



2023-2024 Allatoona High School Bands
Rehearsal Expectations and Grading Policies

Stephanie Grote and Mark Gurnow, Directors

Welcome to the Allatoona High School Band Program! The band classes at Allatoona are performance-based ensembles taught by one or more of the band directors. Class activities emphasize building effective individual performance skills and understanding of musical concepts that will allow students to develop a love of music and desire to improve. First semester course offerings include: Woodwind Class, Brass Class, Percussion Class, Symphonic Band and Symphonic Winds. Second semester course offerings include: Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Symphonic Winds. Please take a moment to carefully review the following pages. **We ask that you keep this packet for reference.**

Allatoona High School Concert Band Program

Students are provided with a balanced comprehensive study of music through the concert band, which develops skills in the psychomotor, cognitive, and affective domains. Instruction is designed to enable students to connect, examine, imagine, define, try, extend, refine and integrate music study into other subject areas. Ensemble and solo activities are designed to develop elements of musicianship including, but not limited to: (1) tone production, (2) technical skills, (3) intonation, (4) music reading skills, (5) listening skills, (6) analyzing music, and (7) studying historically significant styles of literature. Experiences include, but are not limited to, improvising, conducting, playing by ear, and sight-reading. Students are given opportunities to develop the ability to understand and convey the composer's intent to connect the performer with the audience.

Students also experience live performances by professionals during and outside of the school day. Time outside of the school day may be scheduled for dress rehearsal and performance. A limited number of public performances may serve as a culmination of daily rehearsal and musical goals. Students are required to participate in performance opportunities, outside of the school day, that support and extend

learning in the classroom. An alternative assignment will be given if a student is unable to attend such performances for any reason.

Concert Band Fee

There is a **\$250 activity fee for all students enrolled in a band class**. The money is used for Symphonic Camp, Large Group Performance Evaluation entry fees, transportation, guest conductors and artists, sectional coaches, etc.

The Concert Band Fee should be paid to ABBA at
<http://www.allatoonabands.org/financial-center/>

If you would like to break that up into 2 payments, please submit the 1st installment of \$125 by October 27th. The balance of \$125 is then due by January 12th.

We appreciate your cooperation and timely payment. As always, we encourage families to participate in the many fundraisers that are being offered by the Allatoona Band Boosters this year! Nearly 100% of the profits from every fundraiser go directly into your child's account.

Important Calendar Dates

August 12	Rock-a-thon @AHS 10am-10pm
October 11	GMEA Jazz Auditions @ Walton
November 7	Symphony Orchestra Concert @AHS
December 5	Music Department Gala @AHS
December 7	Band Concert @AHS
December 9	GMEA Honor Band Auditions @Kennesaw Mountain
January 12-13	Symphonic Camp @AHS
February 2-4	GMEA Honor Band @North Cobb
March 5	Pre-Festival Concert @AHS
March 14-16	Large Group Performance Evaluation (LGPE)
TBA	Jazz Dinner & Silent Auction
April 12-13	Southeastern Regional Percussion Symposium @Walton
April 18-20	GMEA Jazz Festival @AHS
May 9	Band Concert @AHS
May 11	Band Banquet @AHS

Rehearsal Expectations

- 1). **All students are expected to have their instrument** (in good working condition), mouthpiece, proper reeds, appropriate sticks/mallets, and music at every rehearsal. Students must have their own **copy of the music and a pencil at every rehearsal** (so that they can mark their own intonation tendencies and musical instructions when given corrections).
- 2) **Students are expected to prepare in advance for rehearsals.** This means that practice at home (or in the band hall before or after school) is a requirement. Practicing is your homework for this class!
- 3) Your most important tools in this course are your ears. Training your ears to hear across the band, to be able to make immediate pitch and style corrections is something that you must practice every day within rehearsal. **You are expected to always be listening and sitting attentively** (even when your section is not the one being rehearsed). Talking during or disrupting the rehearsal environment will not be tolerated.
- 4) There will be **after school sectionals, full band rehearsals, and concerts** throughout the course of the school year. The dates and times for these rehearsals will be given to you in a calendar at the beginning of the school year and **attendance at these events is required.**
- 5) **Attendance at all scheduled performances is required.**
- 6) **All students are expected to arrive to every class, rehearsal, and performance on time.** Students need to be in their seats with their instrument, music, pencil, and any other required materials by the beginning of rehearsal. During the school day, rehearsal will begin two minutes after the final bell. Any student who either enters class after the final bell and/or is not seated with all of their equipment when rehearsal begins will be marked tardy.

Behavior Expectations

- 1) All band students are expected to follow all school rules. Insubordination will not be tolerated.
- 2) NO food, beverage, gum, or candies are allowed in the band facility (Water with lid is allowed).
- 3) Students are expected to keep their instrument lockers clean and locked. Students will put instruments, equipment, and music away after each rehearsal. Instruments, equipment, and music should not be left out in the band facility. No textbooks or materials unrelated to band are allowed in band lockers.
- 4) Cell phones are to be turned off and out of sight during all rehearsals unless teacher permission for use has been granted. Not doing so may result in the confiscation of the cell phone by the teacher.
- 6) Profanity is not a part of the Allatoona Band Program.

- 7) Students will always be respectful of each other and all adults, including chaperones and band guests. Not doing so may result in the students' removal from the band program.
- 8) Students shall follow all school and band rules, written and verbal, specified by band directors.

Consequences

- 1st Offense- Warning from Teacher
- 2nd Offense- Student/Teacher Conference, Contact Parent
- 3rd Offense- Discipline Referral, Possible Parent/Teacher Conference

** The Band Directors reserve the right to remove a student from the band program and/or all band extra-curricular activities and events for behavior problems.**

Concert Attire

Formal black concert attire is required for all performances. **New students will be required to purchase and/or rent this attire in their 1st semester in the Band Program.** Concert attire expectations are listed below.

Gentlemen –

- Tuxedo
- Black dress shoes with black socks
- Neatly shaven
- Neatly groomed hair.

Ladies –

- Concert dress
- Closed-toe black dress shoes
- Modest make up

ALL students will be fitted for concert attire during the first month of school. **New ladies** will purchase a dress to be worn for all performances (\$87). **New gentlemen** will pay a one-time rental fee (\$155) good for the following items: pants, jacket, vest and tie. In addition, gentlemen must also purchase a shirt to be

worn with the school-issued tuxedo. Dress shoes are expected; Athletic shoes and sandals are not acceptable for Concert Attire.

Lockers

Students will be assigned a locker in the band locker room. Students will be provided with a combination lock. If students lose their assigned combination lock, they will be responsible for the replacement cost (\$10).

Grading Policies

Class Participation (60% of total grade) – formative category

Classroom preparedness will be a daily assessment of how each student meets all of the rehearsal and behavioral expectations outlined above.

Playing/Written Tests (30% of Grade) – summative category

There will be numerous playing and written tests given each semester. With playing tests, if a student receives a grade lower than expected, they may re-play the test for a higher grade at any time.

Final Playing and Written Exam (10% of Grade)

Cobb County requires that all classes give a final exam at the end of each semester. The band final exam will be comprised of a written portion and a playing portion.

Grading Expectations

Make Up Policy

In the event of an absence, students may make up any assignment/assessment upon their return.

Retake Policy

After a student has received a grade for an assignment/assessment, they may redo the assignment or retake the assessment at any time prior to the end of the semester.

For more information regarding the Allatoona Band Program and the Allatoona Band Booster Association (ABBA) please visit our website: <http://www.allatoonabands.org>

For all other questions or concerns regarding your child and the band program, please contact the directors at: mark.gurnow@cobb12.org and stephanie.grote@cobbk12.org.

You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Thank you for your continued support!

Stephanie Grote & Mark Gurnow

Band Directors

2023-2024 Allatoona High School Bands Rehearsal Expectations/Grading Policies and Calendar Receipt

DUE: August 18, 2023

We have received and carefully reviewed the Allatoona High School Band Rehearsal Expectation and Grading Policies, and the complete 2023-2024 Calendar of Events for the Allatoona Band. We have completed the required student information using the QR code below:



Student name (Please Print)

Student Signature/Date

Parent/Guardian Signature/Date

Student email address

Home Phone Number

Parent 1 email address

Parent 2 email address