



## **Fishers Marching Tiger Band Handbook**

Congratulations! You have chosen to be a part of the Fishers High School Marching Tiger Band! This handbook contains all the information regarding expectations, attendance, performances, and communication for all members of the Marching 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.

### **Fishers Marching Tiger Band Membership**

For all students interested in participating in the Fishers Marching Tiger Band, you must register online via CutTime. This is required of all new and veteran members. This will allow the Directors, Band Boosters, and other Committees to prepare for the appropriate number of uniforms, drill numbers, meals, and transportation. Membership of the Marching Tiger Band contains three main groups: Wind Musicians, Percussion Musicians, and Color Guard Performers. The ensemble will perform at a number of football games, the annual Spark! Fishers Parade, and competitions on a state, regional, and national stage. All events are detailed under the Calendar tab on [www.fishersband.org](http://www.fishersband.org).

### **Physicals**

All members of the Fishers Marching TIGER Band must have a physical on file with the school district, uploaded to FinalForms, before their first day of rehearsal.

## **Membership Ineligibility**

A student may be deemed ineligible to participate in the Fishers Marching Tiger Band due to outstanding balances from the previous season, recommendation of the director or school administration, and violations of any policies set forth by the HSE Code of Conduct, Fishers High School, and the Fishers High School Band.

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 promote that a good education is paramount to your success in life.

## **Communication**

ParentSquare and StudentSquare will be the official communication platform used by the band directors to send out program information to all participating families of the Marching Tiger Band. This platform will be used to send out important messages regarding rehearsals, camp/show day itineraries, volunteering opportunities, etc.

CutTime, the same platform used for registration, will be the platform used by the Band Boosters to communicate booster information, including payment reminders, volunteering opportunities, and more. Parents, please do not sign up for Student Section Reminds or GroupMe. All official communication from the directors will be shared with students and their families via ParentSquare and StudentSquare.

## **Financial Responsibilities & Dues**

Each participating family is responsible for paying their student's fees. These fees are determined by the Directors and Band Boosters Executive Board, and voted on by the booster organization.

Fees paid by families cover expenses related to uniforms, props, flags, equipment, transportation, contest fees, and contracted staff members. Refer to [www.fishersband.org](http://www.fishersband.org) for more information regarding season fees, breakdown of payments, possible discounts, and scholarship information. Contact the Student Accounts representatives with questions about fees by emailing [studentaccounts@fishersband.org](mailto:studentaccounts@fishersband.org).

Additional costs:

- Woodwind and Brass
  - Personal Instrument Rental through Paige's Music
  - Reeds, Valve Oil, Rehearsal Gloves, etc

- Percussion
  - Personal sets of sticks and mallets
- Color Guard
  - Warm Up Sweats
  - Equipment

## **Fundraising**

Visit [www.fishersband.org](http://www.fishersband.org) for personal fundraising opportunities which include Connor Prairie, Lucas Oil Stadium Concessions, and Trash Bag Sales. Many families raise most or ALL of their fees through these opportunities. In addition to personal fundraising, the band boosters may host fundraisers during the year that benefit the entire band. These may include but are not limited to Snap! Raise, car washes, gift card sales, etc. General band fundraisers are part of the annual budget and help keep the individual membership fees as low as possible. All students are expected to participate in general band fundraisers.

## **Attendance**

Participant attendance is mandatory due to the rigorous performance tasks asked of the members. All conflicts must be shared with Mr. Gardner prior to the start of the season. All excused and unexcused absences must be communicated via email to Mr. Gardner at [egardner@hse.k12.in.us](mailto:egardner@hse.k12.in.us)

The Directors reserve the right to make minimal changes to the schedule due to factors such as weather, contest performance times, facility spaces, and transportation. If any member of the ensemble misses a rehearsal, it is the responsibility of the member to communicate with their director about what material they may have missed. It is also the responsibility of the member to communicate with their section leader or drum major to request a help session and review materials from that rehearsal. Failure to do so could result in changes to that member's ability to perform at that week's performance.

The Directors will determine the validity of all excused absences. Excused absences include, but are not limited to:

- College visits
- Contagious illness or fever
- Major family events
- Religious obligations

Unexcused absences include, but are not limited to:

- Work
- Practice for other FHS/HSE organizations
- Concerts/musicals/plays
- routine doctor appointments
- Vacations
- Lack of transportation
- 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.

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.

### **Rehearsal**

- Always show respect for ALL staff, leadership, and participating members
- Be on time
- NO cell phones during rehearsal, unless explicit permission has been given
- Come to rehearsal hydrated and bring an acceptable water jug
- Refrain from talking during instructional time
- Follow your section leader and staff
- Improve every second of rehearsal.

All students are required to wear appropriate athletic clothing and shoes during rehearsal. Jeans, crocs, and toeless shoes are unacceptable. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

Thursday night rehearsals - wind and percussion members will wear WHITE tops and color guard members will wear PINK tops. On Friday rehearsals or football game days, ALL students will wear the provided Red Parade/FHS Band shirts.

If a student does not wear the appropriate attire, they may be asked to not participate in a rehearsal.

## **Performances**

- 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 - Per HSE School Policy
- After performances, we will sit in the stands or head to full retreat together.
- The buddy system will be used when going to concessions and the restroom, along with communication and explicit permission from an adult staff member or chaperone.

## **Uniforms**

Students will wear uniforms while at shows. This includes the show shirt/Red shirt, uniform jacket, and uniform pants. The Color Guard may wear warm ups over their uniform, as deemed necessary by the color guard directors and staff. Hair, makeup, and any other cosmetic choices will be determined by show designers and directors. All students must comply with the costuming in order for ensemble uniformity. For the duration of the season, unnatural hair colors will be prohibited. Do not eat or drink anything other than water in uniform.

## **Transportation**

- Respect chaperones, bus drivers, and event personnel 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**

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. Cooperation with the staff and faculty is expected and required. 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. 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: instruments, 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.

For any questions, please reach out to the Band Directors for any clarification.

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