FOREST HIGH SCHOOL

BAND PROGRAM

BAND

HANDBOOK

2026-2027

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PREFACE

As a member of the Forest High Wildcat Band program, you are expected to set high goals for yourself and the program. The success of **your** band program first requires that **you** be 100% dedicated and committed to doing your part in reaching our goals! The rewards of reaching those goals are immeasurable in the development of our students as well-rounded human beings.

In addition, it's our belief that "the process is just as important as the product." This places the emphasis on the development and growth of each individual student, not just on specific performances. Members of the Forest Band develop musically, emotionally, mentally, socially, and physically during their time in the program. Objectives include character building, commitment, cooperation, dependability, determination, discipline, leadership, punctuality, respect, responsibility, and self-control.

This handbook contains guidelines, regulations, and information to ensure the success of **your** band. Please read this handbook carefully so that you understand at the outset 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 with an understanding of how they can best contribute to the productivity and overall success of the program, resulting in an optimal individual experience.

BAND CLASS

The Band Class meets during 0 period. This is a class that meets before the regular school day, daily from 7:30 AM - 8:25 AM. Attendance is taken and grades are assigned during this time. Missing class carries the same penalties as missing any other class, with the additional penalty that too many absences may revoke your status in the band. If you are not able to attend class due to an emergency, please let the Band Director know as soon as possible so that the correct procedures can be taken. Make-up work for other classes shouldn't be done during this time. After-school rehearsals are a lab component of this class and are mandatory.

C.A.T.S.

There are four core values that must be paramount above all other things for a band organization to be successful. These values are:

Commitment – Commitment is dedicating yourself to a goal or ideal. In order to achieve success, you must be willing to put in the time and effort it takes to be successful. No organization has been successful without working hard to achieve its goal. One of my favorite mentors once said, "Fun is when hard work pays off." Dedication is 100% all the time. Anything less causes success to become just a dream.

Attitude – Attitude is having respect to treat others, equipment, and facilities as you would want to be treated. If members of an organization cannot respect themselves and their legacy, then how can they expect to be respected by others? We are a reflection of how we act. Negativity breeds negative results.

Teamwork – All members of an organization must work hard together to reach the highest levels of achievement. No one person can carry the group to success. It comes from each member giving 100% at all times and helping each other to succeed.

Spirit – Spirit is the culmination of the above four elements that creates the positive energy needed for true success to be achieved. Many times roadblocks will pop up to deter us from our goal. It is in how we approach these obstacles that allows us to overcome them. When the chips are down, **we** need to be at our best and taking pride in all of our efforts for success.

HOW TO DEMONSTRATE CATS

- Early is on time! Always be first to report.
- Always have the needed equipment.
- Always be appropriately attired, whether it is for rehearsal or performance.
- Show a desire for learning and working.
- Be in attendance – mentally.
- Master your part as quickly and as far in advance as possible.
- Refrain from making comments and/or carrying on a conversation in rehearsal.
- Be prepared for high-intensity rehearsals: instructions delivered quickly and then carried out as quickly as possible.
- Stop immediately with the cut-off and be prepared for instruction.
- Be enthusiastic! Understand the need for rehearsal and repetition and carry out these tasks with spirit.
- **Do not** let failure stop you. If you experience failure, analyze it, understand why you failed, and make a plan to improve and succeed the next time.
- Turn work into play. Enjoy rehearsing – try to learn something new every day.
- When in doubt: Do what's right!

OVERVIEW OF EXPECTATIONS

Each band member is expected to do the following:

- Attend all rehearsals and performances – the minimum expectation is 100% attendance.
- Be on time for all classes, rehearsals, and performances.
- Be prepared for rehearsals and performances. Have instrument, music/drill book, pencil, extra reeds, valve oil, mutes, etc.
- Keep instrument and equipment in performance condition.
- Understand the duties of the Officers to work with them and not against them.
- Practice regularly at home (30 minutes per day minimum) and study privately if at all possible. Practice time should be spent on scales, music, and etudes assigned by the Director or private instructor.
- Keep the band room neat, orderly, and free of litter. Store instrument and music in assigned places, **not on the floor**. Don't leave books or personal belongings in the band room.
- If you use something, **put it back** (i.e., stands, chairs, music folders, etc.).
- Keep up with and be responsible for the music and equipment issued to them.
- Fulfill "Band Fee" obligation. Fundraising activities are provided.
- When in public/in uniform, maintain behavior that is consistent with the highest expectations of a model student representing our school and band program.

COMMUNICATIONS

Regular communication about upcoming events and important information for the band will be distributed primarily through our email list. For this reason, it is imperative that each student and parent/guardian has a current, working email address on file with Mr. Jones for regular communication.

Please note that this school year, the district has mandated the use of **only** approved district applications for direct communication. Platforms such as Remind and BAND App are being phased out and replaced with **SportsYou** and **Apptegy**. These are the only district-approved platforms for direct communication, alongside email and our official band website.

We will still be using **CutTime** to handle band finances, inventory, contracts, and payments. You will still receive Booster and automated communications via CutTime as we transition to Apptegy. Specific sections, such as Percussion and Guard, will be transitioning to **SportsYou**.

We also maintain a Google Calendar on our website that can be synced with your personal device/smartphone. The Band calendar is usually set by May for the following year so that families can plan ahead for the upcoming marching season. A hard copy of the calendar is sent home at the beginning of the school year and will be available on our website. We utilize multiple platforms for communication and distribution of information so that the phrase "I didn't know about…" is not a viable excuse.

Additional communication tools and platforms include:

- **Email List / Apptegy** – Primary direct communications
- **SportsYou** – Used for Percussion, Color Guard, and specific ensemble groups
- **CutTime** – Financials, inventory, contracts, and automated updates
- **Band Website** (www.forestband.org)
- **Google Calendar** (syncable to your device)
- **Upcoming Events Board** (in class)
- **Hard Copy Calendar**
- **Band Booster/Parent Meetings** (Quarterly)

BASIC RULES

- Students must abide by the Marion County Schools Code of Student Conduct, the Forest High School Student Rules, and the Forest High student handbook.
- A Level III or higher disciplinary infraction may result in subsequent suspension from Band activities or removal from the program.
- Any equipment that is not owned by or specifically assigned to you is strictly off-limits without permission.
- During the regular school day, the band facility is to be used for regular classes, rehearsals, sectionals, and pre-arranged help sessions only. The Band room is off-limits during lunch hours.
- No students should be in the Band Room without the Director or a faculty member present.
- No gum, food, candy, or drink is permitted within the band facility. (Bottled water is the only exception).
- No gum allowed at performances, rehearsals, or while in uniform.
- If you are going to be absent, please communicate with BOTH Mr. Jones and your section leader.

THE UNIFORM

Classes of Uniform Type

Type A - is the traditional band uniform (Marching Band Uniform for marching season, Concert attire for Concert Season). Wearing this uniform connects you to the hundreds of people who have been members of this organization before you and identifies you as part of the current organization. This uniform will typically be used for performances at major events. Correct uniform is part of Performance Grades.

Type B - uniform consists of the band student T-shirt or polo, jeans, shorts, or khakis as determined by the director. This uniform will typically be used for casual performances, fundraisers, and other events. Being in this uniform may be counted as a grade at certain events and on game days.

Guidelines for Wearing the Uniform

"All or None" – You are either in uniform or not in uniform. No member will ever appear in public for a performance in anything less than full uniform. Failure to adhere to this policy could result in points being deducted from the offending member. No jewelry is to be worn while in uniform. All hair that is below the collar should be worn up under your shako/helmet or pulled back when not wearing hats. Hair must be able to fit under/inside shako/helmet. Due to many issues with different types of hair dyes that are known to damage and stain our uniforms, hair must be natural colors during periods where uniform is to be worn. Students with hair dyes that may cause issues may not be allowed to "dress out" and perform until the hair dye is removed. No colored or artificial nails as we do not wear gloves and they are noticeable from a distance in uniform. Longer artificial nails can also interfere with playing and are not acceptable.

Best Behavior – Being in public in uniform identifies the member as part of our organization. A student in uniform is on display and must act as a model citizen at all times and represent our organization well. A member failing to conduct themselves appropriately in public could have points deducted or other disciplinary actions and may face removal from the program.

SCHOOL-OWNED EQUIPMENT

Students needing the use of school-owned equipment will have the equipment signed out to them at the beginning of the year. The student is responsible for all damage and wear done to the instrument throughout the year, and is also responsible for the maintenance and repair of the instrument while it's in their care. A contract must be signed by both the student and the parent. Should the instrument be returned at the end of the year not in performance condition, it will be repaired and invoiced to the parents of the student using the instrument. Willful destruction of school-owned property will result in dismissal, and the cost of repair/replacement will be charged to the student's account.

ATTENDANCE

Band is performance. Missing rehearsals/class means missing instruction. Practice time should be made up at home or during CAT period. Performances are a required part of the curriculum and should be equated to a unit test or exam. Conflicts should be worked out in advance. If an emergency/conflict is unavoidable, let the director know in advance with an email/note/phone call (office phone is 671-4707). The day of the event (other than accident/emergency) is not considered advance notice. Failure to perform will result in lowered grades, loss of privileges (ineligible for awards, end-of-year trip, special events, etc.), and possible removal from the Band

program. Students who miss a performance without prior approval/unexcused absence may be removed from the band program if deemed necessary by the director.

For a rehearsal absence to be considered excused, an excuse must be submitted to the director in writing within five school days (one week) of the absence. Absences to performances will only be considered excused if the director is notified in writing at least 14 days prior to the performance at which the student will be absent. The Absence Excusal Form **must** be filled out and turned in to the Band Director two weeks in advance. Please see the Absence Approval Code on the website (www.forestband.org) for specifics on when an absence may be deemed excused. **Please note, just because you fill out the form does not mean the absence will be deemed excused**. **The Absence Approval Code lists whether it is likely to count as excused or not**. This way, the outcome is not a surprise. The list below contains general examples:

Excused Absences

The following are examples of excused absences:

1. Extreme Illness (Doctor's excuse required)
2. Death in the family
3. Authorized school absence verified by official documentation (rehearsals only)
4. Court appearances or other city/state-mandated duty
5. Regular doctor or dentist appointment (please make every effort to schedule around band events) *[Rehearsals only]*
6. Other events or situations deemed acceptable by the director

*Must present a note from the Doctor upon return.

Unexcused Absences

The following are examples of unexcused absences, including but not limited to:

1. Work
2. Lack of transportation (many students and parents are willing to carpool)
3. Didn't feel like attending
4. Unexcused absence from school
5. Suspension from school
6. Grounded/Disciplinary actions from home
7. SAT/ACT (we provide the full calendar of our events and dates for these tests in advance so that you can plan ahead)

Students may be pulled from performances at the director's discretion if the student has not attended a sufficient number of rehearsals/classes and/or is not present for the final rehearsal that precedes a performance. Being pulled from one performance due to attendance automatically invokes probationary status. A student who is removed from a performance may be given an alternate assignment **if** time permits. Being pulled from two performances may result in the student being removed from band.

Attendance and Grades

With Performing Arts, there is no real substitute for the performance if you miss it. Absences from graded events (after school and evening rehearsals, Performances, etc) will be handled as follows:

- **Excused absence with advanced notice**- Alternate assignments where possible or Excusal from the event depending on the nature of the event. No direct negative impact to grade

- **Excused absence without notice (emergency)-** - Alternate assignments where possible or doubling of the next performance grade. No direct negative impact to grade pending completion of alternate assignment.
- **Unexcused absence with notice**- lowering of the grade for that event (maximum of 50% for the event). Medium impact to grade.
- **Unexcused Absence without notice (known as a "No Call/No Show")-** 0% for the event and/or automatic probation Or removal. Major impact on grade.
- For excused absences or pre-arranged absences, a recorded make-up assignment may be submitted with Director approval. Recordings must be in video format, with both the student and the instrument in clear view and the audio quality clear.
- Students have one (1) week from the date of the absence to turn in approved video recording assignments. Pre-arranged assignments will have specific due dates assigned by the Director. These recordings must be uploaded to the appropriate folder or drive in order to be counted for a grade. Late submissions will not be graded.

Zero Period Attendance Limits

Since Zero Period band carries an additional responsibility to be present so that the ensemble can achieve its full potential, attendance is paramount. Students and parents will receive notifications when the student has reached 10 and 15 absences. A Conference may be requested at this point. If a student reaches 20 total absences, their position in the band will be reevaluated. At 25 total absences, the student will be automatically dropped from the band program.

Tardy to Zero Period: Due to limited supervision in the building, the front doors will close by 7:25am each morning. Students that arrive after this time will have to enter campus through the front office.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY / COMMITMENT TO BAND PROGRAM

To participate in band activities, a band student must maintain a cumulative G.P.A. of 2.0 or higher (Band officers are to maintain a 2.5 minimum). Any student whose band grade drops below 70 may be suspended from band activities and become ineligible for awards and assigned an academic mentor. A student must be in attendance at school at least a ½ day on the day of, or the last day before a performance**. A student must attend the last rehearsal before a performance to be eligible to perform, especially during marching season as this is for the safety of the other students in the drill.** The only exception to this is if there is a situation that you, your parent, and the director have worked out in advance (See Advanced Absence Policy).

Ineligible students are to attend band rehearsals and take rehearsal notes or do alternate work, as approved by the Director. They are to attend performances, sit in the stands, and help with equipment. They may not participate in performances. This program runs for the full year.

DISCIPLINE

Suspensions are handled according to school discipline policies. Students who are suspended or receive PASS cannot participate in band activities for the duration of their time in PASS/Suspension and may be removed from the pending performance if deemed necessary. Students who are suspended may be removed from the band program at the director's and administration's discretion. Because of the public nature associated with band performance, band students are generally held to a higher standard of behavior when in public. Know that your actions not only affect you but have consequences for everyone you are involved with. Be smart and stay out of trouble!

GRADING POLICY

A = 90+ points B = 80 - 89 points C = 70 - 79 points D = 60 - 69 points F = 59 or less points

- 60% - Major Assessments (Performances, Playing tests, Drill tests)
- 40% - Minor Assessments (Quizzes, Rehearsals, Uniform inspections, Instrument Inspections Equipment checks)

REQUIRED PERFORMANCES

There are several required performances throughout the year. Performances include but are not limited to:

- All Home Football Games
- Away Football Games (as deemed feasible)
- Pre-MPA Marching Festival and other competitions (October)
- ***FBA Marching Music Performance Assessment (November – FSA for Marching Band!!)**
- Ocala Christmas Parade (December)
- ***Winter Concert (usually in December)**
- District Solo & Ensemble (February)
- Pre-MPA Jazz Festival (February - Jazz Band Only)
- ***District Jazz Assessment (February - Jazz Band Only)**
- Pre-MPA Concert Festival (March)
- *FBA Concert Music Performance Assessment (March - FSA for Band!!!)
- Jazz On the Square (March/April - Jazz Band Only)
- ***Spring Concert (April/May)**
- ***Graduation (May - Concert Band Only)**
- Other Performances as they arise

*__Non-negotiable performances__

In performance-based classes, performances are graded events and constitute the focal point of the classwork. While performances are required, there are a few that are **non-negotiables** when it comes to attending. Those events are the MPAs and the Winter and Spring Concerts. Check the calendar at the beginning of the year for those dates and plan accordingly. The Attendance policy is heavily enforced for those events, and a make-up assignment is only provided in the event of a death, extreme illness, or other emergencies deemed appropriate by the director. See the Absence Approval Code on the website under members resources for a more detailed list.

OPTIONAL PERFORMANCES

There are occasions that arise where we ask for volunteers for performances that we are asked about in a short time frame. These are often optional and not required. Only events listed on the calendar or events added with at least one month's notice will generally be mandatory. We make every effort to keep you informed of any changes to the calendar in advance. Some Optional Opportunities are as follows:

- Florida All-State Ensembles (Audition in September - Perform in January in Tampa, FL) (Must be taking private lessons to prepare for this audition)
- State Solo & Ensemble (March/April) (Must receive a superior rating on a grade 5 or higher)
- FBA All-District Ensembles (Audition in December, perform in January)
- All-County Honor Band (by nomination)
- Other Honor Band opportunities as they arise

END OF YEAR TRIP ELIGIBILITY

At the end of each year, we try and take the band on a trip as a reward for all their time and effort over the course of the year. This may or may not include a performance opportunity. To participate, students must:

- Have no outstanding School or Band Debts.
- Must have a 2.0 minimum GPA (State required).
- Must have no more than 10 unexcused absences from Band.
- Must not have received higher than a Level I disciplinary referral.
- Must have paid additional trip costs (as applicable).

Parents who wish to chaperone may be eligible for free chaperone tickets (if applicable and pending availability) if the following requirements have been met:

- No Outstanding Band Debts.
- Completed and approved Volunteer Form on File.
- Attended all four Quarterly Parent/Booster Meetings.
- Satisfaction of any additional trip costs (transportation, etc.).
- Additional requirements as set forth by the Director that may be trip-specific.

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION ETIQUETTE

Travel arrangements are provided for all mandatory performances that require transportation out of the county and for most within the county. Transportation arrangements and hotel accommodations for optional performances and honor band auditions/performances are the responsibility of the participating/auditioning student.

The logistics of traveling with a large number of students and the number of instruments and equipment we must travel with requires us to have a set list of field trip procedures to ensure the safety of our students and for the sake of efficiency.

- All students participating in a trip/performance **must** travel with the group (everyone rides on the bus!). This ensures that all performers/participants arrive and depart at the same time!
- Unless otherwise specified, all parent chaperones must also ride on the bus. The role of the chaperone is to assist the director(s) in supervising the students and ensuring their safety. Parent chaperones must have a completed school volunteer form on file in the front office.
- It is expected that any trips requiring payment be done so in a timely fashion. The band booster organization has payment deadlines to meet themselves, so it is essential that each band family submit the necessary trip costs as stated in the trip information provided to you by the director.
- Male and Female students may not sit in the same seat while on the bus.

- All trip participants must wear the requested attire (i.e., Forest Band T-shirt or polo). This attire is requested so we can easily identify our students/chaperones.
- Other guidelines for chaperones are outlined in the Chaperone Procedures document that is distributed to parent chaperones before each trip.

HOTEL AND TRIP ETIQUETTE

- Female and Male inter-room visitation is not allowed at any time. Violators of this rule will be returned home at their parents' expense, as well as face possible dismissal and additional school disciplinary actions.
- Once we arrive at the hotel, remain on the bus for instructions.
- A pre-assigned room captain will get the key from the director or band parent responsible for distributing keys.
- No loud noise or horseplay at any time; remember you're representing the band, FHS, and your families whenever you're in public.
- Be courteous to other hotel guests by not loitering in halls or lobbies.
- Leave your room as you found it. Report any previous damage immediately to your assigned chaperone.
- **Buddy system!** Go nowhere alone (groups of three).
- Observe curfews! Anyone outside his or her room after curfew is subject to disciplinary action.
- Do not open your room door for anyone not with the FHS Band.
- Persons not associated with the band are not allowed into rooms.
- Keep a copy of the trip itinerary in your room to help you be on time!

Use of alcohol or other controlled substances will result in the student being sent home at the expense of the student's parents. The student will face dismissal from the band and be referred to the administration as well as to the appropriate authorities.

PUBLIC BEHAVIOR

Band students are held to high standards of behavior at all times due to the nature of Band's public performances and reputation. As such, Band students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that continually projects a positive self-image of its members and the program in general. Rude or disrespectful behavior at public events (whether as a performer or as a spectator) will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to: excessive talking, displays of behavior that would be construed as obnoxious (Slow Clap/Last Clap), excessive cheering (concert etiquette), displays of PDA, use of cell phones or other handheld devices, etc.

PDA

Public Displays of Affection (PDA) are not allowed by band students while at band events or while representing the band in uniform, including, but not limited to, rehearsals (in class and after school), games, concerts, etc. PDA includes, but is not limited to, excessive handholding, hugging, massages, kissing, etc. Keep in mind that while you are in uniform and representing us, you are "representing FHS and the FHS Band." In our world, public impressions and images are very important to our overall reputation as a program.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Required for All Members; Non-Refundable: $325 ($250 if have siblings in band) ***Can be reduced (possibly eliminated) through participation in concessions/fundraising!!!!*** Additional costs – We have tried to make the band fee as all-inclusive as possible, but there are some additional costs:

- Flip Folio - $3-$12 depending on the instrument
- Lyre - $3-$12 depending on the instrument
- Spirit Items - Varies
- End of Year Trip - Cost varies; **band fee must be paid in full by Spring** Break to be eligible for the End of year trip.

Removal or dropping from the band program after the second week of school **does not** absolve the financial obligations. Students who are removed or drop after the second week of school will be added to the school debt list for the full amount listed above. Students are expected to participate in fundraising activities that are designated "Full Band Fundraisers" and are expected to meet required fundraising goals as set by the director.

PART-TIME JOBS – Please Read Carefully!

It is recognized that some students must work part-time jobs to augment family income or help with their expenses of attending school and other necessities. Students and parents are reminded of the individual student's responsibility to the band in regards to attendance. Students with jobs should make sure that their employer is aware of their membership in the FHS Band and understand that their presence is **required** for rehearsals and performances. These are not optional to attend by the student or at the discretion of the employer. Take a few minutes and be sure your employer knows the dates and times which you need to be off for band, especially Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings during the fall semester. The band calendar is printed and distributed with this purpose in mind… to eliminate conflicts with jobs and family activities. Give your employer at least a two-week notice. We provide an up-to-date calendar, access to current information via our website, and communicate about our schedule regularly so that you are informed to the fullest extent possible. It is the student's responsibility to make sure they have all the information needed to effectively communicate their needs. When in doubt, ask. "I had to work" does not excuse you from rehearsal/performance. Plan ahead.

IMAGE AND MEDIA RELEASE

As a member of the Forest High Wildcat Band, students may be photographed or video-recorded during rehearsals, performances, and band-related events. These images and recordings may be used by the Forest High Band program for promotional purposes, including but not limited to, social media posts (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, YouTube), the band's official website, newsletters, School website, and other marketing materials that promote the band program.

Your signature on last page of this document grants the Forest High Band program permission to use your student's image and likeness for these purposes without further compensation or notification. If you **do not** wish for your student's image to be used in promotional materials, please contact the Band Director in writing to opt out.

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Each year, there are many additional performance opportunities for Forest Band members who are interested in furthering their musical ability. Some of these opportunities include:

Community Jazz Ensembles

Several community jazz ensembles have come about in the last few years that are great opportunities for advanced students who wish to perform with some top-level musicians in both Big Band and small combo settings. Some examples are the Southern Express Big Band, the Silver Band, and the House That Jazz Built.

Ocala Youth Symphony

The Ocala Youth Symphony is committed to the education and professional development of young musicians. The Symphony was conceived by Cindy Robertson, Director, late in 1998 as a much-needed activity for music students in the area. Mrs. Robertson collaborated with Ken Blanchard to pursue ideas for such a project. The Symphony currently has approximately 44 musicians and is conducted by Cindy Robertson. Interested students may apply by contacting Cindy Robertson at (352) 854-7989.

High School All-District Honor Band

The High School All-District Honor Band and Jazz Band is an auditioned performing ensemble comprised of the finest musicians from Lake, Marion, and Sumter Counties. Auditions usually occur in December each year. This group usually has three day-long rehearsals with a guest conductor. This event culminates with a performance for parents/community members, along with the high school honor band.

Florida All-State Band

The Florida All-State Bands (9th-10th Concert, 11th-12th Symphonic, Jazz Ensemble, and Orchestra) is a very elite performance ensemble comprised of the finest high school band musicians in the state. Students are chosen for this ensemble through a rigorous audition process that takes place in early September. The audition process involves performing scales, a prepared exercise, and sight-reading which is recorded on CD locally and then sent to the Florida Bandmasters Association who has professionals evaluate each recording and make the appropriate selections. Students who are selected to the All-State Band attend two days of rehearsals in Tampa in early January and give a performance at the Florida Music Educators Association Clinic/Conference.

Kingdom of the Sun Community Concert Band

Originally founded in March 1990, the Kingdom of the Sun Concert Band is an all-volunteer organization. The band rehearses every Monday evening. Our repertoire offers a wide variety of music including marches, big band medleys, classical, popular music, show tunes, and patriotic tributes. The band performs throughout the year at venues in the greater Ocala/Marion County area, all of which are free and open to the public.

AWARDS

At the end of each year, awards are presented to recognize the achievements of our outstanding band students. Students must meet their Band Fees obligation to be eligible for awards other than a certificate of participation. Not all awards listed below are always given every year, **and** additional awards may be added.

Outstanding Dedication Award

Awarded to students who have gone above and beyond what is required of them to help make the band program successful. This is based on the overall performance and participation of the students and their contribution to the excellence of the band program.

Most Outstanding Musicians Award

This award goes to one person in each grade level who consistently displays a high level of pride, spirit, and dedication to the band throughout the entire year, demonstrates a high level of musicianship, and embodies the core values of the FHS band. (Usually 1 per grade level)

Band Boosters Service Award

This award is for the student that participates in the largest number of Booster events. This student must have met their fundraising obligation for the year.

Most Improved Musicianship Award

This award recognizes individuals or sections that have made great strides in their musicianship throughout the year. (Usually 1 per grade level)

Patrick S. Gilmore Memorial Band Award

This award is for the outstanding junior or senior in the band that has consistently demonstrated the ideals of scholarship, leadership, and musicianship. National Award.

Director's Award for Leadership

The recipient of this award is selected by the director and is awarded to a junior or senior that has consistently demonstrated strong leadership and has set an example for their peers.

The John Philip Sousa International Band Award

This internationally recognized award recognizes one senior student who embodies outstanding musicianship, loyalty, dependability, and cooperation. International Music Award.

CATS Pride Award

This award is for the member of the Band that has consistently demonstrated and, in the opinion of their peers, best embodies the Core Values of the Band Program: Commitment, Attitude, Teamwork, and Spirit. Highest award given by the program.

BAND PARENTS ORGANIZATION

Behind every great band is a great parent support system. We simply couldn't survive if it weren't for our band booster parents. This organization is responsible for 99.9% of our needs. We highly encourage you to get involved as **everyone can do something** to help out. Our kids are awesome kids, and we can promise you that you will know that you made a difference with your positive participation! Parents are welcome here! We need you! It's not uncommon for parents to be around the band during practices and performances; there's always something to be done. Parents are also encouraged to watch as the band practices for upcoming performances.

Some of the committees that parents can volunteer for are:

- **Chaperones** – for concerts & trips.
- **Fundraisers** – Coordinate, chaperone, verify order forms, and assist with distribution of items upon arrival.
- **Concession Stand** – cook food, stock items, and sell food, drinks, and snacks.
- **Socials** – help organize receptions, BBQs, & clean-ups!
- **Publicity** – submit articles/pictures to the local paper, radio stations, etc.
- **Uniforms** – trade sizes, help measure students, and distribute uniforms. Organize sale of polo shirts & band t-shirts.
- **Concert Videotaping/Recording** – videotape & audio-record each performance so that students are able to critique their performance in class the next day.
- **Maintenance** – painting, building, and upkeep of band facility/instruments.
- **Transportation/Equipment** – arrange for loading/unloading & transport of equipment to performances.

DID YOU KNOW...?

That when children study music in school, they also improve their reading, spelling, and math skills? Educators agree that abstract concepts such as counting, fractions, and ratios become more concrete when applied in a musical context, making the relationship between mathematical theory and practice noticeably clearer. Music increases a student's learning capabilities in many other areas, as various studies show:

- Students who have taken music courses score an average of 20-40 points higher on both verbal and math portions of the SATs than students who have **not** taken arts courses.
- Students who take more than four years of music and the other arts score 34 points better on verbal SATs than those who take music for less than a year.
- Students who participate in their school band or orchestra are 53% more likely to go on to college and graduate.
- A recent Rockefeller Foundation study discovered that music students have the highest rate of admittance to medical schools. Studies in other countries have demonstrated that along with these benefits, there is a significant relationship between music instruction and education performance in reading, spelling, mathematics, listening and verbal abilities, and motor skills.

Music – Its Creative and Advances Learning Ability

Children have a natural curiosity, and curiosity is the seed of creativity. Music offers the child an exciting opportunity to channel this natural curiosity into creative endeavor. It nurtures independent thinking that will carry over into other aspects of the child's curriculum and be applied to many subjects other than music. It is more than coincidental that nationwide studies have shown that students in school music programs have achieved higher averages in all subjects and develop academically more rapidly than others. Direct correlations between music instruction and spelling and math skills underscore music study as a decisive factor in a student's educational success.

The Important Role of the Parent

Your child's success in playing an instrument depends a lot on you. Your involvement is vital to your child's attitude and progress. Encourage your child to play for you every day. Be generous with enthusiastic praise. Offer your support when your child becomes discouraged. Above all, participate… meet the music teacher and attend concerts and recitals. Regardless of your own musical background, you will derive great satisfaction and enjoyment from following your child's progress.

Keeping the Opportunity Alive

Despite the obvious values of a musical education, some school districts are cutting school band budgets — or worse, cutting out entire music programs, simply because some school officials don't understand these benefits. Fortunately, there are ways parents can help improve these conditions in your community:

- Strike an alliance with your school music directors. Find out how you can support, at home, what the teachers are trying to accomplish at school.
- Make sure your local school board, administrators, and public officials know of your commitment to music education as a matter of educational principle.
- Work with your band parent's organization to prevent music from becoming a "bargaining chip" in school budget battles.

High School Band will offer many activities and maintains a "fun" atmosphere for learning!

Parent and Student Handbook Contract

(Please sign and return)

I have read and understand the policies outlined in this handbook and agree to abide by them as a member/parent of the Forest High School Band. I understand that not following the guidelines outlined in this handbook may result in my dismissal from the FHS Band Program

Student Name (print):_____

Student Signature_____

Parent/Guardian Name:_____

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____

Director Signature:_____

Date: _____

Please sign and return to Mr. Jones by 8/20/2026.
Must be returned in order to participate in any band related activities.