

# **Greer High School Band**

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## **Handbook**

**2008-2009**

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**Mr. Marion Waters, Principal**

**Mr. Jeff Norman, Director**

**Ms. Laura Mohrmann, Director**

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## Overview

“The Greer High School Band” or “The Band Program” is used to refer to the total band program at Greer High School in Greenville County Schools.

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The philosophical goals of this organization are:

1. To instill a life long appreciation of music in the students and the community.
  2. To instill a desire and an understanding of excellence through rehearsal and performance.
  3. To develop an awareness of the importance of teamwork and self-discipline.
  4. To encourage the development of social skills through peer relationships.
  5. To give the students “real world” experiences that may further their understanding of the world around them.
  6. To serve as a symbol of pride and excellence for Greer High School, Greenville County Schools, and the surrounding communities.
  7. HARD WORK = SUCCESS
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In order to achieve these goals, it is important to have well-established guidelines that apply to each member of the band program. The purpose of this book is to define those guidelines, in order to establish a tradition of excellence within the Greer High School Band Program.

**This handbook was approved by the Greer High School administration on July 31, 2008.**

## Greer Band Officers 2008 - 2009

Student officers play a vital role in the success of a band program. They assist the band staff in performing the tasks necessary to make a band operate smoothly, and they provide student leadership. **OFFICERS SHOULD ALWAYS STRIVE TO BE MODEL BAND MEMBERS.** Officers will be chosen by the directors based on dedication, work ethic, and most importantly.... **ATTITUDE.**

### Executive Council

This committee is made up of the Drum Major, Band Captain, Woodwind Captain, Brass Captain, Percussion Captain and Guard Captain First Lieutenant, administrative assistant and the supply/inventory officer. Its function is to act as a liaison between the band staff and band members, and to provide input in the formulation of band policy.

### Drum Major

This is the highest-ranking officer in the band. The Drum Major is chosen through an audition process in which their leadership and conducting abilities are evaluated by an outside panel of judges. The duties of the Drum Major are to oversee the operations of the leadership within the band program and to serve as field commander of the Marching Band. The Drum Major is responsible for making sure rehearsal begins **"On Time"**. This officer is also responsible for marking off seats for the Greer Band and any visiting bands prior to home games. It is the officer's responsibility to find out from the director the size of the visiting band and how much space is required for seating. At times plastic covering will be needed on the seats in order to assure the cleanliness of the uniform pants. Drum major is also responsible for getting water/Gatorade for each practice. He/She will also help with the lining of the practice field before camp and will be responsible for getting together a field maintenance crew to help line the field as needed throughout the season.

### Band Captain

Next to the Drum Major the Band Captain is the highest-ranking officer. Their role is to assist the band staff and Drum Major in overseeing the daily operations of the band and its leadership. The Band Captain will oversee the inspections of the band that will be held periodically prior to performances. Along with the Drum Major, the Band Captain will be responsible for assuring that the band room is kept clean and as neat as possible. This position oversees the loading of equipment when we travel. The Band Captain should appoint a crew including the drum line and three other appointed members from the band to assist him/ her with the duties involved. The band director will approve appointments. Upon arrival at a performance these members are the first ones off the buses after directions are given and should unload and organize the equipment so that the band members can get to their instruments and/or equipment as soon as possible.

### **Woodwind, Brass and Percussion Captains**

These Captain positions are appointed by the band staff and will oversee everything dealing with their particular area. Music, Marching, etc. will be the responsibility of the captains. They will help any member that is in need of assistance along with making sure all sections work together throughout the year. Captains are also responsible for making sure all school owned instruments are properly taken care of.

### **Color Guard Captain**

The band staff appoints this position. The Color Guard Captain will oversee the operation of the Color Guard including the equipment and some of the instructional duties. The captain will perform inspections of the Color Guard. Any problems pertaining to the Color Guard should be handled by the Captain and always referred to the band directors. Guard Captain is responsible for making sure that the equipment is loaded for transport to the performances. This position oversees the color guard equipment and its maintenance and assignment to individuals. All equipment should be numbered and a spreadsheet constructed of which guard member has which piece of equipment. Any sewing needs of the guard should be handled through this officer and reported to the director. Along with the guard captains this officer is responsible for the cleanliness of the storage area and making sure that ALL equipment is stored properly at the end of each rehearsal and performance.

### **Section Leaders**

Section leaders are assigned by the band directors. Their primary function is to oversee everything dealing with their section. Music, marching, fundraising, etc. are a few of the duties that each section leader will be responsible for. Section leaders are also responsible for taking attendance at each band rehearsal and performance.

### **First Lieutenant**

The position is appointed by the band directors. The First Lieutenant will be responsible for making sure all issues dealing with the maintenance of the band uniform. The First Lieutenant will set up procedures for the maintenance and care of all uniforms. The First Lieutenant will appoint a committee (approved by the director) of four band members who will assist in the uniforms operations. These students should include members of both genders and at least one member of the Color Guard who oversees and understands guard uniform issues. This officer is also responsible for tracking assigned uniforms, constructing spreadsheets of this information for filing and posting, notifying the director of any mishandling of the uniforms by a member of the band, and the cleanliness of the storage area.

### **Librarian/Administrative Student Assistant**

The band librarian/administrative assistant oversees the filing, copying, and organization of the music library along with the operations and cleanliness of the band offices. The librarian should handle any extra copies of music that are needed. This person will appoint a committee of two others (approved by the director) who will assist in the

operation of the library. This student should be enrolled in a band class in the fall and spring semesters. Reed and maintenance supplies are handled through this officer. The officer will be required to make copies from time to time and assist as needed with the librarian and inventory officers. Duties include calling attendance prior to departure from any location including the school at the start of each trip. One member should be chosen from the guard, brass, and woodwinds (including your section). The Administrative Student Assistant will be take roll at the designated start time of each rehearsal and class. This officer will handle any tardies by students. Disciplinary action will be handled by the directors. This officer should always check with the director for excused absences and report any missing students to him/her.

Lists should be maintained and copies dispersed to each committee member and extra copies filed for future reference and needs. This officer should handle any needs that the office may encounter.

### Supply/Inventory

This position oversees the assignment of school owned instruments to students. Spreadsheets of serial numbers, makes, models, and condition of the instruments should be done at the beginning of each school year and rechecked at the ending of the school year. Problems with instruments needing repair should be brought to the director's attention and handled through this officer position. This officer along with a selected team will be chosen and responsible for making sure the instrument storage area is clean and neat.

**It is important that all band members realize that much of our success is dependant on the leadership of the band. Respect should always be given to officers as they are overseeing the best interest of the students. Any officer not performing his or her duties can result in removal from their appointment by the director and executive council. Arguing with an officer accomplishes nothing and will not be tolerated. If there is ever a problem concerning an officer and their execution of duties it should be reported to a director. Do not let personal feelings or issues get in the way of us achieving the highest quality performance that is possible.**

## **“Attitude equals Altitude”**

### **Attitude**

In order to have a successful organization there must be agreement of all members in the goals that the organization wants to accomplish. Attitude is the most important element of success with a band. Band members and parents must realize this important factor. By working together the parents and staff can utilize band as a teaching tool for young people in how to deal with issues that may come up throughout their life. Problems with work ethic and attitude will be addressed by the staff and officers and can result in a student's removal from the band program.

# Symphonic Band General Information

The Symphonic Band will consist of the Fall Wind/Percussion Class and the Spring Wind/Percussion Class. This group may also participate in concert festival.

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## Rules

1. Members should refrain from excessive talking during rehearsals.
2. Members should have all necessary equipment and music for each rehearsal and performance.
3. All members are required to attend all performances unless excused by a band director.
4. Members are responsible for knowing their music and being able to perform it at an acceptable level.
5. Members are expected to dress appropriately according to directions given by a band director.
6. Periodic playing tests will be given to assess student progress.
7. Attendance at any after school rehearsals is mandatory unless a director prior to the rehearsal excuses it.

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**Failure to follow these rules can result in a lower grade and/or other disciplinary actions as deemed by the directors.**

# Marching Band – General Information

## Dues

As with any successful group there are certain expenses involved. Students will be asked to pay a fee each year to cover expenses incurred. These Dues go to help cover uniform cleaning, drill for the show, instructional costs for additional staff, music arrangements, transportation of equipment, props and other visual needs, and food. **No student(s) will be turned away from the Greer Band due to financial needs.**

However, it must be realized that effort must be displayed on the part of the band members and parents in the way of fund raising or services done for the band. Any agreement for professional services performed by a parent or family member in lieu of Dues should be documented in writing and signed by the parent, child, and director. We will work with anyone to help them meet the financial obligations of the organization as long as they are putting forth an effort to help and have a good attitude.

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## Withdrawal/Dismissal from Band

Withdrawal from the marching band in the middle of the season is strongly discouraged as it creates a hardship on the other band members. Persons who do

withdraw in mid-season will forfeit all rights and privileges as a marching band member, and will be prohibited from signing up for marching band in future seasons unless there is just cause that is acceptable to the Band Directors, Staff and/or School Administration.

The Band Directors reserves the right to dismiss any person from the band who poses a constant behavior problem, but only after all other courses of action have been pursued.

The Band Directors also claims the right to refuse membership to anyone who fails to meet the minimum standards of behavior expected of a member of the Greer Band whether it is a band related, school related, or a community related issue.

## Rules and Regulations

### Attendance

All band members are expected to be at **EVERY** rehearsal and performance of the groups to which they belong. In general, cases of extreme illness, a death in the immediate family, or an emergency situation are the only excuses that will be accepted for missing a performance. During marching season, members are encouraged to schedule doctor, dental, and orthodontic appointments, etc. on Wednesdays, so as not to conflict with band rehearsals.

If a member knows in advance that he/she must miss a rehearsal or performance, he/she should inform the **Directors** as far in advance as possible. It is also the member's responsibility to let the Attendance officer and the Drum Major know after the Director of Bands has been informed. If the absence is declared "unexcused" appropriate action will be taken with regard to participation and awards (see AWARDS).

In addition, a student who misses a Thursday rehearsal with an unexcused absence may not be allowed to perform at the Friday night football game. Students who miss Thursday rehearsal are still required to attend the game and perform in the stands and will be expected to stand on the sideline during the band's half time performance. This rule is necessary in order not to harm the band's overall performance as many changes are implemented during the season and a failure of the student to rehearse the change can result in an embarrassing situation for the student and the rest of the band.

A parent-teacher conference will be requested for any student who accumulates more than one unexcused absence from a rehearsal and any absence from a performance. Excessive absenteeism is considered grounds for dismissal from the band. **Please remember it takes all of us to make a Band and YOUR commitment to be at rehearsals and performance is important and required.**

Late arrivals and early dismissals should also be cleared in advance with the Band Directors. Corrective measures will be taken against all personnel who arrive late to rehearsal.

**We need the understanding of all students and parents in regard to attendance. It would be better for the band to have someone of lesser ability but more faithful with their attendance than to have a member who is unreliable. Furthermore, the habits that you (the student) make**

**at your age now are many times the habits that you will keep for the rest of your life. We all must understand and agree to the commitment we make to each other and the program.**

## **Equipment**

Band members are expected to have the proper equipment (i.e. instruments, reeds, mouthpieces, drumsticks, flags, etc.) at every rehearsal and performance. It is the responsibility of the individual to keep his/her instrument in working order.

Equipment should be properly stored at the end of every rehearsal and performance. All school-owned instruments must be stored in their cases when not in use. Simply putting the instrument in a storage cabinet out of its case, or tubas placed against the wall or on top of its case is unacceptable unless instructed to put it in there by a band staff member. Instruments are not to be kept on the long counter in the instrument storage room.

Any misuse or damage to the instrument is the responsibility of the student who has the instrument checked out with the Inventory officer. Any repairs may be charged to the student.

No member should ever use another person's equipment. Percussionists alone are permitted to use the percussion equipment. Color Guard members alone are permitted to use the Color Guard equipment. No one is to use the band's stereo or electronic equipment without the permission of the band directors.

## **Music**

Instrumentalists are expected to keep up, and take care of, all music that is issued to them. They should never mark their music with anything other than a pencil. Lost music will be the responsibility of the student. Copies can be acquired at a charge of .50 per copy. You will be required to have music at rehearsals, if you lose your copy please contact the Librarian in order to replace your lost copy. There will be designated students who are allowed to make copies and use the music files. **NO OTHER STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED IN THE MUSIC LIBRARY WITHOUT PERMISSION.**

At the end of every rehearsal the Librarian and their committee will confiscate any music left on the stands or on the floor. Anyone who has music that has been confiscated will receive a verbal warning the first time. After that, they will be required to pay the replacement and/or complete a work detail given by the Drum Major and/or Band Captain.

All students will be assigned a numbered folder and will be held responsible for all music issued to that folder. Folder should be placed in the folder racks, not storage shelves, after each rehearsal so that librarians may have access to them at all times. At the end of the year, when folders are collected, librarians will make note of damaged and missing original parts, and will collect appropriate fines for replacement of the music from the publishers.

## **Dress**

Band members are expected to dress appropriately for all performances. Any inappropriate dress can result in **exclusion** from the performance and can count as an **unexcused absence**. There are three main types of performance dress: uniformed events, summer uniform events, and dress clothes events.

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### **Uniformed events:**

Students will wear the assigned uniform pants and the coat assigned to them. In addition, it is the student's responsibility to have the appropriate shoes, socks, and gloves required for the performance. If the jacket is not on, bibbers need to worn properly at all times—**STRAPS UP**. No one is to come out of uniform unless designated to do so by the directors.

### **Summer Uniform events:**

When instructed to wear summer uniforms the students are required to wear long khaki colored pants, tennis shoes (unless instructed to wear band shoes), and their polo style shirt that is given to them at the beginning of the marching season. Extra shirts may be available in the event that one is lost or damaged for a nominal fee.

### **Dress clothes events:**

There will be times when students are instructed to wear "dress clothes", sometimes referred to as "Sunday clothes". This is defined as dress slacks (no jeans) and either a button down dress shirt or a polo style shirt. There will be times when male students are required to wear a tie. Any skirts or dresses worn by the female members should come over the knee when seated.

**The band staff reserves the right to establish all regulations in regard to proper dress for performances and when traveling.**

## **Guard uniforms**

Due to periodic changes in the uniform worn by the Color Guard members, information regarding appropriate dress will be established at the start of each season and changed when necessary. The Color Guard may be required to pay dues to defray the cost of their uniform or raise money to meet their "fair share".

Color Guard members are also required to purchase a wind suit to wear at some football games (in colder weather), at some parades, and as their outfit for travel. Again, it should be noted that we will assist students who have a financial need; however adequate efforts must be made by the student receiving the assistance to raise the money through fund raising efforts and/or work detail.

**All regulations concerning dress are subject to change due to inclement weather. The Band Staff reserves the right to determine dress during inclement weather situations.**

## Other General information:

### Fundraising

All band members are expected to participate in all fund-raising activities. Some of these activities include stadium clean up (at least 2 times), basketball concessions, hosting of events such as Region Band, Solo & Ensemble, Miss Greer Pageant, and any other event sponsored by the band. Members are held responsible for all merchandise issued to them, as well as all money collected. Failure to turn in merchandise and/or money will result in the withholding of report cards until the obligation is cleared. Seniors with outstanding financial obligations to the band may not be permitted to participate in commencement exercises.

All members are reminded to adhere to Greenville County School's policy concerning fund raising. Door to door sales are prohibited, as are sales during school hours. If merchandise is confiscated, lost, or stolen this in no way removes the member's financial responsibility for the merchandise.

### Trips

From time to time the band takes extra, overnight trips in order to perform or compete in another setting. Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year all profit from fund-raisers will be split 60/40 with the band and the individual student. In other words, if a student raises \$100.00 in profit then \$40.00 of that profit will be credited into an individual account in which the student can use for travel. In the event that a student quits or is dismissed from the band program this money goes back into the general expense account of the band booster club. Balances will be carried over from year to year; therefore, it is possible for a student to raise funds that will help them with future travel expenses. Seniors who graduate with a left over balance can pass it along to a younger sibling who is in band within a two-year period; otherwise it is rolled over into the general expense account of the boosters.

**Some fund-raisers during trip years may be designated at a higher profit percentage for band members. This will be done at the discretion of the band boosters and band directors.**

### Personal items on trips and in the band room

Every band member is expected to keep up with his or her own personal items. **THE BAND WILL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ITEMS STOLEN FROM THE BAND FACILITY OR OUR BUSES AT ANY TIME.** It would be to the advantage of the band member to take extra care with their equipment, purses, book-bags, etc. during trips, class, and practice and put them in a secure area.

## Telephones

The phones in the music office will be made available to band members following rehearsals and performances in order that they may arrange for transportation home. Calls should be kept as brief as possible. **During school hours these phones are off limits to students without the permission of a staff member. Any abuse of the phones or misuse of the phones will result in the student not being allowed to use the phone in the future.**

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**CELL PHONES ARE NOT PERMITTED DURING REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES. ANY CELL PHONES SEEN DURING THESE TIMES WILL BE CONFISCATED. IT WILL BE UP TO THE STUDENT'S PARENT TO COME GET THE PHONE FROM THE BAND DIRECTOR.**

## Computers

The computers located in the offices are not for student use. Students will not be allowed to use the director's computers for any reason.

## Facilities

Members are expected to keep all parts of the band facility, rehearsal room, storage area, and lobby clean and orderly. The **Director's offices**, uniform room, music library are off limits to members, except when a staff member or authorized person is present or has given you permission to be there.

## Transportation

Band members are expected to arrange their own transportation to and from school for all rehearsals and performances. Members are encouraged to have their rides pick them up promptly and conversely we will make every attempt possible to end rehearsals at their scheduled time.

In keeping with the policy of Greenville County School District, band members must travel with the band on all band trips unless a Band Director gives prior permission and parents notify a Band Director. If a member wishes to ride to event with the band, and leave with **THEIR PARENTS** he or she must:

1. Give the band director a written statement in advance, signed by a parent or legal guardian and an administrator.
2. Have the student or legal guardian pick up the student(s) in person in the presence of one of the Band Directors and sign the student(s) out.
3. Notify the bus officer and band director and/or staff member on their bus of their intentions and that it has been cleared in the proper manner.

## **Code of Behavior**

Band members are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times, as their actions reflect upon the entire organization, their families, and Greer High School, as well as themselves. Members are reminded that all school rules apply during rehearsals and performances.

Band Members are expected to abide by the rules set forth in the Greer High School Handbook. In addition, the following rules of conduct have been established.

### **General**

1. Members should treat the band staff and chaperones with respect at all times.
2. Members should not talk when instructions are being given.
3. Members should follow the instructions of the staff and chaperones.
4. Members should be courteous toward each other, as well as toward other people (e.g. spectators, members of other bands, etc...)
5. Profanity, vulgarity, obscenity will not be tolerated.

### **Rehearsal**

1. Members should be attentive and refrain from excessive talking.
2. Members should remain still and silent when called to attention.

### **Bus**

1. Members should remain seated while the buses are in motion.
2. Members should keep appendages inside the bus at all times.
3. Audio/video equipment is prohibited on the bus unless it is used with a personal listening device (i.e. headphones)
4. No disorderly conduct (e.g. screaming) will be tolerated.
5. Members must remain in their seat until instructed to get off the bus. Upon unloading student should not play until instructed to do so.
6. Members should remove all personal items and trash from the bus after each trip.
7. Members should remain silent until the appointed times prior to arrival at a location (usually the city limits) and prior to leaving Greer High School.

### **Stands (Marching Band)**

1. Band members, staff, and chaperones must sit as a group in the stands. All other persons are prohibited from sitting in the band set.
2. Members may not remove any portion of their uniform, including hat, unless the director gives permission.
3. Members may not play their instruments except when instructed to do so by a staff member or drum major. Individual playing is prohibited.

4. Following the half time performance, members will be given time to visit the rest rooms, concession stands, etc. They are expected to be back in the assigned seats, ready to play, with one minute (2:00) remaining in the third quarter. Failure to abide by this rule will result in a loss of third quarter privileges and/or any other disciplinary action as given by the directors.
5. **Non-band members may not bring food or drink to band members during first, second, or fourth quarters in the interest of fairness to all members.**

## **Participation in Individual Events**

The South Carolina Band Directors Association sponsors events each year that recognizes individual achievement by student musicians. These include All-State Band auditions, Solo and Ensemble, Winthrop Invitational Band Clinic, USC Band Clinic, and local youth orchestras.

The band staff encourages all instrumentalists to participate in these events. Doing so motivates individuals to improve their personal playing skills, which in turn increases the extent to which they can contribute to the band program. In addition, the entire band can take pride in the accomplishments of its individual members.

The band director is responsible for keeping members informed as to the dates, Dues, and requirements of these events. The director will also gladly provide assistance to any member who is preparing to participate. After-school coaching sessions are arranged for those who are interested.

Every person who intends to participate in either of these events must first perform their prepared material for the band director, who is responsible for verifying that the person meets the minimum standard for musicianship. Dues will not be refunded to members who are not approved to attend. **Students who wish to attend these events MUST be a member of a band class during the time of that event. This is an SCBDA rule and is not subject to our interpretation.**

## **Private Lessons**

There is no other way to improve playing (short of practice by the individual) than by taking private lessons. Private instructors may be found through a band director for students. This is HIGHLY recommended for students. We are only as strong as our weakest player.

## **Appropriate equipment**

As a student progresses in band they will many times get to the point where they are ready to acquire a better instrument. These professional instruments will allow your student to develop further than they would on a student line instrument. These instruments are constructed better than the average instrument and many times can provide the student with many years of enjoyment. We highly encourage you to consider purchasing a good instrument for your son or daughter to play. As with any purchase of an instrument... **Please be sure to check with a band director before buying an instrument for your child.** Many times we can find better prices and make sure that you are getting your money's worth for the instrument.

Below are some **suggested** instruments and equipment for your student, these are not required. Please do not hesitate to ask a director if you have questions concerning these instruments.

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## **Suggested Equipment**

**Flute** – Jupiter/Demedici Model Flute with B Foot. Good swab stick; small bottle of key oil.

**Clarinet** – Wooden Buffet model clarinet. Swab, Vandoren 3.5 reeds (or strength suggested by director), reed case, damp it (for wooden instruments), small clarinet stand, and a Rovner ligature.

**Saxes** – Yamaha 62 Saxes or Selmer Professional Line instrument. Vandoren 3.5 reed (or strength suggested by director), Rovner ligature, soft polishing cloth, neck swab, and a small bottle of key oil.

**Trumpet** – Bach Stradivarius Model (reversible lead pipe). 3C, 5C, or 1.5C Mouthpiece, soft polishing cloth, Al Cass or Blue Juice valve oil, and a Tom Crown brand straight mute.

**French Horn** – Conn 8D French Horn. Appropriate mouthpiece, soft polishing cloth, rotor oil, and a small flat head screw driver.

**Trombone** – Bach 42 Thayer valve trombone. Appropriate mouthpiece, soft polishing cloth, slide cream, small water sprayer, Tom Crown brand straight mute, and a small bottle of slide oil.

**Percussion** – One pair of Vic Firth SD1 General sticks for concert band and a pair of Vic Firth Ralph Hardiman Signature sticks for marching band, a practice pad.

# Awards

## Band Letters and Bars

All band members who have completed one complete (Marching and Concert) season in the organization are eligible for a band letter. Members must accumulate fifteen (15) points to earn a letter based on the following point system:

- Concert Band – 4 pts. (Must participate in the class)**
- Marching Band – 4 pts.**
- Greenville All County Band – 3 pts.**
- Superior at Solo and Ensemble – 2 pts. (Only 2 points available each year)**
- Excellent at Solo and Ensemble – 1pt. (if no Superior was awarded for that year)**
- Private Lessons – 4 pts. (Must take for one school year on a weekly basis)**
- Region Band Audition – 1 pt.**
- Seated in Region Band – 1 pt.**
- All-State Band – 2 pts.**
- All-State Orchestra (winds/percussion only) – 2 pts.**
- Officer – 1 pt.**
- Unexcused absence from performance – subtract 5 pts.**
- Unexcused absence from rehearsal – subtract 2 pts.**
- Completion of Band Dues – 2 pts.**
- Working at least 2 band sponsored events – ½ point (max 2 points)**

### Colorguard

- Marching Band Two Years – 8 pts. (4 pts. each year)**
- Working a band sponsored event – 1 point**
- Completion of Band Dues – 2 pts.**

Members who have already earned a letter will use the same point system to earn bars to attach to the letter. A member who accumulates thirty (30) points in one season will receive a letter and a bar, or two bars.

**Two unexcused absences from performances, or three unexcused absences from rehearsals, will disqualify an individual from receiving a letter, regardless of his/her point total.**

The **Outstanding Bandsman Award** is presented to the senior who has demonstrated the highest standards of what is expected from a member of the Greer Band. This award is voted on by the members of the band program.

The **Outstanding 8<sup>th</sup> Grader, Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior Band Awards** are chosen by the directors.

The **Outstanding Colorguard** member is chosen by directors and staff. Outstanding Percussionist Awards are chosen by the director and given to a member of each class.

The **Most Improved Musician Awards** are chosen by the Directors and Staff of the Band Program. These recipients must have shown improvement in their area and displayed a good attitude and work ethic throughout the year. This award is presented regardless of age.

The **Gung-Ho Spirit Award** is given to the band member that best shows the true spirit of the band throughout the year.

The **Director's Award** is given to the student that best represents the overall attitude and pride of the band.

The **Semper Fidelis Band Award** is given in honor to a junior or senior that best represents outstanding character, service and loyalty to the band program.

The **John Phillip Sousa Award** is presented to the Senior who has demonstrated outstanding musicianship, leadership, and attitude. This award is chosen by the Director and Staff.

## Grading Procedures

### 1<sup>st</sup> Nine Weeks

The contract for an "A" is as follows:

1. Must attend all performances (or have excused absence).
2. Must attend all rehearsals (or have excused absence).
3. Must memorize all show music
4. The date one passes off ones music will also effect the number grade (earlier the better)
5. Any and all tests averaged in (playing, written, counting sheet, etc.)

The following will result in a lowering of one's grade:

1. Unexcused absence from a performance – 2 letter grades
2. Unexcused absence from a rehearsal – 1 letter grade
3. Music not memorized – 1 letter grade (student's time playing an instrument will be considered)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Nine Weeks

The contract for an "A" is as follows.

1. Must attend all performances (or have excused absence)
2. Must attend all rehearsals (or have excused absence)

3. Must prepare Christmas concert and parade music and pass off to the band staff
4. Any and all tests averaged in (playing, written, counting sheet, etc.)

The following will result in the lowering of one's grade:

1. Unexcused absence from a performance – 2 letter grades
  2. Unexcused absence from a rehearsal – 1 letter grade
  3. Concert/parade music not passed off – 1 letter grade (student's time playing an instrument will be considered)
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### **3<sup>rd</sup> Nine Weeks**

The contract for an "A" is as follows:

1. Must attend all performances (or have excused absence)
2. Must attend all rehearsals (or have excused absence)
3. Must prepare concert music and pass off to the band staff.
4. Any and all tests averaged in (playing, written, counting sheet, etc.)

The following will result in a lowering of one's grade:

1. Unexcused absence from performance – 2 letter grades
  2. Unexcused absence from a rehearsal – 1 letter grade
  3. Concert music not passed off – 1 letter grade (student's time playing an instrument will be considered)
  4. Lower tests grades
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### **4<sup>th</sup> Nine Weeks**

The contract for an "A" is as follows:

1. Must attend all performances (or have excused absence)
2. Must attend all rehearsals (or have an excused absence)
3. Must prepare concert music and pass off to the band staff
4. Any and all tests averaged in (playing, written, counting sheet, etc.)

The following will result in a lowering of one's grade:

1. Unexcused absence from a performance – 2 letter grades
  2. Unexcused absence from a rehearsal – 1 letter grade
  3. Concert music not passed off – 1 letter grade (student's time playing an instrument will be considered)
  4. Lower test grades
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## Greer High School Band Commitment Form 2008-2009 School Year

I, \_\_\_\_\_, having been chosen to be a member of the Greer High School Band Program, do hereby agree to fulfill all obligations of a Greer Band Member for the 2008-2009 school year. This includes participating in all scheduled rehearsals and performances, as well as abiding by the rules and regulations of the Greer High School Band. I understand that failure to complete my obligation to the band program will cause me to forfeit my present and future membership and can result in the lowering of my grade.

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date turned in \_\_\_\_\_

Director Initial \_\_\_\_\_

## Application for Band Letter and or Bars

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Concert Band – 4 pts.	_____
Marching Band – 4 pts.	_____
Greenville All County Band - 3 pts.	_____
Superior at Solo and Ensemble - 2 pts.	_____
Excellent at Solo and Ensemble – 1 pt.	_____
Private Lessons – 4 pts. (full year, weekly basis)	_____
Region Band Audition – 1 pt.	_____
Seated in Region Band – 1 pt.	_____
All-State Band - 2 pts.	_____
All-State Orchestra (winds/percussion) – 2 pts.	_____
Officer – 1 pt.	_____
Completed Band Dues – 2pts.	_____
Working at least 2 band sponsored events -1/2 pt.	_____
Subtotal	_____

Unexcused absence from a performance – 5 pts.	_____
Unexcused absence from a rehearsal – 2 pts.	_____

Applying for: Letter \_\_\_\_\_ Bar \_\_\_\_\_ Letter and Bar \_\_\_\_\_ 2 bars \_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that the applicant meets all eligibility requirements for a band letter (as outlined in the Greer Band Handbook), and that the point total on this application is completely accurate.

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Captain/Drum Major \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of a Director \_\_\_\_\_

## Handbook Agreement

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby acknowledge that:

- 1) I have received a copy of the Greer High School Band Handbook;
- 2) I have read this handbook in it's entirety, and understand it's various sections;

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- 3) I am aware that the policies contained in this handbook have been approved by the Greer High School Administration;

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- 4) I agree to abide by the policies set forth in this handbook for as long as I am a member of the Greer High School Band.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent's Signature)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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