

Annandale High School

2005-2006

2006-2007

2007-2008

2008~2009

2009~2010

Band Program Handbook

Annandale High School
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Annandale High School Band Program Handbook 2009-2010



Welcome to the Annandale High School Band Program! Congratulations on joining a tradition of excellence in music education. The instruction you will receive through this program will prepare you to be successful in your future endeavors. More importantly, it will develop your awareness of self, your sensitivity to artistic expression, and your creativity in its many manifestations. From the top corporations to our professional schools and through our vocational training centers, musicians are respected and sought after because of their higher percentage of success in all areas. Research also continues to find positive relationships between high scholastic achievement and music. Researchers believe that music stimulates the mind in ways that increase its intellectual power. The Annandale Band Program students are no exception to these findings. If time commitment is a concern, just remember that busy people are the ones who achieve! You will find that the program will improve your efficiency in studying and practicing, leaving time for activities with family, friend and other interests.

Our ability to progress and achieve as individuals *and* as a Band is dependent on our ability to function in an orderly and systematic manner. Each of us is dependent on the other, not only for high musical standards, but *even more importantly*, for high moral standards, strong character, and a sense of responsibility to our group. The commitment to any quality organization is one that should not be taken lightly. However, we believe that the student and parent members of the Annandale Band Program would agree that the lasting rewards of making such a commitment far exceed the sacrifices.

The purpose of this Handbook is to provide valuable information about the Band Program at Annandale High School. The Band Program at Annandale forms a vital and important part of the total high school experience. The Band represents a large, colorful, diverse and highly disciplined segment of the school. The Band Program contributes a great deal to the sense of community in Annandale through performances of the bands at sporting events, concerts, parades, and community events. To consistently achieve and maintain the high standard of excellence desired by this organization, members should familiarize themselves with the regulations, procedures and traditions of the Annandale High School Band Program. We have attempted to answer the most common questions about the band program in this Handbook. Please consult the Director if a question not covered in the Handbook should arise.

1. The Ensembles

The Marching Atoms

The Marching Atoms, Annandale's Marching Band, is a co-curricular activity composed of members from the Symphonic Band, Red Band, Gold Band, Jazz Band and Color Guard. With an annual membership of approximately 100 students, the Marching Atoms is a musical marching unit organized to provide artistic and entertaining performances for football games, parades, pep rallies, concerts and competitions. As per Fairfax County Public School guidelines, membership in the Marching Atoms is required of all students involved in the Symphonic Band. All other students may participate if they so choose. Membership requires TOTAL DEDICATION, MAXIMUM EFFORT and INVOLVEMENT in all aspects of marching and music performance. The Marching Atoms rehearse on Tuesdays from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., and Thursdays from 2:30 – 6:00 p.m. Additional rehearsals may be called with at least a two week prior notice.

Red Concert Band

This course is open to all students through auditions held in the spring by the Director of Bands. The Red Band presents a balanced study of literature at the highest level attainable by the ensemble. The Red Band will present Winter and Spring Concerts and participate in VMEA/VBODA Band events and festivals. This class requires out-of-school practice and performances as an extension of the classroom activity. Red Band members are encouraged to become members of the Marching Atoms. NOTE: For Red Band members who are also in the Marching Atoms, pregame and halftime show music, marching fundamentals, rehearsals and performances will be part of the grade requirement during the first quarter of school.

Gold Concert Band

This course is open to all students through auditions held in the Spring by the Director of Bands. The Gold Band presents a balanced study of literature at the highest level attainable by the ensemble. The Gold Band will present Winter and Spring Concerts and participate in VMEA/VBODA Band events and festivals. This class requires out-of-school practice and performances as an extension of the classroom activity. Gold Band members are encouraged to become members of the Marching Atoms. NOTE: For Red Band members who are also in the Marching Atoms, pregame and halftime show music, marching fundamentals, rehearsals and performances will be part of the grade requirement during the first quarter of school.

Symphonic Band

Symphonic Band membership is drawn from the most advanced performers in the band program. Students are selected through auditions held in the Spring by the Director of Bands. The repertoire and performance of the Symphonic Band is comparable to that of a fine college. The Symphonic Band will present Winter and Spring Concerts and participate in VMEA/VBODA Band events and festivals. Membership in this band requires out-of-school practice and performances as an extension of the classroom activity. Members of the Symphonic Band are required to be members of the Marching Atoms, as per FCPS policy. NOTE: The Marching Atoms pregame and halftime show music, marching fundamentals, rehearsals and performances will be part of the grade requirement during the first quarter of school.

Jazz Band

The Jazz Band is a select group of instrumentalists from the Band Program (with the possible exception of piano, bass and guitar). Membership is by audition only. The repertoire of the ensemble is selected from a variety of jazz styles. Rehearsals are after school on a designated weekly schedule. This ensemble studies the literature, rehearsal and performance techniques of past and current popular jazz music, including some emphasis on improvisational techniques. The Jazz Band performs at several concerts and events during the year.

Winter Guard

The Winter Guard is an extra-curricular performing group. Membership is selected through auditions in November/December. Uniforms and expenses vary from year to year. An estimate of Guard members' costs will be provided to the students at the time of auditions. The Winter Guard performs at competitions from January through the end of the spring trip.

2. Attendance

A. Policy

“To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, to be late is to be out!”

– William Revelli (University of Michigan)

Band members are required to attend all rehearsals and performances. As a co-curricular course, rehearsals and performances are part of the educational process. Absences affect not only the individual who is absent, but the entire ensemble. An absence necessitates repeating educational instruction when the student returns, as well as eliminating the opportunity to develop blend, balance, and precision with the other students in the ensemble. Students must be on time for all Band functions. Learning to be early (on time) now will establish a lifelong habit that is critical to success.

Excused Absence from a Rehearsal: Except in cases of extreme emergency or illness, Band members will not be excused from rehearsals. In case of illness, students are expected to contact the Director of Bands via email (mark.carter@fcps.edu) as early as possible. Appointments, meetings, work, vacations, etc... will not be valid excuses for missing a rehearsal. A written excuse from the parent or guardian is due within two days of the absence. If you anticipate an unavoidable absence from rehearsal, please submit a written request for Mr. Carter’s consideration at least 2 weeks prior to the intended absence. All absences affect a student’s grade because of lost instruction time that cannot be “made up”.

Unexcused Absence from a Rehearsal: Any student receiving an unexcused absence from a rehearsal will receive a failing grade for that rehearsal.

Tardy to Rehearsals/Performances: Attendance will be taken at the beginning of a rehearsal or performance. If a student is habitually late for rehearsals (3 or more unexcused tardies) their participation grade will be lowered. In addition to a lowered grade, any student arriving late for a performance will lose their third-quarter break (Marching Atoms) and may forfeit the opportunity to perform (Marching Atoms and Concert Ensembles).

Absence from a Performance: Performances are major exam grades. Any absence which is not brought to the attention of Mr. Carter for approval prior to the performance will be considered unexcused. Unexcused absences count as zeros for a major exam grade, and may potentially result in the individual’s removal from the Band Program. If you anticipate an unavoidable absence from a performance, please submit a written request for Mr. Carter’s consideration at least one month prior to the intended absence.

B. Summer Band Session

Summer Instructional Retreat: All students wishing to be a member of the Marching Atoms must plan to attend both weeks (home and away) of the Summer Instructional Retreat. Students that miss part or all of this retreat will forfeit their positions in the Marching Atoms, and appropriate rescheduling of concert bands will follow the forfeiture. This retreat is imperative for a student to acquire the needed performance skills to accomplish a consistent and well performed marching program. The Summer Instructional Retreat will take place August 17 – 29, 2009.

3. Grading Policy

Performance attendance & contribution	50%
Rehearsal attendance, preparation, participation & contribution	25%
Individual testing & evaluation	25%

INDIVIDUAL FACTORS TO BE EVALUATED

I. QUALITY OF WORK IN DAILY REHEARSALS

Individual performances of all band parts (concert/jazz/marching), to include:
Notes, Rhythms, Articulations, Dynamics, Tone Quality
Ensemble performance of band parts
Balance, Blend, Intonation, Musicality

II. QUALITY OF HOME PRACTICE EVIDENT IN DAILY REHEARSAL

Daily *rehearsals* are NOT practice/homework. It is recommended that a student practice every day at home in order to master the performance requirements of his/her band. This practice must be evident in the daily rehearsals. Students are also encouraged to study with *private instructors* to maximize individual potential. PRACTICE RECORDS/SHEETS may be implemented, should it become evident that students are not properly preparing outside of the classroom.

III. RELATING ABILITY TO PERFORMANCE

Students are expected to work to the best of their abilities in each daily rehearsal. Students are encouraged to ask for extra help from an instructor or section leader when needed. Help is available, and students should take advantage of the opportunity.

IV. GROUP RELATIONSHIP

Students are expected to work effectively with the director and with classmates. This includes individual responsibility to the ensemble and band program:

- Perfect performance attendance
- Punctuality to class and performance
- Perfect class attendance unless excused
- Perfect attendance at all extra rehearsals

V. REHEARSAL PROCEDURE

Students are expected to be attentive and cooperative in ALL daily rehearsals and classes for ANY ensemble that they are a part of, including any time that a substitute teacher is in place. Students should have the correct music, equipment, etc., for any rehearsal, and must maintain equipment, keeping it in proper playing condition at all times. Proper posture and playing position should be strictly observed. The level of concentration should be extremely high during all rehearsals. Talking should occur only when necessary to the rehearsal situation. Any instruction given should be implemented immediately. Students are expected to number each measure in their music and have a pencil ready at all times. Students are expected to treat their folders, sheet music, equipment, and EACH OTHER with appropriate respect and integrity. Students may NOT CHEW GUM, DRINK SODA (WATER is acceptable), or EAT in the band rehearsal hall at any time.

DELINEATED ASSESSMENT SCALE/RUBRIX

A

Demonstrates **OUTSTANDING** work in daily rehearsals
Shows evidence in class of regular, thorough home practice
Works **ALWAYS** to the best of his/her ability in daily rehearsals
Is able to effectively work with teacher and classmates – can function as a leader if needed
Has correct music and equipment at **ALL** times – is always on time and attentive

B

Demonstrates **ABOVE-AVERAGE** work in daily rehearsals
Shows evidence in class of regular, adequate home practice
Works most of the time to the best of his/her ability in most daily rehearsals
Is able to effectively work with teacher and classmates – can work independently
Has correct music and equipment **REGULARLY** – is always on time and attentive

C

Demonstrates **AVERAGE** work in daily rehearsals
Shows evidence in class of adequate but irregular home practice
Works **AT AVERAGE** ability in many daily rehearsals
Experiences a little difficulty in working with teacher and classmates
Is **WITHOUT** proper music and equipment at times – is occasionally late and inattentive

D

Demonstrates **BELOW-AVERAGE** work in daily rehearsals
Shows little evidence in class of regular, thorough home practice
Works **BELOW** ability in most daily rehearsals
Experiences much difficulty in working with teacher and classmates – often needs supervision
Is **FREQUENTLY WITHOUT** proper music and equipment at times – is frequently late and inattentive

E

Demonstrates **POOR** work in daily rehearsals
Shows **NO** evidence in class of regular, thorough home practice
Works **BELOW** ability in most daily rehearsals - shows **NO EFFORT**
Is unable to effectively work with teacher and classmates – cannot work independently – constantly requires close supervision
Is **REGULARLY WITHOUT** correct music and equipment – is regularly late, inattentive, and disruptive

The FCPS Program of Studies (POS) will be used as a musical guideline where necessary and available regarding actual musical and technical specifications for the above.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Exhibit a genuine interest in all aspects of the program
- Be willing to accept and carry through many varied responsibilities:
 1. Lead sectional rehearsals or serve as an officer if necessary
 2. Become aware of the tremendous amount of self-discipline necessary for this type of program and be willing to work toward that discipline.
 3. Understand that the mechanics of a composition must be known by the student thoroughly before the director can do anything with it musically.
 4. Accept the trust the director places in you to practice and study the music on your own, and understand that your ensemble is only as good as the weakest preparation of any member. Personal *integrity* is the watchword.
- Have perfect attendance at ALL rehearsals and performances. It is IMPOSSIBLE to make up a rehearsal that involves 10 or 100 people, and it is detrimental to the entire group when a member is absent.
- Fulfill all requirements as stated in the GRADING SCALE and EVALUATION FACTORS to the best of your ability at ALL times.
- Be an excellent and enthusiastic representative of the school and program when appearing in public as a member of the Annandale Bands.
- Show appreciation and consideration for other musical groups when participating in competitions and festivals.
- Do your best at all times, whether in rehearsal or performance.
- Show respect and consideration for other students and instructors and their properties. Do not play others' instruments or tamper or otherwise disturb another's equipment.

Membership in the Annandale High School Band Program is subject to all Annandale High School and FCPS policies regarding behavior and grading, and all such policies will be followed. In addition, for the protection of the organization, certain other consequences may result from the infraction of school or band policies. This may include EXCLUSION from ALL band performance organizations/classes – the band program, while being a curricular or co-curricular or extra-curricular activity, is STILL AN ELECTIVE. If you ELECT to fill a position in one of the groups, be prepared to meet these expectations.

As a co-curricular performance-oriented activity, attendance is required at rehearsals and performances beyond regular school hours. This time will be kept to the necessary minimum, realizing that other studies as well as family and personal time are important. This includes rehearsals, concerts, festivals, competitions, etc...

FCPS Grading Scale

A (93-100) = 4.0

A- (90-92) = 3.7

B+ (87-89) = 3.3

B (83-86) = 3.0

B- (80-82) = 2.7

C+ (77-79) = 2.3

C (73-76) = 2.0

C- (70-72) = 1.7

D+ (67-69) = 1.3

D (64-66) = 1.0

F (below 64) = 0.0

All Band Members will be expected to have a three-ring binder with tabbed dividers. This will be utilized as a Development Workbook in accordance with the MYP/IB curriculum guidelines.

4. Rehearsal & Performance Procedures

A. Concert Ensembles

- Every Band member should bring instruments, music and proper equipment to every rehearsal and performance.
- Everyone needs a PENCIL in every rehearsal.
- There is to be no talking or disturbance during rehearsal. Subdued talking is permitted with the Director's permission or when the Director leaves the podium. Talking should cease when anyone stands on the podium.
- Gum chewing, eating or drinking (except water) is not permitted during rehearsals or performances.
- Each student should be seated at the time designated by the Director or the student will be marked tardy.
- Posture is of utmost importance. Students should avoid crossed legs or ankles and slumping when seated in chairs. Do not lean back in your chair! Do not lean on music stands!
- The dry erase board in the Band Room should be read upon entering the rehearsal room for special instructions.
- Music folders, instruments and equipment should be kept in their proper storage places when not in use. Music and folders should not be left on the music stands.
- All trash should be thrown in the waste container. Students may not bring books or study materials to their seats.
- Loud talking or any other inappropriate behavior is not allowed in the music hallway.

B. The Marching Atoms

- Each year it is necessary for the Marching Atoms to meet for two weeks before school begins. All members of the Band are required to attend the Summer Instructional Retreat and other summer rehearsals scheduled by the Director.
- Everyone needs a PENCIL in every rehearsal.
- In addition to the Director, adjunct Staff Members and Drum Majors have the authority to run rehearsal and make decisions at the request of the Director. All members of the Marching Atoms are expected to respect their authority at all times.
- Students are expected to be in their positions on time with instruments, dot books, pencils, music, etc...
- There is to be no individual playing before rehearsal or at any time during a rehearsal, outdoors or indoors, unless the Director, Staff Members or Drum Majors specifically deem it necessary. Instrument warm-up will be done together under the direction of the Director and Staff Members.

C. Public Performances

Every student will receive a schedule of performances the Band Program will be attending throughout the year. In addition, information regarding these events will be posted on the bulletin board and dry erase board. It is the student's responsibility to know this information. The bulletin board and dry erase board should be read daily.

Always report (rain or shine) to the designated meeting place. Do not call the Director unless there is an emergency. If in doubt, phone a Band Parent Officer, Drum Major or Section Leader.

5. Uniforms

BAND UNIFORM RESPONSIBILITY (INCLUDING CONCERT AND MARCHING)

Band uniforms are to be kept at school at all times. The AHSBB Uniform Committee and Guard Parents will be responsible for distribution and maintenance of uniforms for performances. Each member of the Marching Atoms and Concert Bands is to pay a Uniform Cleaning and Maintenance Fee, which for marchers is included in the Band Camp cost, and for non-marchers is a separate item (\$30.00). This fee is used for dry-cleaning and replacement and repair due to normal wear and tear on the uniforms and individual uniform parts. This fee DOES NOT COVER loss or destruction of uniform and uniform parts by band members. MARCHING ATOMS (all except Color Guard) WILL PROVIDE THEIR OWN BLACK AND WHITE MARCHING SHOES AND SOCKS, AND BLACK GLOVES. Shoes and gloves will be fitted and ordered during Home Instructional Retreat week. Color Guard uniform information will be provided over the summer or prior to the end of school. PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE PERIODIC INSPECTIONS PRIOR TO PERFORMANCES TO MAKE SURE THAT APPROPRIATE CARE IS BEING TAKEN OF ALL UNIFORM PARTS.

BAND T-SHIRTS will be worn under the marching uniform jacket (band proper) for protection of the uniform, and in case weather would determine that jackets be removed. Cut-offs, jeans, or regular trousers may NOT be worn under the UNIFORM PANTS – elastic-waist RED shorts are appropriate.

NO JEWELRY WILL BE VISIBLE WHILE IN UNIFORM. If earrings have just been posted, band-aids may be used to cover them. Otherwise, no jewelry is permitted to be worn. The uniform is representative of a more formal and “military” style of bearing, and nothing should be showing to take away from that bearing. Members not in compliance will be subject to penalty at the Director’s discretion.

In that same light, all parts of the uniform should be treated with respect. It is a symbol of the band, school, and our community, and should be handled in an appropriate manner. Hats should be carried, or placed in an upright position near the individual while not being worn. If jackets are removed for any reason, then the jackets and vestees should be folded neatly and laid aside; the same is considered appropriate for uniform pants. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE YOU TO SIT ON ANYTHING OTHER THAN AN APPROPRIATE SEATING AREA (i.e. bleachers, bus seats, chairs, etc.). Members are NOT to sit on or lay ON THE GROUND while in uniform, especially in the white pants. When returned to the uniform closet for storage, the uniform should be hung neatly on the hanger. As the uniform is considered school property, anyone found not to be in compliance with any of the above may be suspended from rehearsal(s) and performance(s) and subject to penalty, per FCPS and AHS policy.

For performance situations, ALL PARTS OF THE UNIFORM WILL BE WORN, unless otherwise instructed by the Director. This also means that the uniform will be on and worn completely and properly – all buttons buttoned, all zippers zipped, and all clips clipped. Uniform pant legs should reach no closer than two inches from the floor (with the student in marching or comparable shoes). Long hair should be tucked up inside of the hat – long hair is defined as any hair that reaches the top of the uniform jacket collar.

6. The Marching Atoms

A. Rehearsals

In addition to class period rehearsals, the Marching Atoms also rehearses after school each week during the fall. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays from 6:00-9:00 p.m., and Thursdays from 2:30 – 6:00 p.m. The Percussion Section additionally rehearses on Fridays afternoons from 2:30-4:00 p.m. All after-school rehearsals are required of all members. They are a critical part of the Marching Atoms' success and band grade for the students. Absences will only be excused in case of emergency. Doctor appointments, work, sports and other activities will not be excused. A student's band grade is directly affected by attendance at the after-school rehearsals. **Please strongly consider your commitment to the Annandale High School Band Program if you cannot consistently make after-school rehearsals.**

B. Football Games

Football games are a regular opportunity for the Marching Atoms to showcase all of their hard work! Report time for game days is 5:30 p.m. unless otherwise announced by the Director.

Football games are as important as competitions; absences are rarely excused by the Director. We want each student to have the best experience possible; that will happen when attendance is a priority with every member!

- **Pre-Game**

1. The Marching Atoms will assemble in Attendance Block in the Band Room at a designated time. Please check the dry erase board for this information. Instructions for the evening will be given at that time.
2. When dismissed from the Attendance Block, students are to set up marching block promptly.

- **Stadium Seating**

1. Each student should file to his/her assigned seat – to be determined by the Director.
2. Once the student is in place, they are to remain standing at attention until further instructed.
3. Ranks and files should be kept in alignment – how we look in the stands is important.
4. Uniforms are to be properly worn at all times. NEVER unzip or undo your uniform unless instructed to do so.
5. Non-Band Members are not allowed within the Band Section. Please explain this to friends, family, alumni, etc...
6. Refreshments (drink or food) are not allowed in the stands. Water will be provided by our Band Parents.
7. A break will be given to students during the 3rd quarter of each game. The sooner you can return to the stands after half-time and be seated, the sooner you will be released for your break. You must be back in place, ready to play at the end of the 3rd quarter. There is a possibility we might forgo this break in some situations. 3rd quarter break privileges can be lost for a variety of reasons; tardiness, failure to have all equipment, etc...
8. Students are not to leave the Band unless accompanied by a chaperone, except during 3rd quarter break. Students should always stay in groups of 2 or more for your own safety.

9. All Marching Atoms members should be professional at all times.
10. Treat visiting Bands, Directors and Chaperones will respect at all times.

- **Half-time and Post-game**

1. Marching Atoms members should file from the stands in a quick and orderly manner to the designated warm-up areas.
2. Remember that you are “on stage” at all times.
3. After the half-time performance, members will circle up outside of the field and wait for instructions.
4. At the conclusion of the game the Marching Atoms will play the school fight song. Immediately following all students will block up on the field to return to the band room.
5. Uniforms are to be returned properly – they may NOT be taken home.
6. Put all music, instruments and equipment away before leaving.
7. PLEASE make arrangements for a ride before the game. We will post the times of our arrival so that your parent can be waiting. It is not fair for the Director, Staff, or Chaperones to have to wait for your ride to arrive.

C. Competitions/Festivals

The Marching Atoms will attend 4 competitions and the State Marching Band Festival during the 2009 season. These performances typically occur on Saturdays. They involve some travel and take up most of that given day. All attendance policies apply to competitions/festivals.

7. Financial Obligations

A. Summer Instructional Retreat

This cost is associated with members of the Marching Atoms. This money goes toward the payment of the facilities, food, and other items involved in the retreat.

B. Financial Obligations: Non-Marching Members

Students not participating in the Marching Atoms program will be expected to provide \$30.00 for the year to assist with uniform cleaning costs, travel, and guest instructors throughout the year.

C. Instrument/Equipment Maintenance Fee

Please see attached FCPS Instrumental Rental Contract

All band students are to treat school property with care and respect. Should a student cause damage to instruments, band equipment, lockers, locks, etc.; they will be liable for the cost of fixing or replacing that item or items.

8. Travel

A. Policies

- A travel itinerary and procedures list will be published for each major trip. It is important that these instructions be followed so the Band can move quickly, safely and efficiently. The parent or guardian of each student will be expected to fill out an Emergency Care Form (Must be Notarized). Students will not travel with the Band without this form.
- Students will be expected to sign up for bus seating by class/and or room lists at an announced time. Any student failing to sign the lists will be assigned a seat and/or room. Students will not be allowed to change buses or rooms without permission of the Director.
- Students are asked to be careful and safe. If an accident, injury or illness does occur, the chaperone in charge should be notified at once. The chaperone will then notify the Director.
- For Concert Ensemble performances, music will be transported in music cases. During the Marching Season, each member will be responsible for their own equipment at all times.
- All Band Members are responsible for the set up and tear down of concert settings. When everyone does their part, things run smoothly.
- Chaperones will be in charge of each bus. They will be responsible for calling roll and maintaining good conduct. No bus should be permitted to leave a stop until the roll is checked. Report that you are ready to move to the Director.
- While staying in a hotel/motel, students should be considerate of other occupants, especially at night. Rooms should be left neat and hotel/motel property should not be damaged. Telephone calls made by individuals in the Band may not be charged to the room. Long distance calls should be made from a cell phone or pay phone with a calling card.
- It should be noted that proper behavior is expected when on a school sponsored trip. The Fairfax County Code of Student Conduct will be observed at all times. Undignified conduct or reckless behavior may result in disciplinary action, suspension from school, and/or dismissal from the Band Program.
- Students may not leave their rooms after curfew or bed check.
- Students may not visit rooms occupied by the opposite sex without a chaperone.
- POSSESSION OR USE OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, OR NARCOTICS IS FORBIDDEN. These matters will be turned over to legal authorities, as well as school administrators.

B. Band Trip Reminders

- Chaperones and Officers are to be obeyed and treated with courtesy and respect. They are the delegates of the Director.
- The complete uniform (Concert or Marching Atoms) should be worn properly when in public. You are representing Annandale High School and the work of many members that have come before you.
- Profanity, singing, chanting, horseplay and screaming are prohibited on the bus – all bus rules apply. Tape players, CD players, or radios WITHOUT HEADPHONES will not be allowed on the buses.
- Students may not change buses without permission. Roll will be checked on each bus before departure.
- All students must travel to and from performances on buses, not in personal cars. Any student who needs to depart a performance with his/her parent or guardian should submit a request signed by a parent/guardian at least three days in advance of the performance. If approved, the parent/guardian must appear in person to pick up the student from the Director.
- No drinking or eating will be permitted except when designated by the Director.
- Students are responsible for their own equipment, instruments and music. The Pit Crew will load the equipment truck or buses as necessary.
- Students will receive an itinerary of activities for all major trips. Students are responsible for knowing departure times and being ready on time.
- Any illness or injury should be reported to the head chaperone and Director immediately, no matter how unimportant it may seem.
- Upon arrival at our destination, students should remain seated until instructed to unload by the officer or chaperone in charge.
- Conduct of students in public establishments (restaurants, etc...) should be subdued and courteous.

C. Code of Conduct

Students are responsible for the reading of and adherence to the Fairfax County Code of Student Conduct.

- Please respect both personal property and the property of the Band Program.
- Rude and/or socially unacceptable behavior as defined by the Director will not be tolerated on the Annandale campus or during Band activities off campus.
- Public Display's of Affection (PDA's) will not be tolerated while on Band activities.

9. Calendar – Rehearsals & Performances

General Information

The calendar for the Annandale High School Band Department is generally communicated months in advance of the rehearsal and performance dates. A significant effort is made on the part of the Band Staff and Administration to establish and communicate these dates. To this end, as per Annandale Band's policy, students are rarely excused from rehearsals or performances.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals for the 2009-2010 Marching Atoms fall season have been included in this Handbook. There will be mandatory after-school rehearsals for the Concert Ensembles at the conclusion of the Marching Atoms season through the remainder of the school year. For the Red Band and Gold Band these are traditionally for dress rehearsal purposes before a concert and select after-school rehearsals in the spring to prepare for the VMEA/VBODA Concert Band Assessment. The Symphonic Band will have extensive after-school sectionals and full ensemble rehearsals from mid-November through the remainder of the school year. A complete calendar of the rehearsals for all Concert Ensembles will be available in the late fall.

Performances

Performances for the 2009-2010 school year have been included in this Handbook. Though we believe these dates are accurate, as with rehearsals, performance dates are subject to change with notice. It is possible (and likely) that additional performance opportunities will present themselves throughout the year. For performances that "come up" after the start of the school year, as much advance notice as possible will be given in consideration of student and family schedules. These additions and/or changes will be communicated to the students in class, posted on the band website and sent via email.

Annandale HS Band Program Performance Calendar 2009 – 2010

*JULY 29 th +AUG. 13-14	Drum Corps International (DCI) Show at George Mason University Marching Band Leadership Camp at AHS. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Drum Majors/Section Leaders)
AUG. 17-21	<u>HOME</u> Marching Band Instructional Retreat (<u>CAMP</u>) 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
AUG. 18	Mandatory Pre-Camp Band Parent Meeting - 7 p.m. (AHS Auditorium)
AUG. 22	Sectional Competition Car Washes 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
AUG. 24-29	<u>AWAY</u> Marching Band Instructional Retreat (<u>CAMP</u>)
SEPT. 1 & 3	Marching Band Rehearsals @AHS
SEPT. 4	Freshman Orientation (Marching Band) @ AHS

Marching Band Practices: Tuesdays from 6-9 p.m. and Thursdays from 2:30-6:0 p.m. (**NO** Wednesday Rehearsals!)

Jazz Band Rehearsals: 2:30-4:00 p.m. (During Marching Season, only Wednesdays; After Marching Season, Wednesdays and Thursdays.)

***AWAY Football:**

Sept. 11th (Falls Church), *Thurs.* 17th (South County), Oct. 2nd (Lee), 16th (West Springfield), Nov. 6th (West Potomac)

HOME Football:

Sept. 4th (Centreville), 25th (Middle School Night vs. Oakton), Oct. 9th (TC Williams), 23rd (Homecoming vs. Lake Braddock), 30th (Senior Night vs. Woodson)

MARCHING COMPETITION DATES *(Please hold entire day open until schedule is finalized.)*

Sept. 19, 26, Oct. 3, 17

TAG DAY (*ALL* Band/Guard Students are to participate.): September 12 (*Saturday*)

ANNANDALE FALL FESTIVAL PARADE/CHAPEL SQUARE PARADE: October 24 (*Saturday*)

Same day as the Homecoming Dance. Yes, you will have plenty of time to get ready! ☺

STATE MARCHING FESTIVAL: October 31st (*Saturday*)

***+SENIOR REGIONAL ORCHESTRA AUDITIONS @ (Lake Braddock SS):** Monday, October 5th

***BANDS OF AMERICA (BOA) REGIONAL MARCHING BAND COMPETITION @ TOWSON:** Saturday, October 10th (Non-performance. Observation only.)

FALL CONCERT – SYMPHONIC BAND: November 5th (*Thursday*)

***+ALL-DISTRICT BAND AUDITIONS @ JEB STUART:** December 12th (*Saturday*)

WINTER CONCERT – ALL CONCERT BANDS: December 8th (*Tuesday*)

+POE MS ALUMNI JAZZ REUNION CONCERT: December 17th (*Thursday*)

***+ALL-DISTRICT JAZZ BAND AUDITIONS @ HAMMOND MS:** January 7th (*Thursday*)

WINTER BAND INSTRUCTIONAL RETREAT: January 8th-9th (*Friday afternoon - Saturday*)

+ALL-DISTRICT JAZZ BAND @ EPISOCPAL HS: January 28th-30th (*Thursday night – Saturday early evening*)

PYRAMID DISTRICT PRE-FESTIVAL CONCERT @ AHS (*With Holmes and Poe Symphonic Bands*) Thursday, February 25th

+ALL-DISTRICT BAND @ HAYFIELD SS: February 4th-6th (*Thursday night – Saturday afternoon*)

+ALL-STATE BAND AUDITIONS @ JMU: Saturday, February 27th

DISTRICT BAND FESTIVAL @ SOUTH COUNTY SS – ALL CONCERT BANDS: March 5TH & 6th

SPRING TRIP – BANDS: March 18th-21st. Location: TBA.

AIA INDOOR GUARD CHAMPIONSHIPS: March 27th-28th, 2010. Location: TBA.

***+SPRING MUSICAL:** TBD

***+SOLO and ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL @ KEY MS:** April 24th (Saturday)

SPRING CAR WASH: May 8

ATOMS 5K RUN (MARCHING BAND): May 15th (Saturday Morning only – 8-9:30 a.m.)

SPRING BAND CONCERT: June 7th (Monday at 7 p.m.)

ANNANDALE/POE JAZZ NIGHT: June 8th (Tuesday at 7 p.m.)

BAND AWARDS NIGHT: June 9th (Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m.)

***Optional, but encouraged to participate!** **+Selected Students**

* All times listed are performance times. The Band report time will vary and be announced and posted the week of the event.

10. Band Letters and Stars

Done on a point system, letters are awarded when the student first reaches the level needed (number of points to be shown). Points ARE carried over from year to year. Stars are awarded for subsequent times that a student earns points equivalent to a letter. Participation in Tag Day and Car Wash Days is REQUIRED for letters and stars.

DRUM MAJOR AND CAPTAINS' AWARDS

Recognition is given to those students who served the Band Program in these positions.

GRADUATING SENIOR AWARDS

Recognition is given to those seniors who have participated in the Band Program

FALL AND WINTER GUARD PARTICIPATION AWARDS

Recognition is given to the members of the Color Guard who meet the appropriate criteria.

CONCERT BAND AWARDS

The students in each of the concert bands will vote for the winners of: MOST OUTSTANDING MUSICIAN, MOST IMPROVED MUSICIAN, and SPIRIT AWARD.

BAND CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

A scholarship in the amount of the cost of Band Camp will be given to one student selected by the Director.

ANNANDALE BANDS PROGRAM AWARDS

Students participating in the Band Program at AHS will have the opportunity to earn award points during the year. Points will be awarded for band activities involving rehearsals, performances, solo/ensemble festival, private lessons, and other activities outside of school as approved by the Director. This awards system is subject to modification, and all points must be approved by the Director.

*** * * AWARD POINT SYSTEM * * ***

	POINTS
Symphonic Band	2.0
Gold/Red Concert Bands	1.0
Marching Atoms	2.0
Percussion Ensemble	1.0
Winter Indoor Guard	2.0
Band Officer – Elected or Appointed	1.0
Jazz Band	1.0
Full Orchestra	1.0
Spring Musical Pit Orchestra	1.0
Solo/Ensemble Festival	
GRADE V/VI - Superior Rating	1.0
GRADE V/VI – Excellent Rating	0.5
GRADE III/IV – Superior or Excellent Rating	0.5
MAXIMUM TOTAL POINTS (more than one festival entry)	2.0
All-District Band and Orchestra	
Audition	0.5
Membership (Participation in rehearsals and performance required)	1.0
Audition for All-Virginia Band and Orchestra	0.5
Membership in All-Virginia Band and Orchestra	1.0
MAXIMUM TOTAL POINTS	2.0
Private lessons – FULL YEAR	1.0
Additional Performance Ensemble (Director's discretion and approval)	0.5

Pep Band (per game attended)	0.5
Every \$50 PROFIT earned in fundraisers (not including Tag Day/Car Washes)	1.0
DIRECTOR'S POINTS	Discretionary

AWARD POINTS SCALE

	MUSICIAN – 8 Points	GUARD – 6 Points
LETTER	8	6
FIRST STAR	16	12
SECOND STAR	24	18
THIRD STAR	32	24

Annandale High School Contract Agreement for Band Members

As a co-curricular performance-oriented activity, attendance is required for rehearsals and performances beyond regular school hours". These include but are not limited to:

- Festivals/evaluations/competitions
- Concerts
- Performances for Community, schools, etc...
- Football games
- Parades

It is understood that attendance at these functions is mandatory, and an unexcused absence may result in lowering a student's grade and/or placing them on alternate status if the absence applies to the Marching Atoms. Exceptions to this policy are:

- Religious holidays
- Disabled students whose disability prohibits participation
- Documented illness
- Family emergencies (approved by School Administration or designee)

I understand the requirements and responsibilities for my son/daughter to be a member of the Annandale High School Band Program. I have read through and understand the rules and regulations covered in this Handbook.

Parent Signature

Student Signature

***Please return entire form to Mr. Carter by Monday October 9, 2009**