

2024/2025

Sullivan East High School Band Handbook



Beth Justice, Director

Contact Information

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Band Website: sullivan-easthsband.com

Phone Number: 423-354-1900, ext. 5532

Facebook: Search Sullivan East Band

Address:

Sullivan East High School
4180 Weaver Pike
Bluff City, TN 37618

Local Music Stores

Music Doctors
2464 Memorial Blvd.
Kingsport, TN 37664
423-246-6220

Dominion Music
1922 Euclid Ave.
Bristol, VA 24201
276-669-0231

Lippo's Music Mart
251 Bethel Dr.
Bristol, TN 37620
423-764-2677

Dress Code

During school hours, the dress code for rehearsals will be the same as it is for all of Sullivan East High School. During summer and after school rehearsals, girls are permitted to wear tank tops. Excessive cleavage is never permitted, nor are extremely short shorts. Boys must always wear a shirt. Don't push the limits during summer and after school rehearsals or we will revert to school policy.

Attendance

It may sound cliché, but as a band, we rehearse together and we perform together. There are performances and then there are performances with people watching. When even one member is missing, the entire group suffers. It is nearly impossible to set, clean, or perform drill with holes in it. The same goes for music. The music will suffer if someone is missing, as we have many sections where there is only one person on a part.

Band functions are scheduled as early as possible so that doctor's appointments, athletic events, and work can be arranged **AROUND** the band schedule. During marching season, please try to schedule doctor appointments on Mon./Wed., rather than Tues./Thurs./Fri. Every band student is expected to be present at every scheduled rehearsal and performance. Students will not be allowed to leave a band event until it is completely over and/or the band director has dismissed the band. Missing a mandatory band activity may result in not being allowed to go on band trips, and not being allowed to perform with the band at the following performance. I.e. if you have an unexcused absence from a rehearsal, you will not be allowed to participate in the subsequent performance and you will receive a zero for both. **A missed performance may result in not being recommended for the band program next year.**

The only excuse for missing a mandatory band event is an emergency (sickness or death in the family). If you feel as though you need to miss for sickness, **you must present a doctor's excuse** (otherwise it is unexcused). If an emergency arises, **Ms. Justice (not a band member)** needs to be notified ASAP (either before or after the event). It is not the band director's, nor your section leader's job to hunt you down and find out why you missed. If you feel as though you need to miss an event for something other than an emergency, Ms. Justice needs to be notified at least five days in advance via the "Absence Request Form".

Regardless of your reason for missing, you must submit the "Absence Request Form". The form does not excuse your absence; It is only a request. All excuses are left to the director's discretion. If your absence is deemed excused, you will be required to complete a makeup assignment. If your absence is unexcused, you will receive a grade of zero. You can not miss band as a punishment for other things, as that is a punishment to the rest of the group and your grade. **Not having a ride is not an excuse. Work is not an excuse.**

During the summer, we will follow a "three strikes and you are out" policy. If you have three unexcused absences from summer rehearsals, you will be removed from the band program. When school is in, your grade is a reflection of your attendance. However, if you have three unexcused absences from after school rehearsals or performances, you will not be allowed to return to band the following semester.

Class/Scheduling

Band is a full year program. There are separate entities of the band such as marching band, concert band, pep band, percussion ensemble, etc., but it is all part of the SEHS band program. Not one entity is more important than another and a full commitment is required by everyone. Dual enrollment classes must not conflict with band classes and/or after school rehearsals. Students must be in band both semesters. If a student wishes to drop the band program, he or she may do so at the end of the school

year. If a student misses band for a semester, the consistency, continuity, and strength of the band program suffers, plus the student misses valuable skills he or she needs in order to thrive in the program.

Rehearsals

All rehearsals are closed. This means the only people allowed at rehearsals are chaperones providing drinks and helping with first aid. Student friends, family, and other unnecessary individuals are not allowed.

Expenses

Students will be requested to pay \$150.00 in band dues which will go straight to the band boosters. The band dues are used immediately to reserve a spot in the show, as well as offset the cost of uniforms, uniform maintenance, music, staff, drill, instruments, repairs, busses, etc.

Students using a school owned instrument will be requested to pay a \$35 instrument rental fee for the year which will go straight to the band boosters as well.

Here is a list of some of the items band students will need to purchase on their own:

Lyre (wind players)

Flip folder (wind players)

Band t-shirt

Good size thermos (32-64oz.)

Black marching band shoes

White marching gloves

Black socks

Khaki shorts/pants

Tennis shoes

Instrument maintenance supplies (see below)

Concert black attire (for concert band)

Guard-you will be given your own list of supplies

Instrument Maintenance Supplies

Book (wind players only): Foundations for Superior Performance by: Richard Williams and Jeff King (for your instrument)

Flute: cleaning rod, cleaning cloth, polishing cloth

Clarinet: two reeds at all times (Vandoren 3 strength), weighted swab, cork grease

Saxophone: two reeds at all times (Vandoren 3 strength), cork grease

Trumpet/Euphonium: valve oil, tuning slide grease

Trombone: Trombotine, travel spray water bottle, tuning slide grease,

Perussion:

*All Percussion-Three ring binder/page protectors

*All Percussion-Innovative Percussion FP2 Intermediate Mallet Pack from steveweissmusic.com/category/stick-mallet-pack or any of the retailers on the previous page.

*All Percussion-Concert snare sticks (should come in pack mentioned above)

*Marching Snare: Innovative Field Series FS1 Marching Snare Drumsticks

*Marching Tenors: Innovative Field Series FT1 Synthetic Hickory Marching Tenor Sticks

*Marching Basses: Innovative Field Series FB1, 2, 3, or 4

Most of these music related items can be purchased at Music Doctors, Dominion, or Lippo's Music Mart. Music Doctors will be available at band camp for you to place orders for shoes and gloves.

Behavior

Every band member is here by choice and will be treated as a young adult. Therefore, each band member should act as a young adult at all times. Students are expected to demonstrate exemplary behavior and conduct themselves in a manner that reflects a positive image on the band,

the school, and the county. All Sullivan East High School and Sullivan County Department of Education conduct policies will be enforced at all times.

East High Band rules include:

1. Be on time and prepared for class, rehearsals, and performances.
TO BE EARLY IS TO BE ON TIME AND TO BE ON TIME IS BE LATE!
2. Do not talk while the director is talking! During marching band rehearsals, talking is best left up to the director, drum major, and section leaders. It is best to begin by asking your question to your section leader and letting them follow the chain of command. During concert band, do not talk while the director is on the podium.
3. No food, drinks, or candy in the band room. Clear plastic water bottles are fine, but no other drink containers are acceptable!
4. No cell phones during class, rehearsals, or performances,

Instrument Repairs

Instruments must be kept in proper playing condition at all times. Please keep your instrument cleaned and properly maintained. **If an instrument breaks, please bring it to Ms. Justice.** If it can't be repaired at school and you are playing a school-owned instrument, Ms. Justice will take care of getting it to the shop. If it is your own instrument, you will be responsible for the repairs, but please let Ms. Justice look at it first. Do not take it upon yourself to pull out a spare instrument and start playing it.

Band Room

It is imperative that band members take ownership of their program. This begins with respecting your property. A dirty messy band room and dirty messy lockers are unacceptable! The area outside of the band room, as well as the practice field must also be maintained. It is unacceptable to leave trash behind and not help clean up trash. Ms. Justice strives to give

you the very best equipment and rehearsal space possible and not taking care of it will not be tolerated.

Grading

Students must realize that one does not get an “A” simply by being in band. Band is an academic class and students will EARN a grade just like any other class. Grading in band is based upon many of the items already discussed in this handbook. Grades in band are based on, but not limited to behavior, attendance, playing tests, written tests, class preparation, etc. After school rehearsals will be counted as quiz grades. Performances will be counted as test grades. As stated previously in the handbook, an unexcused absence will result in a zero. An excused absence will result in a makeup assignment.

Coming to class without the following items can and will affect your grade: pencil, music, instrument, coordinate sheet, basic maintenance needs, and a good attitude and work ethic.

If you fail band, you will not be allowed to return. If you fail enough of your other classes, which causes you to get pulled out of band, you will not be allowed to return. If you fail any of your other classes, you will not be considered for a leadership position.

Discipline

Most discipline in band takes place through the grading policy, but keep in mind, band is a physical activity and physical discipline will happen from time-to-time. It is not uncommon to run laps or do exercises if we forget coordinate sheets, talk out of turn, are late, etc.

PDA

There is to be absolutely no PDA in the band room or at band functions. We are here for one reason and one reason only and that is to make good music and become better musicians. There is no reason for any PDA at any band event.

Award Criteria

2 Semesters-Certificate

4 Semesters-Letter

6 Semesters-Pin

8 Semesters-Trophy

Graduation Cord=Completing the band (concert/marching) program.

*This means x semesters of the class, not just participation. Sometimes, not often, there are exceptions to people participating, but not being in the class. This will not get you said award. 8th graders, for example, are participating in the band, but this will not count toward their x semesters for an award.

*Completing the program to receive a cord at graduation means you must be in concert band your 2nd semester senior year. It doesn't matter when you started. It just matters that you finish. It has nothing to do with the amount of semesters you put in.

*If you leave the band program at any time, all efforts towards an award or cord are voided. It doesn't matter the reason, quitting, not having time, schedules, etc. It doesn't matter what it is, you are no longer in the band so you are no longer going to receive awards. It's no different than if you move. It's nothing personal, you are just no longer in the band.

Band Boosters

The purpose of the booster club is simple: it is to raise funds for the band and support the band and band director. The band would not be able to function without the help and support of its booster club. Nearly **ALL** of the band's funding comes from the club. The club members work extremely hard to raise money to be able to support the band in anything and everything it needs. That list includes, but is not limited to: music, drill, staff, repairs, food, uniform needs, the list goes on and on. In order to raise all of the needed funds and provide the best opportunities for our kids, it takes a lot of volunteers. Every parent is strongly encouraged to attend booster club meetings, work the concession stand at football games, chaperone trips, pay student dues etc. **If every parent will do just a little, then no parent has to do a lot!**

The booster club meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm in the band room unless otherwise posted on the website.

Payments

Band dues and instrument rental fees can be paid on the band website or by writing a check. If paying online, there is an added fee (that we are charged by PayPal). Any checks written to the band should be made out to Sullivan East Band Boosters. Cash is also accepted. **Any and all fees, dues, and money paid to the band are non-refundable.**

Disclaimer

Ms. Justice reserves the right to modify this handbook at any point during the school year to allow for a fair and successful band program. Parents and students will be notified of any changes.

