

KNOCH HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND CONSTITUTION

*Containing Guidelines, Regulations, Expectations, and Policies
set forth to ensure the highest level of success for our students!*



2011 - 2012

***Knoch High School Marching Band
Constitution
2011-2012***

Article I Vision

- A. To develop a basic understanding and proficiency in music performance among its members.
- B. To conduct ourselves always, both on and off the field, in a mature, respectful, and proud manner. This will reflect positively on our band, school, and community.
- C. To put forth our best effort at each and every rehearsal and performance so that the South Butler County School District and community will view our band as a source for music, spirit, pride, and excellence.
- D. To generate enthusiasm amongst the student body and community at all events.
- E. To support the school and community with our performance and attendance at various events.
- F. To develop and strengthen relationships through real-life experiences which require sportsmanship, teamwork, cooperation, dedication, enthusiasm, musical excellence, focus, structure, discipline, and pride in ourselves, and all that we can achieve.

Article II Membership Eligibility

- A. ALL students are encouraged and welcome to participate.
- B. In order to be considered an active member of the Marching Band, a band student must maintain a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average as evidence by weekly eligibility reports. A mandatory tutoring program is in effect for students who do not meet the grade requirement.
- C. **Unexcused absences**, discipline concerns, failure to be adequately prepared, and failure to meet set uniform requirements may cause a member to be declared temporarily ineligible. These decisions are at the discretion of the director in consultation with his support staff.
- D. If the reason for a student's ineligible status is immediately correctable parents will not be contacted.

Article III Membership Responsibilities

- A. **Members are to conduct themselves, at all times, in a manner that will reflect positively on themselves, the band, the school, and the community.**
- B. **Attendance is required** at all practices, rehearsals, and performances for the entire year.
- C. **Any student resigning from the Marching Band once the season starts will be suspended for the remainder of the current year and not permitted to participate in the following season. They may return in the following year after their suspension is over. For example: if you quit in the middle of your junior year you will not be able to return in your senior year.**

- D. Students are expected to arrive **promptly** at or *before* the set reported time.
- E. Excuses must be submitted **prior** to any absence IN WRITING to the director unless there are extremely extenuating circumstances.
- F. Anyone missing a **rehearsal or a performance** without the prior approval of the director will receive appropriate demerits, **dress in full uniform**, but **WILL NOT** be allowed to perform at a football game, parade or festival. As this policy pertains to a **BAND TRIP discipline measures (not limited to performances) will be at the discretion of the staff. PRE-PERFORMANCE DRESS REHEARSALS DO NOT COUNT AS THE REHEARSAL BEFORE A PERFORMANCE.**
- G. Failure to submit an excuse will constitute as an **unexcused absence**.
- H. Any student who misses the annual **MEMORIAL DAY PRACTICES AND PARADE, Pet Parade and Saxonburg Firemen's Parade** will not be permitted to attend the **KENNYWOOD FALL FANTASY PARADE** in August and will receive demerits accordingly.
- I. The **FOUR** Excused absences are:
1. Bed-ridden personal illness with a note from the parent/guardian. If personal illness becomes excessive then a doctor's note will need to accompany the parent note.
 2. Death in the family
 3. Religious Conflicts / Weddings of immediate family.
 4. School sponsored/approved functions or trips.
- J. **EMPLOYMENT** or **WORK** of any kind is **NOT** an acceptable excuse for missing a performance or rehearsal. This absence will be considered **unexcused**. Please be reminded that unexcused absences will result in a student being **ineligible to perform or participate in the next upcoming event.**
- K. **MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS** should be arranged so as **NOT** to conflict with a performance or rehearsal. *In the summer we usually rehearse once a week on Wednesday evenings in July and Monday – Thursday evenings the last week of July. We also have mandatory band camp the first two full weeks of August. During the school year we rehearse on Monday and Wednesday and perform on Fridays and Saturdays with the exception of the Butler Band Festival. We will also have Monday and Wednesday rehearsals in the spring for our annual trip, Memorial Day Services and Saxonburg Parades.* Please schedule appointments around these times. **Only EMERGENCY medical appointments will be considered excusable absences.**
- “I MADE THIS APPT. 6 MONTHS AGO” WILL NOT BE AN ACCEPTABLE EXCUSE!***
- L. **DRIVERS EXAMS** – Missing rehearsals or performances to take a drivers exam will be considered an unexcused absence.
- M. Please understand that in order for an absence to be **considered** excused; the note needs to outline the details of that person's absence. It should also include the date, a parent signature and contact information. *I will call to check on a note if you have not provided the proper details.*

N. **BAND CAMP**

1. Band Camp is **mandatory** for all members. This includes instrumentalist, auxiliaries, and managers. Students must be present for the entire rehearsal.
2. While I, Mr. Hayden, am the director, barring some unforeseen circumstance or natural disaster **Pie Festival** will be one week before the first week of school and mandatory **Band Camp** will be 2 and 3 weeks **BEFORE** the beginning of the school year.

O. *Come August marching band students need to be available for rehearsals. Please do your best to have all vacations and medical appointments taken care of in June or July.* Please do not say that you made plans before you knew the dates of camp. If you are unable to attend any portion of band camp then we reserve the right to keep you from the **KENNYWOOD FALL FANTASY PARADE** and you will not be able to perform with the band until you show that you have mastered your material.

If the required music and/or routines are not mastered by a member, the advisor and the director, after consulting, reserve the right to remove the member from the most immediate performance, or until the music/routine is mastered. **MUSIC and ROUTINES WILL BE MEMORIZED!!!!** We will help you memorize the music in sectionals and rehearsals.

P. **Proper attire and dress code is expected at all rehearsals. Acceptable shirts are sleeveless tops with no scooping neck lines and no mid-drifts. Appropriate athletic shoes are expected at all marching rehearsals. No flip-flops or sandals.**

Article IV **Football Games / Performances / Events**

- A. It is our responsibility at all football games to support the football team with music and cheers with school spirit and pride.
- B. Band students will stand as they perform music in the stands. Music will be performed when and only when directed by a Drum Major or Staff Member!
- C. All marching band members will stay in the stands during the game.
- D. While at a football game or performance you will be with a staff and/or a chaperone at all times. You are never to be unaccompanied without an adult. This is for your safety and protection.
- E. Bathroom breaks will be during the 3rd Quarter and there will only be 10 students at one time with 1 or 2 chaperones at the restroom.
- F. While at a performance non-members will not sit with us. We do not want students who are not in the **Band** to be inside our boundaries. Once again this is for your safety and protection.
- G. Food, Gum, and Beverage are not permitted during any performance, rehearsal, or event, unless otherwise instructed by the director.
- H. There are to be no electronic devices (i.e. cell phones, ipods, etc.) that will distract you from having a great performance.

Article V Sports and other Extra-Curricular Activities

- A. If you are an athlete in one of our teams or are involved in other activities, it is your responsibility to let the director know who you are and what your rehearsal, practice, and/or game schedules will be.
- B. If you are in an extra-curricular activity that directly conflicts with marching band then you must attend at least half of our rehearsal time with the marching band. Otherwise this will be considered an un-excused absence.
- C. The directors, coaches, and advisors will have an agreement to any conflict. **It is your responsibility to follow through with the agreement.**

Article VI Uniforms, Equipment, Band Room, Storage Facilities

- A. **UNIFORM** - Each member is assigned a uniform at the beginning of the season, thus making the member responsible for keeping that uniform clean, neat, and performance-ready at all times.
- B. Shoes must always be clean and polished.
- C. Each member will purchase his or her own personal items, such as shoes, socks, gloves, T-shirts, tights, garment bag, equipment bag and other items as it is deemed necessary.
- D. Gloves need to be clean and white. Take them home to dry after wet performances.
- E. While traveling all students **MUST** have a garment bag for their uniform.
- F. All bags and cases **MUST** have a nametag with proper identification.
- G. All members must remain in **FULL UNIFORM** throughout the event, unless otherwise instructed by the director.
- H. The clothes worn underneath the uniform are as important as the uniforms themselves. All band students are required to wear their band T-shirt underneath their jacket. This regulation is in place to guarantee longest possible life span of our uniforms and if we take off our jackets we are all still in uniform. If we take off our jackets and you do not have on the required T-Shirt then **you will be asked to leave your jacket on.** Underneath the marching pants there are to be absolutely **NO jeans.** Denim significantly wears the inside of the pant legs and causes damage to the uniform. Other uniform concerns will be addressed at uniform fitting as well as throughout the year.
- I. The hat and plume are also part of the complete uniform and will be worn at all times, unless otherwise instructed by the director.
- J. Any **SAXOPHONE** player must use an **all black neck strap.** Multi-colored neck straps are not acceptable in uniform.
- K. Nail polish and jewelry are **NOT** permitted while in uniform with the exception of uniform accessories pre-approved by the advisors. This includes rings, watches, bracelets, earrings, nose rings, eyebrow rings and any other piercing on any visible part of the body while in uniform. If you chose to wear them, then you are choosing not to perform with the Knoch High Band.
- L. Please do not get piercings in the late summer or fall. Wait until the spring and the marching band season is over to get piercings. *“I just had this pierced, it will close if I take it out”* **is not an excuse. You will not march with jewelry it is not part of the uniform.**
- M. Make-up must be **LIGHT.**
- N. **All** band students, male and female, are to have their hair pulled up and into the hat.

- O. Chewing gum of any kind is not permitted in the room, auditorium or while in uniform at any performance, rehearsal, or event.
- P. *Random uniform inspections may take place prior to a performance and will be conducted by a combination of the director, assistant director, advisors, and/or student leaders.*
- Q. Any uniform or equipment in anything less than **EXCELLENT** condition is unacceptable. We will carry ourselves with pride!
- R. *You may be asked to sit out of a performance if you do not comply with any uniform or equipment requirements.*
- S. **EQUIPMENT AND STORAGE FACILITIES** - It is the responsibility of each member to make sure that all uniform parts, instruments, and equipment are returned to their appropriate area after each and every performance, rehearsal, and event. Leaving all facilities clean and free of personal belongings. This includes the storage facilities.
- T. All Equipment should be labeled properly to insure that you are picking up your own equipment. All instruments must have a **NAME TAG**.
- U. Band Storage areas and lockers are intended for the storage of musical instruments. They are property of the school district. Any personal belongings found in these lockers may be discarded at anytime.
- V. Instrumentalists are not permitted to enter the uniform storage room unsupervised.
- W. **IF IT IS NOT YOURS, DON'T TOUCH IT!!!!!!**
- X. **If you are found to have caused any destruction in any form to the band room or equipment you will be removed from the band and you will pay for the damage to school property. The school district may take further disciplinary action.**

Article VII Band Travel

- A. You **must have** a complete **medical form** and a copy of your current medical **insurance card** on file with us in order to travel with us.
- B. The band travels together by bus to all away football games, festivals, and events. If on some special occasion your child needs to make special travel arrangements, those requests must be made and **approved** in advance. This request must be made in the form of a note signed by a parent or guardian and dated with contact information.
- C. Students are not permitted to travel to or from an event with friends.
- D. Do not stand while a bus is in motion.
- E. Upon entering a visiting town, keep noise and cheering to a minimum. We don't want to provoke hostile reactions by the opponents' student body, parents, or community.
- F. Stay on the bus until told otherwise by the staff or a chaperone.
- G. Close all bus windows when exiting the bus.
- H. The use or possession of alcohol, tobacco products, or drugs while the band is traveling is strictly forbidden and will result in immediate expulsion, parent contact, and intervention by law enforcement officials.
- I. We are in the public eye at all times! Be discreet and act in the best interest of the band. Prompt cooperation, appropriate behavior, and a positive attitude are essential in furthering the fine reputation of our band.
- J. Always be courteous to all chaperones. They are following direct instructions and guidelines established by the staff. They are volunteering their time for your safety.

REMEMBER, THE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE OF OUR GROUP IS ONLY ONE PART OF THE BAND COMMITMENT. PRIDE, DISCIPLINE, AND COOPERATION ARE KEY ELEMENTS TO OUR TOTAL PERFORMANCE!!!

Article VIII Discipline

- A. Discipline of members is at the discretion of the staff.
- B. Any disciplinary action taken by the assistant director or band advisor is to be viewed as if it were from the director himself.
- C. All school rules and guidelines will be strictly enforced.
- D. For further detail, please see the school policies and Student Handbook.
- E. Remember: If an activity is not permitted at school, then it is not permitted in band. If there is a particular repercussion for your actions while in school, expect the same consequences at band rehearsals and events.
- F. As the responsibility for a safe and successful season rests on the shoulders of the staff as we are *in loco parentis*, we reserve the right to address specific concerns not mentioned in the constitution in an appropriate manner. *In loco parentis* refers to the legal responsibility of a person or organization to take on some of the functions and responsibilities of a parent. It allows institutions such as schools to act in the best interest of the students as they see fit.
- G. We will notify parents of any disciplinary action by phone or in writing if time permits.
- H. If all members follow school guidelines and strive to live up to the high expectations set forth for the ensemble, discipline will not be a concern.

Article IX Chain of Command

- 1. **Band Director**
- 2. **Assistant Band Director**
- 3. **Associate Band Director and Auxiliary Advisors**
- 4. **Support Staff and Instructors**
- 5. **Drum Major**
- 6. **Officers and Captains**
- 7. **Band Council**
- 8. **Section Leaders**

Article X Respect

- A.** Respect is a very important aspect for all members.
- B.** All people will be respected at all times
- C.** We will exercise respect for each other, student leadership, chaperones, advisors, directors, and staff as well as other bands and their staff of directors and chaperones.
- D.** If you are having a problem with an individual address them privately or go to your section leader, band council, captain, drum major, chaperone, or staff member.
- E.** **Matters of disrespect will not be taken lightly. You may be pulled from the upcoming performance or performances.**

Article XI Merit / Demerit System

- A. A Merit / Demerit system will be used throughout the band season, beginning in band camp.
- B. The director, assistant director, and auxiliary advisors can only issue merits and demerits. All merits/demerits will be reported to the director, who in conjunction with the assistant director and band front advisors will keep accurate accounts of each student's disciplinary standing.
- C. Merits will be issued to students for displaying the qualities of excellence we strive for. Examples of merit-worthy circumstances include, but are not limited to: Leadership, prompt memorization of music, musical excellence, marching excellence, providing assistance to other members when necessary and exemplary conduct both on and off the field.
- D. Demerits will be issued when members fail to meet certain guidelines. Examples of demerit-worthy circumstances include, but are not limited to: tardiness, unexcused absences (rehearsals - 1, performances - 3), DISREPECT (to staff, parents, or other members), use of inappropriate language, failure to pass uniform inspection, and inappropriate conduct on or off the field.
- E. Demerits will directly impact a members' performance eligibility.
- F. Any student receiving 2 or more demerits **MUST** meet with the director to discuss their status in the ensemble.
- G. Any student having 3 or more demerits will be ineligible to perform and their parents/guardians will be contacted. The member will remain ineligible until an agreement is reached between all parties and reparations have been made.
- H. Merits and demerits will counteract each other. Receiving one Merit will take away one Demerit from the student's disciplinary record.

Any student receiving 5 Demerits will be dismissed from the Band.

Article XII Band Council

- A. The Band Council will include:
 1. All elected **officers**: President, Vice President, Treasure, Secretary, Librarian, and Historian. Representatives for each grade level will be elected during band camp.
 2. Drum Major(s)
 3. Heads/Captains of all the Band Auxiliaries (Colorguard, Knochettes, Majorettes)
 4. Any other officer or member deemed necessary by the director.
 5. The majority of the members of Band Council will be voted upon during the June Parade Schedule.
 6. The returning Marching Band members will choose nominees from a group of students who are made eligible through leadership training.
 7. The director will supervise the Band Council with significant contributions from the *advisors* and support *staff*.
 8. The director will outline specific responsibilities of each office and student leadership position.
 9. *Any student leader who is not leading by example or does not stay in good standing with the staff may be put on probation and/or replaced. A student leader*

should always be present and know all of their music and drill and should always be respectful to staff and students of the Knoch High School Marching Band.

10. The Band Council serves as a direct line of communication between the band and the staff. The band council along with other student leaders will be respected at all times by other members of the Band.

B. When you are electing band council members please elect students who you know are going to go the extra mile. Students who are going to come early, stay late and come to extra meetings and work sessions. Please do not make your vote a popularity contest!!!!!!

Article XIII Realizing the Vision

- *Every member of the Band is unique and valuable. Each person adds something to the ensemble that no one else could add. We are not the same group when any of our members are not present. **For this reason, attendance is extremely important.***
- *However, no member of this Band is irreplaceable. Commitment, discipline, enthusiasm, **respect**, and **humility** are expected of everyone.*
- *Together we can make this a positive year to remember. We truly have a unique combination of talents, skills abilities, and personalities that may never all assemble in the same place at the same time ever again. Every performance is a practice and every practice is a performance.....Let's make the most of the time that we have together.*



Knoch High School Marching Band

Acknowledgement of Responsibility

Please remove **this** page from your packet and return it to Mr. Hayden by **Wednesday, September 14, 2011**. Please keep the constitution in a safe place for your reference. Thank You, Mr. Hayden

I, _____ (parent or guardian), have read the Knoch High School Marching Band Constitution, understand the guidelines and regulations, have discussed the rules and expectations with my son/daughter _____ (marching band member), and agree to see to it that he/she will uphold his/her responsibility and will follow the guidelines set forth in this constitution as an active and valuable member of the Knoch High School Marching Band. **I DO / DO NOT *give my permission for the staff to post pictures of my son or daughter on the Knoch High Band website.***

(Marching Band Member Signature)

(Parent or Guardian Signature)

(Date)