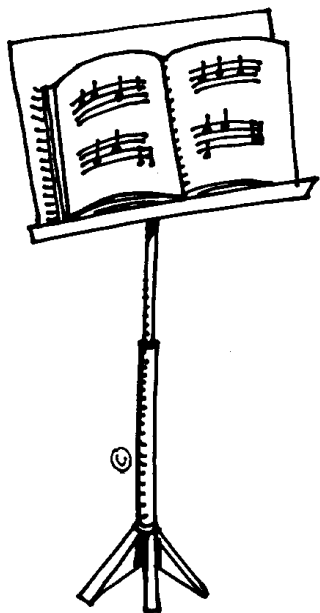




2008-2009

Gothenburg High School



Varsity Band Handbook

Mr. Bryan Bohn, Director

Students and Parents,

Welcome to Gothenburg High School's band family! I am looking forward to working with you during the school year. This handbook has been prepared as a reference for you and your parents. It outlines the requirements, rules, and regulations you will need to know as a member of this band. Please read this information carefully and keep it for future reference **even if you are a returning band member**.

There is a calendar of events listing all performances and rehearsals where your attendance is expected is attached to this handbook. Please notify your parents and your employer of these dates **NOW** so they can plan accordingly. An absence request form is also included for instances when missing a performance is unavoidable. This form must be completed, signed and returned no later than one week before the performance in question.

Also included is a sheet for you to sign and return to school. Parents, please put down your e-mail address as I will be communicating more via e-mail this year. Not all e-mails are listed in PowerSchool. Also, please check if you can help sponsor a marching competition, and/or help with a service project and fundraisers.

Playing in a band is a unique experience. Everyone equally contributes. Like a factory, everyone has an individual job to do and each person is needed to produce the final product. It is up to you to determine the level of success our organization will attain. A high level of success can be attained when each member of the band contributes his or her best effort every day.

With that said, I am excited to embark on the journey of making music with you! While we have a younger group, I believe together we can continue building the quality of this program day by day. I wish you much success as a member of the Gothenburg High School band and I thank you for your involvement.

Musically,

Bryan Bohn
Director of Bands
Gothenburg High School

The 2008-2009 Gothenburg High School Varsity Band Handbook

Director: Bryan Bohn
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Philosophy

The Varsity band provides students with unique musical experiences and opportunities for personal and musical growth through the performance of marching band, concert band, jazz band, solo, and small ensemble music as well as fostering spirit and pride throughout the school and community.

Rehearsal Times

From August to October, we will rehearse from 7:15 a.m. to the end of first period. During this time, rehearsals will meet outside unless otherwise notified. See the “Musical Opportunities at Gothenburg High School” section for more specific rehearsal times for each group. For the remainder of the year, the Concert Band will meet during our regularly scheduled class time. Students will receive academic credit for participating in the GHS band program.

Attendance Policy

All members are expected to be in attendance of all rehearsals and performances. Since rehearsal time is limited, it is necessary to have all members present at all times. A portion of the course grade is determined by attendance and excessive absences will affect the final grade for the quarter and semester. The grading section lists this in more detail. An absence request form is included at the back of this handbook. If you know in advance missing a performance is unavoidable and wish to be excused for the performance, you must complete, sign, and return a copy of the absence request form no later than one week before the performance in question. This form may be used in accordance to the district attendance policy on page 13 of the GHS Student/Parent Handbook. Excused absences include illness, family bereavement (death in the family), medical/dental appointment, court appearances that are required by court order, family emergencies, and other unique situations which have received prior approval from the Principal. **If you are going to be absent due to a school activity you do not need to fill out an absence request form.**

Tardiness is detrimental to the band. Each band member may be tardy two times before points will be taken off. Lost points may be made up after school.

District Music Contest (April 24-25) is an NSAA-run district event. It takes precedence over other school activities scheduled concurrently.

Care of Music

During marching band, you will be issued a copy of music for this year’s show. Please write your name on the back of it so that if it is found it can be returned to you. It is each member’s responsibility to keep track of his or her music. During concert band and jazz band, music will be kept in folders in the band room. Please take it home and practice it as needed.

Accessories

Lyres, reeds, valve/slide oil, etc. can be obtained from the music store, on-line music retailers, or the band office. All purchased reeds, oil, lyres, etc. may be paid upon receipt or are placed on the student's band bill and will need to be paid at the end of the quarter.

Organization

Director of Bands – The director oversees all aspects of the Gothenburg High School instrumental music program. The director also provides musical instruction and guidance for GHS students as well as coordinating private instruction and assistance in solo and small ensemble study. The director is available for assistance after school and during a planning period in the day.

Drum Major(s) – Drum major(s) are selected in the spring for the following fall marching season by application and audition. The drum majors are responsible for conducting the band during the field show and have command over the band during parades. These individuals must demonstrate leadership and ability in conducting and assistance with drill instruction on the field. The drum majors will be called on to assist with planning and execution of rehearsals. They report directly to the director and are members of the Leadership Team.

Leadership Team Members – Leadership Team Members are selected in the spring for the following fall marching season. Leadership Team Members must possess knowledge of marching fundamentals and techniques associated with their instruments as well as overall musicianship. They are responsible for assisting with rehearsing music in sectionals, teaching drill, and maintaining a positive attitude within their section and throughout the band. They are also responsible for assisting the director with attendance in daily rehearsals and on trips.

Classroom Rules

1. Listen when the teacher is talking.
2. Act respectful to other students and the teacher.
3. Food, pop, gum and candy will be consumed outside the band room.
4. Show respect for personal and school instruments by not playing them if they are not yours.
This includes percussion instruments if you are not a percussionist.

Trip and Travel Policies

The band will travel to several out-of-town parades and shows during the marching band season. Travel itineraries will be distributed to members at least two days prior to travel. Members will be expected to follow these policies:

1. Each member will be required to return a medical information sheet prior to the first trip of the season.
2. All school handbook policies apply on trips.
3. Members will be expected to positively represent Gothenburg High School during the trip.

Uniform Policies

While in uniform, members of the Gothenburg High School band are very visible to the public. Uniforms (hat, jacket, and pants) will be checked out to members during Band Camp. Members will be responsible for purchasing a marching band shirt and white Drillmasters shoes for marching band.

Uniforms will be worn to marching performances and parades. The following policies apply to uniforms:

1. Members will either appear completely in uniform or out of uniform. The complete uniform is the hat, jacket, Marching Swedes shirt and pants. This shows pride in our organization.
2. If your uniform needs repair, please contact Mr. Bohn as soon as possible.
3. Because of many performances throughout the marching season, concert band, and honor bands, the uniforms will be dry cleaned at the end of the year.
4. Members will keep their uniform free of mud, dirt, or dust for each performance. Please take your uniform to the cleaners if it is soiled.
5. A white shirt, black necktie/bowtie, black slacks, black socks, and black shoes are additions for the concert band uniform.
6. Jewelry is not to be worn with the uniform. Members with pierced ears are to wear posts or studs only. No neck jewelry or rings that show are allowed. Watches may be worn as long as the uniform sleeve hides them.
7. Make-up is to be kept to an absolute minimum.
8. Be proud to wear the Marching Swedes uniform!

General Band Policies

-Instrument Policies:

-Instruments should only be stored in their assigned locations and should have a label that contains the student's first and last name. If an instrument is out of place, consequences will occur.

-It is the student's responsibility to make sure his/her instrument is properly maintained and supplied throughout the school year. Reed instrument players should have 3-4 good reeds with them at all times. Brass players should have a supply of oil and slide grease as well as a mouthpiece brush.

-Repairs/Supplies Policies:

Supplies: (reeds, valve oil, mallets, sticks, slide grease...)

-You need to make sure to have the necessary supplies needed for every rehearsal, practice, and performance. These supplies can be purchased either through the school or any music store in the area. If you prefer to purchase supplies through the school, you may either buy as needed or you may purchase a punch card that can be used throughout the year. There is a list of prices towards the end of the handbook.

Instrument Supplies List – UPDATE PRICES

The supplies below are purchased from Kittle's Music (North Platte) and Hershberger Music (McCook). Other supplies are available upon request and can be delivered directly to the school.

Current prices on supplies are unavailable and will be announced. I anticipate prices will be higher due to market prices and the rising cost of fuel.

Repairs: If your instrument needs to be repaired, this can be done either through the school or with any area music store.

Musical Opportunities at Gothenburg High School

Varsity Band (Marching Swedes, Concert Band, and Pep Band)

The Varsity Band serves as a core for all instrumental activities at Gothenburg High School. It will provide an environment in which to explore the art of expression through musical instruments.

We will be working on all facets of music, from basic ideas through the very complex, technical skills and how to incorporate them into performance, performance etiquette, self-discipline, and development of aesthetic values for the art of music performance. The concert band rehearses during 1st period after the marching season until the end of the school year.

The Gothenburg High School Marching Swedes is an extension of the concert band. The marching band performs at home football games, local parades, field show competitions, and contribute to the moral and spirit of GHS and the community.

As a marching band member, everything you do on the field is important. THERE ARE NO LAST CHAIR PLAYERS IN MARCHING BAND. On the football field, no one person can see every element of the performance at the same time. However, every member of the band will be seen individually by a member of the audience at some point in the show. Attention is drawn to anyone who is not uniform in every move. Absolute errorless uniformity requires each member's attention 100% of the time. The marching band rehearses at 7:15 a.m. every day until the end of the marching season.

The pep band provides music at home Gothenburg athletic events as well as select tournaments and promotes spirit and support for the school's teams. The pep band is comprised of all concert band members. We will maintain high standards of musicianship, attitude, and, most of all, sportsmanship.

Members of this group are required to be at all events unless special arrangements are made. Failure to comply will result in a lower grade.

Percussion Ensemble

The percussion ensemble gives percussionists an opportunity to perform music that is written specifically for percussion ensembles which lets them explore a variety of battery, keyboard, and auxiliary instruments.

Jazz Band

The Jazz Band will explore styles of jazz from big band to fusion. The art of improvisation will be introduced with players receiving chances to practice soloing. Jazz theory will also be discussed. Membership is by audition and is open to any student in the Varsity Band who plays saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, guitar, bass, or drums. Jazz Band rehearses before school at 7:15 a.m. Tuesdays & Thursdays during the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarters.

Letter Requirements

Band members at Gothenburg High School are able to letter in band. The letter is earned by accumulating a total of points. Letters are awarded as a chenille lyre the first year and a pin the following years. To letter, members must earn 100 points throughout the year and be enrolled in band for the entire year. Points are assigned as follows:

Being selected for All-State Band/Orchestra/Jazz Band	100 points
an Alternate for an All-State ensemble	75 points
Auditioning for All-State Band/Orchestra/Jazz Band	50 points
Being selected for UNK Honor Band	50 points
UNK Festival Band	25 points

Auditioning for UNK Honor Band Clinic	25 points
Being selected for Hastings College Honor Band	50 points
Hastings College Honor Band Alternate	35 points
Auditioning for Hasting College Honor Band	25 points
Being selected for Southwest Conference Honor Band	50 points
Being selected for Jazz Band	50 points
Earning a Superior (I) rating on a solo/ensemble at a contest	75 points
an Excellent (II) rating on a solo/ensemble at a contest	50 points
a Good (III) rating on a solo/ensemble at a contest	25 points
Solo/ensemble performance outside of school (church, community, etc.) – Limit 5 performances	10 pts./perf.
Serving as a Leadership Team member	50 points
Drum Major	75 points
Assisting with concert set-up	10 pts. each
Serving as Music Librarian or aide	40 pts./sem.
Taking private lessons consistently during school year	50 points
private lessons during summer	5 pts/lesson
Participating in a summer band camp (UNK, Hastings, etc.)	50 points
Gothenburg's band camp does <u>not</u> count for lettering	
Being selected as a first chair player	40 points
Positive attitude/work ethic	10 pts. max
Participation in Merry TubaChristmas	35 points

Grading

The grading system will be broken down into 3 sections:

1. Preparation and Participation - (30%)

This grade will be given daily. The average for the week will be recorded grade. (Excused absences will not be calculated in the average.) The daily grade will include:

- Showing up on time and ready to go at beginning of rehearsals
- Having all correct materials. (Instrument, Music, Pencil, Drill Charts, etc.)
- Attitude and participation during class.

2. Performances - (60%)

Since band is a performance-oriented class, attendance to all performances is mandatory and represents 60% of the total grade. (Absences to performances are considered excused by the guidelines outlined in the GHS student handbook – see the Attendance Policy on page 3.) Tardiness will affect the grade depending on the severity of the tardy.

3. Tests - (10%)

The test section of the grading system includes chair auditions any written or playing tests given throughout the year. (This **does not** include your semester test.)

EXTRA CREDIT - Extra credit projects include but are not limited to the following:

- Any pre-approved book report
- Any pre-approved concert review
- Any concert band piece properly played individually for director

Any extra work can receive extra points. If you have done something that merits receiving points not listed above, please discuss your ideas with Mr. Bohn.

Gothenburg High School Varsity Band Signature Page
2008-2009

STUDENTS:

I have read the rules, procedures, and policies of the Gothenburg Instrumental Music Program. I agree to comply with all rules, procedures, and policies outlined in this handbook and I will act in a responsible manner at all times. I have looked at the grading system and the schedule and understand all that is expected of me throughout the year. I understand that it is an honor and privilege to be a member of the Gothenburg High School Instrumental Music Program and I will conduct myself accordingly or be subject to consequences at the discretion of the band director.

Student Signature _____ **DATE:** _____

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S):

I have read this entire handbook and will assist and support my child as they meet all the obligations mentioned. I give permission for my son/daughter to participate in all band related activities and events.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **DATE:** _____

E-mail address: _____

Below, check off what you would be willing to help with this year.

Sponsors:

_____ Harvest of Harmony

_____ UNK Homecoming

_____ District Music Contest

Service:

_____ Locker Decorations

_____ Special Treats

Fundraisers:

_____ Ice Cream Social

_____ Soup Supper

RETURN TO MR. BOHN BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2008

2008-2009 Gothenburg High School Varsity Band Performance Calendar

The following is a list of performances for the entire school year. Please take the time to submit this schedule to your employer to alleviate conflicts. Contact Mr. Bohn if you have any questions about this schedule. All activities are at the high school unless noted otherwise. Concerts are held at the PAC.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time</u>
August 4 (Mon.)	Leadership Camp	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
August 5-6 (Tues-Wed.)	Drumline Camp	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
August 6-8 (Mon.-Fri.)	Band Camp	1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
August 16 (Thurs.)	Early Morning Rehearsals Begin	7:15 a.m.
September 5 (Fri.)	FB vs. Ord	7 p.m.
September 19 (Fri.)	FB vs. Minden	7 p.m.
September 20 (Sat.)	Harvest Festival Parade	10:30 a.m.
October 4 (Sat.)	Harvest of Harmony (Grand Island)	8:30 a.m.
October 10 (Fri.)	Homecoming Parade	2 p.m.
October 10 (Fri.)	FB vs. Valentine (Homecoming)	7 p.m.
October 13 (Sat.)	UNK Homecoming Parade (Kearney)	8 a.m.
October 23 (Thurs.)	FB vs. Ainsworth	7 p.m.
December 1 (Mon.)	Christmas Band Concert (gr. 6-12)	7 p.m.
December 5 (Fri.)	GBB/BBB vs. Hershey	6/7:30 p.m.
December 11 (Thurs.)	GBB/BBB vs. Southern Valley	6/7:30 p.m.
December 19 (Fri.)	GBB/BBB vs. Holdrege	6/7:30 p.m.
December 23 (Tues.)	GBB/BBB vs. Minden	5:30/7 p.m.
January 10 (Sat.)	GBB vs. Centura	5 p.m.
January 16 (Fri.)	GBB/BBB vs. Chase County	4:30/6 p.m.
January 24 (Sat.)	GBB/BBB vs. Kearney Catholic (Coronation)	6/7:30 p.m.
January 26-31 (Mon.-Sat.)	SWC BB (home bid only)	TBA
February 13 (Fri.)	GBB vs. Ogallala	7:30 p.m.
February 14 (Sat.)	BBB vs. Ainsworth	4:30 p.m.
March 10 (Tues.)	Winter Concert	7 p.m.
March 20-21 (Fri.-Sat.)	SWC Music & Art Clinic (Ogallala)	4 p.m. (MST) Concert
April 24-25 (Fri.-Sat.)	District Music Contest (Kearney)	TBA
April 27 (Mon.)	Spring Band Concert (gr. 5-12)	7 p.m.
May 10 (Sun.)	Graduation	2 p.m.

Times listed are starting times. Arrival times will be listed on the marker board.

GOTHENBURG BAND ABSENCE REQUEST FORM

This form must be completed and turned in **one week in advance of any anticipated absence** by a band student. (Excluding extreme emergencies)

Student Name _____

Today's Date _____

Date of anticipated absence _____

Reason for absence:

Please be specific! The policy is quite simple - if the school will excuse it, we will excuse it. If the school will not, we will not. **I forgot, I had to work, or failure to communicate does not excuse a student from a performance or rehearsal.**

Gothenburg Public Schools will excuse for illness, family bereavement (death in the family), medical or dental appointment, court appearances that are required by court order, participation in school activities, family emergencies and other unique situations which have received prior approval from the Principal. (This is taken from p. 13 of the Student/Parent Handbook.)

Parent Signature

Student Signature

All forms must be submitted Mr. Bohn and will remain on file for the remainder of the school year.

Date

Director's Signature