

The Bands of Johns Creek Present:

JOHNS CREEK HIGH SCHOOL BAND

A Handbook for Students and Parents

“The Gladiators”

Johns Creek High School Band
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Johns Creek, Georgia 30022
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Alyssa Dickens, Color Guard and Winter Guard Instructor
Will Kester, Morgan Crews, and Andrew Bennett Percussion Instructors

“The Pursuit of Excellence”

Message from the Director

Johns Creek Band Family:

As we enter into our 9th year, we want to congratulate each of you for being a member of our exciting band program. We are confident that, as we continue the “The Pursuit of Excellence,” we will experience high levels of accomplishment and create many wonderful and lasting memories.

Our first year offered many opportunities and challenges. The Marching Band began with only 27 members, and quickly established a high level of excellence with exciting shows each week of the football season, in addition to giving a “Standing Ovation” performance at the Fulton County Marching Band Exhibition! The Symphonic Band participated in the GMEA District V Performance Evaluation and received a “Unanimous Superior Rating!” And, The Outstanding Winter Guard competed in the SAPA Circuit, and was awarded the 2nd Place Trophy in Scholastic Region A at the Championship Finals!

The second year brought additional accolades through our first marching contest at the Georgia Invitational in Hiram, GA. Out of 11 bands competing in Class A, our band received 2nd Place Band, 1st Place Percussion, and 3rd Place Drum Majors. We continued in grand style, as we hosted the GMEA District V Performance Evaluation. Our Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band both received “Superior Ratings”

Our third year featured another step in the accomplishment category, as we competed in two marching band contests, jumped into a higher classification, and took the first place Band award, first place Percussion and Color Guard awards at both contests, and 2nd place Drum Majors. Then we moved into our concert season and received unanimous “superior ratings” with the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band at our District LGPE. We capped off the year with the Marching Band participating in the New York City St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

The tradition continued into our fourth year with yet, another step of tremendous accomplishment. The marching band competed twice, jumped again to a higher classification and took the 2nd place awards at both contests and several caption placement accolades. In addition, the Color Guard brought home the “Grand Champion Guard Award” of the day at the first competition. Our Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble received unanimous “superior ratings” at LGPE once again. The Wind Ensemble moved into level six music performance category (the most difficult category) and performed beyond our expectations. The Winter Guard participated in the SAPA Regional Competitions and Championships, won several placement awards and took 3rd place in Scholastic Regional “A” classification. So, the tradition marches forward in grand style!

The fifth year brought even more excitement and accomplishment. The marching band was again extremely competitive while entering two contests (jumping up in classification) we received one first place award and one second place award and several caption accolades. In addition, the band was awarded the 3rd Place Overall Award (for the entire contest) at the first contest. The Winter Guard moved up a classification and was very competitive in the SAPA Circuit, with several placement awards. The Wind

Ensemble and Symphonic Band received another unanimous superior rating at our GMEA LGPE. Then in March of 2014, we entered a combined Concert Band in Music Festivals/Cruise Festival onboard Royal Caribbean's Enchantment of the Seas (Nassau, Bahamas) and received a unanimous superior rating. We also enjoyed the experience of being in the tropical setting of Nassau and CocaCay! So, the tradition continues.

Our 6th year featured many accolades and accomplishments. The marching band experienced the most successful season to date, with winning a Grand Champion – Silver Division award and First place in class at both marching contests. Our Winter Guard continued a successful season in the SAPA Circuit in moving up once again to Scholastic AAA. The Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band received yet another unanimous superior rating at the GMEA Performance Evaluation. The Pep Band, Jazz Band, and Percussion Ensemble continued great performances at home basketball games and community concerts and activities.

The 7th year continued the tradition of excellence as the band program gained many awards and recognitions. The marching band won another Grand Champion –Silver Division and First Place in Class AAA. The Winter Guard continued a successful season in the SAPA Circuit. The Wind Ensemble and Symphonic received unanimous superior ratings at the GMEA Performance Evaluation. The Pep Band, Jazz Band, and Percussion Ensemble continued outstanding performances. The Spring Trip featured another Cruise to Nassau, Bahamas, as we performed onboard Royal Caribbean's Enchantment of the Seas.

The 8th year captured many outstanding moments and memories. The marching band received many accolades that included Grand Champion Drum Majors and 3rd Place overall Color Guard. The Winter Guard enjoyed another successful season in the SAPA Circuit. The Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band, once again, received unanimous superior ratings at the GMEA Band Performance Evaluation. The Basketball Pep Band, Jazz Band, and Percussion Ensemble enjoyed various community performances.

Through our combined efforts we will accomplish many great things. The traditions set during our initial years will help to inspire and to guide us, as we reach for the next level of accomplishment. Be aware and live by the "Team" approach - [Together Everyone Achieves More]. In addition, always remember that "Success is never a mistake. It is always a result of an intelligent effort!" We believe in you as individuals and we also believe in us as a collective unit.

The following information is intended to supply an overview and answer any questions concerning the band program, and to supply you with the various operating policies. However, if anything in this handbook is unclear or needs clarification. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Alfred S. Estep
Director of Bands

"The Pursuit of Excellence"

**Johns Creek High School
Band Handbook
2017-2018**

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Mission Statement

To provide JCHS Band members the highest possible level of music education through performance and related activities.

Objectives

To provide:

- A safe learning environment
- Opportunities to develop musical skills to the fullest potential
- Opportunities for leadership development
- Performance Opportunities in the following:
 - Large Group (Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band & Marching Band)
 - Ensembles (Jazz Ensemble, Pep Band, Woodwind, Brass, & Percussion)
 - Community
 - Adjudicated Events
 - Spring Trips (Festival)
 - State Performance Evaluation
 - Honor Organizations (County, State, National)

Rehearsal and Performance Attendance Policies

1. Attendance is expected at ALL Rehearsals.
2. Attendance is expected at ALL Performances.
3. Be early to all events.
4. Be prepared for each event (rehearsals, performances, activities)

Refer to the course syllabus, which is a separate handout to this handbook, for specific details concerning classroom rules and grading policy.

Unacceptable Excuses

1. "Had to work"
2. "Couldn't get a ride"
3. "Forgot or didn't know"
4. "I had to stay home to study"

Solutions

1. Make advanced arrangements
2. Plan ahead and be responsible
3. Be responsible
4. Plan ahead and be responsible

Acceptable Excuses

1. Sickness or death in the family
 2. Family Emergency (notify Mr. Estep as soon as possible)
- **After The Fact excuses will not be accepted!**

Band Regulations

1. You may come into the room before school, after school and during your class time. To gain admission during other class periods (ex.- lunch), you must get permission from Mr. Estep.
2. **NO GUM, FOOD, AND/OR DRINKS IN THE BAND ROOM!**
3. All books, personal items, etc., should be placed in your book bag during class. All items left in the room will be turned into lost and found.
4. Vandalism is a criminal act, punishable by law! Report vandalism immediately.
5. Never leave money or valuables in the band room. JCHS is not responsible for your personal belongings.
6. All instruments should be stored in the storage room or designated area during the day. Instruments should be taken home each day for practice. JCHS does not assume responsibility for instruments left overnight and/or weekend.
7. Only play your instrument! It is difficult to determine liability if damage occurs, and it is probable that colds can be passed along.
8. We enjoy the social time with you. However, if the Director's office door is closed, please knock first to be invited to enter.
9. Have all items required for rehearsals (instrument, music, pencil, supplies)
10. When the director is on the podium, please refrain from talking and engaging in distracting, unmusical sounds.
11. If you have a question, raise your hand and wait to be called upon before speaking.
12. You must be in the band room at the bell. You have two minutes to collect your materials. However, refer to the "To Be Early Is To Be On Time" policy!
13. Do not engage in other class homework or casual reading during rehearsals. Remember, I will not ask you to play your instrument in another class, so don't do other work in band rehearsals.
14. Use your skills and talents to promote successful individual and ensemble achievement.
15. Develop the "The Pursuit of Excellence" in all endeavors!
16. When riding a bus to and from a band activity, always adhere to the rules of driver, school, and/or bus lines. Stay seated and do not exhibit loud, uncontrollable behavior.
17. The use of and possession of alcohol, illegal drugs, and tobacco is strictly prohibited. This may cause a member to be dismissed from the program.
18. Never use inappropriate, or profane language. Treat others in the way you desire to be treated
19. Student Officers are in place to serve the leadership of the band. These individuals have the authority to give instructions, conduct certain aspects of rehearsals, and to issue the first stage of any disciplinary action. However, the Director will decide on the final discipline.

Johns Creek High School Band

Marching Band Behavior and Uniform Guidelines

Travel (Bus Rules)

1. Remain Seated during travel
2. Students must ride the same bus both ways
3. No Food or drinks on the bus (other than water)
4. The Driver and adult chaperones have complete authority
5. No body parts hanging out of the windows
6. No PDA! (Public Display of Affection)
7. When we see the stadium, EVERYONE MUST REMAIN QUIET AND WAIT ON INSTRUCTIONS

In Stands

1. You must sit in your section during the entire game
2. No visitors allowed to sit with the band
3. We will observe a 3rd quarter break (return times will be announced)
4. If you are late from break, you will not receive a break during the next game
5. During the break stay in groups of 4 or more and stay close to the band area
6. Your job for games: (Half-Time Performance, Stand Music, Cheer for the Team, Enjoy!)
7. Maintain instrument and equipment
8. Watch the Director or Drum Major for instructions – BE READY!

Uniform

1. The FULL uniform will be worn at all times, unless the Director gives an option
2. Take pride in your uniform and keep it in good condition
3. See uniform, adult chaperones for assistance
4. All uniform parts must be returned to the proper place (on racks, creased pants, hats in boxes)
5. Instructions will be given concerning rain and /or cold weather
6. No jewelry should be worn while in uniform

In everything, we must be a “CLASS ACT!” Be concerned about our image, and never do anything that will cause a negative reaction. Be proud of our band, school and community.

THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE!

Uniform Guidelines

Marching Band: Uniforms will be issued to each member. Each student will need to purchase marching band shoes and long black socks. See fee schedule for the appropriate information.

Concert Uniform: All Band Students are required to provide their own concert uniform. The uniform should be properly fitted and worn with all parts. Any student that is not properly dressed will not be allowed to perform until the problem is corrected.

Men: Black Tux with Black Bow Tie, Black Cummerbund, and White Tux Shirt.
Black Socks and Black Shoes.

Women: Long Black Dress (formal length to the ankle)
Black Stockings and Black Shoes

All details for fitting, ordering and payments will be issued with the band fee/operational enhancement schedule.

Instruments

1. Students using school-owned instruments shall complete a Fulton County use form, have parental consent and pay the current Fulton County Schools rental rate
2. All instrument cases must have a name tag on them at all times.
3. Do not ask a custodian to unlock the band room to get an instrument. Only the Band, Chorus and Orchestra Directors, or Administrator may unlock the facility.
4. Everyone is responsible for maintenance of his/her instrument

The Bands of Johns Creek

Marching Band – This ensemble meets mid July through November. This ensemble performs at all varsity football games, parades, two or three marching band contests, and special community events. The marching band is a co-curricular activity. All rehearsals and performances are required and graded. Rehearsals include summer pre camp and band camp, after school rehearsals during the fall semester (Tues, Thurs, - 4:00-6:00pm). Refer to the Marching Band Forms packet for additional details.

Wind Ensemble - This ensemble meets as a year class. Membership is attained by audition only. The focus is engagement of upper level concert band literature. There will be one to two rehearsals with the percussion class before each performance. The schedule will be announced well in advance. Performances include three or four concerts during the school year, participation in the GMEA Performance Evaluation (District Festival), and possible spring trip festival. Individual achievement is emphasized through participation in All State Band auditions, Fulton County Honor Band and Orchestra auditions, and Solo and Ensemble Evaluation Festival.

Symphonic Band – This ensemble meets as a year class. Membership is attained by participation in a middle school band program, or by transferring from an existing high school band. The focus is engagement of concert band literature and techniques. There will be one to two rehearsals with the percussion class before each performance. The schedule will be announced well in advance. Performances include three or four concerts during the school year, participation in the GMEA Performance Evaluation (District Festival), and possible spring trip festival. Individual achievement is emphasized through participation in All State Band auditions, Fulton County Honor Band and Orchestra auditions, and Solo and Ensemble Evaluation Festival. As the program grows, we will have additional concert bands.

Pep Band – This ensemble will be organized for a few major home basketball games. All band students are eligible to participate. Merit points will be awarded to any student that and fulfills the performance commitment.

Jazz Ensemble – This ensemble meets spring semester before or after school one to two days per week. The focus is engagement of various jazz, rock, swing, and blues musical styles. The performance schedule will include at least two concerts and possible community event shows. If the interest and instrumentation is strong, this ensemble may begin during the first semester. More details will follow soon.

Color Guard – This ensemble performs and is a part of the marching band. The guidelines are the same as listed under the marching band section.

Winter Guard – The ensemble meets after school two to three evenings per week during the end of the fall semester and continuing through the spring semester. The focus is engagement of guard and dance techniques, and performances are held in the gym. Several performances will be scheduled, as well as a possible competition circuit. If the band schedules a spring trip the winter guard will participate.

Percussion Ensemble Class – All percussion students will enroll in this ensemble as your band class. There will be one to two rehearsals with the Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band before each performance. The schedule will be announced well in advance. The focus is to explore marching band music, concert band music, and specifically scored music and methods for percussion instruments. In addition to performing with the marching band and symphonic band, this group will perform percussion ensemble programs as well.

Band Boosters

Parents are encouraged to become members of JCHSBBA (Johns Creek High School Band Booster Association). This group serves as the major fundraising organization for the band program. In addition to fundraising the membership promotes and assists in areas such as chaperones for performances and trips. Membership is open to each family per year.

BPC

Band Parent Contribution: A yearly band budget will be established which will focus on operating expenses, instruments and equipment purchases. Each band parent is expected and encouraged to contribute to the band program by volunteering in the stadium concession stand during fall and spring sporting events. The funds generated by this activity will enable the purchase of additional instruments, music, and equipment. If you are unable to volunteer, donations will gladly be accepted. Parents will also be asked to serve as chaperones and various committee members.

Fees

There will be annual band fees associated with the band program. Each student will be responsible for an overall fee for the various ensembles in which they participate. This amount will fluctuate based on the annual band budget and number of participants. See Fees/Operation Enhancement Obligation for specific details.

OEO

Operational Enhancement Obligation: There are approximately two to four fundraising projects scheduled each year, or a fair share amount based on the total band budget. These projects help keep the band fees at a lower level and will help generate additional funds to purchase equipment and instruments. No student shall accumulate funds for individual personal profit.

Fees/OEO Due Date

Please see the fee sheets included in this packet. If a band member needs additional time to pay, they can apply for an extended payment plan

Scholarship/Hardship

If a student is unable to pay band fees (financial, family, medical, etc.) the parent should contact the band director to provide an explanation and submit a hardship or scholarship request. Each situation shall be considered on an individual and confidential basis.

Trips

In order to participate in special band trips (normally conducted in the spring), the band member must be in good standing. Good standing includes proficiency, good behavior (which will be determined by the director), and being up to date on all fees and OEO, including present and previous years. A band member that has received a hardship exemption will be considered in good standing.

Private Lessons

Private Lessons will enable a student to advance individual skills at a rapid rate. If you need assistance in securing a private instructor, please contact Mr. Estep. Private Lessons will also lead to successful auditions at All State, Honor Band events, section leader and officer positions, college scholarships, etc...

Activity Fees / Operational Enhancement Explanation

I. Why do we have activity fees? As a new school in 2009-2010, the Fulton County School Board has been very generous with instruments, equipment and marching band uniforms. However, there is a very small allocation for the purchase of music and additional instruments and equipment. We have to budget costs for operating expenses, travel costs, additional staff, and the purchase of marching band music, concert band music, jazz ensemble music, percussion ensemble music, and various music for small ensembles (brass and woodwind)

In addition, we always welcome additional ideas concerning alternative ways of generating funds through corporate donations, individual donations, matching funds, and various other projects.

II. Why have students purchase their Concert Uniform? In order to avoid rental charges, cleaning expenses and replacement costs, we require the student to purchase a tux or a dress. If we rented the concert uniforms, we would charge \$60.00 - \$80.00 per year. As you can clearly see, the individual purchase is the most economical route. All orders will be submitted by the Band Directors and Uniform Committee.

III. JCHS Band Booster Association: To encourage the financial and physical support of our band program, we want each family to be active in the booster club, and to help meet the needs of our exciting program!

IV. Director Commitment: Mr. Estep is committed to providing the best possible musical experience for all band members! The opportunities will always promote the band and will provide avenues for each member to develop his skills to the fullest potential.

V. JCHS Band Handbook: This handbook, as well as, other important information will be posted on the band website at gladiatorbands.com

Johns Creek High School Band Merit System

Merit System

Merits are earned points by which a student may receive recognition for extra work or outstanding accomplishment. Students accumulate merits to qualify for awards given at the Spring Awards Banquet. The awards are listed below this section.

Merit Listing

400 (possible)	Membership in Marching Band, attending all rehearsals and performances.
50 (per semester)	Band Student Officers
100	Pep Band Membership
20	Challenge for seating and Win
50 (per week)	Approved Summer Music Camp (Gov. Honors 5 – music major; 2 music minor)
20	Fulton County Honor Band Auditions
40	Fulton Co. Honor Band Participation and/or District Honor Band
50	First Chair in FC Honor Band and/or District Honor Band
50	Audition for All State Band (First Round)
50	Audition for Final Round of All State Band
100	Selected and participate in All State Band or Orchestra
150	First Chair in All State Band or Orchestra
50	High Sales in major fund raiser (2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th = 3 merits)
20 (per month)	Private Lessons
20 (per month)	Membership in ASYO, MYSO, BYO, etc...
10	Membership in JCHSBBA
40 (per performance)	School Musical Performance

- Mr. Estep will determine and assign appropriate merits to any worthy activity not listed above.

Demerit System

Demerits are points withheld based on the infractions listed below. Demerits may be removed by special assignments approved only by Mr. Estep.

150	Unexcused Absence from Rehearsal
300	Unexcused Absence from Performance
10 (per each 5 min.)	Unexcused Tardy or Warm Up Performance
10 - 100	Talking or Disruptive Behavior
400	Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, or Illegal Drugs
10 (per each infraction)	Dirty or Improper Uniform
10	Music or Instrument Stored Improperly
10	Instrument Left in Storage Room (no at home practice); periodic checks

- * Demerits are given in addition to grade deductions listed in the band syllabus

Johns Creek High School Band

Awards

During the school year all band members have opportunities to accumulate merit points or qualify for various awards which are presented at the Annual Awards Banquet in the spring. The program recognizes individual and group accomplishment and encourages strong dedication, participation and commitment to the bands at Johns Creek High School.

These awards are listed below with their qualifications.

Band Festival Medals – Participation in band at the GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluation. These medals are provided to each member if the band receives a superior rating.

Band Letters – Awarded to students earning 300 merits during the year. A student must participate in band for the entire year to be eligible.

Band Bar Award – Students who have previously earned a Band Letter and have accumulated 300 or more merits will receive a gold bar to attach to their letter. A student must participate in band for the entire year.

Star Award – Presented to students who earn 400 or more merits during the year. A student must participate in band for the entire year.

Sempre Fidelis Award – Given to one male and one female senior band member for outstanding service, character, dedication, and overall attitude to music and music performance. Issued by the United States Marine Corps Band.

Director's Award – A plaque is presented to the most outstanding band member in each grade level. Merit accumulation and overall dedication to the JCHS Band program determine this award.

Senior Recognition – Each senior band member will be recognized for their efforts and accomplishments.

John Phillip Sousa Band Award – A desk trophy, pen, and certificate is given to the most outstanding senior band member chosen by vote of the band membership. The student's name is engraved on the permanent plaque, which is kept on display in the band room. A student must participate in band for the entire year to be eligible.