



**2026–2027 DUBLIN JEROME
HIGH SCHOOL
BAND HANDBOOK**



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General Information

Mission Statement

The Dublin Jerome High School Band Department strives to provide life-changing experiences to students through music education.

Values

1. **Family** (Better Together) – providing students an inclusive environment in which they feel safe, connected, and loved.
2. **Integrity** (Take Responsibility) – to think, know, and do what is right.
3. **Artistry** (Always Growing) – developing a mature sensibility through the application of technical skills to create deep emotion and nuanced feelings through musical expression.

Eligibility and Participation

It is the philosophy of the Band department that a complete and comprehensive education in Band should include both marching and concert band experiences, therefore, all students in the Band program are expected to participate in both Marching Band and the concert bands. A student may enter the Band program at any time with the permission of the Director and the required level of proficiency. Once a student has entered the program, continuous participation is expected until such a time that the student leaves the Band program permanently.

Exceptions to this policy include the following:

1. Students who play a fall sport may participate in concert band only. These non-marchers may participate in individual and chamber music instruction during Marching Band season to further develop their playing skills.
2. Color Guard members who do not play a wind or percussion instrument may participate in Marching Band only.
3. Students who attend an approved technical school or other off-site alternative educational program that prevents attendance during the school day may participate in Marching Band only.
4. Any other request for an exception must be submitted in writing to the Band Director. Requests are not guaranteed and will be carefully considered by the Band Directors and school administration.

Contact Information

Information about all Band activities and the complete and calendar can be obtained on CutTime.

The Band Directors and Band Staff may be contacted directly via email:

Micah Abrams, Director of Bands
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Nicholas Dillion, Assistant Director of Bands
dillion_nicholas@dublinschools.net

Andrew Stankey, Low Brass Instructor
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Megan Kuhn, Color Guard Director
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Abbie Butler, Assistant Color Guard Director
abbiebutler218@gmail.com

General Rules

1. All members will abide by the Dublin Jerome High School Code of Conduct and subsequent consequences at all times.
2. Use or possession of any controlled substance is strictly prohibited and will result in serious school disciplinary action and the involvement of local authorities.
3. Use of profanity will not be permitted at any time. Consequences will be at the discretion of the director and may result in school disciplinary action.
4. Students are expected to use polite, respectful behavior at all times. Students are to show respect and common courtesy to directors, adult supervisors, and peers at all times. Consequences will be at the discretion of the director and may result in school disciplinary action.
5. Ohio Revised Code prohibits harassment, personal degradation, hazing or initiation of any kind. Students may not use any public media, written or electronic for the purpose of degrading or harassing another student or staff member. Consequences will be at the discretion of the director and may result in school disciplinary action.
6. Students are responsible for cleaning up after themselves and leaving all areas cleaner than they were found.
7. When participating in OMEA (Ohio Music Education Association) Events, all OMEA rules will apply. The director is the official OMEA representative of the organization and is responsible for communicating all pertinent OMEA rules to members and parents.

Grading Policy

All students will be evaluated on the basis of four criteria:

1. Attendance
2. Performances
3. Work Habits
4. Musicianship

The Band Director will observe each student's performance in the first three of these areas and assign a grade for each area based on the rubric below. Each area represents 25% of the student's final grade.

Musicianship will be assessed by playing tests, music checks and performance tests given in each grading period, as well as observation of student performance in rehearsal. This area represents the final 25% of the student's final grade.

Percent	90-100	80-89.9	70-79.9	60-69.9	50-59.9
Attendance	Student has 0-3 excused absences and 0 unexcused absences.	Student has 4-5 excused absences and 0 unexcused absences	Student has 6-7 excused absences and 0 unexcused absences	Student has 8-9 absences and/or 1-2 unexcused absences	Student has 10 or more absences and/or 3 or more unexcused absences.
Performances	Student attends and participates fully in all performances. Absences may be excused.	Unexcused absences will result in a loss of 50% of the performance grade with the first unexcused absence and 100% with the second unexcused absence.			
Work Habits	Student exhibits exceptional rehearsal etiquette and preparedness.	Student exhibits acceptable rehearsal etiquette and preparedness.	Student exhibits inconsistent rehearsal etiquette and preparedness.	Student exhibits poor rehearsal etiquette and preparedness.	Student exhibits very poor or apathetic rehearsal etiquette and preparedness.
Musicianship	Student performs required music with at least 80% accuracy	Student performs required music with 70-79% accuracy.	Student performs required music with 60-69% accuracy.	Student performs required music with 50-59% accuracy.	Student performs required music with below 50% accuracy.

Attendance

In order for the Marching Band to function properly, it is imperative that its members are present at all times. **Band members are required to attend all rehearsals and performances**, and attendance is factored into the grade each student receives for the class. The directors will make every effort to schedule events well in advance to allow ample time to resolve potential conflicts.

1. Absences will only be considered excused when prior permission is given from a Director and only for a valid reason. Valid reasons include:
 - a. Personal illness
 - b. Illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child
 - c. Quarantine of the home
 - d. Religious Expression Days (up to 3 school days)
 - e. Death of a relative or family wedding (up to 31.4 school hours /5 days)
 - f. Absence during the school day for professional appointments
 - g. Work at home due to absence of parents/guardians
 - h. Family emergency (up to 31.4 school hours /5 days)
2. Documentation is required for all excused absences; a note from a parent may not suffice to excuse the student. If however, the student misses three or more days in a row due to illness, a doctor's note may be required to both excuse the student and reinstate him or her into regular rehearsals.
3. Absences due to work conflicts, lack of transportation, extra-curricular activities, homework, standardized test preparation and administration, or studying will not be excused. Each student is responsible for budgeting his or her time and staying organized throughout the season.
4. During the Marching Band season, no student is to plan involvement in any activity that may conflict with band rehearsals or performances.
5. Any unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance may result in any or all of the following. Consequences are at the discretion of the directors.
 - a. Loss of performance opportunity
 - b. Removal from leadership position/loss of award
 - c. Dismissal from ensemble

Marching Band

The Dublin Jerome Marching Band is a competitive, corps-style marching ensemble that performs at all football games and at designated adjudicated events. The ensemble's rehearsal schedule begins in late July or early August and continues through the end of October.

Color Guard and Percussion Rehearsals

April/May/June/July

These rehearsals are an opportunity for these groups to build the fundamental skills needed for a successful season. Instruction is focused on foundational technique and the manipulation and care of equipment. Students may also begin the material for the competition show during these rehearsals.

New Member Camp and Pre-Camp

During New Member Camp, student leaders will learn important leadership skills and strategies and new members will learn marching fundamentals. During the second half of the week, returning members may join the new members and squad leaders to review marching fundamentals and school songs. At Pre-Camp, rehearsals will focus on the music and equipment work for the competition show.

Band Camp

Band camp is the most important week of the marching band season. A successful camp is the first step to a successful season.

1. All marching band students must attend band camp in its entirety in order to be assigned a regular marching position. Students who do not attend camp will be assigned an alternate position. If a spot opens during the season, alternates will be permitted to perform once they have sufficiently learned the music and drill.
2. All members are expected to participate in all band camp activities.

Student Roles

Band Member: A Dublin Jerome High School band member is a student who has, by choice, committed and dedicated themselves to the goals and philosophy of the Band program. One's personal objectives should always be to become a successful part of the total unit and to strive to help others achieve the same goal. A Dublin Jerome High School Band member should be synonymous with pride in oneself and the band.

Drum Majors: The drum majors are the primary student leaders of the Marching Band. Their responsibilities include, but are not limited to, conducting the band, organizing and distributing sheet music, assisting with the organization of rehearsals and monitoring the overall conduct, spirit and morale of the band. The drum majors are not responsible for administering punishment to fellow band members. The drum majors answer directly to the directors and adult staff of the band.

Section Leaders: The section leader is the head squad leader of each section. In addition to squad leader responsibilities, the section leader will organize section activities and run any voluntary sectional rehearsals.

Squad Leaders: Squad leaders will be chosen before each Marching Band season by means of an interview with the Directors. Squad leaders will be chosen based on marching and playing ability and leadership potential. Responsibilities include assisting squad members with music memorization and marching fundamentals, assisting with camp music checks, and providing the highest possible example of playing, marching and conduct. The squad leaders are not responsible for administering punishment to fellow band members. Squad leaders answer directly to the Directors and adult staff of the Band.

President: The Band president shall be responsible for overseeing all student Band projects and delegating responsibility to other officers and Band members. The Band president shall preside at all officer meetings. The president must promote the general welfare of the Band through exemplary performance and attitude.

Vice President: The vice president shall assist the president in the above duties and act as the president in his/her absence. The vice-president shall represent the Band program on any school-wide student organizations.

Secretary: The Band secretary shall be responsible for keeping all written records of Band activities including minutes of officer meetings and attendance at Band rehearsals and performances.

Treasurer: The Band treasurer shall be responsible for all monetary matters regarding student Band activities. The Band treasurer will also act as an assistant to the Band secretary.

Class Representative (4): One representative from the senior, junior, sophomore, and freshman classes respectively, will be elected to represent their class. It is the responsibility of these officers to gather popular opinion from their class members, and represent this position at officer meetings.

Weekly Rehearsal Schedule

The following in-season rehearsal schedule will begin after band camp and continue through the end of the competition season.

Monday	Wind Sectionals	3:30-5:30pm
Tuesday	Percussion Sectional	3:30-5:30pm
Tuesday	Color Guard Sectional	4:00-6:00pm
Wednesday	Full Ensemble Rehearsal	3:30-5:30pm
Thursday	Full Ensemble Rehearsal	3:30-5:30pm
Friday	Run-throughs before the game	TBA

Fees and Expenses

Design & Instruction.....		\$275.00
Board of Education – Pay to Participate.....		\$40.00
Band Participation Fee (uniform fee and special events fee).....		\$105.00
Summer Uniform (shirt, shorts and ball cap).....		~\$60.00
Marching Shoes.....		~\$40.00
Uniform Accessories (Gloves).....	\$3.00 (for winds), \$15.00 (for guard)	
Concert Band Uniform.....		~\$100.00

Uniforms

Rehearsal Clothing

All students are expected to wear tennis shoes and socks for all marching rehearsals. Sandals, flip flops, etc. are not permitted. All undergarments must be completely covered at all times. Bathing suit tops and sports bras may not be worn without a t-shirt. In hot weather, light colored clothing will be required. Jeans are not appropriate at hot weather rehearsals.

General Uniform Guidelines

1. When participating in any Band event, the uniform must be worn properly and completely at all times, unless otherwise directed by a Director.
2. Hair is to be kept neat while in uniform.
3. Loop earrings or jewelry are not permitted in uniform at any time.

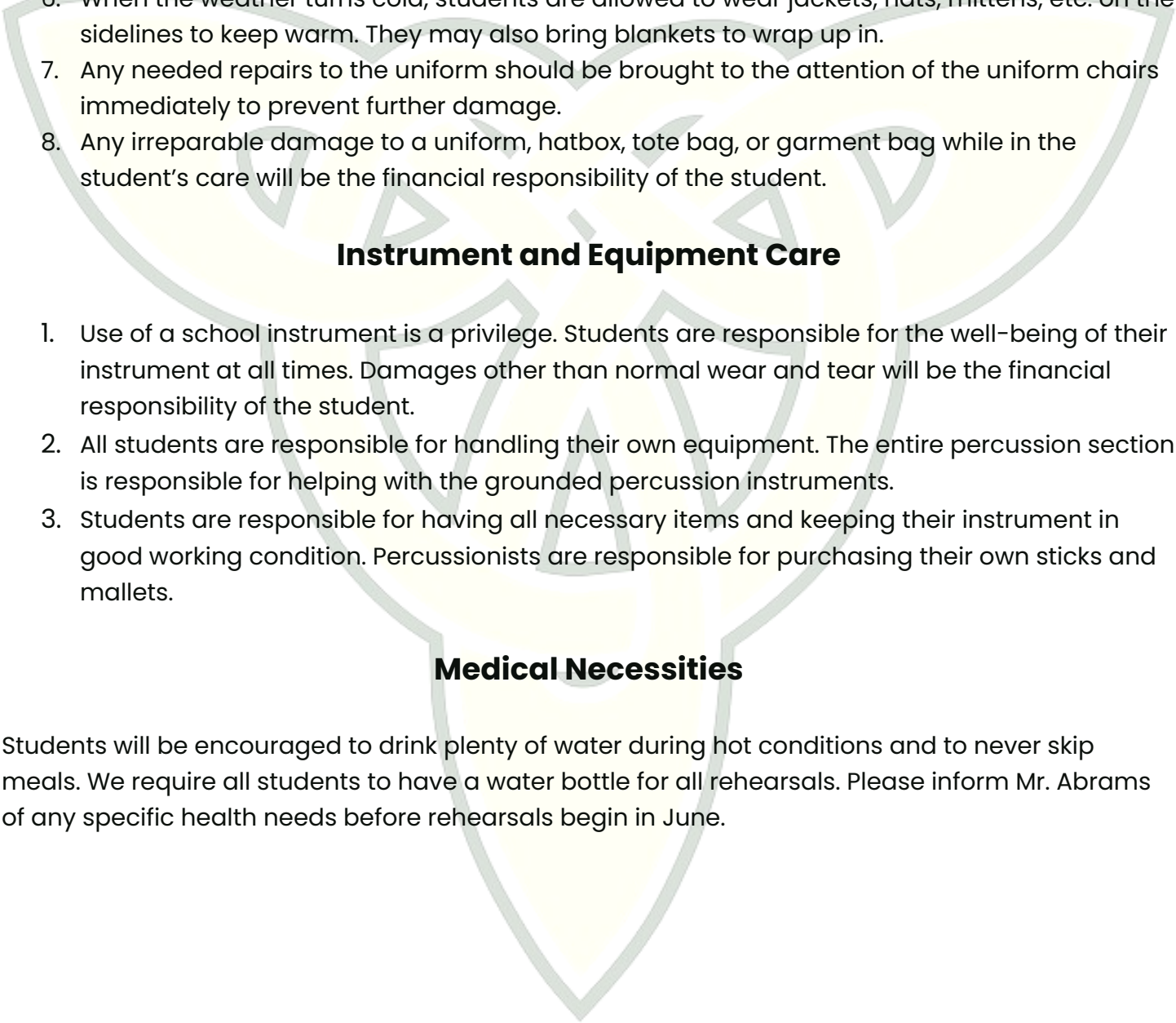
Summer Uniform

Each student is required to purchase a summer uniform consisting of a Band Shirt, Shorts & Hat for Marching Band. This uniform is to be purchased at Embroidery Design Group, 2564 Billingsley Road, Columbus, OH 43235. Embroidery Design Group is located just east of the New Market Mall just north of I-270 off of Sawmill Road. A brown belt is required to be worn with the shorts as well as white socks and white shoes. The summer uniform is worn at the 4th of July parade, the Band Camp performance, and possibly the first few football games. The summer uniform may also be worn at the Memorial Day Parade depending on weather conditions.

Fall Competition Uniform

Each student will be issued a full uniform prior to band camp. This consists of a jacket, bibs (pants), gauntlets, hat, and raincoat. Each student will also be issued a garment bag and tote bag. Students will be responsible for purchasing Marching Band shoes, long black socks, and gloves. This uniform will be worn for all competitions and the remaining football games. Uniforms are to be kept neat and clean. Band uniforms are the property of the Dublin Jerome High School Band.

1. Students are responsible for hanging up their uniform properly after each performance. Uniforms will be kept at school when not in use.
2. Hair must be secured under the hat or be cut short enough that it does not touch the collar of the jacket. Please direct any extenuating circumstances to Mr. Abrams.

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3. Plumes are kept by the school and distributed to students as they prepare to take the field for performance, and are collected at the conclusion of each performance.
 4. Bibs (pants) have a snap-up hem. The pants should just touch the top of the shoe.
 5. Appropriate clothing should be worn under the uniform. Section/show t-shirts and athletic shorts are appropriate in warm weather. Under Armor is suggested in cold weather.
 6. When the weather turns cold, students are allowed to wear jackets, hats, mittens, etc. on the sidelines to keep warm. They may also bring blankets to wrap up in.
 7. Any needed repairs to the uniform should be brought to the attention of the uniform chairs immediately to prevent further damage.
 8. Any irreparable damage to a uniform, hatbox, tote bag, or garment bag while in the student's care will be the financial responsibility of the student.

Instrument and Equipment Care

1. Use of a school instrument is a privilege. Students are responsible for the well-being of their instrument at all times. Damages other than normal wear and tear will be the financial responsibility of the student.
2. All students are responsible for handling their own equipment. The entire percussion section is responsible for helping with the grounded percussion instruments.
3. Students are responsible for having all necessary items and keeping their instrument in good working condition. Percussionists are responsible for purchasing their own sticks and mallets.

Medical Necessities

Students will be encouraged to drink plenty of water during hot conditions and to never skip meals. We require all students to have a water bottle for all rehearsals. Please inform Mr. Abrams of any specific health needs before rehearsals begin in June.

Football Games

Conduct of the band at football games is a vital portion of the impression we leave with the public. One of our main functions on Friday nights is to show our school spirit and support the team.

1. All members will remain in the stands during football games.
2. All members are to keep their instrument with them at all times, except 3rd quarter, when they are placed underneath bleachers.
3. No visitors will be allowed in the band seating area.
4. No one is to play anyone else's instrument at any time.
5. Students who have earned the privilege of being dismissed must be in their seat and ready to play by the end of the third quarter. Failure will result in loss of future third quarter privileges.
6. All members are to stay alert and be ready to play at a moment's notice. When the Band plays, everyone plays. "All together or not at all."

Buses

1. Students are to show respect to drivers and chaperones.
2. No food, gum, drinks, etc. is allowed on the bus at any time.
3. All members are required to use provided transportation to and from all events.
4. Hands, arms, and heads must be kept inside the bus windows at all times.
5. Students are often required to change into uniforms on the buses. Please wear appropriate clothing under your uniform.
6. Students are to stay in their seats while the bus is moving and observe complete silence at railroad crossings.

Concert Band

Ensembles

Wind Symphony – Mr. Micah Abrams, Director

The Dublin Jerome High School Wind Symphony studies and performs OMEA Class A-AA (Grade 4-5) wind band literature. Repertoire will include a variety of compositions composed or arranged for the advanced high school or college wind band. Performances include three yearly concerts and may include OMEA Large Group Contest at the discretion of the director. Attendance at all performances and rehearsals is mandatory. Private instruction is strongly recommended.

Symphonic Band – Mr. Nicholas Dillion, Director

The Dublin Jerome High School Symphonic Band studies and performs OMEA Class B (Grade 3.5-4) wind band literature. Repertoire will include a variety of compositions composed or arranged for the advanced high school. Performances include three yearly concerts and may include OMEA Large Group Contest at the discretion of the director. Attendance at all performances and rehearsals is mandatory. Private instruction is strongly recommended.

Concert Band – Mr. Andrew Stankey, Director

The Dublin Jerome High School Freshman Band studies and performs OMEA Class C (Grade 3) wind band literature. Repertoire will include a variety of compositions composed or arranged for the young high school wind band. Performances include three yearly concerts and may include OMEA Large Group Contest at the discretion of the director. Attendance at all performances and rehearsals is mandatory. Private instruction is strongly recommended.

Auditions

In early September, all students will participate in concert band auditions to balance instrumentation and assure that each student is placed into the musical ensemble that meets their needs and level of musical development. At various times of the season, usually after concerts, reseating auditions may be held to allow students to advance to higher positions within their section of each concert band.

Private Lessons and Practicing

The single best way to maximize your musicianship is to study privately with a qualified instructor. A list will be compiled of instructors in the area. All students are encouraged to take private lessons regardless of their current skill level.

Individual practice is an absolute necessity for personal and group improvement. Students should be practicing at least 2 hours each week. This practice time should include both weekday and weekend times. Students are expected to know their band music at least 4 weeks prior to a performance.

Concert Attire

Students may choose to purchase the approved black tuxedo, white tux shirt, black cummerbund and bow tie. The cost will be approximately \$100. These students must provide their own black dress socks and black dress shoes. Marching Band shoes may be worn with the tuxedo.

Students may also purchase one of the following of their choice:

1. Long black dress
2. Black dress top and long black skirt
3. Black dress top and black dress pants

Cost will be approximately \$70. These students must provide their own black flat dress shoes. Marching band shoes may not be worn.

Concert attire fittings will take place around the start of the school year. Payment will be due upon delivery in November.

Additional Instrumental Ensembles

Jazz Ensemble

The Dublin Jerome High School Jazz Ensemble is an audition-based group that meets during the school day and performs frequently within the greater Columbus area. The group has specific instrumentation: trumpets, trombones, saxophones, piano, guitar, bass, and drums. The performance repertoire is primarily early styles of big band jazz interspersed with contemporary idioms and performance practices. Improvisation is a large part of this course.

Pep Band

Made up of mostly marching band participants, this ensemble performs at some of the boys' and girls' basketball games during the winter season. This ensemble's repertoire consists of the marching band's stand music with supplemental arrangements, as the director feels necessary. The Pep Band may also be called to do pick up performances during the spring if the need arises. The Pep Band director will determine the personnel selection for this ensemble.

Pit Orchestra

Organized for the theatre department's musical each year, the pit orchestra is an integral part of the musical theatre production. It is imperative that its members be able to sight-read with great facility and to adapt to situation changes handily because of the high volume of material to be learned. The rehearsal schedule is quite rigorous beginning approximately three months before the performance weekend. With all this being said, the pit orchestra is an extremely rewarding ensemble for those seeking a challenge. The pit orchestra director will determine the personnel selection.

Symphony Orchestra

Each year, specific winds and percussion are needed to perform with the string orchestra. This music is to be played by those instrumentalists who exude confidence on their instrument and who exhibit a mature concept of sound quality. Rehearsals for the full orchestra will be conducted outside of the school day. The orchestra director will determine the personnel selection for this ensemble.



2026–2027 Dublin Jerome High School Band Handbook Acknowledgement Form

Student Acknowledgement

I have read and understand the policies and expectations contained within the 2026–2027 Dublin Jerome High School Band Handbook. I agree to abide by these policies and expectations. Furthermore, I take full responsibility for my own actions and promise to put forth my best effort to ensure the success of the Dublin Jerome High School Band.

Student's Name
(printed) _____

Student's
Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Acknowledgement

I have read and understand the policies and expectations contained within the 2026–2027 Dublin Jerome High School Band Handbook. I agree to support the enforcement of the policies and expectations.

In addition, I give permission for the above-named student to travel with the band and participate in all out-of-school band activities during the 2026–2027 school year. A complete list of dates and times are listed on the Band Calendar on CutTime. Times and dates are subject to change.

Parent's Name
(printed) _____

Parent's
Signature _____

Date _____