



Hancock Pride Band Student/Parent Handbook

(revised 2013)

***The Band Handbook is on-line. Please read and review BEFORE signing and returning the HCSD Consent Form, Trip Permission, and Medical Form found at the end of this handbook. We must also have a Physical on file before any student can rehearse with The Pride of Hancock.

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Forward

This booklet is designed as a guide for both parents and students to give specific details concerning all aspects of the band program. For any further information, please feel free to contact Benji McLain at the Hancock High School Band office, 228-466-6385 or by e-mail, bmclain@hancock.k12.ms.us.

Please check the Charms website for updates throughout the year at www.charmsoffice.com

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PREFACE

Band members are required to follow the policies, rules and regulations of the Hancock County School District and the Band Program. School rules and policies are in force at all times that a member is directly or indirectly involved in any activity sponsored by or in the name of Hancock High School. School policy shall have priority over band policy in the event of any policy conflict.

The band directors shall have authority to suspend or amend any band policy at any time deemed necessary in the best interest of the overall band program.

TO BAND MEMBERS

What is the High School Band Experience?

Unlike most other classes, band offers a wide variety of opportunities for the student. Band is one of the few classes where excellence is not only expected, but also essential to success. Imagine if an English teacher graded everyone in the class to the level of the weakest student! In band, everyone MUST perform at the highest level of excellence or a performance will sound terrible. Even one person making a grade of 60% on a piece of music means 40% of the notes were played in error....not pleasant to hear!

In addition to teaching performance skills, band teaches the student to be an active, thinking person. For each note played, there are numerous considerations and instantaneous decisions to make. How loud or soft? How fast or slow? How does the note start? How does it end? Who else plays it? Am I in tune? Nowhere else on campus is the demand for active thought any stronger.

Band also teaches life skills. Communication is the main component of music. The rehearsal and performance schedule of the band demands planning and time management...skills that will be valuable all through life. Goal setting, problem solving, peer interaction...all of these develop quickly as a part of the band experience.

TO PARENTS

Welcome to one of the most exciting organizations available to your student! The band program at Hancock High School offers many varied performance opportunities and gives members the chance to learn with watch other and grow closer to one another. We strive to offer the best available instruction and an opportunity to perform in several different venue types.

We strongly believe that there is a place for everyone in band. Many times, members who thought that they were not interested have become some of the most dedicated members once they have been a part of the experience. If you choose to participate, you can reap a variety of rewards. In addition to all of this, you become a member of a very active, multifaceted family.

We hope that you share our excitement in creating these phenomenal opportunities for the students. We encourage parents to be active supporters of our efforts through booster club participation (The Pride of Hancock Band Boosters), assistance in fundraising, and through volunteer work such as chaperones, equipment crew, concession worker, or as a member of a committee formed by the booster club. We also hope that you will be visible supporters of the students by attending as many performances as possible.

This handbook should help you and your student to the many different aspects of the band program. Attendance at band parent meetings is still advised. The band program produces a calendar that will be available through Charms; you'll want to keep it nearby. Feel free to call any director or a booster officer for help and remember to come to the meetings to get the latest information about each event.

Rarely do you see such a large group of students assembled in one organization with such a strong focus on achieving excellence. Take the opportunity to get to know the instructors, other parents, and the members who make our success a reality.

On behalf of the directors and staff,

Benji McLain
Director of Bands, Hancock High School

BAND ORGANIZATIONS

Band is a full year course consisting of two distinct semesters or “seasons.” The fall semester is primarily considered the marching season while the spring semester is considered the concert season. The following is a brief description of the various groups that are associated with The Pride of Hancock High School band program.

Marching Band

Staff: Benji McLain, Len Jenkins

The Pride of Hancock Marching Band is made up of 9-12 grade students who have had previous band experience. The marching band includes the drum major, horn line, percussion, and color guard. Also known as “The Pride!” Over the past several years The Pride has had a tradition of having the privilege of being called All-Superior in several states along the Southeastern region. The marching band performs at all HHS pep rallies, at all HHS varsity football games, and at marching contests and festivals. **Membership in the Marching Band is required of all band students.** In addition to the regular scheduled class the Marching Band rehearses on Thursday evenings 4:00-6:00 p.m. on the practice field. Horn line members have rehearsal on Tuesday evenings from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the band hall. Percussion and Color guard also have rehearsals on Monday evenings from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Color Guard/Winter Guard (Copper Atwood, Chelsea Bybee)

The Color Guard is the primary visual component of the Marching Band. Membership in this organization is by audition and is open to all students at Hancock High School/Hancock Middle School. Emphasis is placed upon the development of movement and visual artistry through the use of equipment, props, and dance techniques. The Color Guard rehearses/performs in conjunction with all Marching Band related activities. Students will be required to attend all marching band rehearsals and additional separate rehearsals on Monday evenings. Winter Guard rehearses and performs independently of the marching band. Color Guard membership is by audition and held in the spring. Students and parents should refer to the band handbook as the primary governing document for this organization. Due to the group’s unique nature, however, the director may provide more specific information and expectations in the form of separate handbook addendums.

Percussion/Indoor Percussion (Ross Waguespack, A.J. Crawley)

Indoor ensembles are comprised of marching percussion (snare, tenors, basses), concert percussion (timpani, marimbas, xylophones, etc.) and sometimes other instruments (electric guitar/bass, synthesizers, etc.). The marching percussion section of the ensemble also incorporates choreography and movement into their performance. The ensemble’s performances are mostly competition based and usually take place in high schools or college gymnasiums.

Concert Band

Students are placed in a concert band according to their playing ability, attitude, participation, classification, and instrumentation needs. Students may move from band to band as deemed necessary or appropriate. The concert bands provide for a wide range of playing abilities and time commitment. The Hancock High School concert bands are scheduled during 3rd and 4th blocks during the spring semester. Additional rehearsal expectations and membership requirements are noted in the following paragraphs.

Jazz Ensemble

The Jazz Ensemble will meet in the spring semester at HHS after school on Monday evenings from 4:00-5:15. Membership in the Jazz Ensemble is by audition and approval of the directors only. A student **must** be a member of one of the performing ensembles at Hancock High School in order to be a member of the Jazz Ensemble. The Jazz

Ensemble is a new and upcoming ensemble and will plan to attend a Jazz Band Festival in the spring semester. This group will be comprised of students in grades 8-12.

PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

A yearly band calendar is provided for use in planning your family schedule for the school year. Each band student is important to the success of our many activities. We **must** be able to count on 100% attendance at these rehearsals and performances. IF a family emergency occurs unexpectedly, PARENTS, please email or call the appropriate director. Occasionally, there may be family commitments (weddings, graduations, etc.); in which case, we will try to be flexible and work with you on an individual basis. This must be discussed in detail well in advance (a month or more!).

Student job commitments and “select sports” are NOT reasons for an excused absence from band performances or rehearsals! Many band students work and participate in “select sports” and participate successfully in band. We suggest that these students take a copy of the band calendar to his/her employer and/or coach and clear all band performances and rehearsals. Most employers are very understanding and are flexible if they know of band commitments well in advance, and if they understand that band performances are a **required** and vital part of the course work. Work with employers to clear the fall evening rehearsals that pertain to that member as well. (We are glad to talk to employers to validate student commitments.)

Students who are habitually absent from rehearsals/performances for unexcused reasons or due to ineligibility may, at the director's discretion, be removed from the marching block. Students may be removed from the band program at the end of the year if they are unable or unwilling to participate in band activities, or are ineligible because of grades on a continuing basis.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

In band rehearsals, we not only deal with a creative process, but with considerably more students at one time than do other classroom teachers. Because of this, it is imperative that band students be organized and prepared for every rehearsal. When an individual is not able to perform during a rehearsal, it affects the GROUP as well as the individual. Specifically, students are expected to be present and on time with their instrument in proper working condition along with any additional accessories as deemed necessary and appropriate by the director. The creative process in which we are involved cannot take place unless there is a quiet, attentive atmosphere in the classroom. Students who do not live up to the high rehearsal expectations of the Hancock High School Band will be counseled and if necessary, reassigned or removed from the band program completely.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

All music organizations adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by the Mississippi High School Athletics Association. To be eligible at the high school level at the beginning of the school year, students must have earned the accumulated number of credits in the state-approved courses indicated below.

MHSAA Eligibility Requirements

The Following Rules apply to Grade Checks to determine a student's eligibility: FALL Eligibility Check (previous academic year checked prior to eligibility in Fall Semester)		SPRING Eligibility Check (previous semester checked prior to eligibility in Spring Semester)
10th - 12th Graders	Overall "C" Average for ALL classes taken (both semesters)	Overall "C" Avg for ALL Classes taken (1st Semester)
9th Graders competing at HMS or HHS	A. Promoted from HMS B. <u>Passed the 4 CORE Classes</u> (Math, Eng, Science and Soc Studies) C. Overall "C" Avg for ALL Classes	Overall "C" Avg for ALL Classes taken (1st Semester)
7th & 8th Graders competing at HMS	A. Promoted from the previous Grade B. <u>Passed ANY 4 Classes</u> with an overall "C" Avg	<u>Passing ANY 4 Classes</u> with an overall "C" Avg (1st Semester)
7th & 8th Graders competing at HMS	A. Promoted from the previous Grade B. <u>Passed the 4 CORE Classes</u> (Math, Eng., Science and Soc Studies) with an overall "C" Avg	Overall "C" Avg for <u>4 CORE Classes</u> (1st Semester)

Losing Eligibility – Athletic Eligibility for each student is checked twice each year – once before the fall semester begins and a second time before the spring semester begins. If a student is eligible for the fall, but doesn't meet eligibility requirements for their grade at the end of the 1st Semester, then they lose eligibility for the 2nd Semester that year. This rule applies even for Winter sports that start in the fall semester and conclude in the spring semester.

Regaining Eligibility for the Spring Semester - *Once in their career*, a high school athlete can become eligible for the 2nd Semester even though they were ineligible for the 1st semester if they meet eligibility requirements when their grades are checked at the end of the 1st Semester.

Competition Above Grade Level – 7th – 9th grade students may participate on sports teams above their grade level. However, once they compete up, they may never compete back down again in that sport. An athlete may never compete *below* grade level.

Summer School/Correspondence Courses – Students may participate in HHS Summer School or approved Correspondence Courses to meet eligibility requirements for the next Fall. However, in order for coursework to be counted towards fall eligibility, it must be completed by the student prior to the start of the fall semester.

Age Requirements

7th Graders must NOT have reached 14 years of age prior to August 1.

8th Graders must NOT have reached 15 years of age prior to August 1.

9th Graders must NOT have reached 16 years of age prior to August 1.

10th – 12th Graders must NOT have reached 19 years of age prior to August 1.

The Hancock High Band Staff will enforce all eligibility rules and regulations. Students who are ineligible will continue to rehearse during his/her band class, before and after school, and participate in curricular performances to earn his/her band grade. Ineligible students may not travel with the band or participate in extracurricular performances. An example of a curricular performance would be a spring concert and an extracurricular performance would be a football halftime or any type of contest. Students should always check on an event if there is a question of their participation. Be advised that excessive absences from school may also result in a student being declared ineligible.

The band staff and Hancock High School staff work hard to assist and encourage band students to perform up to their potential in ALL classes. Since both Marching Band and Concert Band are group activities, each individual band student plays an important part in the success of the group. The band staff consults both with teachers and students for strategies for improving individual student performance. Obviously, we cannot be successful as a band unless our students are successfully passing ALL classes.

Students who are ineligible for two consecutive eligibility checkpoints will be placed on probation. If they do not become eligible the following eligibility checkpoint, they may be removed from the band program. This will allow the student to focus on passing academic classes during the next semester. Students wishing to be considered for reinstatement in band following this probation must bring documentation (report card) to a band director proving academic success during each grading period of the succeeding semester for all classes. Academic success is defined as passing all subjects during every grading period. Students must also maintain a clean discipline record with the school. This process is set up to help the academic success of the individual student. Please consult the enclosed eligibility calendar.

GRADING

Students belong to our program because they want to, not because they have to. Grades, therefore, tend to be higher than the norm. Grading is based upon participation and performance. Band students receive a grade for each performance attended i.e., football games, concerts, competitions, etc. Students will receive additional grades based on daily participation, sectionals, playing and written tests, etc. Students must have equipment in good working order and be present at all required rehearsals and performances for their participation grade. If these expectations are not met, the participation grade will be affected.

“CHARMS”

www.charmsoffice.com is the official record-keeping tool for all students in the Hancock Band program. It is an all-encompassing management system to help music teachers, athletic coaches, dance and drill team directors, and booster clubs organize student contact information, manage inventory, assign uniforms, track attendance, and work with trips, fees, fundraisers, form collection, and lots more. Students and parents have direct access through the use of a username and password. This will allow you to access and update your information from anywhere in the world at any time. Charms will work with any computer that has internet access regardless of platform. Students and parents can receive instructions and access information at the parent meeting or through my email bmclain@hancock.k12.ms.us.

PRIVATE LESSONS

All students are encouraged to take private lessons in order to improve their individual playing skills. While directors are skilled instructors on the various instruments in the band, there is simply no substitute for private instruction received from someone who is considered to be a professional performer on a particular instrument. The Hancock directors will assist band students in securing a teacher as soon as possible. Private lessons are a must for the serious band student. A complete listing of our private music instructors are listed will be available from the band office.

USE OF BAND HALL FACILITIES

Students are welcome to use the band hall practice rooms for practice either before or after school. Sometimes, however, the number of available places is limited due to after school practices for different sections. Due to many thousands of dollars worth of musical instruments that are in the band hall, we do ask that ONLY band students come into the band hall during the school day and before and after school. Students must ask their friends who are not in the band to wait for them either in the school hallway or outside. Lockers are provided to assist students and parents in protecting their investment. We stress to all band students to be responsible and keep their equipment LOCKED UP in their lockers at all times.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

Hancock County School District provides school musical instruments in the double reed and low woodwind section and selected low brass and percussion sections at no charge. However, this may change at the discretion of the director. These instruments are quite costly and are not normally owned by individuals. All of these instruments are sent to the repair shop and reconditioned during the summer. Any damage or normal adjustment during the year is the responsibility of the band student who has signed for the instrument. If it is deemed that a student is failing to meet the proper care needed to maintain the instrument in working order or if a student abuses the instrument, the student may lose the privilege of using any equipment furnished by the school, and will be responsible for any monetary cost in repairs or replacement. We expect the instrument to be returned in the same condition as when issued. Dings, dents, and other damage will be repaired at the student's expense. If a fee is required, this covers the end-of-year flush and cleaning, as well as annual maintenance required of all instruments. If an instrument is stolen while checked out to a student, it is the student's responsibility to replace the instrument via its monetary value. Many parents carry an insurance rider to cover a checked-out school instrument. In addition, students may obtain inexpensive coverage on a school or privately owned instrument from *Music Agency, Inc.*, Arlington, Texas. Application forms for this insurance are available online at www.musicagencyinc.com

BAND SHIRT

All band students will receive a band shirt at the beginning of each school year. These shirts are worn tucked with khaki pants/shorts with a belt at all times at pep rallies, trip activities, and at other performances where less than formal attire is appropriate.

BAND UNIFORMS

Uniform Specialist: Patti Carver
hancockuniformquestions@yahoo.com

It is a privilege to wear the Hancock High School Band uniform. Make sure you have ALL parts of the uniform at each performance. **KEEP YOUR UNIFORM PROPERLY HUNG AT ALL TIMES!** If your uniform does not meet the high standard expected in the Hancock Band, you are subject to being removed from a performance or not traveling with the band. This uniform is a symbol of pride and will be worn accordingly. **You must wear all of the uniform or none of the uniform!** You will need to purchase the red PRIDE under shirt to be worn under your uniform top. Athletic shorts need to worn under your bibbers at all times. When every member has the appropriate attire underneath, this allows the band to remove jackets in extreme heat and humidity. If a band member is seen wearing the uniform incorrectly at any time, 50 push-ups or the uniform will be asked of that student! Band uniforms are not to be worn at eating establishments, after games or performances, or to social functions. Eating and drinking soft drinks should be done before you put on or after you remove your uniform. Here are some dos and don'ts that will help you and your uniform look great at all times:

- DO: remember your band shirt, black socks, and marching shoes each time you will be wearing your uniform
- DO: transport your uniform in a garment bag and your hat in the hat box. Every time!
- DO: take extra time and care when hanging up your uniform. Pants hang folded on the crease, not the seat.
- DO: take your uniform to Diamondhead Cleaners if you feel that it needs cleaning. Tell the director when doing so. Uniform only...no shakos
- DO: remember that uniforms do not leave the band hall after a performance, unless you have permission to get it cleaned.
- DO NOT: remove any material from the uniform if alterations are necessary
- DO NOT: store your uniform in the garment bag immediately after wearing. This will cause it to mildew and get "funny" smell. This odor will never leave the garment. EVER!!
- DO NOT: attempt to wash and/or dry your uniform at home.

UNIFORM ACCESSORIES

The Hancock Band uniform and all major accessories are provided by HCSO. Band students will need to provide:

- One pair of black Drillmaster Band Shoes** Shoe fitting and cost information will be provided at the beginning of summer band camp. Shoes will be bulk ordered to insure low cost and uniformity of style. (Tennis shoes or dress shoes are not acceptable. (July 29, 5-6:30 Cash Only \$32.00)
- One pair, full length black socks.
- Red Pride uniform jacket shirt \$15.00
- Three pairs of long wristed white cotton gloves. \$3 a pair (one for practice for school owned brass)
- One pair white wrist sweatbands.

BAND LETTER JACKETS

A jacket may be purchased at the beginning of each school year for juniors and seniors. Students must have participated in the band program for a minimum of two years. Students must attend all performances and all contests. Exceptions will be granted at the discretion of the band director (illness, emergencies, etc.). Students not adhering to written disciplinary policies of the school and band will forfeit their eligibility for the letter jacket. Any

violation of these rules during their time with the band program may result in the forfeiture of the jacket. The student must uphold the goals and standards of the band. It is understood that withdrawal or dismissal from the band prior to the beginning of their junior year results in forfeiture of the jacket. A student with a physical challenge, who meets all other requirements, but cannot march, may qualify for an award after serving three years. Additional ways to earn a letter jacket are as follows: make Lion's Band, All-American Band, or receiving first chair first band at a major band clinic. These students will be eligible to receive a letter jacket the following year, regardless of grade classification.

FOOTBALL GAME POLICY

Normal school policy dictates that band students ride to and return from all off-campus performances as a group using transportation provided by the district. On rare occasions, an emergency or conflict with other school-sponsored events may necessitate that parents provide transportation to or from an off-campus performance. In such a situation a note signed by the parent should be presented to a director, and one of the directors must physically see the parent take the student. This must be arranged in advance.

Football games serve two primary purposes for the Hancock Band: 1. Opportunities to provide "unparalleled" support for our team through the use of music, cheers, and chants. 2. To provide a quality, entertaining halftime performance as partial fulfillment of the marching band class. Students are expected and encouraged to show their spirit for the team and fellow bandmen. After all, football games are great fun! Students should, however, remember to represent their school, teachers, classmates, parents, and themselves in a positive manner at all times. Here are some specific guidelines.

- ✦ Each person must have and be responsible for his/her own equipment at all times
- ✦ Be in full uniform, properly worn at all times. Caps, headbands, jewelry and piercings are not permitted. (ladies may wear single stud in each ear only)
- ✦ Hair must be of "normal" color and groomed in a manner that does not detract from the uniform. Hair must be worn inside the hat during performance. This applies to both male and female.
- ✦ Sit in your assigned seat/area and do not move about the band during the game.
- ✦ Sit when everyone sits and stand when everyone stands. Remember we are a team!
- ✦ Watch the game and your directors. Be alert and ready at all times.
- ✦ Play each and every time the band plays and play your best each time.
- ✦ Only band personnel and official chaperones are allowed in the band area. Parents, siblings and friends may not sit with you. On occasion, alumni and middle school band members may visit with director permission.
- ✦ Food and gum are not permitted in the stands. Parents should not attempt to deliver food or drink at any time. The staff will arrange for all food and drinks at appropriate times.
- ✦ iPods or similar devices are not permitted at any time. Cell phones ARE permitted provided they remain in the "OFF" position during the game and are used ONLY to contact parents afterward. The above items may be confiscated and returned to the parents at any time.
- ✦ Unsportsmanlike comments or conduct will not be tolerated at any time and may result in dismissal from the performance and/or organization.
- ✦ Use good judgment at all times. When in doubt....don 't do it!!

FUND RAISING/FAIRSHARE

Fundraising opportunities will be provided for the members of the Hancock High School band and Boosters. We ask each student to fundraise the amount needed for his/her Fair Share installment. Some parents may prefer their children not fund-raise. In this event, the installment may be paid by cash or check to The Pride of Hancock Band Boosters. A student may also choose to fund-raise a portion of his/her account and pay the balance. This is also acceptable. At the conclusion of the fundraiser, the student will then turn in fundraised monies for his/her installment. It is imperative this schedule be maintained. We will not be able to operate if these installments get behind schedule. If a student raises monies beyond his/her account expectations it may be used in other ways for that student.

"Fair Share" simply means that each student will be responsible for raising his or her fair share through our fund raising efforts. Each student in the high school band will have a fair share total of \$200.00. Each student may fund-raise this amount with the exception of the first installment of \$75.00. If the student has not fundraised the full amount

of the installment by the due date, then that student must make a payment for the remaining balance. This program allows those who do not wish to fund raise the opportunity to exclude themselves by simply paying their fair share. This program also insures that everyone does his or her part in making sure that the financial status of the Hancock High School Band program remains intact. Failure to meet the current installment of the fair share amount will result in that student not being allowed to participate in any band events until the balance is paid. If there is any type of financial hardship please see the director to work out a separate payment plan. Please help us by cooperating and, let's all do our "Fair Share!!"

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

All High School Band members are responsible for providing an instrument and any needed accessories (valve oil, slide cream, reeds, cork grease, etc.). In addition, students will need to purchase lyres and flip folders for marching season.

Percussion Band Camp Fee	\$25.00	Pays for other instructional staff
Percussion Equipment Fee	\$50.00	Sticks, Mallets, Heads, etc.
Color Guard Fee	\$325.00	
Color Guard Band Fee	\$75.00	
Band Fee (hornline and Perc.)	\$200.00	

Colorguard Payments	June 7 (or before), \$110.00	
	July 18 (or before), \$110.00	
	August 9 (or before), \$105.00	
	Sept. 6 (or before), \$75.00	
	Oct. 4 (or before), \$75.00 (Waived if paid in full by Sept. 6)	

Percussion Payments	June 7	\$50.00	
	July 18	\$100.00	(Equip Fee and Band Fee)
	August 9	\$75.00	(Band Fee)
	Sept. 6	\$50.00	(Band Fee)
	Oct. 4	\$50.00	(Waived if paid in full by Sept. 6)

Hornline Payments	July 22 for Freshman	July 25 Returning members	\$75.00
	August 9		\$75.00
	Sept. 6		\$50.00
	Oct. 4		\$50.00 (Waived if paid in full by Sept. 6)

Uniform shirt-\$15.00 (Freshman or anyone needing a new one)
 Shoes/Gloves-\$32.00 (Freshman or anyone needing a new pair)
 White wristbands-\$1.00 (Freshman or anyone needing a new pair)
 Shoes will be ordered during the 2nd week of band camp. Letter will be sent.

INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNT GUIDELINES

1. Profits gained from individual fund-raising projects are placed in the students account in Charms.
2. If a band student drops from the band program, moves or is removed from the band program, all fundraising monies in his/her charms account revert to the general band account, SINCE THE MONEY WAS FUNDRAISED IN THE NAME OF THE BAND or owed to band for fees.
3. Funds raised in the current school year may be carried over to the next school year if all fees have been paid.
4. When fees have been met, if a student has monies left in his/her account, these may be used to purchase band apparel, and accessories.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

We are extremely fortunate at Hancock High School to have outstanding student leaders. These students are invaluable to the success of the band program. The band staff selects the Band Leadership Team, Drum Major, and Section Leaders for the following school year. These appointments are subjective and based on a holistic application process that also includes every aspect of their band experience including, but not limited to: playing ability, attendance/promptness, citizenship, academic achievement, discipline, initiative, and leadership skills/potential as it relates to the band environment. While all students have an opportunity to be considered for one of these appointed leadership positions, it should be understood that only a limited number of positions can be filled and will vary from year to year. As a member of the Hancock Band there is an expectation for ALL students to foster and develop positive leadership skills regardless of title.

Leadership team auditions are held each spring for the following school year. Students who will be in the band program and in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grades the next school year are eligible to apply for these positions. Interested students may receive more detailed information concerning these offices from the band director. Band Leadership Team act in a service role coordinating and assisting in all band functions. The BLT also provides leadership in spirit activities and works to develop friendly relationships between The Pride and bands from other schools.

2013-2014 **PRIDE OF HANCOCK** **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

ADMIRAL – Hannah Stealey
DRUM MAJOR – Jake Fletcher
ADMINISTRATION MAJOR – Megan Stockstill
HIGH BRASS CAPTAIN – Dana Reppell
LOW BRASS CAPTAIN – Jared Lal
WW CAPTAIN – Cheyenne Higgs
WW CAPTAIN – Justin Fallin
DRUMLINE CAPTAIN – Chris Edenfield
PIT CAPTAIN –
FRESHMEN COMMANDER – Katie Ladner
OPERATIONS LIEUTENANT-Chandler Ladner
EQUIPMENT MANAGER – Devin Bounds
LIBRARIAN – Michelle Carver, Keenan Jacobs
HISTORIAN – Hannah Stealey

BAND BOOSTERS

The Hancock Band has a very active, supportive parent organization know as The Pride of Hancock Band Boosters. The booster association includes parents from every section of the band. Without the hard work and dedication of the parents, the band program at Hancock could not be as successful and productive as it is. There are numerous areas in which interested parents can be involved in supporting the activities of the band. Booster meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Members of The Pride of Hancock Band Boosters Executive Committee for 2013-2014

President	Karen Cooper (601)273-1803	karendcooper@att.net
Vice-President	Beth Smith (228) 234-0151	elizabeth@note4cancer.org
Treasurer	Patti Carver (228) 332-1986	cpattiek@aol.com
Secretary	Carol Stealey (228) 209-7505	cstealey@bellsouth.net

PRIDE OF HANCOCK STAFF

Benji McLain	Director of Bands Hancock High School 228-466-6385	bmclain@hancock.k12.ms.us
Len Jenkins	Assistant Director Hancock High School 228-466-6385	ljenkins@hancock.k12.ms.us
Cindy Waguespack	Middle School Band Director Hancock Middle School 228-467-4045	cwaguespack@hancock.k12.ms.us

HANCOCK HIGH SCHOOL BAND DEPARTMENT

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR AND OFF CAMPUS TRAVEL POLICIES

Membership in the HHS/HMS band program is an honor and a privilege. Participation comes with a higher standard of behavior than the HCSD Student Code of Conduct and may condition membership or participation on adherence to those standards. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school property. Extracurricular behavioral standards shall not have the effect of discriminating on the basis of gender race, color, disability, religion, ethnicity or national origin. Student's and parent's signature acknowledge that they have read these behavioral standards and consent to them as a condition of participation in the Hancock Band programs.

Students who represent the HCSD are expected to maintain very high standards in every aspect at all times. They are expected to attend and be on time for all sessions and activities scheduled. In the event of overnight trips, they are expected to be in their rooms at the times designated by their director/chaperone. Each student will be responsible to one or more chaperones who will supervise the activities of the student for the trip. Negligence in attending sessions, in meeting curfew requirements, or in failing to maintain our standards of conduct may make it necessary for the director to send the student home at his/her expense.

Self-discipline is the key element when representing the HCSD off campus or when on a school related trip. Students who are involved in a serious disciplinary offense, such as the use, possession of, or being under the influence of illicit drugs, tobacco, or alcohol, stealing, violence, going in the room of a member of the opposite sex, or some other serious offense will face disciplinary action which may include one or more of the following:

1. The student will be sent home from the trip at the parents' expense.
2. The student will be held liable for damages to property.
3. The student may be removed from the band program
4. The student will be given a discipline referral that may include In-School-Suspension, Out-of-School Suspension, or Alternative School Placement.

Student's attire during school activities outside the school day should be in good taste. While it is inevitable there will be differences of opinion regarding the appropriateness of a student's attire, the final decision lies with the directors. All adults on trips will serve as chaperones when traveling with the group. Students will be expected to treat them with respect at all times.

REMEMBER- Even though you will not always be wearing a shirt with a Hancock logo, people will find out where you are from and what group you represent. You have the opportunity to make a tremendous name for Hancock and for yourself. Be courteous and polite at all times. There is no way we can anticipate every possible scenario, so we ask for good judgment. Please use common sense. RULE OF THUMB: if there is any question in your mind as to whether you should do something or not...DON'T DO IT! It is better to be safe than sorry.

WE ARE CONFIDENT OF ALL BAND MEMBERS' CONDUCT AND THEIR ABILITY TO BE GOOD AMBASSADORS FOR HANCOCK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT. IF WE ANTICIPATED A PROBLEM, WE WOULD NOT TRAVEL.

Procedures

1) Alternates

- a.** Some members of the Pride marching band may be alternates. Members become alternates after evaluation of their marching and playing performance from the spring audition camp as well as continued monitoring throughout the season.
- b.** Members who are alternates will be assigned a permanent marching position as soon as one becomes available. Positions become available as the members assigned to the position encounter attendance problems, eligibility problems, performance inadequacies, failure to meet financial deadlines or physical injuries.
- c.** Alternates will be ranked by their scores as listed above and will be assigned to the open position. Instrumentation will be adhered to when possible.
- d.** Personal activity account balances could also affect starting positions. Accounts should be kept up to date.
- e.** Alternate performers will be assigned to performance positions by the staff. Alternates that maintain an acceptable performance level will perform every other performance or as determined by the staff.

2) Buses

- a.** Seating
 - i.** Band members may be required to sit in designated seats.
 - 1.** Seating rules for some trips may be different from other trips. Directors will notify band members of the process for each bus trip.
 - 2.** Generally, band members are permitted to sign up to request specific seats and seatmates on specific buses. Band members who fail to sign up will be assigned a seat and bus by the directors.
 - ii.** Stay seated when requested to do so and when buses are in motion
- b.** Chaperones
 - i.** Chaperones ride on buses
 - ii.** Band members are expected to respond appropriately to directions given by chaperones.

3) Rehearsals

- a.** Upon entering band rooms, take your assigned seat with necessary instruments, music, and equipment.
- b.** Cease talking and making noise when the director steps in front of the ensemble
- c.** Warm-up should take place per normal instruction of the director
- d.** Return instruments, music, and equipment to storage upon dismissal by the director. Each member should store his or her own items.

4) Football games

- a.** Band report times will vary with the football schedule, and will be announced prior to the day of the game.
- b.** Members will change into FULL uniform in a facility on campus. Once dressed in uniform, all members will remain in FULL uniform for the entire event. NEVER wear a "partial" uniform, unless instructed by the directors.
- c.** Instrument cases will not be needed in the stands for a performance, except in the event of inclement weather.
- d.** All instruments and uniform parts should be CLEAN and in good condition. Instruments should be cleaned regularly to remove the excess dirt that accumulates when playing outdoors.

- e. No band member is permitted to leave the organization in advance of group dismissal at any time, unless excused by the director PRIOR TO THE PERFORMANCE.
- f. While seated in the stands, only band members are allowed in the ranks.
- g. The band will always sit in assigned seats and sections.
- h. Attention should be given to the Band Directors and Drum Majors when they are standing in front of the band.
- i. We play only as a group in the stands. Solo performance is strictly prohibited.
- j. No inappropriate cheers. Organized cheers, planned ahead of time, or done with the cheerleaders are permitted, once approved by a director prior to a ballgame.
- k. Members should avoid jumping around in the stands, and should remain seated whenever possible in order to avoid accidental damage to the instruments.
- l. In order to move from place to place in a rapid manner, we must be able to give instructions to the group in an organized manner. Everyone will give full attention to staff members, chaperones, or to the Drum Major(s) when instructions are being given.
- m. Members will ride buses back to Hancock following away games (except members who have been released to their parents, with principal approval).

Policies, Rules, Regulations

1. Observance of Policies, Rules, Regulations (Policies)
 - a. Band members are expected to behave properly at all times.
 - b. Misbehavior reflects poorly on the band, school, and community.
 - c. Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of the policies of the HCSD and the band program by their proper behavior.
 - d. Professed ignorance of policies will not be accepted as an excuse for misbehavior.
 - e. Every effort is made to provide policies. However, directors and chaperones may find it necessary to add to or alter policies. These may or may not be in writing as the situation allows.
 - i. Policies and directions delivered verbally should be considered the same as a written policy.
 - f. Consequences for failure to follow rules and policies may include the following dependent upon severity of the infraction. We are fortunate to have students with the highest moral and character quality.
 - i. Detention – band room services
 - ii. Suspension from performances
 - iii. Loss of performing position
 - iv. Removal from band program
 - v. School/Administrator assigned consequences
 - vi. A Director’s decision for punishment is final
2. Attendance and Absences
 - a. School Attendance: Students may be temporarily excused from rehearsal under the following conditions:
 - i. When personally ill and when attendance is school would endanger their health or the health of others. Documentation by a doctor’s note is not needed to excuse under this policy.
 - ii. On special and recognized religious holidays observed by their faith that is previously discussed with the band directors.
 - iii. Family Emergency that is communicated with the band staff.
 - iv. When mandated by order of governmental agencies
 - b. Absences From Required Rehearsals or Performances

- i. Attendance is mandatory for all scheduled rehearsals and performances.
- ii. The following rules will govern excused absences:
 - 1. Personal illness or Family Emergency
 - a. The appropriate band director should be notified prior to the required rehearsal or performance.
 - b. A written verification from the school attendance office is needed upon return to school.
 - 2. Conflicts with other school activities
 - a. Notify your band director well in advance of the date of conflict.
 - b. Written verification is needed to describe the problem and resolution.
 - c. Every effort will be made to coordinate with the conflicting school activity to accommodate participation with the other sponsors in both activities.
 - 3. Religious observance
 - a. The band director should be notified prior to the required rehearsal or performance.
 - 4. An absence for any other reason will be considered unexcused
- iii. Consequences of unexcused absences
 - 1. An unexcused absence will result in a reduction of 20 points from their weekly daily grade for the week.
 - 2. Process of removal from a starting position due to unexcused absences from rehearsals
 - a. First absence: Student and Director Conference and a grade of zero for performance.
 - b. Second absence: Student is placed on probationary status by directors.
 - c. Third absence: Student will lose his/her position in the performing group and become an alternate performer.
 - i. If the student is already an alternate and obtains more than the allowed number of absences, his/her grade will be affected or he/she may be removed from the activity.
 - ii. If an alternate is not available at the time the student is removed from the performing group, the student will not perform in two consecutive performances. Thereafter, the student may return to his/her position. This procedure is followed so that the performance ability of the group is not further jeopardized. However, the student's grade will be affected.
 - iii. Starting positions or chairs can be forfeited during the marching competition season.
 - iv. Students will have their grade lowered for unexcused absences.
 - d. Tardy: Marching band
 - i. A student will be deemed tardy if he/she is not in his/her assigned position when roll is taken. Roll will be taken as soon as "set" is called by the instructor

- directing the daily stretch. On regular after school rehearsals, the time for roll is 4:00 p.m.
- ii. Band members should attempt to avoid conflicts between band and other school activities. Director will help resolve conflicts. Members must resolve conflicts in advance of the date of the conflict.
 - iii. Tardies will be counted until the member reaches three unexcused tardies at which time the three tardies will constitute one unexcused absence. The policy for absences from rehearsals and performances will be followed.
3. Band room(s), practice facilities, rehearsals
- a. Access to band rooms, practice facilities, and rehearsals is limited to band members unless authorized by a director.
 - b. Food or drink is not permitted in band rooms, practice facilities, and rehearsals unless authorized by a director.
 - c. Instrument storage cabinets
 - i. Members are assigned a specific cabinet for storage of instruments/accessories. Use the cabinet assigned to you.
 - ii. Cabinets must be kept clean and clear of personal items.
 - d. Personal items
 - i. The HCSD and band are not responsible for personal items left in the band room(s).
 - ii. Store personally owned instruments in instrument cabinets.
 - e. Practice
 - i. Band members may practice in the band room(s) and practice facilities before and after school, or during lunch.
 - ii. Directors will issue permission for use of practice rooms.
 - iii. Practice rooms are for personal or ensemble practice or study only.
4. Appearance
- a. It is recognized that the Pride of Hancock Marching Band and Concert Bands maintain a conservative personal appearance in which limitations are placed on individual grooming and attire
 - i. All females must be able to place all collar length (or longer) hair neatly up so as to fit inside their band shako (hat).
 - ii. Gentlemen must maintain a modest haircut appearance.
 - 1. Haircuts must be maintained throughout the season and shall be groomed to the expectations of the organization and the band staff.

- iii. Jewelry
 - 1. No visible jewelry shall be worn while in uniform.
 - 2. Only a small stud earring may be worn while in uniform.
 - 3. Facial/tongue jewelry is not permitted in uniform.
 - iv. Visible fingernail polish is not permitted in uniform unless it is deemed as part of the costuming needs for that show, season or performance.
- 5. Rehearsals
 - a. Band members are required to be prepared for rehearsals including having required equipment and supplies. The requirements for various bands, ensembles, and marching band will vary.
- 6. School provided transportation/completion of rehearsal or performance
 - a. Directors are responsible for band members until events are completed.
 - b. Remain with the band or ensemble until dismissed following all events.
 - c. Band members and their parents should arrange for transportation prior to dismissal from events. Members may choose to notify parents that events are completed using personal phones.
 - d. All members must ride school provided transportation to and from performance events. Any deviation from this must be approved by the Band Director and Principal.
- 7. Eligibility
 - a. All members must be eligible to compete according to the guidelines set by Mississippi High School Activities Association.
 - b. Ineligible members may not compete nor travel with the group in any capacity. In order to maintain the integrity of the group, the directors have the responsibility to replace or reassign positions as needed to cover the absence of ineligible members.
- 8. Hazing, Initiation
 - a. Hazing or initiating is prohibited.
- 9. Internet Etiquette
 - a. Background
 - i. There are an abundance of online social networks visited by band members and parents. These sites are a great way to hear about what bands/individuals are doing around the country.
 - ii. Though entertaining, these places are littered with posts which reflect poorly on individuals and organizations. It's obvious that many people either don't realize or don't care that their personal

thoughts, when subjective or inflammatory, reflect on their entire group.

10. Medications on trips

- a. Consult with Band Director for the current school policy on medications.

11. Misbehavior/General Conduct

Reasons for dismissal from The Pride and/or band program. Additional penalties are at the discretion of the band director and could be imposed for the following violations.

- a. Consumption of alcohol, drugs, smoking, tobacco products
 - i. Drinking alcohol, taking drugs, smoking, and other tobacco products are prohibited.
 - ii. Violation of this policy may result in immediate dismissal.
 - 1. Violation of this policy at an event, which requires overnight travel, may result in being sent home in advance of the conclusion of the event.
 - a. All costs associated with being sent home in advance will become the responsibility of the member and/or his/her family. This will include the cost of transportation for the member and a chaperone.
- b. Destruction or damaging of property
 - i. Clearly apparent attempts, whether successful or not, to damage or destroy property, are not permitted or acceptable.
 - ii. This policy applies to any property, whether personal, school, or private.
 - iii. Band members and/or their parent(s) will be financially responsible for costs associated with restoring or replacing damaged or destroyed property.
 - iv. If required, band members who are suspected of violating this policy may be reported to appropriate civil authorities.
- c. Using of Profanity towards Directors, Parents or other students
- d. Conduct detrimental to the organization
- e. Willful disobedience

12. Obedience

- a. Band members should show respect for directors and chaperones.

13. School owned property

- a. All property
 - i. Band members must properly care for school owned property.

- ii. Band members may be financially responsible to repair or replace school owned property which is not properly maintained.
- b. Instruments and related equipment
 - i. A user fee per semester may be required for use of school owned instruments (percussion included).
 - ii. If school owned property appears to require repair, notify band director.

14. Trips

- a. Bands take trips for contests, performances, and clinics
- b. Code of Conduct
 - i. As members of the Pride of Hancock, you will be highly visible, not only as a musical organization, but as representatives of our school, community, and state. That responsibility and opportunity carries with it an obligation to project and maintain the absolute highest moral and musical integrity. Many of those who come into contact with us as we perform and travel will form their opinions of Hancock based upon the impressions we create, both in close proximity and from a distance. Therefore, the rules of the Hancock County School District and individual campus program rules and regulations apply at all times. As in any situation, good judgment must always prevail.
 - ii. All rules and expectations are set forth to help you enjoy your trips to the fullest and to avoid the embarrassment and inconvenience which momentary lapses in judgment may bring. It is the goal of the Hancock band program, that upon our return home, you will have acquired an even greater sense of pride as a Hancock band member and as a Hancock County School District musical ambassador.
 - iii. Punctuality is essential in adhering to our busy trip schedule. Be early for everything and help each other stay organized. When enjoying free time and during sightseeing excursions, always stay in groups of three or more members. This is for your safety. There should not be any deviation.
 - iv. Mixed company in hotel rooms is prohibited.
 - v. While staying in hotels we will share the facilities with other student groups and other individuals. Some of these groups and individuals may be unsupervised at times and may engage in behavior that would violate this Code of Conduct. Do not be influenced nor persuaded to engage in any behavior that is in conflict with the spirit of this Code of Conduct.
 - vi. Members must remain reasonably quiet at all times when in hotel facilities. Curfews will be strictly

observed. Any personal needs which might require leaving your room after curfew must be arranged in advance with a chaperone or director.

- vii. Band members are responsible for all of their own equipment and personal items (triple check for uniform parts, extra reeds, valve oil, mutes, music, etc.) However, we all must share in the logistical responsibilities of the trip. We will all participate as equipment movers. Please perform the duties asked of you.
- viii. There will be times when changes to our plans become necessary. Look for solutions to problems and avoid complaining. Concerns should be expressed at an appropriate time and in an appropriate manner. Suggestion: Never complain to anyone who cannot solve your problem. See a director.

HANCOCK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BAND DEPARTMENT

**STUDENT/PARENT AUTHORIZATION & RELEASE
FOR OFF-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES**

The Hancock County School District (“HCSD”) offers a variety of learning activities at designated off-campus locations in which students will have an opportunity to participate. I hereby give permission for my son/daughter to participate in the various off-campus activities associated with the Hancock Band Programs. Students are expected to use school transportation to and from ALL activities, if provided. In the event that HCSD does not provide such transportation, I further understand that I must provide transportation for my son/daughter as a condition of his/her participation in that activity.

In consideration for allowing my son/daughter to participate in off-campus activities, I knowingly and voluntarily agree to assume full responsibility and assume all risks for any accident, loss, damage, and injuries he or she may sustain as a result of or arising out of any aspect of the activity. Furthermore, I, on behalf of myself, my son/daughter named below, our respective family members, and our respective heirs, executors, administrators, and assignees, hereby agree to release, acquit, discharge, and hold harmless HCSD, the HCSD School Board, and any agents, employees, representatives, insurers, successors, and assignees of the entities just named from any and all claims, demands, liabilities, actions or causes of action, of whatever kind or character, whether known or unknown, whether arising out of federal, state, or local statute or common law, including claims resulting from negligence, that I or my son/daughter may sustain arising out of any aspect of the off-campus activity, including, but not limited to, driving or riding to or from the off-campus activity.

PARENT/GUARDIAN – STUDENT RELEASE AND AGREEMENT

I HAVE READ AND DISCUSSED ALL THE INFORMATION IN THE HANDBOOK WITH MY SON/DAUGHTER, AND I UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS AND MY RESPONSIBILITY AS TO THESE POLICIES AND CONSENT TO THEM AS A CONDITION OF PARTICIPATING IN ACTIVITIES. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY MY SIGNATURE BELOW, AND THAT OF MY SON/DAUGHTER, WE HAVE A HIGHER STANDARD OF BEHAVIOR THAN THE HCSD STUDENT HANDBOOK AND THAT MY SON’S/DAUGHTER’S MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IS CONDITIONED UPON ADHERENCE TO THOSE STANDARDS. MY SON/DAUGHTER HAS MY PERMISSION TO ATTEND DISTRICT AND OUT OF DISTRICT TRIPS. I UNDERSTAND THAT HANCOCK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND HANCOCK HIGH SCHOOL WILL NOT BE LIABLE FOR INJURIES AND MEDICAL COST FOR STUDENTS.

Student Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Student Signature/Date

Parent Signature/Date