

# Unicoi County High School

## Blue Devil Band

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# 2023 - 2024 HANDBOOK

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**Superintendent**

**Principal**

**Director of Bands**

**Assistant Director of Bands**

**John English**

**Dr. Amy Horton**

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# **FORWARD**

The band program at Unicoi County High School forms a vital and important part of the total high school life. The represents a large, colorful, visible, and highly disciplined segment of the school. The performance of the band at concerts, contests, as well as many community events, adds a great deal of color and life to the Unicoi County High School community.

**WELCOME TO THE UNICOI COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BAND  
PROGRAM!!!**

**Evangeline C. Hurter, Director of Bands  
Unicoi County High School**

# **WELCOME**

## **TO ALL UNICOI COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BAND MEMBERS**

To those of you who are new to the band program; we look forward to having you participate in one of the most active and exciting activities at UNICOI COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL. You need to realize, as we do, that YOU are the future of the bands at UNICOI COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL. We encourage you and your family to become involved. It is an activity that takes some extra effort, but is extremely rewarding.

To the returning members, you know what it takes to achieve success as a member of the UNICOI COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM. We expect to continue our high achievement and improvement levels.

## Mission Statement

The UCHS Blue Devil Band exists to provide an opportunity for all interested and dedicated students to study music. Music is an art form, a universal language of expression, a science and a mathematical process. In addition to academic curriculum, band students learn to develop cooperation skills, self-discipline, a positive self-attitude, leadership skills, and pride through teamwork, student involvement and rehearsal skills used in studying music. Band can be one of the most important and lifechanging courses of study in a student's high school career if it is approached with a love for the art and dedication.

**BAND IS VOLUNTARY, BUT ONCE YOU VOLUNTEER, IT BECOMES AN OBLIGATION!!**

## Philosophy of Practice

In order to cut down on the number of extra rehearsals, students should practice a **minimum** of 1/2 hour **every night** on their music. When students do not meet their own practice obligations, then extra rehearsals may be called or cancellation of certain band activities will occur.

***“Don’t practice until you can play it right, practice until you can’t play it wrong”***

## Behavior Code

As a member of the band you are a representative of the school and community. You are expected to always be on your best behavior while in the public eye, whether with or without the band.

1. All School rules apply during all band functions.
2. Respect those in authority: directors, staff, parents.
3. Profanity or obscene gestures will not be tolerated.
4. Mature social behavior is expected from all members
5. Public displays of affection, other than holding hands, is not allowed.
6. If it's not yours, leave it alone!
7. **NO HAIR COLOR THAT ISN'T A NATURAL COLOR IS ALLOWED UNTIL AFTER THE FOOTBALL SEASON ENDS!!**
8. **Don't be late!!**

## Rules of Attendance

**The rules are simple.**

1. Rehearsals, performances or any additional rehearsals deemed necessary by Mrs. Hurter **ARE NOT** optional.
2. You will be excused for illness, unavoidable doctor or dental appointments and emergencies as the circumstance dictates.
3. Penalties for failure to attend rehearsals include, reduction of grade and withholding from future performances.
4. **NO ONE** will be excused from a performance unless it is a very unusual circumstance.
5. Failure to attend a performance or rehearsal will result in reduction of grade.
6. Unavoidable absences must be communicated to the director a minimum of 1 week in advance. Medical emergencies are exempt, but still need to be communicated to the director.

**☛NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE BEHAVIOR CODE OR THE RULES OF ATTENDANCE, MAY RESULT IN NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS, BEING SENT HOME FROM AN ACTIVITY, POSSIBLE REMOVAL FROM BAND, OR BEING PLACED ON PROBATION AND RESTRICTED FROM PARTICIPATION IN CERTAIN BAND ACTIVITIES.**

## **Participating in Other Extra-Curricular Activities**

You may participate in other activities while involved in band. Fall sports may present challenges in full marching band participation. However, there are options available in order to allow a student to remain in band. Most conflicts are avoided in all other sports. If you have any questions concerning this, please speak with the band director. We are willing to work with **ALL** other activities, but **COMMUNICATION** is the key.

## **Pre-Camp/Band Camp**

**Attendance** is required of all band students at these two camps. These camps will start two weeks prior to teacher in-service. (Check the schedule at the back of this handbook for the actual dates and times). This is the time that new members learn the basics of marching and all members begin learning the music and drill for that years halftime show.

Students will be given regular water breaks as needed. Students **can not** leave campus for lunch, lunch will be provided, or you can bring your own.

Students should bring the following items with them; hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, bug repellent, **water jug**, and tennis shoes.

**NO FLIP FLOPS WILL BE ALLOWED DURING MARCHING PRACTICE.**

## **Football Game Procedure**

1. All band members are expected to report to the band room and travel to the game **with** the band. (No other students are allowed on the band bus.) Travel to and from Gentry Stadium for home games **IS NOT** provided.
2. Band members will sit in the band section. Other students **are not** allowed to sit in the reserved band section.
3. While at football games, all band students will adhere to the Code of Behavior, along with the following:
  - A. No playing except in **organized** fashion.
  - B. No profanity or obscene gestures.
  - C. Uniform should be properly worn.
  - D. Directions given by the Drum Major, Band Director, or Staff are to be strictly followed.

## **Trip Requirements**

1. A trip permission form and medical form must be on file with the band director before a student will be allowed to travel.
2. Students must ride to all performances with the band. Students may return home with parents or legal guardian. **PARENTS MUST SIGN STUDENT OUT WITH THE BAND DIRECTOR.**
3. Roll Call will be taken each time we stop and re-load the bus.
4. When staying overnight, students are not allowed in rooms of the opposite sex at any time or any reason.



5. Students must remain in groups of 3 or more at all times. When picking up your child after a trip, **please be waiting at the designated time**. We will do everything in our power to return home on time, but because ballgames and contests do not always run on schedule, it may be impossible for us to arrive home on time. We will allow students to call or text ahead.

## **UNIFORMS**

Uniforms are provided for all band members. These uniforms are stored at the band room. Students should arrive at the band room early to obtain their uniform and dress prior to each performance. Each band member is required to obtain a pair of black marching band shoes, black socks, and a pair of black cotton gloves.

Students who forget uniform items may not be allowed to perform.

**WHILE IN UNIFORM, STUDENTS MAY DRINK CLEAR LIQUIDS AND MAY ONLY EAT FOOD ITEMS THAT WILL NOT STAIN THE UNIFORM. (NO CONDIMENTS OR GREASY FOOD)**

## **School Owned Instruments**

Students using school-owned instruments must pay a maintenance fee of \$25.00 per semester/\$50.00 per year to be used for general maintenance and up-keep of the instrument. Percussionist will pay a yearly stick fee of \$50.00. This will cover the cost of all sticks and mallets used during the school year. Parents whose child uses band owned properties, including but not limited to, musical instruments, uniforms, will accept full responsibility for the equipment while in the students possession.

This includes;

1. Repair of any damage.
2. Replacement of lost or stolen articles

3. Compensating the band for lost or stolen property at a fair market value as established by the band.

**ALL STUDENTS USING SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS  
MUST FILL OUT THE REQUIRED FORM.**

## **Fund Raising**

Since funds for operation of the band are very limited, it is necessary for the students and parents to raise a majority of our money.

The band boosters club is the financial backbone of the band, and without the majority of the parents participation, the band could not exist.

A percentage of the profits goes toward the general operating budget of the band boosters, which is used to pay for music, instruments, staff, buses, and supplies for the band program. A percentage of the profits also goes to the students Charms account to help pay fees and any planned band trips. **PLEASE NOTE; THERE WILL BE FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST IN OFFSETTING THE COST OF FEES!**

## **The Black Box**

The black box located outside the director's office is for the collection of all monies, unless the booster secretary is present to collect money.

There are envelopes provided on the top of the box for students to place their money in, seal and provide their name, amount and description of what the money is for on the outside.

The band director **WILL NOT** accept any monies of any kind for any reason.

The band boosters use an online program called Charms for parents to make payments for fees, trips, and other required charges.

## **FEES**

All fees are paid through the Band Boosters and are due at the beginning of band camp. Payment options are available to assist you.

1. Band fee \$100 per year
2. Band Camp fee including Band t-shirt \$150 per year  
(paid separately)
3. Instrument Rental fee \$50 per year (\$25 per semester)
4. Percussion Stick fee \$50 per year (\$25 per semester)

**Mandatory** conditioning and marching fundamentals each Thursday after school from 3:00pm - 4:00pm until the last Thursday of school.

Pre-Camp      July 17th - July 21st      9:00am - 2:30pm M - F

Band Camp.    July 27th - July 31<sup>st</sup>.      9:00am - 5:30pm M - F  
(lunch 11:45 - 12:30)  
(lunch 11:45 - 12:30)

### Monday & Thursday Rehearsals

After school rehearsals begin July 31<sup>st</sup> and will continue through Oct 27<sup>th</sup> Mondays & Thursdays 3:00pm - 5:30pm

Aug 18<sup>th</sup>      @ Northview Academy

Aug 25<sup>th</sup>      @ Happy Valley

Sept 1<sup>st</sup>      Pigeon Forge – Home

Sept 5<sup>th</sup>      After school rehearsal 3:00pm - 5:30pm

Sept 8<sup>th</sup>      @ Sullivan East

Sept 14<sup>th</sup>     Early Dismissal – Rehearsal 1:00pm – 5:30pm

Sept 15<sup>th</sup>     West Greene – Home

Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>     Bye Week – Rehearsal 3:00pm – 5:30pm

Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>     Competition - @ David Crockett

Sept 29<sup>th</sup>     Gatlinburg Pittman – Home

Oct 6<sup>th</sup>             Volunteer – Home (1<sup>st</sup> day of fall break.) Attendance REQUIRED

Oct 7<sup>th</sup>             Competition – TBA

Oct 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>    Fall Break – (No Monday or Thursday Rehearsal)

Oct 13<sup>th</sup>         @ Claiborne County – Rehearsal 1:00pm – 5:00pm.

Oct 20<sup>th</sup>         Chuckey Doak – Home

Oct 21<sup>st</sup>         Competition – TBA

Oct 26<sup>th</sup>         @ Johnson County

Oct 27<sup>th</sup>         Competition – Appalachian Classic – West Ridge H S

Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>          Football Playoffs Beg

Nov 4<sup>th</sup>          State Band Competition – Smyrna, T

Nov 25<sup>th</sup>        Erwin Christmas Parade

Christmas Concert – TBA

All East Senior Clinic

ETSU Honor Band – TBA

Spring Concert TBA

Tri-County Honor Band – TBA.

There may be unplanned community events that arise.

 Please avoid scheduling appointments on practice days!

**The ending rehearsal times listed, is the time that rehearsal stops. Students then have to cleanup and put instrument away before leaving.**

**ATTENDANCE AT ALL PERFORMANCES AND PRACTICES IS REQUIRED AND COUNTS AS A GRADE!**

## Signature Page

My child and I have read and reviewed the Unicoi County High School Blue Devil Band Handbook. We understand the contents of the handbook and agree to abide by them.

Parent's Name/Print \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name/Print \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

