

Welcome to the Viking Band

Welcome to the 2019-2020 Spartanburg High School Band. This handbook will serve to provide band members and their parents with information and guidelines to help them better understand the marching band program. Please read it carefully. In addition to this handbook, specific Band Contracts will be given to be signed by both parents and students. This will provide record that you have received and understand the rules, guidelines, and policies of the marching band program. This handbook should be kept in a convenient place for quick reference throughout the year. For your convenience, you may also find a copy of the handbook at www.vikingband.org/handbook.

The Spartanburg High School Band offers a unique opportunity for young people to learn the value of working hard as a (quite large) team toward worthy goals. We pride ourselves in educating our students in leadership, musicianship, performance skills and the development of character. Students, by working together unselfishly, learn the habits of highly successful people. They perform great music, make many friends and share in a fun experience that will build memories for a lifetime. Students that take full advantage of the entire program will benefit the most from the opportunities that we offer.

Finally, the program cannot exist without the support of parents. We look forward to you being active in as many parent activities as possible (booster club, volunteering, fundraising, etc). These few years in which your "child" is becoming a "young adult" are special and will go by quickly (just ask former band parents). Your donation of time in this band will give you the best band experience.

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Jeff Key
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Letter From the Director

Viking Band Members & Supporters,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome each of you, students and parents, to the Spartanburg High School Viking Band. To many of you, this will be another year of striving for excellence. But to those of you that will experience the Viking Band for the first time, we hope this handbook answers most of your questions and makes the year easier for you. I guarantee that every effort will be made to help you realize that you are an *important* part of the SHS Viking Band.

The information in this handbook is vital to our success as a program. If you are a returning member, you may notice that some small changes, so please read carefully. Be sure that you understand the expectations of being part of the band. The directors have combed over our policies and procedures to make us as effective and successful as possible!

To our marching band students, please give special attention to the marching band sections in this handbook. This year our show title is *Norse Legend*. Last year, we increased the scope of what we do and found a lot of success. We will continue to build upon that model as we explore all things "Norse" in our most epic endeavor yet!

Once again, we're so glad to welcome all of you to the **Spartanburg High School Viking Band!** Each of you is vital for our success and we look forward to another year of excellence!

Sincerely,



John McAllister

Objective

The mission of the Spartanburg High School Band is to “Inspire and Equip” young adults through musical performance and community philanthropy in order to develop skills of confidence, leadership, responsibility, and high standards of excellence and character that will remain throughout their lives.



Character Matters

One principle that the band takes pride in is that “character matters.” We devote a significant amount of time teaching students about decision making. We depend on each other, so teaching students to make “moral decisions” helps us to achieve excellence. It is important to note that there is no bench in band. Every member counts all the time, so character, loyalty, and dedication truly matter.

Questions students need to ask: What does one do when people are looking? What does one do when no one is looking? How do you treat others around you? How do you treat our facilities and equipment? How do you treat the facilities and equipment of the places that we visit?

We teach our students that they need to be positive ambassadors for Spartanburg High School, highlighting the high levels of excellence taking place each day within our schools.

Rehearsal Etiquette

Rehearsal Etiquette refers to the student behavior during rehearsals. This trait is indicative of the performance ability levels of each ensemble. In order for our groups to perform at the highest possible level, our members must understand the characteristics of proper Rehearsal Etiquette. Members of ensembles that exhibit these traits take pride in how they behave during rehearsal times. Individuals do these things:

1. Do their best to be attentive and listen to instructions at all times
2. Come to rehearsal prepared and ready to give their best effort
3. Bring all needed equipment to rehearsal depending on the type of rehearsal
 1. instrument, music, pencil, instrument needs-reeds/valve oil
 2. Marching band specifics-water jugs, sun protection, tennis shoes, drill cards, copies of music for outdoor, etc)
4. Move from moment to moment with a sense of urgency; treat each minute of rehearsal like sand in an hourglass
5. Save social time for outside of rehearsal

Behavior Expectations

Students in the Viking Band must remember that they are always ambassadors/representatives for the band program, but also for Spartanburg High School, and Spartanburg School District 7. Professionalism and conduct must remain as our top priority at all times.

- Members will treat fellow members, directors, the band staff and chaperones with respect and courtesy
- Members will pay attention (no talking) when being addressed (director/staff/leadership/parent/etc)
- Members will follow all instructions given by directors/staff/chaperones
- Students are expected to be positive when interacting with each other
- Clothing worn during rehearsals must meet school dress code
- Things that will not be tolerated at any point include:
 - Negativity
 - Horseplay
 - Profanity, Vulgarity, or Obscenities
 - Public Displays of Affection

Marching Band Grades

It is important to note that even though marching band rehearsals and performances are held outside of the school day, marching band is a class and counts toward your GPA. In addition, juniors and seniors can receive honors credit which can *significantly* boost your GPA!

The Marching Band Grade is 60% Attendance and 40% Individual Responsibilities.

Individual Responsibilities include keeping up with music/drill cards, maintaining a properly working instrument, caring for all equipment (instrument, field, indoor and outdoor rehearsal space, etc.) Also included in Individual Responsibilities are pass offs. Music and Drill must be passed off in order to participate in contests performances. Pass Offs are considered pass/fail and are very important towards our final performance.

Middle School Students

Participating middle school students will not receive a grade but are expected to follow the same expectations for pass-offs and attendance. Your participation is VITAL to our success.

Marching Band General Information

Marching Band Eligibility

If students want to participate in marching band, we will find a place for them! We want all students to be involved as this is our most publicly visible part of the band program.

Please read the established guidelines for Attendance, Equipment, Responsibilities.

Required Equipment

Students must always have all required equipment at rehearsals and performances. We understand that mistakes can happen, but students must make sure that they always have these required materials:

- Instrumentalists must have their instrument and any needed additional accessories (Mouthpieces, Reeds, Neck Straps, Cork Grease, Valve Oil, Etc.)
- Reed players must always have four cane reeds in rotation at any given time.
- Percussionists need sticks and other instrument specific materials as noted by McDaniel and instructors
- All students must have necessary music at all times (i.e. show music at rehearsal, flip folder in stands, etc)

Non-musical items—mandatory for everyone.

- Water jug — must be at least a half gallon
- Sun Protection- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Hat

We recommend that you have a lightweight backpack where you can keep the required items that you will always need.

Marching Member Responsibilities

Music Pass-Offs

- Students must play all required music pass-offs for designated captain or band director/staff
 - Music is ALL or Nothing - Pass/Fail expectation
 - Music must be played from memory
 - All notes and rhythms must be correct with an understanding of all other musical devices (dynamics, articulations, etc)

Marching/Visual Pass-Offs

- Students must demonstrate proper technique/movement for a band director/staff
 - This is a pass off—it is either correct or not (pass/fail)
 - Pass offs will be determined throughout the season and the point value will be assigned at the end of the semester

****Note:** Students who have completed all their assigned pass-offs are given priority when signing up for pep band games. ******

Marching Band Attendance Policy

****Attendance is the single most significant element to our success as a marching band****

- Students are required to be at all marching band events - rehearsals, performances, and other announced events
- Students should arrive 15 minutes prior to the published start time
 - There will often be clean-up required that will take place beyond the published dismissal time (side note: all students involved are expected to help clean up after rehearsal)
- A tardy will be issued to a student if he/she is not in their spot, ready to go, at the published start time.

**** Attendance Policy Continued on Next Page ****

Excused Tardies & Absences-

- A student/parent must communicate in writing/email with a director *beforehand* for a tardy or absence to be excused
- Absence due to illness
 - ****Please communicate with director ASAP if a student is sick and will not be in attendance. ****
 - Doctor's note or signed parent form **MUST** be turned in. Absence will **not** be excused if proper protocol isn't followed
 - Illness absences will be retroactively excused, so make certain that forms are dated appropriately
- Absence due to family conflicts/medical conflicts
 - *Please do everything possible to schedule appointments (doctor, dentist, orthodontist) on days we do not rehearse.*
 - Must be communicated at least two weeks in advance (14 days)
 - It is preferred to exhaust all other options before issuing an excused absence.
 - Practices for out-of-season sports will not be excused. Students should be at band practice until our season has ended.
 - Absences will be excused at director discretion
- Other "In-Season" organization conflicts
 - This is on an individual basis and student *should not assume* that it will be permitted.
 - We do our best to work with other organizations to allow participation in multiple activities.
 - Unfortunately, due to conflicting practice times/schedules with the following organizations, students will not be issued a regular spot in the competition band if they're participating in football, football cheerleading, cross country, volleyball, step team — students participating in these activities can participate with the marching band in a lesser capacity if desired (e.g. helping move equipment and props at competitions and home games)

Unexcused Tardies & Absences

- Unexcused tardy - results in two points detracted from attendance grade
 - Student required to make up missed time (e.g. stay after and practice with a student leader or director)
- Unexcused absence from rehearsal - students loses 10 points from attendance grade
 - Student will not be allowed to perform at next band non-competition performance (will stand on sideline at attention & lose 3rd quarter break)
- Unexcused absence from performance - student loses 25 points from attendance grade
 - Note: unexcused absences from a performance cannot be made up and are grounds for dismissal from the program
- Any unexcused absence or tardy automatically disqualifies student for the next pep band game (this cannot be made up)

Please note that the above consequences are for UNEXCUSED absences. For excused absences, students will be encouraged to learn missed material as soon as possible.

Make-Up Opportunities

Students can recoup 50% of the points lost by coming to practices during their "off-days" from rehearsal.

Attire

Rehearsal Attire

Students should wear *school-appropriate* athletic clothing. Sneakers/athletic shoes are required at all times.

- These footwear items are NOT allowed** — sandals (slides), flip-flops, boots, flats, boat shoes **Please note that this is for the safety of the members.**
- No jeans/thick pants allowed though this requirement may be waived for individuals as it cools down
- Students are highly encouraged to wear light-colored clothing that breathes easily

Summer/Hot-Weather Uniform

We will wear this uniform until it cools down enough for us to wear our regular uniforms.

- Khaki shorts with belt
- Show shirt tucked in
- No brightly colored shoes
- Ankle socks that do not show

Full Uniform

We will begin to wear this uniform as we approach competition performances.

- Black Tall Socks
- Athletic Shorts to wear under the uniform
- Black Uniform Marching Shoes
 - We size everyone in the group for new shoes every year but only students that are new (or need new shoes) should purchase them. The only exception will be on a year when we change to a new type of marching shoe that everyone in the program will purchase new shoes. The cost for these is \$40 (not included in band fee).
- Designated Show Shirt
- Gloves as indicated at the beginning of the season
 - First pair of gloves will be free - subsequent pairs must be purchased from the band room
- All Uniform Parts as issued by the program:
- Jacket and all included sashes (drop sash, chest sash, etc.)
- Shako, Shako Sleeve, Shako Mirror
- Bibbers
- And any other issued uniform parts.

Half-Uniform

This uniform is only worn at contests when warming up or traveling.

- Black Tall Socks
- Athletic Shorts to wear under the uniform
- Black Uniform Marching Shoes
- Issued Show Shirt
- Bibbers

Pre-Summer Camp, Drum Camp, Guard Camp

These are mandatory camps for all marching band students.

Hornline- learning/honing the basics of marching/movement, working on the show music and learning stands tunes for the season.

Guard- learning/practicing skills necessary for the season

Percussion- Mr. McDaniel will give a letter to all percussionists involved in drum camp. Please direct questions to Mr. McDaniel.

Band Camp

Attendance is required unless an arrangement has been made with Mr. McAllister. Be sure to discuss any conflicts as soon as possible. That being said, we need *everyone* at ALL of band camp. Band camp is essential to learning as much as possible in several different aspects: halftime show, pregame music, stands tunes, and other essentials.

Band Fees

2019 Band Fees

The 2019 band fees will be \$175 for all students. In order to secure a spot in the ensemble, a \$75 deposit is due by June 5th.

Please see Mr. McAllister if there are any questions about the cost. If needed, we can work around due dates and allot fundraising to help with payments.

Student Fundraising Accounts

For some of our fundraisers, students will receive a portion of the profit to their "account." The band directors keep track of these amounts and will subtract them from fees when possible.

When students graduate, remaining account balance will go into the general fund for the program. Funds cannot be transferred to siblings or relatives.

2020 Spring Trip

The 2020 Spring Trip will be to Orlando. We will spend time in Disney, Universal Studios, and return to Give Kids the World. As soon as the trip price is known, we will announce and have sign-ups. A payment schedule will be set up at that point.

We are tentatively looking at April 26th-30th for the trip. It will coincide with the beginning of Spring Break.

Home Football Games

Football games are a big part of what we do and are always a ton of fun for the band. Amidst the fun we must continue to remain calm and collected and remember that we represent the band and Spartanburg High School. Since we are in the public eye *and* students typically have some extra freedom, students should review the Behavioral Expectations earlier in the handbook. With a high expectation of ourselves, we can have a great time while adding to the experience of Viking Football.

General Game Guidelines

- No cell phones except during 3rd quarter break.
- No talking when on the field
- Every student must have a flip-folder with all of the music.
- Students should stay at their seats (standing for most of the game)
- Students are expected to participate playing stands tunes at all times
- Students are expected to participate in group movement/dances
- Students should repeat cheers led by the cheerleaders

Third Quarter Notes

- You *must* stay in designated areas. This is dictated by security staff.
- Food Rules
 - You may get food and drinks, but **NOTHING** gets on the uniform. You could lose food privileges for a game or even the entire season if you don't adhere to this policy. (this means don't buy the messy items)
- Only colorless drinks (water, Sprite, Sierra Mist, etc.) are allowed in uniform
 - As a reference, each uniform costs about \$550
- Third Quarter is a privilege. It can and will be taken away if you are not in good standing in the band program.
- We will play as soon as the 3rd Quarter ends. If you miss the downbeat, you will lose your next 3rd Quarter (at the director's discretion). It is your responsibility to be back on time for the downbeat.
- Students will pick up all trash in the band seating area

Away Football Games

Sign-Ups

- Sign-ups are by seniority
- If any consequences have been applied within a week prior to sign-ups, the student signs up last. Two infractions negate going to an away game.

Away Games Continued

Food at Game

- We're not in uniform... you can buy whatever you like!
- We will send students in small groups 2 to 3 throughout the game to get food. This allows us to play and support the team the entire time. Note: there is a short break during halftime, but *not* 3rd quarter. We're there to cheer the team on!

Professionalism

Students are expected (as always!) to be positive ambassadors. Here are a few reminders:

- Students are expected to participate 100% of the time with playing and cheers
- Students will stand for most of the game
- Students must sit in sections

During football games and many other times throughout the season, there will be downtime. When with the band (and not), students should conduct themselves as young professionals.

Band Competitions

Students should plan on blocking off the **entire day** for a competition. We will not know specific times until one to two weeks before the contest.

Rehearsal

We will have a rehearsal on the day of a competition. This allows us to fine-tune any last minute details, but especially helps with performance confidence.

Eat, Change, Load

During this time, students will be given time to eat (provided), change into uniform, and must load all equipment.

At the Contest - Performance

- **Parents** are **STRONGLY** encouraged to be at all performances. We will need help with the following:
 - Unloading and pushing props/equipment to and from the field
 - Chaperones for buses and feeding students
 - Cheering in the stands
 - Miscellaneous help (uniforms/food/etc)

Post Performance

- Students will receive water and a small snack
- Extra Uniform parts will be put away (shako, drop sash, etc.)
- Majority of the equipment will be loaded away
- We will return to the stadium to watch more bands and go to awards
- After awards, we will hastily depart for SHS

Student Leaders

Officers

Drum Majors- Tristen Godfrey, Kamron Hill, Alex Weygandt

Band Captain- Avery Transiskus

Woodwind Captain- Drew Lawton

Brass Captain- Jonathan Tate

Drum Captain- Eli Manke

Guard Captains- Derrionna Gassoway, Melonda Sullivan

Front Ensemble- Tristan Willcox

Field/Equipment - Tristan Stevens

Lieutenants

Uniform- Kamron Hill

Section Leaders

Upper Woodwinds- Ava McKenzie

Lower Woodwinds- Kegan Johnson

Trumpet- MunTaiya Dillard

Horn- Anna Becknell, Shelby Arnold

Trombone/Baritone- Will Lawton

Tuba- Genevieve Boucher

Snare - Alex Becknell

Snare Sgt - Jason Button

Basses - Tiras Stewart

Leadership Team

Corrine Bowden, Ethan Button, Johnny Cato, Elizabeth Partington, Eliza Petty, Caroline Shaw

Marching Band Calendar 2019

Note: this calendar does not include the after school dates prior to June. Check the website for those days.

June

Spring Camp (Hornline Only)

June 4 - Hornline Rookies & Leadership - 1pm to 6pm

June 5 - Hornline - 1pm to 6pm

June 6 - Hornline - 1pm to 6pm

Drum Camp

June 3-7 (Mon-Fri) - All Percussion - 9am to 6pm

Guard Camp

June 3-7 - Times TBD

July

July 22 - Everyone - 5pm to 9pm

July 23 - Everyone - 5pm to 9pm

July 25 - Everyone - 5pm to 9pm

July 29-Aug 2 - Band Camp Week 1 - Hornline - 12:30pm to 8:30pm

July 29-Aug 2 - Band Camp Percussion - 9am - 8pm

August

Aug 5-Aug 9 - Band Camp Week 2 - 12:30pm to 8:30pm

Aug 12, 13, 15, 16 - Rehearsal - 5pm to 9pm

Aug 20 - After School Rehearsal Schedule Begins →

Aug 23 - Pep Band @ Nation Ford - 4:30pm to 10:30pm

Aug 30 - Home Game - 3:30pm to 10:30pm

September

Sept 6 - Pep Band @ Archer (GA) - Times TBD

Sept 13 - Friday Rehearsal - 3:45pm to 10pm

Sept 20 - Pep Band @ Byrnes - 4:30pm to 10:30pm

Sept 21 - Competition - Boiling Springs - ALL DAY

Sept 27 - Home Game vs Hillcrest - 3:30pm to 10:30pm

Sept 28 - Competition TBD - ALL DAY

October

Oct 4 - Home Game vs Dorman - 3:30pm to 10:30pm

Oct 5 - Mini Camp - 9am to 5pm

Oct 11 - Pep Band @ Boiling Springs - 4:30pm to 10:30pm

Oct 12 - Competition TBD - ALL DAY

Oct 18 - Homecoming Game vs Mauldin - 3:30pm to 10:30pm

Oct 19 - Upper State Competition - ALL DAY

Oct 25 - Pep Band @ Riverside - 4:30pm to 10:30pm

Oct 26 - State Contest (if we make it in) - ALL DAY

November

Nov 1 - Home Game vs Gaffney (Senior Night) - 3:30pm to 10:30pm

Friday playoff games TBD for the rest of the season

Nov 11 - Veteran's Day Parade (High School Only)

December

Dec 10 - Spartanburg Christmas Parade

Important Terms

Hornline - Brass & Woodwinds

Percussion (perc) - Refers to all percussionists

Battery - only marching percussion

Pit/Front Ensemble - non-marching percussion

Colorguard (guard) - flags

Pep Band - Non-mandatory group that travels to perform at away games. Sign-ups take place the week of the game and priority is based on seniority and participation

After School Rehearsal Schedule

Mon - Hornline & Perc - 3:45pm to 6:00pm

Tues - Everyone - 3:45pm to 6:30pm

Wed - Guard Only - 3:45pm to 6:00pm

Thurs - Everyone - 3:45pm to 6:30pm

Note: If we miss a Monday practice, Hornline & Perc will also rehearse on Wednesday. If anyone has church conflicts, communicate with Mr. McAllister and we will work around them.

Band Contest Days

Students should plan for an entire day of activities. We will rehearse prior to going to each contest. Students taking the SAT should plan on using the **August or November** dates.



Other Dates

Throughout the year we receive numerous requests for performances. And since we are committed to our community, we try to oblige. Those dates/performances will be announced as soon as known. We occasionally have to move practices around (and sometimes even football games) due to weather. Any time we have to make a change, we're lenient with unavoidable conflicts.