

# BAND HANDBOOK

2024

## Fort Payne High School Wildcat Bands

**FPHS BANDS REMIND: Text @fpband24 to 81010**

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Ian Pask - Director of Bands  
- Assistant Director  
- Assistant Director

FP Bands - [fpcsk12.com/domain/126](https://fpcsk12.com/domain/126)

## **Fort Payne High School Band Mission and Philosophy**

The goal of the Fort Payne High School Band Program is to encourage students to become quality young men and women with music. Our program serves as a public representation of Fort Payne High School, the city of Fort Payne, DeKalb County, the State of Alabama, and the United States. Your responsibility is to continue and build on the traditions and excellence of Fort Payne High School. Our staff is committed to providing a safe, functional, positive, and educational atmosphere. Our staff is also dedicated to providing an environment that promotes development and growth as a musician and also with character. It is with these ideas we plan and execute our ideas on our pathway to success.

### **Attitude of Respect**

Many people will express how important having a positive attitude and having respect for each other is. We agree with these ideas, but also think of respect as a type of attitude. Being respectful on a daily basis should never be an option, but rather a habit. We promote an atmosphere of respect that will be ever-present, not just an option set down by the director. Our aim is for students to learn these important parts of character at an early age, so that they will be fully prepared for their adult life.

### **Band Staff**

The success of this program is not limited to the students and director. Our program has the help of a great team of staff members and educators. They will be working with the students in many different capacities. Staff members are chosen by the band director and are directly responsible to the band director. All of our staff members are cleared for employment by the administration and the Board of Education. Staff members are to be given the same respect as the band director. If there are any problems concerning a band staff member, it should be reported to the band director immediately so that it may be handled swiftly and appropriately. Our band staff for this year includes:

Ian Pask	Band Director
	Assistant Band Director
	Assistant Band Director
	Percussion Instructor
Alexa Howard	Visual Ensemble Director

\*Staff additions may occur during the season.

### **Rehearsal Schedule**

Summer rehearsal schedule can be found on the FPHS Band calendar and through Remind.

During marching season, the tentative after school practice schedule will be as follows:

Mondays:	3:30-5:30
Tuesdays:	3:30-5:30
Thursday:	3:30-5:30 or 5:30-8:30 (depending on stadium availability)

\*These times may change as the season progresses.

The football schedule can be found on the FPHS web page. We will also be posting the contest schedule as soon as we can finalize the dates and times. We will be participating in as many as 4.

### **Rehearsal Attire**

Please be reasonable when dressing for marching and concert rehearsals. The school dress code will be observed at all times, regardless of the weather. Athletic shoes and socks are required for marching rehearsals. Sandals, Crocs, shoes with toes, and other non-athletic shoes are not permitted. Not having the proper attire will result in an unexcused absence.

### **Fees**

Band fees allow the program to function. Even with the funding from the school, the band program has needs that cannot be met. We must pay for things such as copyright, arrangements, music, additional staff, and others. This isn't including instrument needs and repairs. Fees allow us to travel and keep our program current with modern music education.

**Band Fees: \$250** This fee is applied to all students who are playing an instrument in the Marching Band. This fee helps to cover the cost of the production, instruction, transportation, and any other requirements such as necessary equipment and repairs of school owned instruments. The payment schedule can be found at the end of the handbook and on the band website. Each student will have to have made at least two payments before the first performance to be guaranteed a spot.

\*Families that have more than one child pay 50% of the cost for siblings.

**Visual Ensemble Fees: \$450** These fees will include any required equipment and costumes/outfits. These fees are generally higher due to costume and equipment requirements. See payment schedule from Visual Ensemble information sheet.

**Instrument Rental/Upkeep:** Students that play a school owned instrument will be required to check out that instrument periodically. Directors/staff will check instruments for damage throughout the year. Any damage not attributed to normal use will be billed to the student that the instrument is currently checked out by. Students will need to be very specific during their checkout to make sure any existing damage is documented correctly. Students are also expected to purchase any accessories needed to use their instrument. (Sticks, mallets, mouthpieces, valve oil, reeds, etc)

**Financial Hardship:** The band program understands and recognizes that not every member is able to produce the required fees according to the payment schedule. If you feel that you are unable to follow the payment schedule, accommodations can be made. Any student that feels they cannot participate in the band program due to money should set up a meeting with Mr. Pask to discuss options. The band program will not refuse membership based on a student's ability to pay. More information regarding Financial Hardship status will be found with Mr. Pask.

## **Rules and Regulations**

### **Attendance**

Class, rehearsal, sectional, and performance attendance is required of ALL members of the band program. Promptness is also a factor in your continued participation. (Be Early!)

### **School Board Approved Excuses**

1. Personal illness of student (requires a doctor/parent note to the school)
2. Death in the immediate family
3. Inclement weather, dangerous to life or health of student (determined by school)
4. Legal quarantine (doctor/school determination)
5. Emergency conditions (determined by school)
6. Other event/condition previously approved by directors (we will not post approve anything)

Any student planning to miss any portion of the aforementioned mandatory events MUST contact the DIRECTORS prior to the event to provide justification for the absence. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence and the removal of performance privileges. If a student attends school, they are expected to be at rehearsal/events etc.

In order to participate in an after school activity with the band program (full band rehearsals, sectionals, marching band activities, winterguard, etc.), a student must be present for at least ½ of the regular school day. A school day consists of 7 hours and 15 minutes of instructional time. The student must be present for at least 3 hours and 30 minutes during the regular school day. If a student shows up for an after school activity when they are not present at school, they will be sent back home and miss rehearsal, without any attendance credit.

Students missing rehearsals, performances, etc will not be allowed to perform at the next performance. Students missing rehearsals for any reason will be reviewed by the directors and staff. This is done for the safety of the band, as we change things quite frequently. If the absence is considered excused, their performance privileges will be reviewed by the directors/staff.

If a student has 1 UNEXCUSED absence from regular rehearsal, that student may not participate in the next public performance.

Any student missing a rehearsal (excused or unexcused) is subject to review by the staff. If the staff finds that the student missed significant instruction and is putting themselves and others at risk they will be pulled from upcoming performance(s) until approved.

- Excessive absences (excused or unexcused) will result in loss of performance privileges due to lack of individual preparation.
- Directors and staff reserve the right to limit performance privileges based on attendance (excused or unexcused).
- Students can be pulled from multiple performances (football and competition).

Assume if you miss a rehearsal, you will not perform on the next performance. It is in your best interest to communicate with your directors to avoid missed opportunities. Don't assume your directors know!

### **Academic Failure Policy - High School:**

If a student is pulled from band class due to poor academics for a semester, that student is no longer a part of the band program. Any student that is removed from the band program and then requests to rejoin the band program will need to complete a director interview and an audition for consideration.

### **Fort Payne Marching Band Academic Policy**

Any student failing a core class will not be allowed to participate in performances until passing grades are entered. This is for any member of the band. Students failing band will not be allowed to participate in performances. If a student has a failing band grade at the end of the school year will automatically be removed from the band program.

### **Band Hall**

The band hall is our home. Students should treat it as such. We are fortunate to have the band hall we do, and should always do everything we can to take care of it. Adhere to the following rules when in the band hall:

1. No food, drink, or gum is allowed in the band hall. You will consume any of these outside of the band hall, and dispose of food trash in the outside trash receptacles.
2. Students will be issued lockers for the storage of instruments and belongings throughout the school year. These are to be kept clear of trash and clutter and are **ONLY TO BE USED BY CURRENT BAND MEMBERS**. If a student does not participate in a band ensemble, they are no longer part of the band.
3. Due to the diverse nature of each rehearsal/class taking place in the band hall, it must be returned to its original state after each use. Chairs, stands, instruments, floors, props, and all equipment are to be stored properly.
4. Only **MEMBERS** of the band program are allowed in the band hall. If a student is no longer part of the band, they are **not** allowed in the band hall, **NO EXCEPTIONS**.
5. You must ask permission of a director to enter any room that has a door, such as the uniform room, auxiliary room, practice rooms, and small ensemble room.
6. Absolutely no running, horseplay, or games will be allowed in the band hall.
7. There will be no public displays of affection allowed in the band hall or while participating in band events. Students will be referred to the office after one (1) warning.
8. Students are **NOT** allowed to hang out in the instrument storage areas. The band hall is not a lounge.
9. Do not enter the band hall unless a school employee is present. You must be in the presence of a school employee to be in the band hall at any time.
10. If using a school-owned instrument, you are responsible for its daily maintenance and care (oiling valves, greasing cork, etc.). Significant damage such as dents or broken parts will be billed to the student who checked out that instrument. Please take special care of school-owned instruments, as to not accrue the expensive cost of these repairs.
11. All rules, policies, and disciplinary procedures outlined in the FPHS Band Handbook are in effect in the band hall **AND** during **ALL** band functions. Members of the band program should behave in such a manner to positively reflect upon themselves, their parents, the band, Fort Payne High School, Fort Payne City Schools, and the entire Fort Payne community.

## **Band Office/Library**

The band office and library are limited to band business. The copier, telephone, and computer are off limits to all students unless permission is given to that student directly by a director. There should be no need to call parents at the end of rehearsal unless we are dismissing early due to weather. The copier should not be used unless the student is authorized by a director. Students are not to be in the office or library unless approved by a director.

## **Physical Fitness**

Marching band is an extremely physical activity. Students are expected to perform and move rapidly for long amounts of time. Students will participate in physical conditioning during the summer, band camp, and throughout the season. This includes cardio workouts/warm ups etc. Each student must have a physical completed and cleared by band camp. Members must expect to physically improve and will be challenged. Please be aware of this commitment. Failure to participate in physical conditioning is hazardous to student's health, and is not meeting the expectations of membership for the FPMB.

## **Performance Procedures**

### **Home Football Game:**

1. Students will report to the band hall by posted times and be seated ready to start warmup. All wind/percussion members will be in bibbers with jackets either hung on chairs or folded properly.
2. Percussion drum stands need to be in the stands prior to warm up starting.
3. The band will be in full uniform at all times unless otherwise specified by a director.
4. Plumes will be issued before the band takes the field, and collected as they come off the field.
5. Students **will not** go to the concession stands once we are in uniform. Students should eat after school before reporting.
6. Students are **not** allowed to eat or drink in uniform. Water is the only exception, and it will be provided for students. Any student with food or drink in the stands will be sent home and lose their performance eligibility for upcoming performances.
7. Instruments will NOT be left unattended for any reason.
8. Students are expected to participate in the game, through cheering, playing, and showing support for the FP Wildcats.

Students will be released from the band hall after everything has been cleaned up and organized. No one except the students currently in the band will be permitted in the Band Hall until after dismissal.

### **Away Football Game:**

1. Students will not go home after school. Students will eat after school outside the band hall. They may bring their own food, or eat what the band offers that week. More info will be sent out at band camp.
2. Students will load the trucks/trailers before eating and dressing.
3. Students will stay in the stands for the entire game, minus restroom trips and halftime.
4. No food or drink is allowed in the stands, at any time except for what is provided.
5. After the game students may check out with their parents at the buses AFTER all trucks/trailers have been loaded.

## **Bus Procedures**

Transportation will be provided to and from all events that are school sponsored and the band is involved with. Students are required to ride the bus to all school sponsored events. If a parent or guardian chooses to drive a student home, they must follow these procedures:

1. Students must turn in a note from their parent/guardian before we leave school. No late notes will be accepted.
2. The student must be signed out by the parent/guardian at the student's respective bus. Without a signature the student will be required to ride the bus home.
3. The student will not be released to anyone other than the parent or guardian.
4. Students cannot sign themselves out.

## **Bus Rules**

1. Buses will be assigned by the directors. Students must ride the bus they are assigned to.
2. Students are not allowed to sit with the opposite gender.
3. Attendance will be taken just prior to departure. The buses will not be held for late students.
4. The bus driver and chaperones are the ultimate authority while on the bus.
5. If in uniform, there is no food or drink allowed **AT ALL**.
6. Instruments are to remain in their cases at all times. The bus ride is not intended for extra practice. This includes percussion.
7. No hairspray, cologne, deodorant, or perfume is to be applied or sprayed while on the bus.
8. Do not exit the bus until told to do so by a chaperone or bus driver. Exit only by the front door. The back exit or side exit doors are for emergencies only.
9. Students are not allowed on the bus without a bus driver, or other adult. This includes when they are parked and shut down.
10. Upon returning home the bus will be cleaned and unloading will begin after the chaperone or bus driver has deemed the bus clean.

## **Medication Procedures**

The band will follow all school requirements and guidelines. If you are in need of medical attention, bring it to a director, staff member, or booster's attention immediately.

## **Uniform Policy and Information**

The band uniform is the identity of Fort Payne High School Band. These uniforms must be worn with pride and care. They are not cheap to replace, but if a uniform part is lost the director must be notified immediately. The student is expected to pay for the missing part or parts before they can be allowed to perform with the band again. A price list is available from the director.

The uniform is to be worn properly at all times. Uniforms will be issued to each student at the beginning of the marching season. They are responsible for the uniform for the entirety of the season. Uniforms will be stored in the uniform room. Uniforms will be collected for cleaning periodically. Uniforms may be cleaned outside of these times, but they **must** be dry cleaned. Any damage caused by cleaning outside of these collection cleanings will be assessed to the student's account. The uniforms will be fitted properly when they are issued and they are to remain in that condition. No hems are to be made and there will be no damage when they are issued. Please pay attention and take care of your

uniform. Each student will be required to sign and return the uniform contract before they are issued their uniform. This is a binding agreement, stating the uniform will be returned in the condition it was issued and failure to do so will result in a fine charged to the students for the amount of the uniform or part that was damaged.

New members/marchers will be required to purchase certain parts of the uniform package (correct shoes, long black socks, black gloves) from the band program when applicable.

The band will provide member shirts, shorts, and hats. Visual Ensemble members are required to purchase their uniform each year. Directors/instructors will provide further information regarding these uniforms.

### **General Uniform Guidelines**

1. No eating or drinking in uniform (water excepted).
2. No jewelry (except small studs earrings) or nail polish may be worn while in uniform.
3. The uniform must be complete at all times, unless otherwise instructed. No changing in or out of uniform will be permitted in any location aside from one's home, the band hall, or buses.
4. No profanity or obscene gestures will be allowed in (or out) of uniform.
5. When in uniform (and out), students are representatives of the band program, Fort Payne High School, and the entire Fort Payne community.

### **Uniform Process**

1. Unless otherwise instructed, students will arrive at the band hall in member shorts, member shirt, long black socks, and black shoes.
2. The uniform jacket should be hung in the provided garment bag and brought with the student to the band hall, along with their black gloves, shako, and hatbox if assigned.
3. Students will finish dressing and will then undergo uniform inspection conducted by the section leaders. They will be looking for the following:
  - a. Clean jacket, gauntlets, pants, and gloves.
  - b. Long black socks and clean black shoes.
  - c. Member shirt and shorts.
  - d. Long hair (including males) is pulled up, ready to fit under the shako.
  - e. No nail polish or excessive jewelry. Earrings must be studs no bigger than a pencil eraser.
  - f. Any student found in violation will be sent to a director and will result in suspension from all activities until specifications are met. Students will NOT be allowed to travel with the band until uniform inspection can be passed.
4. Students will be issued a plume when entering the field for pregame and halftime.
5. Students will return plumes after the halftime performance.
6. After the game students will return to the band hall, place shakos in boxes, hang jacket/pants in garment bag. This process may be modified depending on the weather.
  - a. Students are NOT allowed to be in any part of the uniform (pants, jacket, shako, gauntlets, etc) outside of a sanctioned band function.
  - b. Any student seen in uniform outside of a band function will be suspended from the next performance. Multiple offenses will result in dismissal from the program.



7. Uniform pants may be cleaned after each performance as needed. Jackets will be collected and dry cleaned as necessary. Jackets may be dry cleaned as needed.

### **Concert Attire**

Concert attire is expected to be very professional. Black clothing is mandatory and colors other than black are prohibited. Concert black is what will be worn for performances, unless otherwise specified. Pants, shirts, shoes, belts, ties, and any other article of clothing must be black. Please plan ahead!

### **Band Organization**

As many students and their parents are aware, there are many activities that vie for a student's attention throughout their school career. We are aware that conflicts between activities will be present, however we ask that the director is notified as soon as a conflict is apparent. The director will work directly with the sponsor, coach, and FPHS administration to avoid future conflicts.

Dedication to the band program is necessary. For this reason, any student who decided to quit band at any time during their career will not be allowed back into the marching band without a consultation with the directors. It is a large responsibility to be a part of this team and quitting jeopardizes the success of the marching band and negatively affects all aspects of the band program. Below you will find a list of organizations and their requirements for membership.

### **Fort Payne High School Marching Band**

The Marching Band is one of the premier ensembles of the band program. It is most certainly the most popular and publicly known ensemble. The band performs at all football games and participates in several contests a year. Members know that they are giving up many Friday nights and several Saturdays. Membership is limited to grades 8 and above. Members do not have to have previous band experience to participate, but must be interested in learning an instrument. Members of the Marching Band are required to participate in a Spring concert ensemble. (Concert Band)

### **Concert Band/Wind Ensemble**

The Wind Ensemble is the top level ensemble at Fort Payne High School. The Concert Band and Wind Ensemble frequently travel to performances in the spring semester. The Concert Band also performs a minimum of two "home" concerts and participates in the State sponsored assessments. Students that are members of the Wind Ensemble/Concert Band are required to participate in the Marching Band as well.

### **Visual Ensemble**

The Fort Payne Visual Ensemble is a vital part of the Marching Band. The Visual Ensemble provides the visual accompaniment for the Marching Band. They utilize dance, flags, rifles, and other props to enhance the performance. Students do not have to be instrumentalists to participate. Any student in grades 9-12 is encouraged to participate. Auditions are held every spring semester.

## **Band Boosters**

The Band Boosters are a group of parents and other community members that support the band financially, and physically. The Band Boosters organization was created to help supply and raise funds that allow the Fort Payne Band program to succeed. Without their help the band program would suffer greatly. This organization is all volunteer and reports directly to the band director. Most members have children currently in the band. The booster program was created to assist the director and provide for the program's needs.

## **Fundraising**

The Fort Payne High School Band participates in several fundraisers every year. All funds raised go directly to the band account. All students are required to participate in all fundraisers.

## **Social Media/Online Public Behavior**

The Fort Payne Band Program and staff recognize and support the band members' rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. In this context, however, each band member must remember that performing, playing, and competing for the Fort Payne Bands is a privilege. As a band member, you represent the school district and you are expected to portray yourself, your band, your school and the school district in a positive manner at all times.

***Below are the social networking guidelines, which provide the following direction for social networking site usage:***

- Everything you post is public information – any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online – even if you limit access to your site. Information (including pictures, videos, and comments) may be accessible even after you remove it. Once you post a photo or comment on a social networking site, that photo or comment becomes the property of the site and may be searchable even after you remove it.
- What you post may affect your future! Many employers, college admissions officers, and athletic recruiters review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to misinterpret your information (including pictures, videos, comments and posters).
- Similar to comments made in person, the Fort Payne Band program will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, such as:
  - *Derogatory language or remarks that may harm bandmates or directors; other FPHS students, teachers or coaches; and band students, directors or representatives of other schools, including comments that may be disrespectful to opposing bands/teams.*
  - *Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence, hazing; sexual harassment; full or partial nudity; inappropriate gestures; vandalism; stalking; underage drinking, selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behavior (including the use of profanity).*
  - *Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.*

- *Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation – regardless if the violation was unintentional or intentional.*

In short, understand that online social network sites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions. The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Think about whom you represent: yourself, your family, your band mates and staff, and your school. Like it or not, people are going to associate everything you post with you and what you represent. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image of which you can be proud of years to come.

### **Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco/Vape**

Any student that is caught possessing OR using drugs, alcohol, tobacco(in any form), or vaping will be immediately removed from the band program. There will be no excuses or exceptions made. Students will then be turned in to the FPHS Administration for further consequences. Please note that just possession will also result in removal. This will not be tolerated within the band program.

This handbook is not all inclusive. If a situation arises that is not covered by the handbook contact a director. Directors are the final say in all matters. **Please do not assume anything or hesitate to ask if a situation arises.**