

Francis Howell Central Spartan Bands Handbook

2009-2010





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Section

1

Band Expectations

4 C's for Creating Class:

COMMITMENT

Taking pride and ownership in this organization by being prepared and giving 100%.

COMMUNITY

Respecting authority and peers in this organization as you would yourself.

CONTROL

Restraining negative and disruptive behavior by having self-control to promote pride and success in this organization.

CLASS

Characteristic to be displayed both in winning and losing so others can see the pride you have in yourself and in this organization.



Section

2

Band Opportunities

Benefits of playing in band:

- ❖ Students will further their musical skills through playing their instrument and they will develop musical knowledge through the study of historical information related to the music they are playing.
- ❖ Students will gain an appreciation for all types of music.
- ❖ Students will learn to collaborate with others in a team setting. They will learn to put the needs of others before their own to foster an environment of success for all involved.
- ❖ Students will learn personal responsibility by coming to band prepared, attending performances, taking good care of their instrument, and taking ownership of their progress.
- ❖ Students will learn commitment to an organization that provides a place where they belong.
- ❖ Students will develop a strong work ethic based on high expectations that result in high achievements.

Spartan Wind Ensemble/Symphonic/Concert Bands

The concert bands are the foundation of the instrumental music program. In this setting, students will enhance their musical skills by preparing and performing a variety of musical literature. Band placement for the following year is based on a playing test that occurs at the start of second semester. All incoming freshmen are required to be in at least one year of a concert band.

As members of this band, each student will commit to the following:

- 1) Actively participate in all scheduled rehearsals and performances
- 2) Maintain the academic standards as required by the Missouri State High School Activities Association
- 3) Be enrolled in both semesters of band

Spartan Jazz Bands

Jazz Band is an ensemble that explores a variety of musical styles. This band will perform at several contests, FHC concerts, and other various performances throughout the school community and our surrounding community. Band placement for the following year is based on a playing test that occurs at the start of second semester. All incoming freshmen are required to be in at least one year of a concert band.

As a member of this band, each student will commit to the following:

- 1) Actively participate in all scheduled rehearsals and performances including jazz contests, FHC concerts, various school and community events
- 2) Maintain the academic standards as required by the Missouri State High School Activities Association
- 3) Be enrolled in both semesters of band

Spartan Regiment Marching Band

Marching Band is one of the most visible ensembles for FHC and the surrounding community. This band will march in parades, compete in festivals, out-of-town trips, and perform throughout the community.

As members of this band, each student will commit to the following:

- 1) Actively participate in all scheduled rehearsals.
- 2) Maintain the academic standards as required by the Missouri State High School Activities Association
- 3) Participate in all scheduled performances

Spartan Basketball Bands

Spartan Basketball Bands contribute to the school spirit and support the school's athletic teams. The Pep Band is one of the most visible groups to our community. This band will prepare a variety of popular music for the performances at home basketball games and other school events.

As members of this band, each student will commit to the following:

- 1) Actively participate in all scheduled rehearsals, which may include before or after school rehearsals, to get ready for scheduled events
- 2) Maintain the academic standards as required by the Missouri State High School Activities Association

Spartan Winter Guard

Spartan Winter Drumline

Spartan Winter Guard and Winter Drumline are group like the Spartan Regiment. There is an audition process for both groups that will take place at the end of the Regiment's fall season. These groups compete on a local and state level. The season usually lasts into the spring season.

As members of these groups, each student will commit to the following:

- 1) Actively participate in all scheduled rehearsals, which may include before or after school rehearsals, to get ready for scheduled events
- 2) Maintain the academic standards as required by the Missouri State High School Activities Association

Pit Orchestra

Pit Orchestra contributes to the school spirit and supports the school's theater program. The Pit Orchestra is a visible group to our community. This band will prepare music based on the current musical. This is an audition only group and auditions will take place prior to the start of the musical rehearsals.

As members of the pit orchestra, each student will commit to the following:

- 1) Actively participate in all scheduled rehearsals, which may include before or after school rehearsals, to get ready for scheduled events.
- 2) Maintain the academic standards as required by the Missouri State High School Activities Association.

Solo and Small Ensemble

District Metro 8 Auditions

Both Solo/Small Ensemble and Metro 8 auditions are MSHSAA sanctioned events. Both events are voluntary activities but are strongly encouraged. These events are great opportunities to explore a student's individual playing and ultimately will aid in their musical development.

Audition music for Metro 8 will be given to every student at the beginning of the year. Solo/Small Ensemble work can begin at any time. See directors for musical selections.



Section

3

Grading Policy

Grading Policy

Band students will be evaluated daily by the directors on a variety of levels including Achievement, Attendance, and Attitude. Students who comply with the standards set forth in this handbook will receive high grades for this class.

The following is a rubric of how the grade will break down in those categories:

- 3) Achievement 40%
- 4) Attendance 50%
- 5) Attitude 10%

Pyramid of Intervention

- Directors will always be available before or after school for extra help or lessons. This must be initiated by the student to set up a time and driven by the director's schedule.
- Director's will utilize peer-tutoring in and out of class within sections to help those who may be struggling with a certain passage of the music or with a certain musical concept.

Achievement

Achievement consists of the progress a student makes musically. The student will be graded on his or her progression on their instrument with daily assessment and playing tests. There will also be playing tests, typically once a month, that consists of a scale or etude and a musical passage from a particular piece we have been rehearsing. These playing tests will be graded on a set criteria modeled after the judging sheets used in the state of Missouri. Playing tests will vary between live and recorded. This will give both the instructor and student an accurate picture of how the student is progressing. Other performances, such as concerts, will be placed in this category of grading. Active participation is a must for all rehearsals and performances.

"Success is only made by Practice!"

Attendance

Attendance is crucial to a performance-based class like band. All parts are needed in order for a group to be successful. The student will be graded on whether he or she arrives to rehearsals on time and prepared. Students should be in their seat with their instrument, music, and pencil out before the start of rehearsal. The student will be credited on attendance and if he or she has brought the proper tools for class: instrument, music, and pencil. The student will be given five points for daily attendance and being prepared. If a student does not have instrument, music, or pencil, points will be deducted from the daily attendance points. The student is also expected to be at all performances.

If your instrument has been taken in for repairs you must have a note from a parent verifying the instrument has been taken in and when it might return.

Note: Students who are deemed excused by school administration will be marked excused from band as well.

Spartan Regiment Attendance Policy

- **3 Tardies** will equal one unexcused absence. This works in conjunction with any unexcused absences that the student may have.
- **3 Unexcused Absences** will constitute removal from the Spartan Regiment. See below for definitions of what is an unexcused absence.
- After 6 tardies or 2 unexcused absences there will be a conference with the student and parent.

Missing a Rehearsal or Performance

It is the responsibility of the student and/or parent to contact the band office in advance of a missed rehearsal or performance. This should be done in writing. A student missing a rehearsal or performance is important because of the impact that has on the group. All students play a valuable role in the band!

All absences from band activities are unexcused except for the following reasons:

- 1) Personal illness or accident
- 2) Funeral or death in the family
- 3) Special school function with permission from the band director and/or school administration
- 4) Other emergency situations as deemed appropriate by the directors

WORK IS NOT A VALID EXCUSE!!!

Attitude

Attitude will be a daily assessment by the director on overall attitude during rehearsals. This aspect of the student's grade is subjective. The student will receive the full amount of points if they:

- are attentive in class and follows directions
- do not talk out loud during a rehearsal
- are respectful to the director and fellow students
- refrain from doing other class work during rehearsals,
- refrain from using electronic devices (cell phone, ipod, texting, etc.).



Section

4 Code of Conduct

SPARTAN Band Member

Each member of the Spartan Bands should always keep in mind that they are representing the FHC Music Department, Francis Howell Central High School, the Francis Howell School District, the community of St. Charles, MO, and in some cases, the State of Missouri. Each student is expected to act in a mature manner that would represent each of these entities well. Failure to comply will result in removal from this organization.

The Code of Conduct put forth by FHC and Francis Howell School District is to be followed at all times and in all places, including daily class time, extra rehearsals, performances, and trips. Administration for FHC will deal with violations according to the Code of Conduct.

If for any reason the Administration of FHC has disciplined a student for actions that are considered severe while representing the Spartan Band Program, the student will be placed on one year probation from traveling and certain performances. This will be dealt with on an individual basis and will include decisions made by the Band Directors, Administration, student involved, and their parents.

As a member of this band, each student is expected to:

- 1) Perform to the best of his/her abilities.
- 2) Be prepared for all rehearsals and performances with music, pencil, instrument and other necessary materials.
- 3) Be present and actively engaged for all rehearsals and performances.
- 4) Be a part of the “team” we call the Spartan Band Program by putting the goals of the band over personal desires.
- 5) Respect the band room by not bringing food or drink into the band room. Respect the band room by not leaving personal belongings around and cleaning up after themselves out of courtesy for others who share the room.
- 6) Treat the directors, others students, administration, and parent volunteers with the utmost respect.
- 7) Represent the Spartan Band Program as mature students who take pride in their band and strive for excellence in all they do.

Medical Release Form

You will be required to submit a properly filled-out and notarized Medical Release Form before participating in the instrumental music program. This completed form will be kept on file for future reference, and must be re-submitted each year you are in band.

School Owned Instruments

Students are expected to provide their own instrument for use in band. If the student is unable to provide his/her own instrument, one will be provided by the school, as available. This means that school owned instrument will be well-maintained throughout the year. The school will issue an instrument to a student based on need as determined by the music department or administration.

Students are expected to take care of school owned instruments as if (or better than if) they owned the instrument themselves. It is a privilege to use a school instrument and one must treat the opportunity as such. If damage other than normal wear and tear should occur, the student will assume responsibility for the repair or replacement of such equipment. If a school instrument is not working properly, a student **MUST NOT** take it to be repaired; he or she should inform the director(s) so that problem may be corrected. This policy also applies to printed music and other school property designated part of the music program.

An Instrument Checkout Form will be kept on file, and will contain the name, model, and serial number of the instrument; your name as the person to whom it is checked out; a place to sign your name; and a place for your parent or guardian to sign.

Eligibility for Activities (as put forth by MSHSAA and FHC Handbook)

- ❖ Students must have a cumulative GPA of 1.5 or 1.5 from the previous semester. Summer school class will now count to meet grade and credit requirements, AND
- ❖ Students must clear all fines or debts to the school, AND
- ❖ Students must meet all of the MSHSAA requirements. (For example, to be eligible for sports, students must have passed at least 3.0 units of credit the previous semester.)
- ❖ Students must be present at least the last two (2) out of the four periods of the school day to be eligible to participate in or attend games, practices, club activities, etc. (School field trips and certain other excused absences may be exceptions to this rule. Exceptions must be confirmed through the Principal's Office.) Students who are ill the last two periods of the day and excused by parents are still not eligible for participation unless excused by the Principal's Office.

- ❖ Students must have no “Skips” or unexcused absences on the day of activities.
- ❖ Students on Out-of-School suspension are not allowed to participate in extracurricular activities, be present on school grounds, or attend off-campus school activities on the day of suspension. (Example: Student on suspension Friday, Monday, and Tuesday may not participate in school activities on the Saturday and Sunday during the suspension.)
- ❖ Students demonstrating poor behavior may lose the privilege of attending meetings, practices, or games on the same day. This would be at the discretion of the building principal or assistant principal.
- ❖ Students assigned to In-School detention for ½ day or more are not allowed to participate in activities on that day.
- ❖ Students with excessive absences or poor citizenship may be ineligible to attend or participate in activities per the discretion of the principal.
- ❖ Athletes with a GPA of less than 2.0 are required to attend Tutor Study Hall at least two times a week until their GPA is 2.0 or above.

Uniform

Spartan Regiment:

Uniforms are an important visual aspect of our band. We are judged on our appearance as well as our playing ability. Never leave your uniform in a state of disrepair. When not in use, store your uniform properly within the garment bag provided. Students will check out uniforms at the time of a performance event. Students will be expected to treat the uniform properly when in their possession. Students should not take their uniform home. The uniforms will stay at school to be cleaned or repaired when necessary.

Uniform consists of:

- 1) White marching bib-style pants
- 2) Marching Band Jacket
- 3) Garment bag w/ hanger
- 4) Hat w/ plume
- 5) Hat box

Students will supply:

- 1) White MTX marching shoes
- 2) **LONG** (not short) White socks
- 3) Plain white shorts for under bibs.

- 4) Band show t – shirt for under marching band uniform jacket

Additional uniform details:

- 1) Long hair should be up, off the collar, and tucked in the hat tightly
- 2) **No jewelry** or sunglasses should be worn.
- 3) Shoes and all other uniform parts should be clean and polished for each performance.
- 4) Uniform should be properly hung in garment bag at all times when not in use.
- 5) Nothing else should be placed in the garment bag.

*****When not in Marching Uniform:**

When students are not in uniform at a performance event, our appearance is still being judged. We will always handle ourselves with class in and out of performance. **Students will be required to wear band polo tucked in, jeans, and tennis shoes.**

Spartan Concert/Jazz Bands:

Uniforms are an important visual aspect of our band. We are judged on our appearance as well as our playing ability.

This is a performance and therefore we need to look nice (“dressed up” if you will). The dress for all performers is as follows:

- The color is restricted to black and white so that everyone looks uniform
- Ladies, dress pants, slacks, or nice skirts are welcomed. The skirt length must be 1-2” past your fingertips if you were to hold your arms straight down at your sides. The top must adhere to the regulations put out by the school. (Refrain from spaghetti straps, backless, or revealing front). Please wear nice shoes (avoid the flip-flops, etc).
- Guys, black dress pants are welcomed. A white collared shirt is needed on top. Please wear nice black dress shoes (no tennis shoes or flip-flops).
- There will be no jeans, let me repeat **“NO JEANS”**. No t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc.
- The basic concept is that if you have a question about it when you put it on, then it probably should not be worn.

Travel Policy

The FHC Student Handbook lists policies and guidelines for being eligible to participate in interscholastic activities, athletic and non-athletic events. The band department will adhere to these policies for all trips. Students must be eligible for the semester in which the trip will occur. Failure to do so will jeopardize his/her eligibility to participate in band trips. If a student becomes ineligible in the semester in which the band trip occurs, money may be forfeited due to prepayment to out-of-school agencies. If the performance is part of the curriculum, a student will also forfeit that portion of the performance grade.

It is the policy of the Francis Howell Board of Education that alcohol, drugs, simulated drugs and other controlled substances are prohibited at any school functions (including school trips). Students found in possession of or under the influence of the above items will automatically be turned over to the administration or the appropriate authorities for appropriate action. Students are subject to suspension from band and school. If any student is found possessing, using or distributing alcohol or drugs at a school event, the district policy is now to immediately contact the local police department. After the police have been contacted, an administrator must be contacted immediately.

You will ride the bus to and from all events unless the band director has given you special permission to ride home with your parents or guardian. Such permission must be requested by the parent or guardian in writing PRIOR to the departure of the trip. Follow all rules of the bus driver, chaperone, or any other adults that are riding the bus. Use common sense and make sure the safety of everyone is foremost in your thoughts.

Any items brought from home (blankets, CDs, valuables) are your responsibility. Make sure your property is looked after. It is not the bus driver, sponsors, or other adults responsibility.



Section

5

Band Boosters

Membership

Membership in this organization is open to all who support the students of the Francis Howell Central Instrumental Music Program. The purpose of this organization is to provide **POSITIVE SUPPORT** for the students who dedicate a great deal of time and energy to achieving excellence. This organization is a cornerstone to the band program and we need your support.

Fundraising

There will be periodic fundraisers that happen throughout the year. We ask all band members and parents to participate. These fundraisers are for all bands within the Spartan Band Program. Please check the website and calendar for details on upcoming fundraisers.

Information

Please complete the forms attached so that we may have contact information and also document that everyone has read the expectations and guidelines for participating in Francis Howell Central Band Program.

For further information about the band programs at Central or to update with the latest events for band programs please visit our website at www.fhcspartanbands.com.

Acknowledgment Form

Francis Howell Central Band Program

Handbook

Dear Parent,

I would like to ask you to read our Spartan Bands Handbook and let me know if you have any questions or comments concerning its content. I would appreciate it if you would sign your name below indicating your knowledge of the content and the intent of the handbook.

Thank you for your cooperation and your continued interest in our instrumental music program. "By signing my name below, I am indicating I have read the Spartan Bands Handbook and will do my best to help my student comply."

(Signature of Parent/Guardian)

Dear Student,

Please read this handbook carefully. If you have any questions regarding its content, please let me know. Otherwise, I will assume you understand it and are willing to abide by it.

"By signing my name below, I am indicating I have read the Spartan Bands Handbook and will do my best to comply."

(Signature of Student)

Student Information Sheet
Francis Howell Central Spartan Bands

Name: _____ **Grade Level:** _____

Instrument: _____

Middle School attended: _____

How many years you have played an instrument: _____

Favorite piece of music and why: _____

Other instruments that you have played: _____

Goals for this year (personal and for the band): _____
