

Giles High School

Band Handbook

2022-2023



<https://gileshs.wixsite.com/marching-spartans>

“Music can change the world because it can change people.”

Statement of Purpose

The band program at Giles High School, will provide all members with a quality instrumental music education; instill the values of self-discipline, civic spirit and selflessness; and teach a lifelong appreciation of music.

The Giles High School Band Program will strive to motivate all students to achieve the highest level of performance possible, both individually and as a whole. The Giles High School Band will provide the Giles community with an organization of which it can be justifiably proud.

The Mission Statement

A Giles Marching Spartan will at ALL TIMES:

- TREAT ALL PEOPLE WITH RESPECT
- TAKE PRIDE IN EVERYTHING DONE
- MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE
- ACT MATURELY AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF GILES HIGH SCHOOL
- STRIVE TO ATTAIN CONFIDENCE AND SELF-SATISFACTION
WHILE CONSTANTLY IMPROVING THE BAND'S STANDARD OF
EXCELLENCE

"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

Table of Contents

- i. Statement of Purpose
- ii. Mission Statement

- 1. Selection of
- 2. Rehearsal and Practices
- 3. Attendance Policy
- 4. Communication
- 5. Equipment Needs
- 6. Fees
- 7. Fundraising
- 8. Uniform Policies
- 9. Band Boosters

Course Descriptions

The Marching Spartans are the largest ensemble in the band program. The Marching Spartans perform at all home football games, most away football games, several competitions, and local parades. Membership is open to all students at Giles High School. Color Guard membership is open to all Giles students enrolled in band class, pending an audition.

The Marching Spartans rehearse prior to the beginning of school at band camp. Once school is in session, the band will rehearse after school from 3:30-5:30PM on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the football season.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is designed to develop great instrumental musicianship through excellent teaching practices. This group performs several concerts throughout the school year. Students must have prior band experience and must be a member of the marching band to join this class.

Audition Information

The Symphonic Band has an ability based (not seniority based) audition system. Students will audition for their chair in band by performing scales, sight reading, and a portion of their prepared ensemble literature. Seating is done in January for the spring concert season. These are blind auditions to maintain fairness. Students may challenge for a high chair position periodically.

Jazz Ensemble

The Jazz Ensemble is an after school ensemble with select instrumentation. For some instruments, an audition may be required. The Jazz Ensemble meets after school in January and February from 3:30-5:30PM Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. "Jazzghetti" is our featured concert performance, which also acts as a fundraiser for the band with a pasta dinner and silent auction.

Conduct

Cell Phones

All cell phones should be put away during rehearsal and performances. Students are permitted to use them during breaks.

Selection of Student Leadership

Student leaders are chosen in the spring for the following band season. Students write a letter of interest and interview for these positions. The responsibility of student leaders is to help teach music and marching to their section, therefore students must exhibit proper conduct, excellent marching and music ability in the years leading up to their audition. Student leaders are expected to be kind and approachable as well as diligent in teaching skills to their section. They are expected to be exemplary role models for the band by diligently learning their music and marching, respecting others, working as a teamplayer, managing their time well, balancing commitments, diffusion gossip/rumors/conflict and encouraging everyone in the band. Student leaders are to be polite, mature, responsible and reliable. If a student leader fails to meet these requirements they will lose their leadership position.

“You audition for leadership everyday” -Sechrist

Rehearsals and Practices

“If you are one time, you are late!”

Practices for the Marching Spartans will be as follows:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday after school until 5:30PM.

You must provide a note/email from a parent/guardian if you need to miss rehearsal for any reason well in advance of the absence.

SATURDAY MORNING:

If there is a competition on Saturday, plan for a rehearsal at the school prior to our departure for the competition.

Additional Practices/ Extension of Practice

If additional or extended practices are needed, families will be given prior notice.

Attendance Policy

After-school rehearsals and performances are considered co-curricular and

therefore become part of the student's grade. Absences and tardies are accepted and excused for the same reasons as during a school day. WORK AND LACK OF TRANSPORTATION ARE NOT CONSIDERED EXCUSED ABSENCES. Students experiencing conflicts with other school activities are expected to communicate with the director and create a schedule where the student is not consistently missing practices.

Color Guard and Percussion will have additional practices to be determined.

The following reasons for excused absences:

- Personal illness or illness of immediate family member
- Medical appointments, NOTE MUST BE PROVIDED
- School activities/events as cleared by the directors
- Attendance of religious service

COMMUNICATION IS KEY. You must communicate conflicts with the directors as soon as they are known. Consequences for unexcused absences will be as follows:

Marching Spartans:

1st unexcused absence: lose 3rd quarter privileges

2nd unexcused absence: suspension from performance from next game

3rd unexcused absence: dismissal from the group

Excused absences have the same effect on performance as unexcused. Please be mindful of your attendance. If a member has sufficient excused absence as to negatively impact the performance of the band, they will play in the front ensemble area until they have caught up on any missed music or drill.

ALL COMPETITIONS ARE MANDATORY! IF YOU NEED TO MISS ANY HOME GAME OR COMPETITION, A NOTE MUST BE PROVIDED TO THE DIRECTOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE ABSENCE!

Communication

Important band information is communicated through the Remind 101 app and our band email list. Join Remind by texting @gilescout to 81010. If you are not

receiving emails from the band director please email dsechrist@gilesk12.net and you will be added to our mailing list.

Equipment Needs

One of the hardest things for a young musician to overcome is an instrument that is not reliable or that does not function properly. Having good quality equipment does not mean that it has to be expensive or new. Oftentimes a well serviced older instrument will work out better than a new instrument. Please always purchase instruments and accessories through reputable music shops (Bridge Kaldro in Christiansburg, Star City Music in Salem). Amazon is not a good place to purchase reeds or instruments. Amazon instruments are inferior quality and cause extreme intonation issues for the ensemble. Reeds and accessories on Amazon are oftentimes knockoffs of quality brands.

Having instruments serviced over the summer for the following year is always a good idea. Shops can identify small problems before they become larger, more expensive issues.

Fees

To be a member of the Giles Marching Spartans, all students must pay a

participation fee. This fee covers the cost of travel to competitions, uniforms, uniform cleaning, any snacks or meals that are provided, payment for the drill and music for the season, hiring instructors, school instrument repair, and various other entities that are a part of a successful program.

The fee for 2022/2023:

- Base Dues: \$50 (this was already paid in order to secure a students marching spot)
- Shoes (if needed) \$30
- Show Shirt \$15
- Gloves (if needed) \$6

If you are struggling to make any payments, please contact the GHS Band Director or the band boosters directly. We do not want students to miss out on participating in the Marching Spartans because of monetary difficulties. We are willing to work with you on an individual basis to accommodate you as best as we can. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Red Box

Located adjacent to the band office and next to the storage room door is a small red box attached to the wall. This is a secure lockbox that only the treasurer of the band boosters has access to. There are envelopes on the red box that have spots for you to fill out your name, contact number and what the money is for. All MONEY IS TO GO INTO THE RED BOX INSIDE OF A FILLED OUT ENVELOPE. Do not hand money to the band director or give someone else your money to put in the box for you. Be responsible and do it yourself to avoid possible issues.

Fundraising

Each year, the band raises money for two main purposes:

- Band Trip
- Band Booster General Fund: the boosters supplement funding from the School Board to repair and purchase large instruments, purchase show music, upgrade band storage areas and equipment, help fund band activities such as summer band camp, and provide occasional pizza and snacks for our band, etc.

All proceeds from the Mattress Warehouse fundraiser will go towards the Band Booster General fund. The Executive Board will determine, based on overall band program needs, what percentage of all other fundraising money will go towards the band trip, with a goal of 50%.

Band Student/Family Fundraising Expectations:

- **Each student ALONG WITH A PARENT/GUARDIAN, is required to work in the concession stand for a total of 6 evenings during the school year (THREE nights for Fall/Winter sports and THREE nights for Spring sports.)** The band runs the concession stand for over 70 sporting events throughout the school year. Participation from all families is essential and is NOT optional, as funds raised through concessions are critical to the Marching Band Program. Students who do not meet these requirements may not qualify for the spring band trip. If a student also plays sports, arrangements can be made to work concessions after practice is over, but please communicate with a Booster board member prior to the event.
- All students are required to attend the Mattress Fundraiser event in March.
- Each band student/family is expected to participate in our two major fundraisers (selling Little Caesars pizzas and Krispy Kreme doughnuts), either by meeting the sales goal or contributing an equivalent “buy-out” amount.

If fundraising participation requirements are not met, students may not be allowed to go on the trip!

It is our fundraising goal to reduce student trip cost by \$150 (or even more) per student, but this is only possible with the help of all band members and families!

If the trip cost is a concern for any family, please reach out to Mrs. Secrist NOW and we can work with you! We hope to create a band trip scholarship fund to assist any student who cannot go on the band trip due to financial need. Consideration will be given to family finances, participation/behavior in band class, and participation in this year's fundraising opportunities. We do not want cost to be a reason anyone cannot go on the trip!

Uniform Policy

Marching uniforms are expensive. They are purchased once every 10 - 15 years and the cost is covered largely through the persistence of the band boosters. We will have brand new uniforms this season! It is crucial that we take complete and total care of our uniforms. Uniform distribution will be handled by Parent Volunteers.

Care and responsibilities of Uniforms:

1. Band uniforms will be dry cleaned yearly by the boosters.
2. Uniforms are to be properly returned to the storage room after performances
 - a. ANY STUDENT WHO DOES NOT PROPERLY STORE THEIR UNIFORM WILL LOSE 3RD QUARTER PRIVILEGES
3. No bright colors, jeans, or hoodies should be worn under the uniform.
4. Students are to wear long black socks with their uniforms.
5. If jackets are removed at a football game, they MUST be folded neatly with shako on top. If ALL MEMBERS do not follow this procedure, jackets will remain on and zipped at ALL TIMES.
6. DO NOT sit on grass, ground, concrete, or any other surface that may damage your uniform in ANY WAY.
 - a. Any damage done to a uniform aside from normal wear and tear will be charged to the student account.
7. While in your uniform, Band T-Shirt, or Warm-ups you will refrain from: running, swearing, using obscene hand gestures, acting inappropriately in ANY WAY. Students seen acting in a disrespectful manner will lose 3rd quarter privileges or will be removed from the program.

** As a member of the Marching Spartans, you are a representative of the Giles Band Program and community; you must act in accordance with all Giles County Public School Policies. Some illicit activities may result in suspension or expulsion from school. **

By signing below, I am confirming that I have read and understood all policies as laid out in the Giles Band Handbook.

Student name: _____

Student signature: _____

By signing below, I am committing my student to be present at all rehearsals and performances. I am committing to notify the GHS band director of any pre-planned student absences. I am confirming that I have read and understood all policies as laid out in the Giles Band Handbook.

Parent name: _____

Parent signature: _____

Student T-Shirt Size:

Additional T-Shirt(s): _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ @ \$15.00 Total:

Band Boosters

The Giles Band Boosters is a non-profit organization for parents/guardians of students involved in the Giles Band program. The Boosters are an auxiliary organization of the band program that exists to assist the Band Director with the needs of the band program. Their duties include, but are not limited to, raising and maintaining band funds, uniforms, and managing equipment. They also help by chaperoning trips, communicating with members, and various other responsibilities.

Membership is open to all adult family members of students currently enrolled in the Giles Band program.

Meetings are generally the second Tuesday of the month from 5:30pm - 6:30pm. We encourage ALL parents/guardians to join the boosters. They are an integral part of the success of the Giles band program. Although time constraints are often a concern for working parents, there are many ways to contribute to the boosters.

Executive Board Positions

President: Anne Campbell
Vice President: Mykie Stephens
Treasurer: Melanie Hart
Secretary: Teresa Fletcher

“You must play for the love of music. Perfect technique is not as important as making music from the heart.”