

2007-2008 SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM HANDBOOK

Included in this 2007-2008 Sumner High School Band Program Handbook:

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 - 2007-2008 District Photo/Media Release Form

Students/Parents/Administration/Faculty & Staff:

We look forward to our 18th year of individual and group achievements with the fine students and families of the Sumner High School Band Program. We feel that membership in our program involves not just the students but the entire family. We hope you can be involved in any way possible, but especially in supporting these outstanding representatives of our school, our school district, and our communities. Thank you for giving us the chance to work with your sons and daughters.

Joe Carl – Director
Sumner High School Bands

Sumner HS Band Program Code of Ethics

- 1) Use common sense and good judgment in any and all Sumner HS Band Program activities. Sumner HS Band Program students are always positive representatives of Sumner HS and the Sumner School District.
- 2) Take pride in both yourself and the Sumner HS Band Program.
- 3) You have a personal and a group responsibility to be in attendance and on-time at all Sumner HS Band Program activities. We use and live by the saying: “to be early is to be on-time, to be on-time is to be late, and to be late is inexcusable”.
- 4) Sumner HS Band Program Students are great students in all classes.
- 5) Every single person is an important member of the total group – we work with and in-support of each other.
- 6) Respect all school and personal equipment at all times, everywhere we go.
- 7) Keep your Band Room Area clean and orderly – be organized.
- 8) Respect all other staff, Sumner HS Band Program members, and Band Students from other schools. We always act with class – in rehearsals and performances, at Sumner HS and everywhere we travel.
- 9) Always strive for success and remember that nothing succeeds without hard work and effort.
- 10) Your attitude and response to the “4 D’s” will shape our year:
 - Discipline
 - Dedication
 - Desire
 - Determination

Sumner High School Band Program Goals – 2007-2008

- 1) Striving towards continued educational balance and performance excellence in all areas of the Sumner High School Band Program: Symphonic, Marching, Jazz, and Color Guard.
- 2) Continued transitions of our program to reflect adjusting student-numbers in an active and dynamic 4-year band program.
- 3) Continued emphasis on individual and group responsibility as we represent our School, District, Cities, and Region with excellence and pride.
- 4) Continued growth in the involvement of students applying and performing in the League Solo-Ensemble Contest and All-State Band Programs
- 5) Continuing to prepare for the future of the Sumner HS Band Program: continuing our 5-year plan for 2006-07 through 2010-11 that will include:
 - regular evaluations and adjustments
 - future potential performance opportunities
 - future equipment and uniform needs

Sumner HS Band Program Grading Information 2007-2008

Attendance guidelines for the Sumner High School Band Program are different than in many other classes. While individual student progress and performance is monitored and evaluated on a daily basis, the success of the entire group in rehearsals and performances is co-dependent upon all members of the group. Our performances are group tests, whether in a concert or in a competitive environment evaluated by adjudicators. Students earn grades based on both their own efforts and that of the entire group – this unique dual quality enables students of vast ability levels to cooperatively learn and achieve. Through regular attendance at rehearsals and performances students and parents will observe the dramatic learning and improvements in individual and collective student abilities over the course of the semesters and school-year. There are two primary areas of evaluation that are important to all of our classes – attendance and daily work.

1) Attendance at curricular and extracurricular rehearsals and performances

Excellent attendance is critical for success at both in-class daily rehearsals and at any extracurricular rehearsals and performances. Sumner High School Band Program classes are participation-based, where it is impossible to have duplicate “make-ups” of group rehearsals and performances. Attendance at both curricular and extracurricular rehearsals and performances is not an option – students are expected to attend events and are given a calendar at the beginning of the year as well as biweekly updates. While there may be instances where a student may be excused from a rehearsal or performance, these are handled on an individual basis by the student and the director before the rehearsal or performance based on a clear set of criteria. **Unless there is a last-minute emergency situation, students are expected to inform us in writing at least 2 weeks prior to any extracurricular rehearsal and performance absence.** Absences and tardies will play an important role in grading for all band classes, as point-values are assigned for each rehearsal and performance. For regular school-day classes, the Sumner High School attendance policies apply to all absences and tardies (including those for zero-period jazz ensembles, which are credit courses). It is the student’s responsibility to be accountable for their attendance and inform us of reasons for absences or tardies. We will do our best to try to work and cooperate with students who are involved in other activities (sports, jobs, church activities, etc.) and in many cases these situations are workable if there is a good and timely communication between students (and their families) and us. Please check the Sumner High School Band Program calendar as well as the biweekly calendar-updates on a regular basis. These are both distributed in class and available on the Sumner HS Band Program Website – www.sumner.wednet.edu/ourschools/sumner_hs/pages/band.html.

While all of our performances are important, there are certain events that are considered **Major Performances**, where the groups are involved in evaluation and/or competition, or when the event is considered a unique educational experience. We strive to have a variety of challenges and performances each year – some are regularly recurring (such as concerts, the Daffodil Parades, etc.) but many are once-a-cycle of students, meaning that these events will happen only one time during the next 4 years. The Sumner High School Bands are seen by hundreds of thousands of people each year and the groups have performed coast-to-coast. Attendance at these events and any extracurricular rehearsals preceding them are critical to both the group and to the student’s grading, and are given a high point-value in attendance-grading. Some of these events are overnight trips (O/N) and are regionally important events. The 2007-08 Sumner HS Band Program Major Performances schedule is on the next page and can also be found on the Band Program Calendar.

Band Program Attendance Policies (continued):

Scheduled Sumner HS Band Program Major Performances for the 2007-08 school-year include:

- Leavenworth Autumn Leaf Festival Parade – Trip (MB-CG)	September 28-29 (O/N)
- Everett Field Show Marching Competition (MB-CG)	October 27
- Auburn Veterans Day Parade and Field Show Competition (MB-CG)	November 10
- Sumner & Puyallup Holiday Parades	December 1
- Sumner HS Band Instrumental Winter Concert (SB's/JE's)	January 24
- Surrey, B.C. Jazz Festival-Competition (JE's)	February 1–3 (O/N)
- WMEA All-State Conference & Performance (SB/JE)	February 15-17 (O/N)
- Big Band Dance (JE's)	February 23
- Valley League Band Contest at TJHS (SB's)	March 8
- Clackamas, OR Jazz Festival-Competition (JE's)	March 14–16 (O/N)
- Sumner HS Instrumental Collage Concert (SB's & JE's)	March 25
- Daffodil Parades and Pre-Performances and Parades (MB-CG)	April 10 & 12
- Bremerton/Poulsbo/Victoria Parade Trip (MB-CG-JEs)	May 17-19 (O/N)
- Sumner HS Spring Band Concert (SB/MB-CG/JE's)	June 3
- Sumner High School Graduation (SB/JE)	June 11

It is likely there will be added major performances during the 2007-08 school-year (for instance, the Sumner HS Marching Band has performed at halftimes of the Seattle Seahawks NFL Games for the last 3 years in a row – probably the only HS Band in the country to have done that) and these performances will be discussed with students and their families prior to being scheduled.

2) Daily work and performance evaluations

Students have daily expectations of class performance as well as scheduled playing and routine evaluations as they occur during each marking period (we will always give sufficient notification of any approaching test). These tests may include areas such as scales, memorization, chair and part-placement, and other facets as well as tests of the student's practice and preparation. Student-improvement in these evaluations is an important factor in determining grades during later tests. Like any evaluations, students are expected to study (in our instance, practice outside of class is expected). Preparation affects both the individual player and the entire group, so we encourage students to have a regular practicing schedule.

Sumner High School Band Grading Percentages:

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| - Attendance at rehearsals and performances | 50% of grade |
| - Daily rehearsal-work and playing tests | 50% of grade |

3) Band Student Behavior Expectations

Band program students strive for high expectations of excellence in behavior as well as musical performance. Many band program activities occur outside of regular school hours but the same school-day behavioral expectations are in effect at all times when taking part in band activities. When band program students have late-afternoon or evening activities, students need to leave Sumner HS Campus unless involved in other school activities or get special permission to remain on campus until report-time for the evening activities (the Sumner HS Band Room may be available for studying or practicing if arranged in advance). Other behavioral expectations are clearly defined in the Sumner HS Spartan Spiral – there is no “double standard” in behavior expectations, as band program activities are a part of the band class. Sumner HS Band program students need to remind themselves that they are representing not only themselves, but the Sumner HS Band Program, their school, the school district, and the community every time they rehearse or perform, and especially when they are in an outside-of-class and/or an outside of campus situation. We have confidence in their abilities not only as musicians but as representatives of our area.

The Sumner High School Spartan Band Association

We have an established and active Band Program Parents Group called the Sumner High School Spartan Band Association. This group has regular meetings (see calendar under “SBA”) and helps in so many ways, from financial fund-raising to snacks at rehearsals and performances and many other activities. All Band Program parents are encouraged to attend meeting and to assist in whatever way they can.

Sumner HS Band Program Trip Policies

While on a Band trip, students are expected to behave in an exemplary fashion as representatives of Sumner HS. The following rules will be consistently enforced for all Sumner High School Band Program events – both during school and in all extracurricular band activities:

- 1) Strict adherence to all school policies as outlined in the Sumner HS student handbook. Trips are an extension of the class, and as such are treated in the same way. Certain infractions (such as possession of alcohol, drugs, etc.) may call for the student(s) or the entire group being sent home immediately, and would likely jeopardize or cancel future trips for any band program groups.
- 2) All staff members and chaperones are to be treated with respect. Any difficulties or problems with chaperones or staff should be brought to the attention of the director ASAP.
- 3) Sumner Band program members act with class – to each other and to any other students or groups from any other schools.
- 4) Schedules and time-lines will be followed as closely as possible.

In case of a problem, the discipline policy will be determined by the director, other staff members, and the Sumner HS Administration. Depending upon the severity of the infraction, the consequences may include:

- A phone call home to the student’s parents.
- The student being sent back home from the trip at the parent’s expense, with further disciplinary actions determined from the SHS discipline policy.
- The loss of further travel privileges and possible removal from class.

We consider it a privilege that the Sumner School District allows us to attend and represent the District in so many fine events. We cannot allow these privileges to be jeopardized by irresponsible student actions. Future group travel is depended upon a zero-tolerance policy of student actions – we expect excellence.

Band Program Uniform Information

We are very fortunate to have excellent marching band and color guard uniforms that are provided to us by the Sumner School District. We use different uniforms for different groups and conditions and take great pride in how we look. Students will not perform unless they are in the correct and full uniform. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure that they have the correct uniform for all events.

The following guidelines are in place for our uniforms, including the Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensembles, Marching Band, and Color Guard. Each uniform is worth hundreds of dollars and cannot be easily replaced. Any misuse or mistreatment of the uniforms will result in the assessment of fines as noted.

Certain uniform parts for some groups will have to be supplied and paid for by the individual student, such as marching shoes, symphonic and jazz ensemble uniforms, and pep band polo-shirts. Such parts will be purchased on a quantity-discount program whenever possible. Students having financial difficulties should contact us or the SHS administration – there are financial assistance programs available from Sumner HS. Students and parents will be signing contracts for payments on uniform parts, and will need to keep their accounts paid-up on a semester basis, unless other arrangements are made with the SHS Bookkeeper.

The students will be expected to wear the uniforms completely and correctly (as noted by staff) when in public. Most performances include time for pre-performance inspections. We feel that it is very important to look well as well as sound great at all events, and again, students who are not in complete and correct uniform will be removed from the performance situation.

Each student will receive a Marching Band or Color Guard uniform that has been dry cleaned and repaired over the summer. During the course of the school year, students will need to have the uniform dry cleaned when needed. Dry cleaning during the year is the financial responsibility of the student.

Sumner HS Band Program Letters & Awards Information

Band & Color Guard letters are a symbol and reward given to those members who spend an extra amount of time and effort involved in the Band Program. Band program letters are awarded to those students who participate in Band & Color Guard activities which occur outside the regular class time.

The lettering system has evolved as our performance amounts have increased – many students will accumulate enough points to earn a letter in only 1 year.

After a student has received a letter, a letter-bar will be awarded each year thereafter in which the student meets the required standards. If a student already has a letter from another sport or activity, a music lyre or color guard flag emblem will be given to add to their existing letter. Each year, an accumulation of 100 total points is required to earn a letter or a bar. Point values are as follows:

SHS Band Program extracurricular <i>Rehearsals</i>	1 point per rehearsal
SHS Band Program extracurricular <i>Performances</i>	2 points per performance
Competitive/Adjudicated Performances	5 points per performance
Band Officers/Managers/Captains	10 points
Section Leaders	5 points
Solo/Ensemble Participation	10 points: solo 5 points: ensemble
All-Northwest Participation	10 points
Auditioned-Group Participation (PSYWE, etc.)	10 points
Outside Performance (i.e. Church, etc.)	5 points per event
Private Lessons	1 point per lesson
Outside Concert-Attendance (applicable groups, i.e. Seattle Symphony, etc.)	2 points per concert
Summer Marching Band Participation	10 points

Students will need to keep track of their accumulated-points throughout the school-year (points are accumulated from June to June), and will be asked to document their point-totals. The awards will be given at the Spring Awards Dinner, held in June.

In addition, several other awards are given, including:

- The John Philip Sousa Award to a Senior Band Member
- The Louis Armstrong Award to a Senior Jazz Ensemble Member
- Director's Swards for Overall Excellence
- Senior Plaques
- Color Guard Awards:
 - Most Valuable Member
 - Most Improved Member
 - Captain's Award

We have established a tradition of earning banners for our championship and/or exceptional performances that are posted throughout the SHS Band Room. These awards-banners will also be given at the Spring Awards Dinner.

Band Leadership Council Information

Each year, there is the need for several individuals to volunteer for the added responsibility of serving in a position in the Band Program, from a representative to an officer to a manager. These positions are a great chance for students to get “inside” the Band Program and leave a valuable legacy, as well as the building of leadership skills. The Band Leadership Council meets every week after school hours to help discuss Band Program issues and concerns, as well as plan for future events and trips. All Band Program students are invited to these meetings. Band Officers include the following positions:

Band Program President

Voted into office by the members of the Band and Color Guard, the Band President’s responsibilities are to represent the Band Program at ALL ASB and Spartan Band Association meetings, and to serve as leader of the Band Leadership Council.

Band Program Vice-President

Also voted into office, the Vice-President’s responsibilities include the coordination of all group fund-raising activities in conjunction with the ASB and the Spartan Band Association, as well as to serve as a substitute for attendance at any ASB/SBA meetings that the Band President is unable to attend.

Secretary

Also voted into office, the position of Secretary involves the taking of clear and accurate notes at Band Leadership Council and Spartan Band Association Parents Meetings, and the dissemination of such notes to the membership of the groups.

Treasurer

Also voted into office, the position of Treasurer involves working with ASB Bookkeeper, Mrs. Franklin, on ASB balances of the Band Accounts, as well as coordinating efforts with the Treasurer of the Spartan Band Association.

Group Representatives

Each Band Program group will elect a representative to the Band Leadership Council, whose responsibility it will be to regularly attend meetings and report back to their respective group. Group representatives include:

- Seniors/Juniors/Sophomores
- Jazz Ensemble
- Color Guard

In addition, members may attend all meetings on an “at-large” status, as well as other representatives from other involved groups (i.e. Cheerleaders / Choir / Dance Team, etc.).

2007-2008 Sumner High School Band Program Membership-Contract

Students Please Sign:

I, _____ hereby affirm that I have read and thoroughly understand the Sumner High School 2007-2008 Band Program Information. I further affirm that I will abide by the rules, regulations, and intent of the information, and understand the penalties for not doing so. I understand that an unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance will seriously affect my grade and status in the Band or Color Guard. I have had all questions concerning the content of this information answered, and will do my best to live up to the intent of this contract.

Band/Color Guard Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parents and/or Guardians Please Sign:

I have read the Sumner High School 2007-2008 Band Program Information and have discussed it with my/our child. I/We will do our best to encourage him/her to abide by the rules and regulations of the Band and Color Guard as expressed in the Band Program information packet. Also, as part of the coursework for this class students may be photographed or videotaped for instructional or assessment purposes. Images of students are not retained and will not be used for publication, but may be put on the band website (but students will not be identified by name).

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

In an effort to increase communication between the Sumner High School Marching Band and guardians, we are asking for complete contact information. This information will be used to communicate trip/class updates/information as well as in case of emergencies on trips.

Parent/Guardian Names:			
Parent E-Mail:			
Student Name:			
Student E-Mail:			
Mailing Address:			
City:		Zip Code:	
Home Phone:	() -		
Work Phone:	() -	() -	
Parent Cell Phone:	() -	() -	
Student Cell Phone:	() -		
Sign me up for the eScrip program (support the band with everyday purchases)			
Safeway Club Card # (11 digits)			

**COMPLETED CONTRACTS ARE DUE BY
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2007**



Sumner School District
... a great place to learn!

Sumner High School
1707 Main Street Sumner, WA 98390

Voice: 253-891-5500
Fax: 253-891-5585

PHOTO/MEDIA RELEASE FORM

As parent/guardian of

(name of student)

(name of SHS club or class)

I hereby grant permission for my child to appear in photographs or video taken at school or during school events and functions. I understand that the school district will retain copyright of these photographs, and any and all rights to the photographs in this and any future district publications, in any format or media. This release also extends to the use of my child's photograph on the District Website.

I further acknowledge and consent that my child may participate in television or newspaper interviews and may be included in articles, photographs or film published by local or regional news bureaus. I understand that the news agency will retain copyright of these photographs and interviews include any and all rights to the photographs or interviews in this and any future publications, in any format or media.

(Signature of parent/guardian)

(Date)