused absence will result in losing third quarter privilege, loss of points for that rehearsal, and being benched from performing at that Friday football game.
3. Missing a Thursday rehearsal will automatically have you *benched* for the Friday football game.
4. Missing two band classes may result in being *benched* for the performance that week.



- 5. A *benched* person must attend all band functions, sit in the stands, and play in uniform or points for that performance will be deducted.

Please understand that rehearsals and performances are the same as exams in other classes. Since there is no way to “make up” these events, **missing a rehearsal or performance is equivalent to not taking an exam and receiving a zero as a grade.** However, **ANY** outside rehearsal or performance missed for an **acceptable** reason must be made up by completing an assignment approved by the Director(s).

Band is a performing art, and it is impossible to replicate a performance. Make-up work for missing a performance for *any reason* CANNOT be taken for full credit.

**FAILURE TO MAKE UP AN ABSENCE WILL RESULT IN LOWERING OF THE BAND GRADE.**

**PROCEDURE FOR TARDY**

**TARDINESS** will not be tolerated. Tardies cause delays in time schedules and are discourteous and irritating to your fellow band members who have to wait for you. All tardies are *unexcused* unless excused by valid reasons or a written pass. The procedure for tardies is the same as that for absences.

**EXCUSED - (Student does not lose points)**

**UNEXCUSED - (Student loses up to 1/3 of points for the activity/event; no make-up)**

**FIVE MINUTES EARLY IS TEN MINUTES LATE!**

UNACCEPTABLE EXCUSES:	SOLUTION:
“Had to work.”	Make arrangements with your employer early.
“Couldn’t get a ride.”	Be responsible; check with your Section Leader.
“Didn’t know about it.”	Be responsible; You’ve been given advance notice.
“Parents are leaving town.”	Clear your schedule in advance.
“Parents made me stay home to do work or study.”	Attendance is required! This is a co-curricular graded class.
“Had an appointment.”	Do not schedule appointments during a band activity

1. Students do **NOT** pick and choose the band events in which they wish to participate. If the band performs or rehearses, **everyone** is to be there **every time!**
2. **Conflicts with other activities (ie: sport practice or other school related activities) are to be resolved as far IN ADVANCE as possible (not the day of the event).**
3. Rain does not cancel a rehearsal or performance. In the case of inclement weather, report to the band room for rehearsal.
4. Performance takes precedence over practice concerning another school activity.



5. Only reasons of GRAVE EMERGENCY should be used for missing a performance or rehearsal. These arrangements must be made in advance.

## ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY/COMMITMENT TO BAND PROGRAM

It is expected that students maintain **at least** a 2.0 GPA. Students failing to meet this expectation may be subject to required tutoring sessions and eligibility contracts.

This program runs for the full year. Considering the level of commitment required, participation in other co- curricular or extra-curricular activities might have to be limited.

### **Class Participation/Employability: 25%**

This includes, but is not limited to: having your instrument, music, mouthpiece, mutes, reeds, oil, pencil, etc. at all times. If your instrument needs repair, you are to hang onto the mouthpiece and reeds (if applicable) so that a loaner may be arranged. Any projects that may be assigned will fall under this category.

### **Individual Testing & Music Theory: 25%**

Tests will include but are not limited to: individual and section playing tests. Scales, exercises or excerpts from music may be selected as testing material. Students will also complete music theory assignments. Sensations will be tested on technique and memorization of routine material.

### **Rehearsals and Performances: 50%**

This includes **ALL** after-school rehearsals and in school rehearsals for the marching, jazz, concert bands, and Sensations events. The rehearsal schedule is online, so please make any and all appointments outside of these times, as appointments during band rehearsals and performances will most likely be counted as unexcused. Remember, any added rehearsals or concerts will receive at least a two-week notice.

Remember, missing a performance is inexcusable and will result in an 'F' for the semester. If all of these requirements are fulfilled 100% and the student has shown exceptional dedication and improvement, a student will earn an 'A.'

*“There are only two options regarding commitment. You’re either in or you’re out. There’s no such thing as life in-between” - Pat Riley*

## MUSICAL GROWTH - LESSONS & HONOR BANDS

**PRIVATE LESSONS** are **strongly** encouraged. The value of one-on-one instruction with a professional on a student’s instrument cannot be overstated. **Private instruction is key to the advancement of individual skills and integral in achieving a student’s highest potential.** To obtain a private instructor, please contact the Director(s) and he will provide you with a list of approved instructors.

## HONOR BANDS



**ALL-STATE BANDS** are honor bands in which the students must audition to be a part of. Auditions are held in September and music can be obtained from the Director(s), however, it is highly suggested that each student purchase the books in which the exercises are in. Students who qualify will travel to the Florida All-State Clinic, which is held here in Tampa every year in January. They will rehearse with the top students from across the state and present a concert at the end of the clinic. All leaders are required to audition.

**ALL-COUNTY BAND** is a select group of students (grades 9-10 and 11-12 for the high school level) who pass an audition, which is held usually at the end of marching season. Students who make these bands will participate with the top students in Hillsborough County for a 3-day clinic and then present a concert at the end of the third day. All leaders are required to audition.

**USF FESTIVAL OF WINDS, FSU TRI-STATE AND UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA HONOR BANDS** are honor bands that happen every year in early December. The Director(s) recommends a number of talented students every year based on their preparedness and participation in All-State and All-County auditions. Students chosen for these bands will rehearse with top students from Florida, Georgia, and Alabama, and present a concert at the respective university.

**MASTER MUSICIAN** is a program that is designed for students who want to excel at their instrument and is interested in potential scholarships for summer music camps. This is highly recommended if you plan on interviewing to become a leader. If you complete the portfolio and pass the music theory test for the Master Musician Program, you are automatically entered into the All-County band as long as you audition.

## **SOLO & ENSEMBLE**

**SOLO & ENSEMBLE** is held in February every year. Students may prepare a musical selection for district level evaluation. Every student has the opportunity to participate in playing a solo and/or an ensemble as long as the music is on the Florida Bandmasters Association approved list. Students who earn the rating of Superior on a grade 5 or higher have the opportunity to perform at the State level for college professors.

*Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.” -  
Thomas Edison*

## **ENSEMBLES**

**MARCHING WALL OF SOUND** operates primarily during the fall and is composed of **EVERY** student in the band program. As the marching band is a functional, necessary band at SHS, every instrumental music student must put in their fair share of work to insure the success of the band. Basics of marching and outdoor playing are stressed. To be a part of the marching band the student must be in a concert band, jazz band, or Sensations. Band camp is required and is held the two weeks before school starts. The marching band provides in-game spirit and support for the football team and puts on an exciting half time show every Friday there is a football game. They also play at every school pep rally. There are three Saturday's that the band meets. Each year the Wall of Sound has a

rehearsal-a-thon where they put the finishing touches on their half-time show. They also participate in one competition each year, usually on a Saturday in October. The culmination of the marching season is a Saturday performance for the Florida Bandmasters Association Music Performance Assessment. The Wall of Sound rehearses every Tuesday



and Thursday 5pm-8pm. This schedule lasts until roughly the middle of November. If the football team makes the playoffs, the band will travel with the football team and support them.

**WIND ENSEMBLE** is designed for the most advanced musicians with an emphasis placed on the musicianship skills required for performance of sophisticated literature. This band is designed to have 1-2 persons on a part. Members are required to participate in Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessments. Membership is based on previous years success and musical growth. Members must participate in marching band. Participation in All-State, All-County,

Master Musician, and Solo & Ensemble all play a factor in the Director(s) decision. **Private lessons are expected. Contact Mr. Griffis or Mrs. Lundahl for approved private lessons teachers.**

**SYMPHONIC BAND** is an audition-based group designed for musical growth. This is a larger ensemble with multiple people on a part. Emphasis is played on the musicianship skills required for high school literature. Fundamentals and technique building are priorities. Members are highly encouraged to participate in All-State, All-County, Master Musician, and Solo & Ensemble. Members must participate in marching band. **Private lessons are highly encouraged.**

**CONCERT BAND** is open to all students at SHS and is designed for musical growth. This is a larger ensemble with multiple people on a part. Emphasis is played on the musicianship skills required for high school literature. Fundamentals and technique building are priorities. Members are highly encouraged to participate in All-State, All-County, Master Musician, and Solo & Ensemble. Members must participate in marching band. **Private lessons are highly encouraged.**

**JAZZ ENSEMBLES** are designed for those students who have an interest in performing jazz music. Students develop an understanding of swing, latin, rock, funk, and contemporary styles of repertoire and performance. Instrumentalists must be in one of the concert bands and marching band. Non-concert band instrumentalists are still required to participate in marching band.

**INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES** - Students are not only encouraged to play solo literature for Solo & Ensemble, but also to form chamber ensemble groups and perform. These ensembles will have the opportunity to perform at the Solo & Ensemble Recital Dinner, District Solo & Ensemble Music Performance Assessment, and the possibility at the spring concert and any other gigs that may arise.

**SENSATIONS** is a state award winning color guard ensemble. It is designed to develop movement to music incorporating dance, flag, saber, rifle, and props. This ensemble performs varieties of dance styles including lyrical, jazz, military, and modern. The Sensations also perform at the winter and spring band concerts. The Sensations is an audition-based ensemble. The Eurhythmics class is required for all members for the full year unless an application for waiver has been submitted.

Uniforms vary from year to year.

**WINTER SENSATIONS** is an audition-based Winter Guard team that competes around the state of Florida in the FFCC (Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit). Auditions for Winter Sensations typically occur in November, with practices beginning in January. Auditioning for Winter Sensations is not a requirement to be a member of Sensations. Membership in Winter Sensations is limited.



## UNIFORMS

Uniforms are an extremely important part of the SHS band program. They give us an identity, a sense of pride, and a clean-cut professional look. They add a measure of class and respect to our organization.

A Sickles High School Marching Band uniform is rented out to all wind and percussionists, which includes a standard issue jacket and jumper. Students will purchase black marching shoes, black gloves (except percussionists), and the marching cavalier hat (tuba players purchase a beret) as part of their uniform. Students also are required to have long

black socks and the current year marching t-shirt under their uniform. Absolutely no jewelry is to be worn and only black scrunchies are allowed to put hair up. No colored nail polish is allowed.

**WIND ENSEMBLE** - Men are required to purchase a tuxedo (standard black tuxedo with black pants, black jacket, black bowtie, and black cummerbund) and are to have a white shirt, long black socks, and black shoes. Symphonic band gentlemen need to have a black button-down dress shirt, black dress pants, black dress belt and black dress shoes and socks. Women are required to purchase the designated black dress and are to wear black pantyhose and black closed-toed shoes.

## LOST MUSIC

If a student loses a piece of music, that student will be charged the appropriate amount that it costs to replace it. Responsibility of keeping your music safe and in good condition allows for future students to have the opportunities that you have during your tenure at Sickles High School. Students will be provided with a folder to keep their music in, no sharing. All folders are to be kept in the music folder cabinets; no other location is acceptable. Captains are in charge of making sure every student has their music folder. Replacement of music for marching and concert band will be .25 cents a page and \$2.50-\$5.00 for jazz band.

## STUDENT BAND OFFICERS

There are several student officer positions within the SHS Wall of Sound. You must be a junior or senior to apply for an officer position. All officers are REQUIRED to participate in All-State & All-County auditions and Solo & Ensemble Festival held every February.

The band leadership positions have been listed so that an understanding of who is in charge of what in the band is understood:

**DRUM MAJORS** are the highest student officers in the band and are responsible for conducting the band both on the field and in the stands for games. The Drum Major is also responsible for conducting the band during rehearsals. The Drum Major assists in the teaching of drills on the field. The Drum Major also assists with warming up the concert band and running the music library.

**BAND CAPTAINS** are the second highest student officers in the band. She or He is in charge of keeping thorough records of attendance and discipline. They are also in charge of making sure the practice field is set up no later than 15 minutes before rehearsal. The Band Captain also assists in the teaching of drills on the field.

**SENSATIONS CAPTAINS** are the chief officers of the Color Guard. They are in charge of Guard rehearsals, choreographing routines, and teaching the routines to the auxiliary. The auxiliary captain is also required to keep



thorough records of attendance and discipline. They also assist in the teaching of drill on the field for the guard.

**AUXILIARY CAPTAINS** are the chief officers of the auxiliary. They are in charge of auxiliary rehearsals, choreographing routines, and teaching the routines to the auxiliary. The auxiliary captain is also required to keep thorough records of attendance and discipline. They also assist in the teaching of drills on the field for the guard.

**SECTION LEADERS** are in charge of their assigned sections. They assist in the teaching of drill, the preparation and running of sectionals, and other duties related to the sections. They are in charge of making sure that their sections are prepared both with their music and drill. Section Leaders are responsible for all uniforms in their section. Each Section Leader is also in charge of making sure that their section has their concert band and solo & ensemble

literature prepared. Section Leaders are also responsible for making sure that each member has music for marching band, concert band, and solo & ensemble.

### REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

Each and every rehearsal is valuable and thus important that every student attend ALL rehearsals. If you miss a rehearsal or are tardy, you are not only wasting your time, but you are wasting every other band student's time as the band can only function at their best with everyone there.

### INSTRUMENT STORAGE CABINETS

1. Only instruments are to be stored in the cabinets. No food, books, or backpacks are to be placed in the cabinets. On Friday's students may put their game day bag in there for storage only until the game and must be removed before you leave Friday night.
2. Do not hang on the doors, as they will come off.
3. Do not go through another cabinet if you do not have an instrument in there.

### BAND ROOM REHEARSALS

1. Students must have their instrument in working order including their mouthpieces and at least 2 extra reeds, any required mutes, valve oil, pencil, music, etc.
2. Before rehearsal begins, students are to be warming up individually on their own and to stop once the Director(s) steps on the podium.
3. Correct posture at **ALL** times so that you are focused. Percussionists are to be standing if they are playing on the piece we are working on, or in a chair in the back of the room if they are waiting for the piece(s) they perform on.
4. There will be NO talking during rehearsal. If you have a question about the music, raise your hand and wait for the Director(s) to acknowledge you.
5. Do not leave your seat or ask to use the restroom.



## MARCHING REHEARSALS

During football season, full marching rehearsals are scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday evenings 4pm-7pm. Sectionals are determined by individual section leaders and are generally held on Tuesdays and Thursdays before rehearsal.

1. EVERY student is required to dress out wearing appropriate clothing and sneakers. No sandals, flats, pumps, boots, jeans, pants, skirts, dresses, etc. are allowed. Students' grades will be deducted if they do not wear appropriate clothing. This is necessary due to Florida's extreme temperatures.
2. To be early is on time, to be on time is to be late! Plan to get to all rehearsals no later than 15 minutes before they start. This will allow plenty of time for warming up and any extra stretching you may need.
3. The Drum Majors and Band Captain(s) have authority until the Director(s) and/or staff reaches the field.
4. The first whistle will let everyone know that they have 60 seconds to get into the stretching circle. The second whistle signifies the beginning of stretching. Those not in the stretching circle will be reported as a tardy.
5. There will be no playing to and from the practice field except for percussion under the supervision of the percussion captain.
6. Be alert all the time. Everyone needs to be focused not only for instruction but also in case of a weather emergency.
7. Marching rehearsals will be most efficient if all members are diligent in correcting mistakes quickly and thinking ahead to the next move. Above all, take pride in every minute of rehearsal so that we can all take pride in our final product – the performance.
8. Water breaks will be "gush and go." Do not stand around goofing off. Get your water and fall back into formation.

## PERFORMANCES & PUBLIC APPEARANCES

1. All members are expected to attend every performance in which the band participates. If you are unable to attend a performance, you must inform the Director(s) **in advance**. Severe illness or death in the family are usually the only legitimate excuses for missing a performance.
2. Notices of all performances/appearances will be posted on the calendar in the band room and online. It is the responsibility of each student to check the calendar and web site regularly for all pertinent information.
3. Rules of conduct/order regarding rehearsals are in effect during all public performances. Let your conduct both before and after the performance be above reproach. **Your conduct reflects on your band, your school, and your community. Proper language is to be used AT ALL TIMES.**
4. Appearance must be neat **at all times** when in uniform or while under observation as representatives of the band program and school.



5. A performance or appearance is **not completed** until students are officially dismissed from pertaining activities. No band member is permitted to leave the organization in advance of group dismissal at any time unless excused by the Director(s) prior to the performance.
6. Be sure that you have properly taken care of instruments, uniforms, music, etc. before leaving.

### FOOTBALL GAME PROCEDURES

1. Attendance will be taken at Report Time in the designated area. Check in with your Section Leader and then the Section Leader will report to the Band Captain(s). Arrive wearing your CURRENT band t-shirt (tucked in), soccer shorts, long black socks, and black shoes.
2. Make sure your instrument is in working order, shined, extra reeds, and mouthpiece is all prepared for inspection.
3. Section Leaders will retrieve uniforms from the uniform room and have them ready at least 30 minutes prior to inspection. Remember, dressing areas in the auditorium MUST be kept in an orderly fashion, remind your section of this requirement.
4. Inspection time will be on the board in the band room and will take place in the auditorium. Once you are called to attention by the drum major you are to line up (dressed or not) for inspection. If you are not dressed on time, or have the appropriate attire, your grade will be adjusted accordingly. Section Leaders and the Band Captain(s) will oversee inspection and document any tardiness or uniform that is not on properly.
5. In order to receive full credit for inspection, each student must have the following: CURRENT year band t-shirt, soccer/athletic shorts, long black socks, black marching shoes, uniform on correctly, marching cavalier hat (beret for tuba players), extra reeds (if applicable), mouthpiece, a clean instrument, absolutely no jewelry or bandanas, no colored makeup, and all long hair is put up under the hat so as not to touch the collar of the uniform. The Band Captain(s) will take note of any deductions and make sure Mr. Griffis has it on his desk before they leave for the game.
6. For away games, students will wait for the Director(s) to give the okay to load the buses. You are responsible for your own instrument and being sure it is in the loading area and unloaded when we return.
7. Once on the buses, you must remain seated at all times. Talking should be kept to a decent decibel level. Respect the band parents and the bus driver is in charge.
8. For home games, students will be dismissed to line up outside and there will be no talking as we march to the stadium. Once at the stadium, we will either ascend into the stands for away games or prepare for pre-game for home games.
9. Once we leave the band room/auditorium, the lines will remain straight both vertically and horizontally and you must act **PROFESSIONAL** at all times.
10. Always listen for directions on which piece to play and when; **DO NOT** play without permission.



11. Remain in your section when in the stands. The band area is off limits to everyone except band members and chaperones. There will be **no food or drink** brought into the seating area except water or ice.
12. Chewing gum is **NEVER** permitted.
13. In the middle of the second quarter, the band will start its descent onto the track for warm up. After the halftime show, you will be given the third quarter to use the restroom, purchase concessions, and socialize (within reason). Remember you are still in your uniform and must act **PROFESSIONAL**.
14. Use your own judgment about what to eat or drink, but if an accident occurs, you will be charged for an extra uniform cleaning whether or not you are at fault.
15. You must be back in your seat ready to play when the clock hits 0:00 of the third quarter (Early is on time, on time is late!). If you are not back by 0:00 you will lose your third quarter privilege for the following week. Remember the buddy system!
16. After the game, we will march from the stands to either the band room or to the buses. Have fun, but remember **PROFESSIONALISM**.
17. Once arriving back in the auditorium, you will stand at attention before being dismissed. You then must check in your uniform and check out with your section leader before leaving.
18. The band room and auditorium must be cleaned before anyone leaves; this is a job for every band member. If we take the time to show pride in our band room then we will not have to assign sections to keep the room clean!

### **ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS**

The simplest method of enforcing regulations is to withhold the privilege of participation in our band for a specified period of time. Only the Director(s) may take this action. Withholding may be done in several ways:

1. Replacing a person in the show. This would be done primarily in the case of disruptive behavior, negative attitude, not being prepared, or absence.
2. In the case of extreme misbehavior or disrespect, for the good of the band, the student may be expelled from the band program.
3. A penalty will be administered for all tardies, misbehavior, disrespect, disruption, defiance, disobedience, off-task activity, inattentiveness, destructiveness, or any acts that cast discredit and/or embarrassment upon the band or the school, no matter the reason. The student will have to do push-ups, laps, or some other form of punishment in addition to the deduction of the student's grade.
4. For serious or continual infractions, band members may also be suspended, meaning that they will be expected to attend all rehearsals and performances of the band, but will not be allowed to participate until the problem causing the suspension has been rectified. Failure to comply with the terms of suspension may result in expulsion from the band program.



## INFRACTIONS OF CONDUCT

Infractions of conduct mentioned above or those listed below are grounds for severe disciplinary action including suspension or dismissal from Sickles High School and/or the band program:

1. Destruction or theft of school property and equipment.
2. Possession or use of **alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or any mind-altering substance** on or before a band activity.
3. Any actions, which are illegal or prohibited by Hillsborough County Schools.

## SCHOOL INSTRUMENT RENTAL POLICY

As our school instruments must be kept in good condition, we have strict guidelines for use of school owned instruments. The instrument rental fee for Hillsborough County is \$43.00. Certain instruments may not be available for renting from the school, in which the student and parent can utilize one of the many local music stores rental programs. If a student is unable to afford the rental payments, please see the Director(s) ASAP and something will be worked out, we want you in the music program! Here are our guidelines for use of school owned instruments:

1. Once rented, you will have to read and sign a rental agreement. Parents must sign this as well. No instrument will be rented without the proper signatures.
2. Instruments must never be used by anyone other than the renter. If this should happen, the instrument will be taken back. The renter will not be allowed to rent from the school until the issue is resolved between the student, parents, and Director(s).
3. Instruments must be maintained properly. If an instrument is not being maintained properly, it will be taken back. The issue must be resolved between the student, the parents, and the Director(s).
4. Occasionally, instruments need repairs. If an instrument is in need of repair, it is the student's responsibility to bring it to the Director(s) attention as soon as possible. The SHS band will **NOT** pay for damage caused by negligence or irresponsibility.
5. If an instrument is stolen, lost, or damaged to the point of mutilation, the renter is fully responsible and must pay for replacement. There are no exceptions to this rule.

## INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE

It is important that all instruments receive regular maintenance. Basic care will prolong the life of your instrument. Woodwinds should be sure to oil the keys and wipe the instrument down with a soft cotton cloth after playing. All reed players should have no less than three reeds broken in at one time and should be kept in a reed case to avoid damage to them. Double reeds should soak their reeds before playing to avoid any cracks. Brass instruments should clean their instrument at least once a month with lukewarm water and polish it down with the appropriate cloths for your instrument. Valve instruments need to use valve oil as needed and remember to play with your fingers curved so that the valve action is straight up and down and will avoid uneven wear on the pistons.

Contact your Director(s) if you would like to purchase your own instrument or are wanting to move up on a model so they can provide you with recommended brands and models, and possibly a connection to get your instrument at a reasonable price.



Remember, moving up to a better mouthpiece and reeds will allow you to play in tune with better tone quality and develop your embouchure. All reed players are expected to have at least three working reeds on you at all times. Clarinets should be on a 3-3.5 Vandoren Reed with preferably an M13, M15, or B45 mouthpiece and saxophones should be on a 3 Vandoren or a 3.5 Hemke reed for alto saxophone (3.5-4) for tenor and baritone saxophones). All saxophones should be using a selmer S-80 C\* mouthpiece with a metal selmer ligature or BG Traditional ligature. Having a quality reed and mouthpiece helps assure a good sound and again, helps with intonation. Reed players are encouraged to rotate their reeds throughout the day to ensure the reeds last longer. Trumpets are to be played on a Bach 3C, Horns on a Giardinelli C8 or Farkas MDC, Trombones on a 5G, Euphoniums on a Schilke 51D, and Tubas on a Conn-Helleberg. The quicker you get these new mouthpieces, the quicker you get a better mature sound and the band gets a more unified and mature sound.

### WALL OF SOUND FEES

Please read the following very carefully as you may have to write three separate checks.

1. The uniform rental must be on a separate check, as well as the instrument rental fee. The remaining band fees may be on one check.
2. All marching cavalier hats, marching shoes, gloves, t-shirts, and women's concert dresses will be ordered through the band boosters.
3. All checks are written to Sickles High School Band Boosters (SHSBB). All fees are to be paid via check or money order. No cash will be accepted. Please make sure your student's name and what the amount is for is listed on the check so that the treasurer can issue you a receipt.

We understand that the beginning of the school year can be expensive. Please realize that the shoes, hat, concert uniform, and gloves are yours to keep and therefore are one time purchases unless they are lost or outgrown. If there are financial problems with the cost of being a member, please contact Mr. Griffis or Mrs. Lundahl to arrange for a payment schedule with the assistance of the Band Boosters and fundraising.

### BAND MEMBERSHIP FEE

This fee encompasses many, many expenses associated with being a member of the Sickles High School Band Program. This one-time fee is \$150. **This fee should be paid through Cut Time, or cash or check made payable to SHS Band Boosters.**

### INSTRUMENT RENTAL FEE

Students who use a school owned instrument (including percussion) will pay a one-time fee of **\$43.00 and MUST BE ON A SEPARATE CHECK FROM OTHER BAND FEES** to rent the instrument for the year. Students who rent a marching instrument and a concert instrument will only pay one rental fee but will be in charge of making sure both instruments remain in playing condition. **This fee should be should be paid via cash or check made out to Sickles High School.**



## UNIFORM RENTAL FEE

All students in the Marching Wall of Sound use a school owned uniform and will pay a one-time fee of \$37.63 and **MUST BE ON A SEPARATE CHECK FROM OTHER BAND FEES** to use the uniform for the season. **This fee should be paid via cash or check made out to Sickles High School.**

## BAND STAFF & BAND BOOSTERS

Running a successful marching band program is like running a sports team. Not only do you have a coach, you have an assistant coach and many trainers specializing in each area of that sport. The Director(s) relies on having many eyes within the program.

Special technicians in drill design, marching, visual design, color guard, drum line, woodwind, brass, and music are areas that must be taken into account in the marching band season. The students are required to give each technician, whether a guest or a permanent staff member, the respect they deserve. Some of the technicians will be paid and some will be devoting their time to enrich the lives of the students, so in order to continue having help to strive toward our goals, these staff members need to be respected just as much as the band Director(s).

Band Boosters are extremely important to our band program. These people are the backbone of support for each and every student and most importantly the band Director(s). Some of these adults are parents, some are past parents, and some are people donating their time to help out the band. Every parent who helps out needs to complete and submit the HCPS "SERVE" form online.

Without the support of these wonderful people, the marching band program would not be where it is today. They help out with moving, loading, and setting up equipment when we go places, they help out and keep our uniforms clean, provide food after long rehearsals, and are always there for the students.

Under no circumstances should any band student ever talk back or disrespect any of these wonderful people. If a student is caught, or complained about disrespecting a band booster, you will be issued a referral, dismissed from the marching band and will not be allowed to participate with the band the rest of the year.

By definition, the role of the booster organization is to "boost" the band program in a positive manner. The purpose of the Sickles High School Wall of Sound Boosters is to advance the best interest of the Sickles High School bands by providing support, as requested by the Director(s). All parents of students enrolled in the SHS Band program become members of the Band Boosters automatically, as the band booster fee is included in the student's band fee. Maintaining a thriving band program requires support year-round and funding beyond that provided by the school system. The Band Boosters organization is a non-profit corporation and help with:

1. Purchase and maintenance of uniforms
2. Furnishing chaperones/volunteers for band events
3. Organization and implementation of fundraising activities
4. Encouragement of new parent involvement
5. Stimulate and maintain an enthusiastic interest and support for all phases of the band program
6. Support and advocate for music programs in the public schools



## SHS BAND PROGRAM 2021-2022 CALENDAR

This calendar is also maintained on our Cut Time platform found at [cuttime.net](http://cuttime.net) and found at [Sicklesbands.com](http://Sicklesbands.com) where you can sync it with your google calendar and will be subject to change.

07/19/2021 09:00 AM - 07/22/2021 05:00 PM	Percussion Camp	SHS Band Room	WOS	<u>Key:</u>
07/24/2021 09:00 AM - 05:00 PM	Leadership Retreat	SHS Band Room	SS	<u>WOS = Wall of Sound</u>
07/26/2021 12:00 PM - 07/29/2021 08:00 PM	SHSMWOS BAND CAMP!	SHS Band Room	WOS	<u>SS = Select Students</u>
08/02/2021 04:00 PM - 08/06/2021 08:00 PM	SHSMWOS BAND CAMP!	SHS Band Room	WOS	<u>WE = Wind Ensemble</u>
08/06/2021 06:00 PM - 08:00 PM	SHSMWOS KICKOFF EVENT	SHS Practice Field and Cafeteria	WOS	<u>SB = Symphonic Band</u>
08/10/2021 03:30 PM - 04:30 PM	First Day of School - NO REHEARSAL		WOS	<u>CB = Concert Band</u>
08/12/2021 - 11/4/2021 04:00 PM - 7:00PM	WOS Rehearsals	SHS Band Room	WOS	<u>JB = Jazz Band</u>
08/27/2021 04:30 PM - 11:00 PM	@MIDDLETON	Middleton HS	WOS	
09/03/2021 04:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Home v.King		WOS	
09/10/2021 04:30 PM - 10:30 PM	@ALONSO		WOS	
09/17/2021 04:30 PM - 10:30 PM	@STEINBRENNER		WOS	
09/24/2021 04:30 PM - 10:30 PM	Home V.Durant		WOS	
09/25/2021 08:00 AM - 04:00 PM	All State Auditions	Martinez Middle School	SS	
10/01/2021 04:30 PM - 10:30 PM	Home v.Leto	Sickles HS	WOS	
10/08/2021 07:45 PM - 08:45 PM	BYE WEEK - NO GAME		WOS	
10/15/2021 04:30 PM - 10:30 PM	@GAITHER		WOS	
10/16/2021 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM	LION'S PRIDE REHEARSAL AND COMPETITION		WOS	



10/20/2021 07:00 PM - 08:00 PM	MUSIC SHOWCASE FALL CONCERT	SHS Auditorium	WE/SB	
10/22/2021 09:00 PM - 10:00 PM	BYE WEEK - NO GAME		WOS	
10/29/2021 04:30 PM - 10:30 PM	HOMECOMING v. Mitchell		WOS	
11/05/2021 04:30 PM - 10:30 PM	SENIOR NIGHT v. Wharton	Sickles HS	WOS	
11/06/2021 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM	Marching MPA	Bloomingtondale HS	WOS	
11/11/2021	NO SCHOOL		WOS	
11/17/2021 04:00 PM - 09:00 PM	All County Auditions	King HS	SS	
11/30/2021 04:00 PM - 06:00 PM	BAND CONCERT DRESS REHEARSAL	SHS Auditorium	WOS	
12/01/2021 07:00 PM - 08:00 PM	WINTER BAND CONCERT	SHS Auditorium	WOS	
12/02/2021 08:00 AM - 12/05/2021 12:00 PM	Festival of Winds	USF	SS	
12/03/2021 07:00 PM - 08:00 PM	FOW Concert for Wind Ensemble		WE	
12/10/2021 05:00 PM - 09:00 PM	Jazz Band Performance at Chick Fil A	Chick Fil A Waters Ave	JB	
1/3/2022	Teacher Workday			
1/4/2022	Students return			
1/10/2022 -2/28/2022 3-4PM	Symphonic Band Rehearsal	SHS Band Room	SB	
01/11/2022 - 3/1/2022 04:00 PM - 06:00 PM	Wind Ensemble Rehearsal	SHS Band Room	WE	
01/12/2022 08:15 AM - 01/15/2022 05:00 PM	Florida Music Educators Association Conference	Tampa Convention Center	SS	
01/20/2022 06:00 PM - 01/22/2022 07:00 PM	All County Rehearsal and Concert	TBD	SS	
02/17/2022 04:00 PM - 02/19/2022 05:00 PM	Solo and Ensemble Festival	Sickles High School	SS	



02/22/2022 08:30 PM - 09:30 PM	Band Pre-MPA CONCERT	Sickles HS	WE/SB/ CB	
03/03/2022 05:00 PM - 03/05/2022 06:00 PM	Band MPA	Blake HS	WE/SB/ CB	
03/07/2022 03:30 PM - 04:30 PM	NO SCHOOL			
03/13/2022 08:45 PM - 03/19/2022 09:45 PM	SPRING BREAK			
03/21/2022 03:30 PM - 04:30 PM	State Jazz and Solo and Ensemble	Vero Beach	SS/JB	
04/15/2022 08:45 PM - 09:45 PM	NO SCHOOL			
04/21/2022 06:00 PM - 08:00 PM	Sickles Jazz Night	SHS Auditorium	JB	
4/23/2022	State Concert MPA	UF	WE	
05/02/2022 04:00 PM - 06:00 PM	Band Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal	SHS Auditorium	WOS	
05/03/2022 07:00 PM - 09:00 PM	SPRING CONCERT	SHS Auditorium	WOS	
05/09/2022 06:00 PM - 09:00 PM	Band Banquet	TBD	WOS	
05/17/2022 06:00 AM - 08:00 PM	WOS Icebreaker Event	SHS Band Room	WOS	



**Sickles High School Bands**  
**STUDENT/PARENT AGREEMENT 2021-2022**  
**BAND MEMBER HANDBOOK - SIGNATURE PAGE.PDF**



We have read the Sickles High School Band Handbook and we understand the procedures within it. We have set aside all dates listed on the [calendar](#), and we understand that two weeks' notice constitutes fair warning for additions to this calendar. We understand that additions and deletions can be made to this handbook via the website, e-mail communication, or a sheet sent home with the student. We understand that these procedures and guidelines will be handled at the Director(s) discretion and that the Director(s) has the final approval in all situations.

Please return this signature sheet to the Director(s) stating that you have read and understand all procedures set forth in this handbook. Please remember to check [www.sicklesbands.com](http://www.sicklesbands.com) any updates and all pertinent up to date information. Note the signature page is available separately on [www.sicklesbands.com](http://www.sicklesbands.com) for convenience.

Please return the completed form to Mr. Griffis at [keith.griffis@hcps.net](mailto:keith.griffis@hcps.net) or Mrs. Lundahl at [heather.lundahl@hcps.net](mailto:heather.lundahl@hcps.net) by August 6, 2021.



[Link to separate, editable signature page](#)

Date:	
Student Name (Print):	
Student Signature:	
Student Email Address:	
Parent/Guardian Name (Print):	
Parent/Guardian Signature:	
Parent/Guardian Email Address:	