

## Attendance Policy

Absence affects performance and the success of performance-oriented activities such as band *depends* upon full participation. Each student's participation affects the group outcome, and each student plays a valuable role in this process. Attendance guidelines have been developed to support the learning process for both the student and the group. Attendance is related to both self-discipline and learning. If a student is not in rehearsal, he or she has missed that participatory portion of his or her educational experience and that experience cannot be made-up. A calendar of events is published in advance for your planning. Students and their families are requested to plan appropriately when scheduling appointments, etc. so that rehearsals and performances are not missed. The following attendance policy applies to both the band class rehearsals and the co-curricular rehearsals of marching band, color guard, percussion, etc.

**Excused Absences-** Excused absences will only be granted for certain unforeseen conflicts. Excused absences include illness, death in the family, an important religious observance, doctor's appointments, and potentially some other circumstances. ***Personal conflicts such as jobs, homework, etc. are not excused.*** If a student wishes to receive an excused absence, the student must speak to the director prior to the absence. Failure to do so will automatically result in the student's absence being unexcused. Submission of a request does not guarantee approval. In the event that a student must be absent due to an unforeseen emergency such as personal illness, **the student is required to speak with the director immediately upon their return to school** to inform him of the absence. If a student is well enough to attend class during the school day, the student is expected to attend rehearsal and will not be granted an "excused" status for missing the rehearsal without advance permission from a director. Students are expected to make up the time they miss from their absences. Section leaders are available on Wednesday afternoons and before or after rehearsal by appointment. ***Students who do not make up missed time will not be allowed to perform until they have done so.***

**Unexcused Absences-** An unexcused absence is one that does not satisfy the requirements listed previously for excused absences. **An unexcused absence from a rehearsal will result in the student not being allowed to perform in the next performance.** An unexcused absence from a performance will result in the student forfeiting any awards that he or she would have been eligible for that year and may also alter his or her participation status in marching band. Any student who finds their participation level altered due to attendance issues or behavioral consequences will not be refunded or excused from any financial fees and responsibilities due for participation in the activities/events.

**Promptness-** The most important part of any band rehearsal occurs in the first five or ten minutes. It is during that time that, in addition to warming-up physically, the student will focus his or her mind into the group rehearsal process. Tardies also follow the same guidelines and excused procedures listed above. Students who are tardy to rehearsal or leave early must make up that time following the same guidelines as listed for excused absences