



## Academies of Discovery Band

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# Academies of Discovery at South Hall Band Handbook 2018-2019

Dear AoD Band Families,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! I am delighted that you and your child have chosen to participate in the Academies of Discovery band program.

Music Education is a valuable part of any child's schooling. A multitude of research has been done by the National Association of Music Education to link Music Education to quicker brain development, higher academic achievement, higher test scores, higher graduation rates, and higher college acceptance rates. All of these outcomes are important, but I believe music does even more! Music Education shapes the way our students view themselves and the world around them, and allows for a deeper engagement with learning. Music Education teaches more than notes and rhythms on a page—it can provide life skills and strong foundations for your child during formative years in their education.

For students, band offers performance opportunities that many students will not find anywhere else. AoD band members will enjoy performing at school sporting events and pep rallies, school concerts, regional honor bands, music festivals, and community events. In addition to the primary purpose of creating young musicians, being a member of the AoD band provides leadership opportunities, a sense of belonging, and allows a positive outlet for expression.

For parents, being involved in your student's musical growth is a bonus! By attending performance events, encouraging home practice, and supporting your child, you are directly impacting your child's confidence and musical ability. There are many ways you can be involved including volunteer opportunities, chaperoning events/trips, participating in fundraisers, and attending performance events. I am so thankful for the strong parent support of the AoD band program—it truly makes a difference!

This handbook is your reference to activities, policies, and procedures. Please review with your student and sign/turn-in the agreement forms in the back. I will be happy to assist you with any questions you may have, and I'm looking forward to a great year with your family!

Respectfully,

Kelsey Brunson  
Director of Bands  
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## **GRADING POLICY**

Participation: 30%

Playing Assignments/Pass-Offs: 30%

Performance Assignments: 30%

Written Assignments: 10%

## **PARTICIPATION**

Students must have all necessary materials for class daily, as listed below. Each day a student is missing materials, points will be deducted from their weekly participation grade. Students with instruments in the repair shop should bring in a signed note explaining the repair and expected return date. Throughout the year, students may be asked to turn in forms with a parent signature; these will count towards their participation grade.

## **CLASSROOM SUPPLIES**

1. Band Instrument
2. Music folder
3. Pencil
4. Instrument Specific Supplies:
  - Flute: Tuning rod (specific to your make and model) and cleaning swab.
  - Oboe/Bassoon: 2 good reeds at all times, reed case, small canister for reed soaking, weighted silk swab, and cork grease.
  - All Woodwinds: 3 good reeds at all times, swab, and reed case.
  - All Brass: Mouthpiece, valve oil and slide grease.
  - Percussion: IPLD snare sticks and practice pad, IP240 Mallets, Timpani Mallets, and stick bag.

## **SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS**

Some students will use school-owned instruments. When an AoD instrument is issued to a student, it becomes the responsibility of that student. If lost, stolen, or severely damaged, the instrument will need to be replaced by the student and parent. Students who do not take care of a school-owned instrument may have the instrument taken away at the discretion of the band director.

## **DAILY REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS**

### **Before School**

- Bring instrument/music to the band room and place it in your assigned storage area.
- If necessary, purchase instrument supplies (oil, reeds, straps, sticks, etc.) from Mrs. Brunson.

### **During Class**

- Dispose of any candy/food/drinks before entering the room. Water is allowed.
- Enter the band room quickly and quietly. Go directly to the storage area to get your instrument before reporting to your assigned seat.
- Check the board for instructions/daily activity.
- Be prepared with instrument, music, and a pencil each day.
- Play only when directed to do so. Failure to follow this instruction will lead to loss of instrument privileges and loss of participation points.
- Treat the band room and all instruments/equipment (school owned and personally owned) with respect. It is expected for students to pick up trash near their seat and straighten chairs and stands so the room will be ready for the next class.
- Do not leave the room until you have been dismissed.

### **After School**

- Students may return to the band room after 6<sup>th</sup> period to pick up their instrument and music in order to practice at home.
- Students found abusing this privilege will be denied access to the band room after school.
- If necessary, purchase instrument supplies from Mrs. Brunson.

## **INSTRUMENT STORAGE**

Each student will be assigned a storage area in which their instrument should be stored each day while at school. Due to limited space, students will often be required to share space with other students. The storage spaces in the band room are for instruments and music ONLY and should not be used for storing anything else.

### **INSTRUMENT CARE**

Parents are expected to help maintain their child's instrument whether it is rented, borrowed, or owned. Before instruments are taken to be repaired, Mrs. Brunson will look at them first. She can usually fix minor problems, which will save valuable instructional time and money(!). In the event that Mrs. Brunson cannot fix the problem, parents should request a loaner horn from the instrument repair shop when taken for repair. Most shops will provide students with a loaner if it is requested. If a loaner horn cannot be given, parents should write a note to the director giving an anticipated date in which the instrument will be repaired.

Educational Representatives from Jackson's Music in Buford visit the school weekly to fix minor repairs on instruments. Most repairs can be done at the school site and will not be of any cost to the parent. However, if the instrument cannot be repaired on site, it will be taken into the shop. Once an instrument technician has looked at the instrument, parents will be notified of the estimated cost of the repair. **NOTE: YOU ARE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO USE THE SERVICE PROVIDED BY THIS BUSINESS. IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD'S INSTRUMENT TAKEN TO THIS REPAIR SHOP, PLEASE NOTIFY MRS. BRUNSON.**

**Please remember--Students are REQUIRED to bring instruments to class every day!**

### **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS AND GUIDELINES**

The standard for musical excellence in the AoD band is high, and the standard for behavior/conduct is even higher. Band students are a very visible representation of the Academies of Discovery, and are expected to uphold the 'South Hall Way' in everything that they do. If students follow the expectations laid out in this handbook, they will enjoy a very positive, productive, and fun year in band! However, as with all of us, some days are more difficult than others to perform at our best. Therefore, there is a plan to ensure continued progress for individual student and the class as a whole.

Off task or disruptive behaviors will be treated through the following sequence of interventions:

- Verbal reminders
- Change in seating arrangement
- Parent contact
- Loss of rehearsal privileges (\*Band Probation, see below)
- Parent/Student Conference
- In-School-Suspension (ISS)
- Administrative referral

Please do not be discouraged if your child needs assistance in improving class conduct at some time during the course of the year! School is a place to learn many skills, including proper interaction with peers and adults.

\*If a student has continued classroom behavior issues, he/she may be put on Band Probation. Band Probation includes, but is not limited to, loss of privilege to participate in rehearsals, loss of privilege to participate in performances, and loss of privilege to participate in band trips. Playing with the AoD band is a privilege; students placed on Band Probation may earn their way back to full participation status.

### **CONCERT ATTENDANCE**

The opportunity to perform for a public audience is an integral part of the band curriculum that cannot be taught, provided, or experienced during the school day. Performance are, in a sense, exams.

**If a student misses a concert, he/she will receive a zero for that performance and a concert absentee letter will be sent home. This letter must be signed and returned within a week of the performance. Only after the absentee letter is signed and returned will the student have the option to complete an alternative make-up assignment for up to half credit.** It is understood that there will be occasions where a child becomes ill or there is a family emergency. Please inform Mrs. Brunson of such situations as soon as possible.

### **CONCERT ATTIRE**

- For all football games and other 'informal' performances, the uniform will be AoD band t-shirt and school appropriate shorts or pants.
- For all formal concerts (i.e. Holiday Concert, LGPE, Spring Concert) students are required to wear "concert black". This is standard performance attire for professional musicians throughout the world.

### **Concert Black for Ladies:**

- Black shirt/blouse, must have sleeves (no tank-tops or spaghetti straps).
- Black pants or black skirt. Skirt length must meet dress code requirements.
- Instead of black pants/top, a black dress is allowed if it meets dress code requirements
- Black dress shoes/black socks.
- No flashy jewelry.

### **Concert Black for Gentlemen:**

- Black shirt (long sleeve button-up preferred).
- Black pants/black belt.
- Black dress shoes/black socks.

I encourage you to address concert attire issues long before the day of the concert. Your student works hard to prepare for public performances, and they deserve the opportunity to present themselves in a professional manner. Please contact Mrs. Brunson if there are any issues with getting concert black attire for your child. **Students must wear the appropriate uniform in order to perform with the band. If they cannot perform with the band, they will receive a zero for that performance grade.**

### **BAND FEES**

While Hall County provides a budget for the Academies of Discovery Bands, band programs as a whole are very expensive! Student Band Fees will enable each student to reap the benefits provided by the band such as performance opportunities, rewards for hard work, and trips.

**Students in the AoD band will be charged a \$50 yearly band fee.** This fee covers the cost of music purchases, provides students with a band t-shirt, provides students with an individual method book and band folder, covers festival entry fees, pays for end of the year awards, and goes toward travel expenses.

**Under NO circumstance will a student be removed from band because of lack of funds.** Money should never be the reason for not participating in band! If needed, please contact Mrs. Brunson to discuss a payment plan or installment plan.

### **FUNDRAISING**

In addition to yearly band fees, the AoD band program participates in fundraising activities throughout the year. Band students are expected to participate in the 3-4 band fundraisers per year. Fundraising activities help improve the experiences students can have while in band. If students participate fully in all fundraising activities, we can earn most of the money we will need to participate in each band activity as well as reward our students for their time and energy dedicated to our program!

### **BAND AWARDS**

Band awards are given at the end of the school year. Students vote on several awards, Mrs. Brunson chooses some, and others are earned. Awards include Musicianship awards, Most Improved, Most Outstanding, and the Director's Award for Band.

### **STUDENT LEADERS**

Applications for student leader positions are accepted every spring for the following school year. Student leaders are selected by Mrs. Brunson and hold their title for the entire school year, unless removed by Mrs. Brunson. Student leader positions include:

- Equipment Managers
- Facility Managers
- Music Librarians
- Support Managers
- Music Tutors

**\*\*Please fill out all forms and return to Mrs. Brunson by Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> for a participation grade\*\***

## **AoD Band 2018-2019 Handbook Agreement Form**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the Academies of Discovery Band Handbook and agree to comply with all rules, regulations, and policies set forth.

I understand that the AoD Band Handbook is intended to be *in addition to* any and all school policies set forth by Hall County Schools.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **AoD Band 2018-2019 Travel Permission Form**

I give permission for my son/daughter to travel off campus to all Academies of Discovery band functions.

Transportation will be by school carrier. All students must ride the school bus to and from all events unless written notice is received at least 24 hours in advance of departure of a given trip.

I understand that all trips are official school functions and that all school policies will be in effect for the duration of the trip.

I hereby release Academies of Discovery, Hall County Schools, and their personnel from any liability other than which are normally expected during regular school hour supervision.

Emergency Contact Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## **AoD Band 2018-2019 Medical Information Form**

Please list any allergies student has: \_\_\_\_\_

List all medications student takes: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any other medical information that may be necessary in the case of an emergency:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In the case of an emergency, I give permission for necessary care to be provided by medical or emergency care professionals.

Parent/Guardian Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## **AoD Band Fees 2018-2019**

**\*Checks can be made payable to AoD Band Boosters\***

\_\_\_\_\_ I am enclosing \$50 for my student's 2018-2019 band fee.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am enclosing \_\_\_\_\_ of my student's 2018-2019 band fee and will pay the rest later.  
(amount)

\_\_\_\_\_ I am unable to pay my student's \$50 band fee at this time. I will contact Mrs. Brunson to discuss payment options.

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_