



*Sonora High School
Band and Color Guard Handbook
2016 - 2017*





Music Makes the Difference



"A group of second grade students in inner-city Los Angeles received piano training twice a week and they used specialized computer software that related the piano lessons to math concepts. On standardized math tests, 50% of these second graders scored as well as fifth graders in affluent Orange County, California. The scores of the entire second grade group were equal to the scores of fourth grade students in Orange County."

-"Music on the Mind". Newsweek, July 24, 2000. Sharon Begley



"Students who participate in school band or orchestra have the lowest level of current and lifelong use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs among any group in our society".

-H. Con.Res 266. United States Senate, June 13, 2000



"Nine out of ten adults and teenagers who play instruments agree that music making brings the family closer together"

-Music Making and Our Schools, American Music Conference, 2000

THE SONORA HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM - 2016-2017

The Sonora High School Instrumental Music Program provides an opportunity for students to develop an appreciation for music and encourages the skills and discipline necessary for achieving musical success throughout a lifetime of experiences. Students learn the importance of a cooperative team effort while working with fellow members to accomplish the shared goals of Marching Band and Concert Band. The program challenges students in areas of personal growth and musicianship. In addition, music students have fun meeting new friends and traveling to new and exciting places.

The Sonora High Raider Band is composed of members of the marching band, concert band, school ensembles, and colorguard. During the fall season, they perform at home football games, as well as parades and competitive events throughout Southern California. During the spring semester, selected color guard members perform in the Winter Guard. Band members play in the Symphonic Band. Members of these groups have the opportunity to perform in solo and ensemble festivals in the area, as well as other school ensembles.

A Note from the Band Director

The Sonora High School Music Program focuses first on the development of musical skill and knowledge. We have a great concern for each student's musical values and musical growth both during their stay in high school and beyond. The success of the music program centers on pride, commitment to task, and the willingness to work hard to achieve our objectives. As a member of our music program, you will make long lasting friendships and develop a sense of camaraderie that is unique to our organization. We expect every student to establish both short and long range goals for improvement on his or her instrument. We also expect you to agree to perform to the best of your abilities and to work together with the music staff to make this year's group the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce. The first objective of the staff is to help each student develop his or her musical potential to the utmost capacity.

The information provided here is designed to help you understand the concepts and policies of our organization. We hope this handbook can be used to answer questions of both parents and students and will prove to be a helpful guide for defining the boundaries that are important for Sonora High School to have quality performance ensembles. If utilized properly, the concepts of responsibility, teamwork, and good citizenship will develop as each student experiences the world of music. If you need information that does not appear here, please call the Music Department of Sonora High School at (562) 266-2167. We will try to assist in whatever way possible.

Jerome Diebolt, Instrumental Music Director

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SONORA RAIDER REGIMENT MEMBER

The emphasis of the Sonora music program is on striving for musical maturity. As a member of the marching and concert bands, you will have the unique opportunity of maintaining the tradition of high standards set by the Fullerton Union High School District's music programs. You will also have several areas of responsibility.

RESPONSIBILITY TO THE MARCHING BAND, COLOR GUARD, OR CONCERT BAND

Promptness, commitment, effort, and attendance are essential elements to the success of the band and color guard. Schedules of rehearsals and performances are announced well ahead of time and posted. Please arrange your schedule to fulfill your obligation. Attendance at all regularly scheduled rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

RESPONSIBILITY TO THE SCHOOL

As students of the Sonora music program, you are a representative of the Sonora High School student body and the community as a whole. Your good citizenship and behavior at all events represent not only your school, but the Fullerton Union High School District as well. Your performance should be the best possible and reflect the pride you have for your school. We have the obligation to provide the best possible performances for the school, community, and citizens of our area. This means that you agree to give up some of your free time on holidays and vacations for the entertainment of others. Respect and support for all performing groups at events is required.

RESPONSIBILITY TO EACH OTHER

You have the obligation to respect the rights and feelings of others, both in and out of uniform, and to treat everyone as you would wish to be treated. Your good behavior will influence others around to do the same.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

If you are using a school instrument, you accept responsibility for maintaining it and taking all precautions to see that the instrument is returned to the school in good condition. Students using school-owned equipment are encouraged to provide their own mouthpiece (this is highly recommended). Any damage to the school equipment will be the student's responsibility. The borrowed instrument or equipment will be returned to the band room when requested by the director.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXCELLENCE

Musical excellence on the part of individuals affects the performance of the band. Private instruction during the year is strongly suggested, by the director, for all music students. Individual practice is a must for a successful program. Students must put in time outside the normal rehearsals to work on their music and routines.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTENDANCE

Attendance at regularly scheduled rehearsals and performances is *required* for membership in the program. Absences are permitted in the event of personal illness or death in the family. Excessive absences even for these reasons will cause severe problems and will result in loss of position or rank within the organization. **All**

scheduled absences must be presented IN WRITING at least one week in advance.

Failure to appear at a scheduled practice or appearance without proper notice will result in suspension from the performing group and a reduction of grade for that grading period. It is impossible to “make up” a performance, and other members carry an extra burden because of someone else’s inconsideration.

As a member of the Sonora High School *Performing* Arts Department, understand that the performance itself culminates everything we work so hard at during the year. It is therefore essential to your fine arts education that you experience the actual performance of your art. Performances CAN NOT be made up.

In case of emergency or sudden illness before an after school rehearsal or performance, please call the music office and leave a message: (562) 266-2167.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Sonora High Band Boosters Club, Inc., is a non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer organization that raises funds to allow the Sonora Music Department to participate in activities such as festivals and parades that are above and beyond the department's academic music program. A yearly budget is prepared to cover costs of all extra activities and an annual estimated cost per student is calculated. The individual costs referred to as "fair share participation costs" cover only 50% of overall budgeted expenses. The rest of the budgeted amount is raised through fundraisers and other sources of contributions. It is reasonable to expect each band member to contribute equally in the amount of “fair shares” monies equal to the per student amount. Participation costs, voluntary hours per student, and due dates for this year's academic music program are as follows:

MUSIC PROGRAM SOURCES OF INCOME/FUNDRAISING

PARTICIPATION COSTS

In order to continue offering the quality program that we have experienced as well as allow it to grow, there is a suggested fair-share donation of \$150 per student, per semester. The Boosters are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Most donations are **tax deductible** – check with your tax advisor.

Besides the above mentioned Fair-share contribution, students are encouraged to support the program by purchasing the following individual items:

Band:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Band shirt* | \$15 |
| White shoes* | \$27 |
| Black shoes* | \$27 |
| Gloves (two pairs)* | \$6 (Replacement pairs are \$6 each) |
| Hoodie | \$30 (optional) |

Colorguard / Winterguard:

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| Uniform# | \$30-\$75 |
| Shoes* | \$27 |
| Unitard* | \$15 |
| Warm-ups | \$50 (optional) |
| Hoodie | \$30 (optional) |

There are two equipment items that are highly recommended, though not mandatory, for all Colorguard members to purchase. The Rifle and Saber are often used throughout the marching and Winterguard seasons. If you are interested in purchasing these items, please buy the following models:

Rifle - Approximately \$30
36" Elite III
Silver Bolt
White Leather Sling

Saber - Approximately \$50
36" Elite
Padded White

Percussion Ensemble:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Uniform* ¹ | \$25 - \$75 |
|-----------------------|-------------|

*¹ Band shirt, Colorguard shirt, shoes, gloves, unitard and hoodies need only be bought by new students or if old items are lost, damaged, or outgrown.

#The Percussion Ensemble and Colorguard Uniform cost varies from year to year.

Concert Tour*² TBD

*² The Concert Tour is an optional / extra opportunity for students to play their instruments in various venues around the country. The tentative schedule is to take a smaller tour each year and a larger trip every three years.

Difficulties with payments or requests to be put on a payment plan need to be discussed with the director or the treasurer as soon as possible. Fines for damaged or lost equipment and uniforms will be submitted to the activities office. Unpaid fines weigh very seriously on your ability to participate in new school year orientation and graduation ceremonies. Please discuss any concerns with the director or treasurer. When making a contribution of any kind, be sure to put it in a sealed envelope labeled with the student's name, what the money is for, and how much is included.

Student/family participation in fundraising is vital to the success of the music program. Several fundraising opportunities are offered throughout the year, such as gift-wrap,

and frozen cookie dough/pie sales, car washes, raffle tickets, eat-out nights, cow-chip bingo, community discount cards, etc.

SCRIP

Scrip is gift certificates from national and local retailers. They're the same gift certificates that you buy at the store. Hundreds of popular retailers participate in our scrip program including Albertsons, Stater Brothers, JC Penney, The Gap, Pizza Hut, Red Lobster and many, many others. You're probably asking yourself how these stores help us raise money. It's simple -- scrip participating retailers agree to sell gift certificates to our organization at a discount. Member families like yours buy the certificates for full face value, they redeem them for full face value, and our school keeps the difference as revenue. The beauty of scrip is that you put your regular household shopping dollars to work. You earn money for our school without spending a single additional penny. Just spend your regular shopping dollars with scrip at the stores that participate in the scrip program! See a complete list of participating retailers on our website: sonorahighband.com.

The following are replacement costs for various items that are issued to students throughout the school year:

| ITEMS | REPLACEMENT COST |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Tux Jacket | \$175.00 |
| Tux Pants | \$75.00 |
| Cummerbund | \$25.00 |
| Bow Tie | \$15.00 |
| Formal Dress | \$85.00 |
| Necklace | \$10.00 |
| Blue Uniform Jacket | \$375.00 |
| Blue Uniform Pants | \$375.00 |
| Ruffle | \$75.00 |
| Shako | \$55.00 |
| Shako Box | \$15.00 |
| Sweatband | \$12.00 |
| Braids (each) | \$18.00 |
| Garment Bag | \$30.00 |
| Locker Key | \$50.00 |
| Concert Folder | \$30.00 |

Students are responsible for keeping and maintaining the above items while in their possession. All items must be returned when requested or by the end of the school year.

BAND COUNCIL

Band Council is the student leadership of the band. Each position has its own unique responsibilities, and they are outlined below.

Drum Major/ Assistant Drum Major

These are the highest student leaders of the marching band. They take charge of rehearsals when the Director is not present, assist in teaching the field show and all marching activities, are responsible for inspection of section leaders, and accept awards for band at competitions. The Director appoints these students.

Colorguard Captain(s)

These are the highest student leaders of the Colorguard. They help develop and teach new routines, assist in teaching field show and all marching activities, are responsible for inspection of colorguard members, and accept awards for the unit. They are also responsible for reporting the attendance each day to the Secretary. The Director and Colorguard coach appoint these students.

Section Leaders

These members hold necessary sectionals to make sure each person in the section knows their music. Section Leaders help students within their section on a one-on-one basis. They are responsible for attendance in their section and inspection of their section's members. The Director appoints these students.

Secretary

This student member is responsible for taking roll at each event. He / She communicates absences and tardies with the Director. The Director appoints this position.

Librarian

The librarian passes out, files, and duplicates music. This includes marching, concert, and jazz band. He/She checks with section leaders to make sure all musicians have the correct parts and the correct music. The Director appoints this student.

Equipment Crew Chief

This person is in charge of setting up the practice field for 0 Period and all Tuesday practices. He/She helps the boosters load and unload the truck, and makes sure there is enough student help for each event. The Director appoints this student.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

All students are required to be inside the band room by 6:30am. They should be in their seat with stand, music, instrument, and all necessary materials (especially a pencil) at 6:40am. Colorguard should be dressed out with equipment ready to go. Failure to do this will result in a tardy. The first three tardies and every two thereafter result in a one hour service detention in the band room. This is to be served within one week of the issued detention. The service to be done is up to the director. Failure to do this service may result in contact with parents or referral to the dean of attendance, as well as a drop in the participation grade of the student.

The instrument room and music cubbies are to be used only for storing instruments and music. They are not places to store clothes, books, or other school supplies.

Brass players are encouraged to have proper lubrication for moving parts (valve oil, tuning slide grease), and all necessary mutes. They are also encouraged to have (and use often) a mouthpiece brush and cleaning snake. Trombones are encouraged to have slide cream and a water spray bottle.

Reed players are encouraged to have at least four spare reeds that are rotated day to day. Your reeds will last longer and you will get better play from them if you rotate. Cork grease, swabs, and cleaning rods are also encouraged to be on hand.

Percussionists are encouraged to have their proper sticks and mallets at all times. Percussion equipment and music is to be put away at the conclusion of rehearsal. If your instrument has a cover or a case, use it; otherwise, return it to the appropriate storage area. This will keep non-percussionists from using the instruments incorrectly and will keep the equipment in better working order.

Problems of an individual nature (missing music, problems with instrument, etc.) should not take class time. These issues should be dealt with either before school, after school, or between classes. The director is here by 6:15am every morning and is usually available.

Talking during rehearsal **MUST** be kept to a minimum. There should be silence in the room when the conductor gets to the podium. Talking should always be about the music we are studying, and should never be a distraction to the director or other students. During marching season, students are **NOT** to move or talk at all when at attention. Breaking this rule may result in consequences from the Director or Drum Major.

Proper Dress

Students are required to come to class in appropriate attire. This includes following the school dress code. In addition, students must wear clothing that does not hinder the ability to play their instrument in any way. When marching, students should wear clothing that does not restrict the correct marching style. Appropriate fitting pants or shorts and closed-toe shoes are required (**no flip-flops or sandals**).

Paper Work

All paper work to be turned in to the Director should be placed in the "In" box on the piano outside the Director's office. All cash, checks and other money related items should be placed in the lock-box in the Director's office.

Sheet Music

Students are responsible for all music handed out to them. They are financially responsible for lost, stolen and damaged music (approximately \$3-\$5 per part). Music should only be written on in pencil and needs to be turned in on request. All music should be placed in the concert folder and brought to class **every** day by **every** student. Folders are checked out from the director at the beginning of the year.

GRADING POLICY

Because of the unique circumstances involved with the music program, the grading policy is different from most other classes.

Marching PE and the student's concert band class will have almost identical requirements because the two courses are so closely related. In order to prevent a redundancy of the student taking the same test twice for both classes, usually one test or assignment will be administered and counted for both classes. However, because of slight differences, the student may not receive the same grade for both classes.

A student's grade will be lowered one full letter grade for each unexcused missed performance. It is the belief of the Sonora Instrumental Music Staff that the performance culminates everything that we work for in a class and is a vital part of the student's high school music education! Missing a performance is the equivalent of receiving an "F" on a major test in any other academic class, and cannot be made up. Extreme special circumstances for missing a performance should be discussed with the Director on an individual basis at least one week in advance. Excuses after the fact are not acceptable. If a student cannot make the commitment to attend performances, he or she should consider dropping these performing arts courses.

"C" Grade

A student's grade starts with the consideration that he/she is at least average, "C", when he/she walks through the door at the beginning of the school year. The student must show a desire to perform.

Showing up for *ALL* rehearsals and performances *ON TIME* (without behavior or social problems), completing practice assignments, attending sectionals, and receiving an average grade on playing tests, will maintain a student's "average" status. In other words, participation is worth a "C".

"B" Grade

To receive a "B" or "excellent," the student must show genuine signs of effort for the "C" grade as well as the following:

- Few absences
- Practices at home
- Passes off assignment music*
- Has a good attitude and rehearsal habit
- Scores above average on playing and written tests - 80% or above
- Volunteers for special projects
- Participates in small ensembles or solo performances
- Completes all proficiencies**

*This includes the field show and competition march (memorized)

**Scales during the second semester

"A" Grade

To receive an "A" or "superior," the student must show genuine signs of effort for the "C" and "B" grades, but in addition must have evidence of accomplishments for his or her effort. Examples of this may include, but are not limited to:

- Exhibits musical excellence through performance and tests
- Good attitude and willingness to help others in the pursuit of excellence
- Passes off all music on time
- Very few or no absences
- Takes private lessons (optional but recommended)
- Completes all proficiencies

Lower Grades

In the unlikely event the student is unable to maintain the "C" level work, a grade of "D" or "poor" will be given, with the suggestion that improvement is necessary if the student wishes to remain in the program.

The grade "F" or "Fail" will be given in situations where flagrant violations of band policy exist. These include, but are not limited to the student who:

- Willingly causes injury to another member of the group
- Misses required rehearsals or performances without prior consent by the Director
- Is pulled from a performance because of behavior or discipline problems
- Fails to pass or take required tests and pass off assignments

It is the responsibility of the student to make up any missed tests or assignments due to illness or excused absence in a timely fashion!

First semester grades will be broken down into the following percentages:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Participation | 40% |
| Music passed off | 30% |
| Practice Logs* | 20% |
| Playing or written tests | 10% |

Second semester grades will be broken down into the following percentages:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Participation | 40% |
| Proficiencies+ | 30% |
| Practice Logs* | 20% |
| Playing or written tests | 10% |

Grades will be updated and posted regularly on Aeries, the school's on-line grading program. Contact the school office for specific information regarding this program.

*Practice Logs are journals in which students keep track of the time that they have practiced. Students will record their name, date, minutes practiced, and get the signature of either a parent (if practice was at home), or the director (if practice was at school). They are due on the Tuesday of every week. Five points are given for an on-time practice log, three points if it is one day late, one point if it is two days late, and no points are given for practice logs three

or more days late. Points may also be taken off if the practice log does not include dates or signatures.

+Proficiencies are scales that must be passed off to the director. Freshmen must play all twelve major scales plus the chromatic scale the range of their instrument (at least two octaves). Sophomores must pass off six melodic minor scales (their choice). Juniors must play all twelve major scales in thirds. Seniors must pass off the remaining six melodic minor scales.

MARCHING SEASON

You've heard of Pacific, Mountain, Central,
and Eastern Time. Here is the definition of
"RAIDER REGIMENT TIME"
EARLY is 15-20 minutes early
ON TIME is 10-15 minutes early
If you arrive when rehearsal starts, you're LATE!

The Sonora Raider Marching Band performs at all football games, and at parades and band competitions throughout Southern California during the fall marching season. Students receive 5 units toward their Physical Education requirements during the first semester (the required 20 units for graduation is reached after four years participation in band or colorguard). During the marching season, students are required to learn and memorize several important pieces of music. These include the field show (usually 2-4 different pieces) and the competition march. Failure to pass off these pieces will result in a lower grade (see grading policy) and possible removal from the parade block or field show.

Required attendance at practices includes:

- Percussion and Colorguard Camp (a full week of practice prior to band camp for all members of the percussion section and Colorguard);
- Band and Colorguard Camp (a full week of practice for all band and colorguard members prior to the opening of the fall semester of school);
- Two classroom periods during the fall semester (marching PE and concert band); and
- Tuesday after-school practices.

Uniforms are worn at all parade and band competitions and at home football games. Each band member will be assigned two uniforms. One is a dark uniform for home football games and the other is a white uniform for parades and field competitions. Each uniform consists of a shako (hat), jacket, two shoulder braids, and trousers. The dark uniform also has a ruffle/cummerbund that is worn under the jacket. The uniform chairperson will schedule fittings with band members during band camp or early in the school year. Band members must be registered in class prior to being fitted with a uniform.

It is the student's responsibility to see that his/her uniform remains in good condition. Students and/or parents will be financially responsible for any damage caused to the uniform due to negligence or misuse. Dark uniforms will be assigned to the students to take home. White uniforms will be stored at school in the uniform room. Students will return white uniforms, properly hung on the hanger and in its assigned garment bag, to the uniform chairperson or assistants at the conclusion of each band activity. The student will return the dark uniform to the uniform chairperson or assistants after spring break. Returning the uniform dry cleaned would be appreciated. Fine slips will be issued for missing uniforms in June (the day after graduation).

NO EATING IS ALLOWED WHILE STUDENTS ARE IN ANY UNIFORM!!

Additional Important Uniform Information:

* **SHOES** – White (for use with parade uniform) and Black (for use with football uniform) shoes may be ordered through the band at the beginning of the school year. You can also order shoes throughout the year if your student outgrows the previous pair. White shoes are to be cleaned before each performance or competition. (Helpful hint – Mr. Clean Magic Erasers work very well.) White shoelaces should be washed and bleached. Shoelaces may need to be replaced occasionally. All shoes look alike, so be sure to label shoes with student's name. Shoes are to be worn only DURING competition or events. They must not be worn TO events or at any other time.

***SOCKS** – Socks should be calf-high and all white or black (no ankle socks or socks with logos).

***GLOVES** – Two pairs of white gloves can be ordered at the uniform fitting. Gloves are to be clean for each performance. Gloves (along with shoelaces) can be cleaned in warm water with detergent. Let them soak for 15 minutes. Gloves will shrink in the dryer. It is recommended that you lay them out overnight to dry. Only band gloves may be worn to events.

***MAKE-UP** – Make-up, nail polish, and jewelry of any type, including watches and earrings, are NOT allowed while in band uniform. The idea is that the band is one unit and each member needs to look as similar to the other members as possible with no distracting objects or colors.

***HAIR** – Hair length for band students, while in uniform, will be above the collar. Hair longer than this should be worn so it can be easily tucked up under the shako (hat).

***UNDER UNIFORM CLOTHES** - A T-shirt is to be worn under the band jacket (white for the white uniform, dark blue or black for the football uniform). This shirt should be **ALL WHITE/BLACK** and must have sleeves. Students should wear white or gray boxers or compression shorts under their band pants.

Football Games

We will sit together at football games. Students are to remain with their section at all times. No visitors are allowed in the band area. We are there to support the team. All performances will be done in an orderly manner. You are NOT permitted to play another student's instrument. We play as a group or not at all. During the third quarter break, students are NOT allowed to leave the stadium. Band members travel to home

games on their own, and to away games together. Home games are held at La Habra High School.

Basketball Games

All rules for football games apply to basketball games as well. Students get a break between the girl's game and the guy's game.

Refreshment Period

Performers are usually permitted a portion of each event where they may obtain refreshments and use facilities as necessary. This period will be designated at each event. There is to be no eating or drinking (except water) in uniform.

Bus Trips

While traveling to performances, students must remain silent during quiet areas as designated by the Director. This is done so that students can concentrate on the upcoming performance. Students are allowed to talk at other times, however normal bus rules will remain in effect. Students must refrain from loud talking, horseplay of any kind, or breaking of any other bus rule at all times. Students will be required to ride the bus **to and from** each event unless arrangements have been made in advance, and the director has a release note prior to leaving.

Test Scheduling

Students and parents should make it a point not to schedule standardized testing sessions (such as SAT, PSAT, ACT, etc...) on the dates of competitions or other events. If a conflict of dates is unavoidable, students should sign up for a testing site as close to the event as possible in order to facilitate an easy transition.

Field Show, March, and Scale Memorization Dates

Students should receive the competition march and most music for the field show in May or June of the year before. Students are to begin memorization over the summer. Upon the return to school, there will be a sliding pass-off date according to the student's years in school. Seniors should pass off the march to the director by the end of the first full week of school, juniors by the end of the second week of school, sophomores by the end of the third week of school, and freshmen by the end of September.

The field show should be passed off by the first home football game. Scale proficiency during the second semester should be completed by 4:00pm on the Friday before finals.

COLOR GUARD

During marching season, the colorguard participates with the band at all rehearsals, field shows, home football games, and parades. They perform routines that are coordinated to complement and enhance the overall general effect of the band's performance. Requirements include mandatory attendance at Band Camp and Tuesday after-school practices. Colorguard members sign up for Marching P.E./Colorguard during the school day and have additional after-school practices scheduled by the

colorguard coach. For competitive performances, students are required to arrive with clean/polished shoes, no nail polish, and hair arranged as the advisor has instructed. Uniforms are to be brought to school hemmed and clean for each performance.

At the end of the first semester, the colorguard advisors select the students who will perform in the Winter Guard. Competitions are held in gymnasiums throughout Southern California. The Winter Guard performs in the Winter Guard Association of Southern California (WGASC) circuit. They perform a competitive show to recorded music. The uniforms for this auxiliary unit change each year.

If a student is in both band and winterguard, failure to fulfill the requirements for winterguard can jeopardize their band participation grade.

How to Have a Successful Marching Season

1. Put on sunscreen.
2. Drink plenty of fluids during the day.
3. If you are asthmatic, bring your medication and let a chaperone know.
4. If you have another medical condition that could impact your health, be sure that a chaperone is aware of your needs.
5. Be a good competitor – congratulate others on a good performance. Be a good winner! Don't resent others when they win.

CONCERT SEASON

Concert season starts with preparation for the Winter Holiday Concert. Attire for concert season is an all-black long dress and pearl necklace for the female students, and black tuxedo pants, jacket, cummerbund, and bow tie for the male students. Girls may need to hem their dress before the first performance. The dresses and tuxedos belong to the school and will be issued to the students prior to the start of concert season. Male students are encouraged to provide their own white, button down tuxedo shirt to be worn under the jacket. Both male and female students are encouraged to provide their own black dress shoes (and socks). As with the marching uniforms, these items need to be treated with the care they deserve, hung up between performances, and returned to the school at the end of the year in the same condition as when they were issued. Students and/or parents are financially responsible for any damage caused to the items due to misuse or negligence. This concert attire is for school performance use only, not for any other purpose.

FESTIVALS

Festivals are chances for the Symphonic Band to perform for judges and receive ratings. These ratings include (from worst to best) Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent, and Superior. Festivals may also include a clinic with one of the adjudicators, or a sight-reading portion. Festivals generally take place during the second semester.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

The Percussion Ensemble meets after school during the second semester. Sign-ups and tryouts will take place after the marching season concludes. They compete at various competitions in the American Drumline Association (ADLA). There is a fee that is charged to be a member of this group. This fee is used to pay for coaches, equipment, music, tournament entry fees, etc... This fee is in addition to the second semester band fair share.

JAZZ BAND

Jazz band meets after school to practice. Sign-ups for the class and tryouts occur after marching season (usually late November). During spring concert season, they participate in competitions and concerts. Membership is generally limited to the percussion section, saxophones, trumpets, trombones and piano, although other wind instruments are sometimes invited to participate. The jazz band also requires bass, piano, and guitar players.

OTHER ENSEMBLES

Students in the Raider Band have the opportunity to play in several other ensembles. These other ensembles include (but are not limited to) Clarinet Choir, Wind Quartet, Saxophone Quartet, and Brass Quintet. The band also plays for the school musical each year. Students are also encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble festivals. These are chances for students to get comments and feedback on their playing as soloists or in small ensembles.

VARSITY LETTER AWARD

Students can earn a varsity letter in band by meeting the following qualifications:

- the student must be a member of the band for four semesters;
- the student must have received a grade of "B" or better in each semester; and
- the student must have received a citizenship grade of "S" or better in each semester.

GENERAL CONDUCT

Foul or abusive language or gestures are not permitted. Any actions considered disrespectful to music staff, booster, or other persons will be dealt with firmly. Continued misconduct may result in removal from band performances.

Public displays of affection are not allowed. THE BASIC RULE IS - DO NOT DO IT! While personal standards vary from family to family and from peer group to peer group, it is essential that we maintain a policy that can serve all parties. We must maintain an atmosphere that does not encourage inappropriate behavior and which does not infringe upon the rights of others. Some personal behavior can be embarrassing to others forced to observe and be around it, and often times gives a bad impression of our group to others. It is easier to maintain a reasonable atmosphere of friendship and camaraderie without the pressure of dealing with inappropriate public displays.

Enrolled students are entitled to appropriate educational opportunities during classroom periods. Extracurricular participation, including rehearsals, performances, and travel are privileges and may be withdrawn at the discretion of the Director.

POLICIES FOR SPECIAL SITUATIONS

Drugs, Alcohol, Controlled Substances

Possession of the above substances will result in removal from participating in the music program and will be reported to the appropriate authorities. Fullerton Union High School district has a zero tolerance policy for student possession of these substances.

Smoking, Tobacco

School policy prohibits the use or possession of tobacco. Penalties include suspension from school and possible transfer to another school.

Lost and Found

Lost and found items will be put in the lost and found box at the front of the band room. Unclaimed items will be removed from the lost and found once a month. It is the student's responsibility to check this box for lost items. Sonora High School and the Instrumental Music Program can not be held responsible for lost or stolen items.

Travel Policies

A Medical Release Form must be signed and on file with the Head Chaperone before any student may travel. Special health problems should also be noted so that adequate care can be provided when away from home. Please update during the year if necessary.

Adult supervision is provided on all band and colorguard trips. The Fullerton Union High School District is responsible for each student traveling with the group. Students traveling to an event with the music group must return in the same manner, with the following exception: Students may return with their own parents or guardian if a note has been given to the Director, in advance, relieving the Director of all responsibility. Students and parents must also make eye contact with the director before they are released. Students may not ride home from a music event with a friend or parents of a friend unless parental permission has been received in writing.

The Sonora Music Boosters organization assumes no responsibility for any personal items. It is suggested that valuables be left at home.

Buses are to be clean and free of trash at the end of all trips. Students are responsible for loading and unloading their own instrument, personal belongings, and equipment before and after all events.

At the conclusion of all events, students should arrange to be picked up at school **promptly at the designated pick-up time.** Pick-up times are listed in the itinerary that is sent home with students prior to the event. Students are to be released only after all equipment and instruments are back in the band room in their appropriate place.

PARENT GUIDELINES

1. Student **attendance** is important. Don't allow students to miss school.
2. Students should **practice as often as possible**. Have your musician play for you occasionally. Encourage excellence from them.
3. Avoid overloading your musician with too many extra activities. Their performance will suffer overall.
4. **Become involved** with your child's music-related activities. **Volunteering** is a great way to be involved. **Extra help is always needed!**
5. **Attend events and meetings** and make positive and encouraging comments about performances. Our attitudes reflect on our kids, which in turn affects their performance.
6. **Encourage good sportsmanship** toward each other and to our competitors at all times.

ABOUT THE MUSIC BOOSTERS - WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

The purpose of the Sonora Band Boosters organization is to promote, support, and supplement the activities of the music students and performing groups of the Sonora High music department. The all-volunteer group has an operating budget that is approved each year by the Sonora booster organization, usually at the final meeting of the school year. Fundraisers are selected to raise money to meet the needs of the year's music program. All parents can participate in the booster program. A large number of parent volunteers are needed each year to help fill leadership and support positions, help out with fundraisers, chaperone at events, haul equipment, etc. It is not the sole responsibility of the booster officers to facilitate all band events. With both mothers and fathers working outside the home these days, everyone needs to contribute so that no undue burden falls on a small group. Be sure to consult the band activities calendar at the beginning of the school year and mark on your calendar in advance some dates where you can lend your support at scheduled events. **Please do not assume that "someone else will do it."** Besides helping to manage the needs of the music program, it is a lot of fun. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to become actively involved in the organization and lend their time, talents and provide direction in support of this effort. Booster meetings are usually the first Tuesday of each month. Check the activities calendar for more information. Reminders are also provided throughout the year.

COMMUNICATION: HOW PARENTS STAY INFORMED

The Band Director and the booster organization have set up the following procedures for communicating information to all members.

SONORA RAIDER REGIMENT WEBSITE - includes a tremendous amount of information about the program including an updated calendar. It can be found at sonorahighband.com

GENERAL BOOSTERS MEETINGS of the Sonora Band Boosters are held monthly in the band room at Sonora High School at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. In addition to conducting the business of the organization, a large segment of the meeting

is devoted to providing information on various events and activities. The Band Director is present as well. Attendance at the general meetings is encouraged.

ITINERARIES - Music students are given detailed performance schedules and other information by the Band Director during their music period. Parents should ask their students to see fliers sent home!

E-MAIL—The above communication methods are supplemented by e-mail. If you would like to receive e-mail updates, please e-mail us at info@sonorahighband.com and we will add you to the list.

TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Adjudicator – A Judge at a competition or festival

Band Camp – A weeklong practice in August just before school starts

Band Review – A street competition that does not include a parade afterward

Charts – Computer-generated pages of numbered places (also known as drill) that are used to find the student's spot on the field

Clinician – An outside person who critiques and works with the band on various musical or marching aspects

Concert Season – The time from the end of marching season to our last concert (usually starting at the winter concert and ending with graduation); includes school concerts, festivals, Drum-line shows, and solo-ensemble festivals

Festival – A concert season performance in which the band plays and is rated from Superior to Poor

Field Show – The show that is performed at competitions and at half time at football games

Freshman / Senior Day – A day right before band camp for freshmen to come and get acquainted with the seniors and learn how to march

Marching Season – The time from Band Camp until our last competition (usually mid-August to mid-November); includes football games, parades, tournaments, and Tuesday practices

Parade Block – The formation of the students when they are competing or performing on the street

Pep Rally – An event on campus in support of one or more sports teams at which the band plays

Sweepstakes – The highest award of a competition; may include music, colorguard, drill team, or other special awards

Tournament – Any parade or field show in which the band competes with other groups

MARCHING COMMANDS TO KNOW

Squad Atten Hut – Calls students to attention immediately. No talking or moving is allowed. Also known as “set” position

Horns Up/ Down – Brings instruments up to playing position or down to attention position

Dress Center Dress – Brings students to the “dress” position. Students bring their horns up and look to the center. Students CAN move in this position. It is designed to make sure the rank/file/form is correct

Ready Front – Brings students from Dress Center back to Attention

Mark Time Hut – Starts students moving their feet. Students stay in the same place lifting their heels about three inches off the ground

Forward/ Backward March – Starts students in a forward or backward motion, respectively

Ready Halt – Stops students forward or backwards motion

Parade Rest – Allows students a more relaxed attention position when standing for extended periods of time

About Face – Turns students around 180 degrees

Left/ Right Face – Turns students to the left or right 90 degrees

Counter March – Starts students in a forward motion pattern that turns the block around 180 degrees

Squad Dismissed – Only command that allows students to leave

*Several commands also have whistle counterparts that are used while students are playing or in other circumstances. These must be learned as well.

Music Makes the Difference



"Students who are rhythmically skilled also tend to better plan, sequence, and coordinate actions in their daily lives".

-Cassily Column, TCAMS Professional Resource Center, 2000

"College admissions officers continue to cite participation in music as an important factor in making admissions decisions. They claim that music participation demonstrates time management, creativity, expression, and open-mindedness."

-Carl Hartman, "Arts May Improve Students Grades". The Associated Press, October, 1999



"Students who can perform complex rhythms can also make faster and more precise corrections in many academic and physical situations, according to the Center for Timing, Coordination, and Motor Skills.

-"Rhythm seen as key to music's evolutionary role in human intellectual development", Center for Timing, Coordination, and Motor Skills, 2000



"In academic situations, students in music programs are less likely to draw unfounded conclusions.

-Champions of Change, Federal Study, 1999.

Student Name _____

Sonora High School Band and Colorguard 2016-2017

The Director hopes that both students and parents will find this handbook both useful and informative. This handbook replaces all previous handbook editions.

Please sign and return the bottom portion of this page to the Band Director after you have read the entire contents of the handbook. It is suggested that you keep the handbook in a spot where you can easily locate it for future reference throughout the year.

To the Band Director:

We have read, understand, and will abide by the responsibilities, obligations, and policies of the music program and booster organization as stated in this handbook. Failure to follow these policies may result in school discipline and/or removal from the program.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

The Director would like to make available a phone list of the members of the band and colorguard. This list can be used for communicating to other members about upcoming events, carpooling, etc., and has been proven to be very useful in the past. If you wish to NOT be included in the Band/Colorguard phone list to be distributed to families, please check the box here.

By checking the above box, I am withholding my phone number from the band/colorguard telephone list.

The Band and Colorguard Boosters like to disseminate information through e-mail whenever possible. To receive all future band e-mails and eliminate the possibility of typo's in members' addresses, please send an e-mail to: info@sonorahighband.com

Please include: the name of the student (always)
whether the address belongs to the student or an adult
if an adult, the name of the adult.

We will send separate notices to as many e-mail addresses as you care to give us.

Your e-mail address will not be given to anyone other than the band director and band booster officers without your permission. If you are already receiving the band e-mails, you need not respond to this request. If you have changes or additions, send them along.

Questions or comments to the director can be put on the back of this sheet.

Questions and/or Comments?