



## **Fishers Marching TIGER Band Handbook**

Congratulations! You have chosen to be a part of the Fishers High School Marching TIGER Band! In this handbook you will find all the information for the Fishers High School TIGER Band.

The Fishers band program embodies the vision, mission, and core purpose set forth by Fishers High School. Fishers High School education community will nurture a culture of excellence and empower students to become lifelong learners. Our mission is to promote respect, foster pride, and inspire excellence. Our core purpose is to prepare lifelong learners who positively impact an ever-changing world.

All those interested in doing the Fishers marching TIGER Band you **MUST** register online whether you are a veteran or are new. This will allow us to prepare for uniforms, food, transportation and drill numbers.

**Membership** The TIGER Band contains three main groups: winds, color guard, and percussion. In unison they comprise the TIGER band. This ensemble will play for all home football games and competitions as set on the band calendar, which is found at <https://www.fishersband.org/events/>

**Membership Ineligibility** A student may be placed on the ineligible list due to outstanding balance from the previous season, due to recommendation of the director and/or staff for contract violations occurring from the previous season or due to infractions of the Fishers High School Dean's Office.

**Academic Standards** Any student who does not obtain a 2.0 GPA during the season will be placed on academic probation. This is to protect the integrity of our program and to help students understand that a good education is paramount to your success in life.

**CUT-TIME** will be used by this ensemble to help send informational messages as well as music and videos. All members will be automatically added to CUT-TIME upon registering for the ensemble. the band app is a great tool and we send information through this frequently! We will use section reminds (Brass, Percussion, Woodwinds, Guard and even a parent remind.) PARENTS PLEASE do not sign up for section reminds as each groups has a participant limit. When we send messages we **WILL** send you the exact same message we send the kids.

**Financial Responsibilities/Dues** cover expenses related to uniforms, flags, props, equipment, transportation, contest entry fees, and staff. Please see the website for more information regarding season fees, breakdown of payments, and possible discounts. Including scholarship information. Please contact the Student Accounts representative by emailing [studentaccounts@fishersband.org](mailto:studentaccounts@fishersband.org)

**Additional costs** Guard warm ups \$65-85 Percussion sticks /Mallets \$10/pair (usually 5-7pair) Marching shoes **NOW INCLUDED IN THE FEES** UDB app license (drill software) **NOW INCLUDED IN THE FEES** Fundraising Please visit the Fishers Band website for fundraising opportunities including Snap Raise, SCRIP, Connor Prairie and Lucas Oil Stadium Concession

opportunities, and Trash Bag Sales. Many families raise most or ALL of their fees through these opportunities. For the band GENERAL ACCOUNT we may host fundraisers during the year to go to the general account. These may include but not limited to, Bake Sales, Car Washes, Online Sales, and so on. These are in place to help keep the individual membership fees as low as possible. All students are expected to participate.

**Attendance** to all rehearsals and performances is MANDATORY due to the accelerated pace of the program. All conflicts must be shared with Mr. Kohler prior to the start of the season. We reserve the right to make minimal changes to the existing schedule, provided they supply adequate notice to all members. Mostly these changes are due to facility or accommodation changes. If a student misses a rehearsal for ANY reason, it is the responsibility of the student to learn what was missed outside of normal rehearsal hours by working with a captain or veteran member in the student's own section. Failure to do so could result in a change in the student's allowance to perform.

**Excused absences** include, but are not limited to contagious illness or fever, major family events, or religious obligations. We will determine the validity of all excused absences. Unexcused absences include, but are not limited to work, practice for other activities (unless pre-approved by Mr. Kohler), professional concerts/plays, routine doctor appointments, vacations, lack of transportation, or homework. ALL unexcused absences will be reflected in the student's allowance to perform, and repeat violations could lead to dismissal from the group. If a student is unexcused from the rehearsal the day of a performance, the student may or may not be permitted to perform that day.

**Tardiness** If a student is running late to rehearsal, then it is the responsibility of the student to contact a section leader AND director. Repeat violations will be reflected in the student's allowance to perform and could lead to dismissal from the group.

**Illness** If a student is absent from school due to illness, they will not be expected to attend rehearsal. HOWEVER, to be granted an excused absence, the parent or guardian needs to email or call the director prior to the missed rehearsal. If student misses more than one rehearsal in a row due to illness, a doctor's note will be required. If a student is not contagious or running a fever, they are highly encouraged to come to rehearsal to watch and take notes. HSE District Policy: Students who are absent all day, due to illness, may not attend an extracurricular activity that day. If extenuating school or family circumstances result in a student's failure to be present the required four completed periods, an exception can be made. Communication is the key. We understand that emergencies happen. Please contact the director immediately about potential absences, illness, and injury.

**REHEARSALS** Rehearsal Etiquette Always show respect for all staff, leaders, and teammates. Be on time (5minutes early is ten minutes late), NO cell phones during rehearsal unless used for UDB, come hydrated, bring water, refrain from talking, follow your section leader and staff, improve every second of rehearsal. Should a student demonstrate on a regular basis that he or she does not subscribe to the proper conduct at a rehearsal, we reserve the right to evaluate the student's memberships eligibility, and to make a decision as to whether the student should perform in upcoming shows. We also reserve the right to send such a student home from rehearsal and request a parent/student conference to determine future course of action.

**Rehearsal Attire** All students are required to wear appropriate athletic clothes and athletic shoes during rehearsal. NO JEANS!!!! Please use common sense in regards to the weather. On the Thursday rehearsals of each week members of both groups will be asked to wear all black. On the Friday football game days, students will wear the RED Parade/ FHS Band shirts If a student is in violation of the appropriate dress code, they will be asked to call home for the

appropriate apparel. If a student is in continued violation, the student will be asked to leave rehearsal.

**Conditioning** It is important to note that marching band is a physical activity. There is a great demand placed on a student to be able to march and perform a complete show. It is the belief of the staff that there should be some proper conditioning on the part of the students, in order to facilitate a strong personal performance and to prevent injury. Calisthenics, stretching, and running will be reinforced at rehearsal.

**Equipment** It is the responsibility of the student to take care of the equipment. Lost or excessively damaged equipment will be the student's responsibility to replace. Never slam equipment into other instruments or the doors and walls. Do not sit or lay on equipment. For safety reasons, never let members from other sections use your equipment. To check out school owned equipment (brass, woodwind, drums or mallet instruments), you will need to check out it out with the director. Students will be responsible for lost or broken equipment on an individual basis. Students using a school instrument will be assessed a rental fee for the season.

**PERFORMANCES** Trip Etiquette Please remember you are representing Fishers High School. Be respectful of other groups, each other, and applaud for each performance. Do not talk disrespectfully about any group as you never know who is sitting or standing around you. - Always follow instructions from directors, staff, and chaperones. - No photos or videos will be taken on the bus. - We are ambassadors of the HSE School District, Fishers High School, and the Fishers Band Program. Always conduct yourself appropriately and absolutely NO public displays of affection or inappropriate language. After performances, we will sit in the stands together. The buddy system will be used if going to concessions and the restroom.

**UNIFORM** Students will wear uniforms while at shows. This includes either the show shirt or a Fishers shirt, jacket and pants. If you change into your uniform early, Guard might wear warm up (jacket zipped) OVER your uniform. - Hair and makeup designs will be determined by directors. All students must comply with the look to the best of their ability for the purpose of uniformity. - If a student colors their hair, please keep it a natural color. Extreme colors are prohibited. - NO jewelry will be worn while in uniform. - Do not eat or drink anything other than water in uniform.

**Buses** Respect chaperones, bus drivers, and event personal just as you do the staff. - All HSE district bus rules apply. - Buses will be clean at the end of the trip. Remember the Golden Rule: Pick up trash.... even if it's not yours. - All students are required to ride the bus to competition. If a student would like to ride home with their parents, then a handwritten note must be given to the Director who will inform the head chaperone PRIOR to leaving for the performance. A chaperone must see a student leaving with THEIR OWN parent/guardian. Students may not leave with someone else's parent even if consent is given. The only exception will be those students carpooling to another school event. It will be the responsibility of the student leaving to make sure their equipment and uniform make it back to the school the day of the performance.

**Code of Conduct** - Since Marching Band is a Fishers High School activity, members MUST adhere to all rules and regulations as set forth by Fishers High School and Hamilton Southeastern Schools. - Superior, attentive conduct is mandatory at all rehearsals and competitions. Full cooperation with the staff and faculty is expected. - There will be no use or carriage of illegal substances, drugs, alcohol, or tobacco in any form at any time. - Violent actions, language or aggressive behavior will not be tolerated. Members are to keep their hands to themselves. - Members will refrain from any questionable behavior or action. (This

includes avoiding the perception of wrongdoing!) - Members are to act courteously and dress appropriately at FHS, host schools, buses, and festival facilities. Students are to show respect for all people, property and local rules at all times. - Members will respect the equipment they are using including but not limited to sound equipment, poles, silks, rifles, sabers, uniforms, props, carts, and transportation vehicles. Students will be responsible for replacement equipment they damage. - Any member who fails to abide by this code will be subject to Hamilton Southeastern Schools' disciplinary policies and procedures and will forfeit their membership in the Fishers High School Tiger Band program. Communication Almost 100% of communication will be through newsletters, THE BAND app and CUTTIME. BOTH parents and students are expected to check for information on a daily basis. The official Calendar is the band website calendar. Parents, if you have questions, please ask your student first. (Students, please make sure you are passing along all information to your parents.). If the student is unable to answer, please email or call the director.

**Communication** expectations from Members and Parents It is the goal of the staff is that each student in the program receives the most rewarding and fulfilling experience. It is important to understand that there will also be times when things do not go the way you and your student wish. When this occurs, discussion with the staff is encouraged. It is the first and the most integral step to understanding and to coming to a resolution.

**Appropriate Concerns** to Discuss Treatment of YOUR student, Ways to help YOUR student improve, Concerns about YOUR student's behavior Inappropriate Concerns to Discuss A student's spot in the drill/show, or changes to existing spot in the drill, assigned equipment, Show design, other students, If you have a concern, call or email the director to discuss the matter or set up an appointment. Please DO NOT attempt to confront a staff member or director before or after a contest or rehearsal. This can be an emotional and hectic time for both staff and parents.

**Concerns** with a Staff Member The staff is selected based on their qualifications to do the job asked of them and share many years of experience between them. If a concern is raised about a particular staff member, please contact the director as soon as possible. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.