

Hopewell Valley Central High School Marching Black and Gold



2018 - 2019
Handbook

Director – Mr. David Schwartzer
davidschwartzer@hvrzd.org
609-737-4000 ext. 3685

Table of Contents

Program Overview	3	
Staff	4	
Student Leadership		4
Attendance	5	
Jobs and Band	6	
Tardiness	6	
Rehearsals	6	
Responsibility	6	
Football Games	7	
Stands Policy	7	
Competitions	8	
Conduct	8	
Uniforms	9	
Communication	10	
Associated Fees	11	

Program Overview

The Hopewell Valley Central High School "Marching Black and Gold" is a marching ensemble comprised of students in grades eight through twelve. Our goal is to provide students with an additional instrumental ensemble experience of the highest quality. An extra-curricular ensemble, the "Marching Black and Gold" consists of three main sections: color guard, percussion, and winds. Each section contributes unique attributes to the overall show. While all three sections often practice independently during rehearsals, it is important to remember that the marching band does not exist without the contributions of all three. We firmly believe that performing in the curricular ensembles is essential to developing the fundamental and advanced techniques essential to being a great musician. As such, it is strongly encouraged that all musicians who wish to participate in the MBG enroll in the high school Symphonic Band (or 8th grade band). The Symphonic Band is the curricular core of our band program and is the ensemble which helps foster our foundation for musical excellence. Percussionists and color guard members are also encouraged to participate in the Indoor Percussion and Indoor Color Guard ensembles which are extra-curricular and run from December through April.

Over the course of a band "season" (typically August – November) students will learn, rehearse and perform a 6 to 8 minute marching band show to be performed at football games and competitions. In order to successfully accomplish this, the band holds a summer camp just before school begins, rehearses three days a week during the fall months, and also rehearses Saturday's before performances. The band performs at local competitions sanctioned by [US Bands](#) or [Cavalcade of Bands](#), home and away football games, as well as other school and community events as they arise.

While we do lend assistance to cheering on the football team and supporting the school and community, the main emphasis of the marching band is on performance, musicianship, and constantly pushing ourselves to rise to the next "level".

It should also be know that it is possible (and expected) for students to maintain a strong work ethic and have a successful academic year in addition to being a productive member of the marching band.

Staff

Director	David Schwartz	daidschwartz@hvrsd.org
Assistant Director	Emily Hopkins	
Color Guard Director	Samantha Maloney	samanthamaloney@hvrsd.org
Color Guard Assistant Director	Rachael Foster	
Percussion Director	Scott Daley	qsurf99@comcast.net
Percussion Assistant Director	Mark Eichenberger	bigpercussion@gmail.com

Drum Major

The Drum Major is primarily responsible for conducting the band while on the field and in the bleachers. The drum major also attends to needs that arise during rehearsal like assisting with the metronome, helping students, and being an extension of the staff, when appropriate. The drum major is also a liaison between the staff and students and is expected to be a strong leader. The number of drum majors is determined on a yearly basis by the directors and staff members.

President

The President is the on the field leader of the band and also helps coordinate social activities for the band throughout the season. The President also assists the directors in communicating important information to the students and is responsible for coordinating the creation of the end of year video collage for the marching band banquet.

Section Leaders

Students should display strong leadership skills and lead their peers by first being a great member of the ensemble. Section leaders are also responsible for the musical and visual performance of their section in addition to promoting proper rehearsal technique while on the field. The number of section leaders is determined on a yearly basis by the directors and staff members.

Field Manager

The field manager is an important part of the leadership team that ensures all field equipment is transported properly and set up on the field in a timely fashion and that we leave all spaces that we enter cleaner than when we arrived.

Other Positions

Other positions may be appointed at the discretion of the director.

Attendance

Attendance at all scheduled rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Students and parents should realize that every student is relying on every other student to do his/her part so that our performances will be the best they can possibly be. This is especially true for competitions. We spend too many hours in preparation not to have everyone present at our performances!

In the event of any absence from a rehearsal or performance –

- Email Mr. Schwartz **and** your respective instructor (one email to two people)
 - Mr. Schwartz and Ms. Maloney (color guard)
 - Mr. Schwartz and Scott (drumline)
 - Mr. Schwartz and Mark (front ensemble)

In an effort to promote better communication, we will no longer be using the Absence Request Form

Below are examples of an “excused” absence:

- Absence from school (doctor notes may be requested)
 - *If a student is well enough to be at school, they should also be at rehearsal*
- Death/critical illness in pupil’s immediate family
- Observation of religion on a day approved by the State Board of Education
- Missing rehearsal without email communication

The following reasons for absences are not excused:

- College visits, SAT, ACT testing
- Work
- Routine doctor/dental visits
- Other extracurricular activities
- Family trips, parties, etc.

<p>If a student misses a rehearsal (excused or unexcused) during the week there is a strong likelihood they will be held out of the next performance. The director and staff will review an absence to determine a student’s performance status.</p>
<p>More than one <u>unexcused</u> absence will result in a student/director conference and parent notification.</p>
<p>3 <u>unexcused</u> absences may result in dismissal from the band.</p>

If a student is held out of a performance, they are still expected to travel with the band, and fulfill all other band-related obligations.

Jobs and Band

It is your responsibility to notify your place of employment about your marching band commitments. You should submit a copy of the band schedule to your employer as soon as possible. Work an arrangement out with your employer early. It is imperative that you are at every rehearsal and performance. Missing a marching band rehearsal or performance for work is an unexcused absence. It is possible to maintain a part-time work schedule and be a member of the band. You must be responsible!

Tardiness

Being on time for rehearsal is imperative. Rehearsals **begin** at the announced time. You should plan to arrive at the band room 15 minutes prior to the start time to get your instrument/equipment ready, use the restroom, ask any questions you have, etc. Assume we are always starting rehearsal at AFT #4. Unexcused tardies may result in being sidelined from performances, dismissal from the band or other disciplinary action.

“To be early is to be on time...”

Rehearsals

Regular band rehearsals take place every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during the fall from 3:15 to 5:30. We will also have rehearsals on Saturday's (10:00 am – 2:00 pm) before a game or competition. Consult the Weekly Update for more information. Please allow time at the conclusion of rehearsal for the return of equipment to the band room. It is important for members to always bring their music, drill, and equipment to every rehearsal. Students should also bring a full water bottle to each rehearsal. If needed, breaks will be given for drinks but they will not be long enough to go back into the school.

Band Camp is a mandatory two weeks of rehearsals. This is the time where we learn the majority of our show and any work learned is very difficult to make up. Every member must attend all days of band camp. Other rehearsals during the summer are also mandatory.

Summer Absences due to vacations must be communicated to Mr. Schwartz AND your instructor by Friday, June 15th. The instructors dedicate their time over the summer to help you prepare for the season just like you. If there is a last minute reason as to why you can't attend a summer rehearsal, email Mr. Schwartz and your instructor as soon as possible.

Responsibility

Let marching band teach you how to manage your time. Learn to study in advance and pace your homework assignments. This will be an invaluable lesson for college and benefit you greatly over the course of your life.

Football Games

Before games:

- Follow report times carefully and check the Weekly Update for specific information concerning food, dress, etc.
- We will get into the stands in time to watch the visiting band's pre-game performance.
- Etiquette for visiting band's performance: cheer and applaud their effort loudly, do not criticize, and do not talk.

During games:

- We sit together in the band section (see stands policy for more details).
- No one leaves the band section without permission
- Enthusiastically support the football team and cheerleaders.
- There is no individual playing in the stands at all.
- Be ready to play at all times.
- Student leaders will visit the visiting band during the first quarter.
- We will perform our competitive show during half time.
- Eating and drinking are only permitted during the third quarter and not while we are sitting in the stands.
- No cell phones or electronics in the stands.

After games:

- Help bring equipment back to the band room.
- Do not leave until dismissed by the director.
- Hang your uniform/costume up to avoid wrinkles.

Stands Policy

All members of the band sit together in assigned seating and remain together as a group. You cannot eat in the stands in uniform unless the entire group is given permission by the director. You will remain in full uniform unless given specific permission by the director. You cannot leave the stands without permission even to go to the restroom. Only band participants will sit in the area reserved for the band. No visitors, boy/girl friends, etc. will be allowed to sit in the band section. These individuals can sit in the stands adjacent to the band section.

Competitions

Competitions are an integral part of the “Marching Black and Gold” experience. They allow us to perform in front of appreciative audiences and allow us to see other bands doing the same thing we love to do. The scores are **secondary** to improving our show every time we step on the field.

While at a competition, we will spend an appropriate amount of time warming up and preparing for the show. After the show is completed we will get a drink and return to the stands to watch the remaining bands and awards ceremony. Following the awards ceremony and judges critique we will leave for home.

All students must ride the bus to and from the competition site with the band.

At competitions:

- Always wear your show shirt under your uniform
- You may have time to change after our performance into “street clothes.” These should be Hopewell shirts, hats and jackets. We may not change depending on the circumstance.
- When the host band performs, everyone stands and watches.
- No headphones, cell phones, loud talking, etc. while other bands are performing.

Home Show

This year we will be hosting our fourth annual marching band competition in Hopewell Valley. Saturday, October 20th will be our “home show”. There will be a tremendous amount of work to be done to ensure that this event is a success. Bands from around the region will be attending our school to participate in an evening of marching competition! It will be imperative that each marching band family commits to assist in the planning, preparation, and execution of this special event in some way. More info will be distributed as the season continues.

Conduct

We are constantly representing our school. Whether during a rehearsal, football game, competition, parade or other performance, we are always in the spotlight. Because of this, the following behaviors will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action:

- Swearing/Spitting
- Running (at public events)
- Screaming
- Chewing gum (in the stands, during rehearsal, performance)
- Open displays of affection

- Disrespect towards staff and other members

Uniforms

Our uniform needs to be kept as clean as possible. The uniform is a physical representation of the ideals our band tries to live by and should be treated with respect at all times. Because of this, there will be very specific instructions regarding uniform care and maintenance.

The uniforms will be stored at the middle school and will not travel home with the student. Before and after every performance the uniforms will be taken from the storage room.

Color guard members will have a separate uniform that relates directly to the show theme.

When wearing any uniform, it is important to create a consistent, *uniform* look among the members. Therefore, all members are expected to wear the prescribed uniform with the required elements and do so with respect and pride.

Some rules/regulations while wearing the band uniform:

- **Always wear your show shirt under your jacket**
- **Long black socks must be worn with your uniform at all times**
- Black cotton gloves will be worn with the uniform for all instrumentalists except percussion.
- White or black thermal underwear (like Under Armor) should be worn in cold weather.
Sweatpants or athletic pants are not allowed, as they trap cold sweat against the skin and make your pants not fit properly.
- Shoes are to be cleaned each week.
- No jewelry may be worn with uniforms. This includes rings, earrings, watches, bracelets, necklaces, etc.
- Sunglasses may not be worn while in uniform.
- Hair must not be seen through the front or sides of your shako. Long hair must be pinned so none is sticking out of the hat. Loose hair must be sprayed and pinned up with bobby pins or clips. No hair on the shoulders and no bangs.

Communication

Communication is an important part of the marching band experience. The following avenues for communication will be used throughout the 2018 - 2019 season:

Weekly Update: The Weekly Update is generally sent home with students in paper form on Tuesday of every week. This is the primary information source for students and families and contains specific information about the upcoming weekend and any other pertinent info.

Email Chain: The email chain is used to reinforce information distributed in the Weekly Update. Email addresses provided at registration are used to create this list.

Remind: Remind is a one way texting service used by educators and athletic coaches. Users sign up to receive texts by texting a specific code to a specific number. Time sensitive information will be sent using Remind101 (changed report times, location changes, important reminders, etc.). The specific code and number will be made available closer to the start of the season. Messaging rates may apply.

Facebook: "Like" www.facebook.com/hvbands for updates, fun photos, general marching band information, congratulatory remarks, and more.

Twitter: "Follow" @HVBands for many of the same fun social media updates as Facebook provides.

Instagram: Follow us @HVBands for fun photo updates!

Associated Fees

There are some fees involved with participation in the marching band. They are as follows:

All Members

Member Jacket: Not required, but suggested. Jackets can be customized to include names and ensembles participated in on each sleeve. An order form will be distributed before the season begins (approximately \$60 - \$70).

Show Shirt: All members will be responsible for purchasing a “Show Shirt” for the year. This shirt will reflect the theme of the show for the season and be worn under our uniform or at specific public performances.

Band Members

Shoes: Marching band shoes are approximately \$25 - \$35. If maintained well, shoes can be used for multiple seasons.

Gloves: Marching band gloves are approximately \$4 - \$5 a pair and students are required to purchase at least 2 pairs. Specific marching gloves will be provided for students to purchase. (Excludes percussion).

Color Guard Members

Shoes: Color Guard shoes are approximately \$30 - \$35. If maintained well, shoes can be used for multiple seasons. .

Gloves: Color Guard gloves are approximately \$15. If maintained well, gloves can be used for multiple seasons.

Body Suit: A specific body suit will be worn beneath the provided color guard uniform. This suit will be used to keep members warm and must be identical to ensure uniformity. Bodysuits are approximately \$35 - \$45 **prices vary year to year*

Music Lyre (Wind Players)

Lyres are metal attachments that connect a music folio to your instrument so that you can read the music easily while in the bleachers at a football game. Woodwind and brass players can purchase their own lyre at a local music store and keep for personal use throughout the season.

Incidentals

Throughout the season expenses may come up for students and families of the MBG. This could include purchasing marching band gear from our online store, percussionists purchasing sticks or mallets, purchasing souvenirs at marching band shows, buying tickets to attend marching band shows, etc. Because of the variety of associated incidental fees, specific prices aren't listed here.