



Tenoroc High School Band Handbook 2009-2010

Mr. Kevin M. LeVine
Director of Bands

Mr. Ernest L. Joe, Jr.
Principal



Tenoroc High School Band

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*Kevin M. LeVine
Director of Bands*

August 18, 2009

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Student:

Welcome to “the Roc”! We are really looking forward to an awesome year with our band program here at Tenoroc High School and we are glad that you have chosen to be a part of the Titan Band. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and that you are looking forward to this school year.

In this handbook you will find policies, procedures, and other important information regarding the Tenoroc High School Band Program. Please take the time to read this material, as the success of our band depends upon every individual working toward the same goals. Once you have read through the handbook, please sign the Band Contract and have your child return it to the band room by Friday, August 28th.

I would also like to encourage everyone to visit the THS Band website frequently. It will help you stay in touch with what is going on and will also answer questions about upcoming events. Our website is:
www.thsband.net

If you have any questions, please contact me at the school. Email is the best way to reach me as we do not have a direct line to the band room, but you can also call the school during normal school hours and ask for the band room. Good communication is essential to having an outstanding band program.

Go Titans!

Sincerely,

Kevin M. LeVine
Director of Bands

Ernest L. Joe, Jr.
Principal

Philosophy of Music - Every aspect of music is important and will be emphasized at various stages in a student's development. The core of the instrumental program is the concert band. From this ensemble, groups such as the marching band, percussion ensemble, and various chamber groups are derived. Music offers a unique opportunity to challenge each student cognitively, affectively, and physically. It provides for emotional expression, intrinsic worth, and has a positive impact on individuals, families, communities, and cultures.

Membership - Any student of Tenoroc High School may be a member of the THS Band Program (including Guard) under the following stipulations:

1. Must maintain an acceptable 2.0 grade point average to be eligible to participate in outside-of-school activities. (per the Florida School Music Association)
2. Must accept minimal financial responsibilities for instrument/equipment and uniform cleaning charges.
3. Must meet minimum performance/audition standards set by the Director

Conduct in General - As a member of the Tenoroc High School Band, you will be expected to conduct yourself in all school activities and classes in a manner that is acceptable to your teachers and the school administration. Each student's behavior reflects on the band as a whole.

“What is PRIDE?”

Precision	Every drill move and musical note has a high degree of definition and precision. Precision requires hard work and discipline at all times.
Respect	Respect for yourself, your leaders, your peers, your band program and your director. We can only be great if we all work together. Everyone is a piece of the puzzle.
Intensity	Every moment of rehearsal is given your 110% effort. There is no time to relax or show a lack of intensity if we are going to be proud of our finished product... and ourselves.
Dedication	Commit yourself to the band program. Attend every rehearsal and performance and commit yourself to achieving the highest levels of excellence.
Excellence	Excellence is the result of hard work, discipline and a good attitude... always. The members of the Tenoroc Band should be working for excellence at all times.

HOW TO DEMONSTRATE THE IDEALS OF "PRIDE"

- Be the first, never the last, to rehearsal.
- Always have the needed and required rehearsal materials.
- Wear appropriate rehearsal attire – proper shoes, shorts, etc.
- Demonstrate desire, spirit, and enthusiasm for learning, working and contributing.
- Be one of those students who is always there and can always be counted on.
- Prepare and master your part of the performance in advance of rehearsal. Ask for help if necessary. Only your best is good enough.
- Refrain from making comments or carrying on conversations during rehearsal. Talking is NOT conducive to productive rehearsals or superior bands.
- Maintain eye contact with Instructor or Officer in Charge. Use "High Intensity Listening."
- Stop immediately when a cut off is given or a marching move is completed.
- Exhibit enthusiasm for practice and **understand the need for repetition**.
- If you experience failure, analyze it and make a plan to improve and succeed the next time.
- Turn work into play! Enjoy rehearsing whether it is hot, cold or rainy. Always remind yourself: "The band will never be better than my ATTITUDE and contribution."
- Be humble in your success, both as an individual and as a band. Being boastful will quickly destroy your image. Demonstrate CLASS in all situations.
- ALWAYS give your 100%! Practice won't always be easy, but don't waste your time by giving less than your best. If everyone gives their 100% all the time, just imagine how much farther we can go!

Discipline - A good band is built on discipline! Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must, by necessity, be strict. Band students and parents must be willing to accept the ideals, principals, and rules of the organization.

Because band members are constantly on display, each must always be aware of the importance of good behavior. Each student should remember that he represents his organization, school, and community whenever he/she performs in public.

In order to maintain an orderly educational environment, the following procedures are used:

- When rehearsal is in progress, students should be quiet and paying attention
- Students should always have required materials in class
- Food and drinks should be kept in the hallway or outside the building
- Keep your hands and feet to yourself and your equipment

Consequences

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|-------------------------|--|
| 1 st Offense | Verbal Warning |
| 2 nd Offense | Detention |
| 3 rd Offense | Discipline Referral and/or meeting with parent(s)/guardian(s) |
| 4 th Offense | Dismissal from band until meeting with parent(s)/guardian(s) and principal |

Severe Discipline Clause

In the event a student blatantly and/or maliciously causes a serious classroom disruption, the student will be sent to the CHOICE Room for the remainder of the period.

This discipline policy has been approved by the Tenoroc High School administration.

Attitude - Without the proper attitude, you cannot hope to accomplish anything in life that is worthwhile. It is, therefore, essential that you come into this voluntary organization with an attitude that will allow you to put forth a MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF EFFORT with the BAREST MINIMUM OF COMPLAINT. If you are not willing to work hard, listen and follow directions, and respect our desire to be a truly superior band, it is strongly suggested that you re-evaluate your reasons for being in band.

Drugs and Alcohol - The use, possession, or being under the influence of any drug or substance not specifically prescribed by a physician, or the use, possession, or being under the influence of alcohol is EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED by any member of the THS Band while taking part in any form of band activity. Since the unauthorized use of drugs and alcohol is against school, state, and federal laws, it shall be treated as grounds for automatic and permanent suspension from the band.

Smoking and/or Tobacco - The use or possession of tobacco products is also prohibited anytime that you are with the band or are involved in any type of band activity.

PDA - Public Displays of Affection (PDA) are not allowed by band students while at band events, including, but not limited to, rehearsals (in class and after school), games, concerts, etc. The only acceptable form of PDA while with the band is holding hands.

The Polk County School Board Code of Conduct applies at ALL band rehearsals, performances, and functions.

Attendance - If an organization such as ours is to achieve a high level of excellence, it is essential that all of its members participate on a regular basis. Because of this, members willingly give up free time and arrange a work schedule around activities of the band. Having chosen to be a part of the THS Band allows a student many opportunities for public performances, including football games, parades, concerts, and festivals. It should be understood that there are valid reasons to miss band activities, but if these are left unsaid, the director will not know.

The following attendance regulations apply to all band members:

1. In all circumstances concerning absences, it is the responsibility of the student (and/or parents) to communicate directly with the director.
2. Absences from rehearsals and/or performances will adversely affect the student's grade in class.
3. Students must fill out an absence excuse form for any and all absences they wish to not be penalized for (including illness). The student will be given an opportunity to make up their grade for the absence.

The following are not valid reasons for missing band events:

1. Your job (read below)
2. Baby sitting for the family
3. Doctor or dentist appointment. Please schedule appointments accordingly.
4. Sports event or team practice (if not approved by the director beforehand)
5. Detention/Grounded
6. Weather
7. Birthday, Anniversary, etc.

Part-Time Jobs – Please read carefully!

It is recognized that some students must work part-time jobs to augment family income or help with their expenses of attending school and other necessities. Students and parents are reminded of the individual student's responsibility to the band in regard to attendance. Students with jobs should make sure that their employer is aware of their membership in the THS Band and understand that their presence is REQUIRED for rehearsals and performances. These are not optional to attend by the student or at the discretion of the employer. Take a few minutes and be sure your employer knows the dates and times which you need to be off for band, especially Tuesday and Friday evenings during the fall semester. The band calendar is printed and distributed with this purpose in mind... to eliminate conflicts with jobs and family activities. Give your employer at least a week or two notice!!!

After School Band Rehearsals - The band has scheduled practices on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. These rehearsals are required. Please make sure you are ready to begin rehearsing when the rehearsal is to start, not pulling into the parking lot. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of rehearsal, and those students who are not present and ready for the rehearsal with all appropriate materials will lose points on their grade for that rehearsal and may have other consequences. A student who is tardy may also lose third quarter privileges at the next football game.

Remember: **TO BE EARLY IS TO BE ON TIME, TO BE ON TIME IS TO BE LATE!!**

Care of School-Owned Instruments - School-owned instruments are provided to certain students (mainly large instruments such as percussion, tubas, etc.) School-owned instruments are rented to the student for their use during the school year. Any student who uses a school-owned instrument will be required to fill out a Rental Agreement Form and pay a rental fee of \$60 for the year (\$30 per semester). This fee does not cover the cost of repairing any damage that happens while the instrument is being rented to the student. The rental form will be given to those students on the first day of school and should be returned along with a check or money order for the first semester rental fee by Sept. 12th (payable to Tenoroc High School Band). **DO NOT SEND CASH!!!** Only the student who is issued the instrument should use it, unless cleared by the director. Violators will be dealt with individually.

All repairs will be the responsibility of the person renting the instrument!!!

Care of Library Music - Music is bought for use by this band and is loaned to the members for their use. All that is asked is that each student properly care for the music assigned to them and return it when called for in the best possible condition. All markings in the music should be made lightly in pencil. Students who lose their music will be charged \$.50 per page to replace it. Be responsible!!

Grading Policy

Weighting: Rehearsals - 35%
Performances - 35%
Tests/Assignments - 30%

Rehearsal Criteria

- Student on time for rehearsal
- Instrument and appropriate materials
- Attentive and exhibiting good conduct
- Attendance to all rehearsal sessions
- Performing music at a proficient level

Performance Criteria

- Student on time for performance
- Instrument and appropriate materials
- Attentive and contributing to a good performance
- Individual part performed at a high level of proficiency

Tests/Assignments – Students will be given various assignments and tests throughout the school year. These may include written assignments and tests, as well as playing assignments and tests.

**An absence from a performance may result in a student's overall grade being lowered by one letter grade.
An unexcused absence from a performance may result in the student receiving an overall failing grade.**

Honors Music Curriculum - Polk County offers 11th and 12th grade band students the opportunity to take band for honors credit with the approval of the band director. There are specific requirements and assignments for this program that the student must complete in addition to their normal band responsibilities. Sign-up for the Honors Music program generally occurs within the first two weeks of school. Students and parents who are interested should see the director for more information.

Trips - As members of the THS Band, students are required to do a certain amount of traveling to football games, parades, concerts, festivals, and other special activities. All students are required to travel with the band to and from all events by the means of transportation provided for the group. If it is absolutely necessary for a student to travel by other means, special permission must be obtained from the director. A written note from a parent or guardian must accompany such a request. Students will only be released to a parent or guardian, not boyfriends, girlfriends, neighbors, etc.

All band activities are governed by the rules set forth by the Florida Schools Music Association, the Polk County School Board, and the THS Band. Every person involved in these activities must abide by these policies and regulations. Failure to abide by said policies could result in suspension of all out-of-school activities for the THS Band.

Bus riding regulations:

1. Departure times will be posted well in advance and will be strictly adhered to. Students should arrive early to assure proper loading of equipment and personal items. "To be early..."
2. Students will sit according to the bus seating chart.
3. Roll will be taken and a head count after each loading.
4. Students will not extend their arms or head outside the bus or throw any object out of the bus at anytime.
5. Everyone must be immediately and absolutely silent at all railroad crossings.
6. Food, drinks, personal music/DVD players, video games, etc. may not be taken onto a school bus. This is against School Board policy.
7. There will be no playing of instruments on any bus at any time.
8. Students will not create loud or sudden noises on the bus (like screaming) and will follow the bus driver and chaperone's instructions regarding noise.
9. Always remain seated until a chaperone instructs differently. Do not, at any time, leave your seat while the bus is in motion.
10. Do not leave the bus improperly dressed.
11. Each student should clean up around his/her seat following each trip and dispose of all trash properly. Leave the bus as clean as you found it.

Football Game Guidelines:

1. The band seating area is off limits to everyone except band students, staff, and chaperones.
2. Uniforms must remain on and properly worn at all times.
3. Chaperones have the full authority of the director at all times. They are volunteering their time to help make your performance more successful. Please give them your respect.
4. **You must be in your spot ready to play your instrument at the end of the third quarter.** Failure to do so will result you losing that privilege for the next game.
5. Concessions – Use your own judgment. However, if an accident occurs you will be charged an extra uniform cleaning fee whether you were at fault or not.
6. Remember that you are being observed by parents, administrators, fans, and other bands at all times. You are expected to display the proper attitude and behavior at all times. Cursing is never allowed, but ESPECIALLY while in public.

Uniform Rental and Dry Cleaning Fees - Uniforms are provided to all instrument playing members of the THS Tenoroc Band. In order to take proper care of our uniforms and allow for replacing older uniforms as they wear out, we have these fees in place.

Dry Cleaning Fee - \$50 – due Sept. 30th (checks payable to THS Band)

Uniform Rental Fee - \$53.50 – due Oct. 31st (checks payable to THS Band)

Please, DO NOT SEND CASH!!! Fundraisers will be made available to help students and parents pay off these fees. If needed, payment plans may also be worked out with the director.

Because fees go into separate accounts, ALL fees must be paid with separate checks or money orders.

Band Shoes - Each member of the Tenoroc Band must have his/her own pair of marching band shoes. Shoe fitting will be on Tuesday, Aug. 25th. Shoes will be directly bought from “Dress Right Performance Wear” and students must bring CASH to pay them on this day. Anyone paying after this day will incur additional charges for shipping. If a student has a pair of marching shoes from a previous season they wish to use again, they must be approved as in acceptable condition by the band director.

Band T-Shirt – Students should always wear their band t-shirt under their marching band uniform. Students will not be issued their marching uniform unless they have on their band t-shirt and black socks.

Lockers - Lockers are provided to students for the storage of band equipment only! All students MUST have their own locker (including color guard and percussion) and use it. Only combination locks are allowed and you must be assigned a locker from the director. This locker should **not** be used to store books and other materials for non-music classes. Keep your equipment safe!

Personal Instruments - When considering buying a new instrument, please consult the director for a list of recommended equipment. Instruments vary greatly in quality, and there are many instruments for sale that are more less expensive, but may not be worth your investment. In many cases, such instruments may also limit the student’s success.

Cell Phones - The Code of Conduct allows for students to have cell phones as long as they are not activated or used during school hours or on school buses. It also states that if a cell phone is seen or heard it will be confiscated. For the purposes of minimizing distractions, rehearsals and performances are considered “school hours” in regards to cell phone use. That means cell phones should not be seen or heard during practices, football games, concerts, etc. They may be used during scheduled breaks in these activities (i.e. – 3rd quarter break). It is expected that you will turn your cell phone off during all events.

Chaperoning - Keeping your student safe is one of our highest priorities, especially when it comes to going on trips. In order to provide that level of safety and security, we need parents to volunteer to chaperone. We ask that parents chaperone a minimum of two trips.

Concession Stand – One of our biggest sources of funding will come from operating the concession stand at football games. Everyone benefits from the money raised in the concession stand, from paying for festival entry fees, to uniforms, to flags, etc. The concession stand cannot make money if we do not have people to run it. Everyone is asked to do their share and sign up to work three football games.

Classroom Materials - All students are expected to have certain materials with them in class each day and at all rehearsals:

- Instrument/Flag (in working condition) with reeds, oil, mouthpiece, drumsticks, etc.
- All music in folder or flip-folder
- A 3 tab folder with pockets and notebook paper for all class assignments
- A pencil

Student Drop Off & Pick Up – Sometimes safety issues can arise with students hanging around school grounds before and after band events. In order to provide for everyone’s safety, students are not allowed to wait on school grounds for evening rehearsals or performances. The earliest students should report for Tuesday evening practices is 5:15. For football games, performances, and other trips, a specific time report time will be posted. Students should not report earlier than 30 minutes before the report time. In addition, please make arrangements to pick up your student promptly following practices, performances, and trips. Adult supervision ends 15 minutes after all rehearsals/practices and 30 minutes after all performances, football games, and trips.

Student Parking & Transportation – Students who drive their own cars should use caution when entering and leaving the campus for band activities. Reckless driving may result in loss of privileges. Students should also be reminded that PCSB policy is that students are not allowed to transport students.

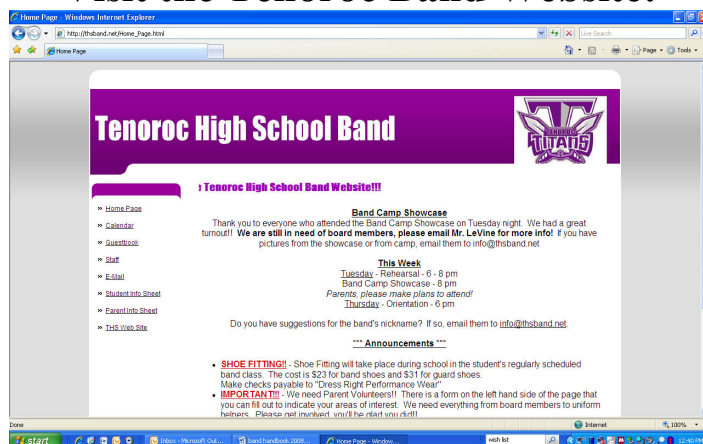
Fundraisers – All band programs depend on raising money in order to keep student fees down and be successful. Students and parents will be expected to participate in all fundraisers set up by the band and strive to meet minimum fundraising goals as set by the director. Many fundraisers will also afford students and parents an opportunity to pay off part of their fees.

Money – When turning in any money to the band, whether for rental fees, t-shirts, or fundraisers, please turn in a check or a money order. **DO NOT BRING CASH!** Cash will **not** be accepted!

Forms – There are three forms that need to be completely filled out and returned by Friday, August 28th. If these forms have not been turned in, students will not be allowed to travel or perform with the Tenoroc Band until they have been returned. The forms are:

- Band Contract (requires both a student and parent signature)
- Blanket Field Trip Form (parent signature)
- Medical Release Form (must be notarized)

Visit the Tenoroc Band Website:



www.thsband.net

The website is updated at frequently, so check it often.