

**Welcome to the  
Etowah High School Eagle Band**



**Student Handbook**



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# Etowah Eagle Band Policies and Regulations

## General Policies All Units –

1. Shoes and socks must be worn at all rehearsals.
2. Chewing gum is not permitted during a rehearsal.
3. No food or drink is allowed on any areas of the band room, except by permission of the director.
4. A band member must respect his or her uniform at all times.
5. No hats or sunglasses may be worn inside of the building.
6. There will be NO HAZING of anyone allowed.
7. Be in your seat, warmed up, and ready to begin on time.
8. Insubordination will not be tolerated.
9. Respect other people's property.
10. All band members will wear no jewelry (including pierced earrings), fingernail polish, or excessive makeup while in uniform.
11. Hair should be kept up when in uniform and not touch the collar of the uniform. Hair should remain a natural color during marching season.

## Marching Band Attendance Policy –

Conscientious rehearsal attendance is always vital to the well-being of our program. As we put drill on the field and work to develop our competitive field show, it is essential that all band members are present for the entirety of all rehearsals. Regular attendance at rehearsals as well as a solid ability to play the show music and march drill will ensure a position in the final line-up. Additionally, as we clean sets, we need all positions present in order to clean forms and intervals properly. The following is the Etowah Band attendance policy.

1. Rehearsal attendance is mandatory.
2. Excused absences include illness (absence from school), death in the family, religious events (weddings, funerals, bar mitzvahs, confirmations) and major anniversaries are considered excused.
3. Students may be excused from a portion of rehearsal to attend a private music lesson, but this must be cleared with the Director.
4. Students should fill out an ABSENCE FORM (available in this document) a minimum of 3 days prior to the absence and email it to Mr. Long. Email: [stephen.long@cherokee.k12.ga.us](mailto:stephen.long@cherokee.k12.ga.us).



# Etowah Eagle Band Policies and Regulations

## Marching Band Attendance Policy (Continued)

5. A rehearsal missed due to work, other outside activities, or an absence not announced before the event will be considered unexcused.
6. A student who misses a Thursday night rehearsal for any reason, excused or unexcused, may not perform the halftime show at the Friday night game or competition if applicable. (They are expected to attend the game and perform in the stands.)
7. One unexcused absence or two consecutive excused absences may be grounds for director and administrative review and potentially removal from the activity.
8. A student who misses any two rehearsals in a given week, for any reason, will not perform at the Friday night game or at competition that week.

Any questions regarding an absence should be directed to the director by email.

**An example of the absence form is Attachment A and will be available upon request.**

## Concert Band Attendance Policy –

Conscientious rehearsal attendance is always vital to the well-being of our program. Now we shift our attention to the concert band component of our program. During this season, the focus changes toward a higher level of individual musical development that will enable each student to enjoy a lifetime of independent music making. As a vehicle for this development, we use chamber groups and the concert band. Regular participation in concert band is required for full participation in all three concert bands. These bands may also hold winter camps or after school rehearsals to prepare for LGPE.

Each band member is expected to attend rehearsal after school as posted on the band's calendar by Semester Break. These rehearsals are usually conducted by one of the band directors. An enormous amount of detailed work on tone production, intonation, blend, balance and group interpretation is necessary for perfection of literature performed during this semester. We look forward to a fun-filled semester of great performances during this semester. The following is the Etowah Band attendance policy:



# Etowah Eagle Band Policies and Regulations

## **Concert Band Attendance Policy (Continued) –** Expectations for students:

1. Students will be expected to attend after school rehearsals as posted on the band's calendar.
2. Excused absences include illness (absence from school), death in the family, religious events (weddings, funerals, bar mitzvahs, confirmations) and major anniversaries are considered excused.
3. Students may be excused from a portion of rehearsal to attend a private music lesson.
4. Students participating in Etowah Athletic teams will be excused from band rehearsals. Prior communication with the director is required to receive an excuse. If your athletic team is not in competition during band rehearsals times, students are expected to attend band/sectional rehearsals.
5. Students involved in academic afternoon help sessions are allowed to attend these sessions. Students must receive prior approval from directors.
6. Students who miss a concert band rehearsal or sectional will be required to record an audio tape of missed work and turned in to the conductor within three days of the absence, or schedule a time to work with a director on the material.

## Disciplinary Action:

1. Failure to fulfilling concert band attendance/performance policies may result in the following disciplinary actions:
  - a. Student will be ineligible for participation in the end-of-the-year Awards Banquet.
  - b. Student will be ineligible for Band Spring Trip if applicable.
  - c. Student may not try out for a leadership position in the Eagle Band Students Leadership Team.
  - d. Failure to comply with before/after school rehearsals may result in director and administrative review. Only in extreme cases will expulsion or probation for the Eagle Band Program be considered.
2. If you are unable to attend regular after school rehearsals, which correspond with your band assignment, please inform the director before the beginning of second semester.



# Etowah Eagle Band Policies and Regulations

## Football Game Procedures – Home Games

1. Home games will be played at Etowah High School Stadium.
2. All games will begin at 7:30 pm with band assembly at 5:30 pm.
3. Students should be fully dressed by 6:00pm. Jacket, gloves, gauntlets, and shakos may be carried in hand.
4. Instrument cases and ponchos will not be needed except for in rainy conditions.
5. Plumes will be issued just before halftime in the stadium and taken up after your performance.
6. Students should remain in full uniform unless instructed differently by the director.
7. Students/Parents on detail are to report to the band room at 5:00 pm and immediately after the game to assist in the handling of equipment.
8. Percussionists, color guard, sousaphone, and marching baritones and mellophone players are expected to report to the band room at 5:00 pm for instrument cleaning or make-up.
9. All band equipment should be sparkling and “ready to go” at assembly of the band. Remember that marching band is an outside activity and instruments should be cleaned regularly.
10. All members are expected to attend every engagement in which the band participated.
11. No band member is permitted to leave the organization in advance of the group dismissal at any time, unless excused by the directors prior to the performance.
12. Regulations regarding rehearsals are also in effect during all public performances.
13. While seated in the stands, only band members are allowed in the ranks. Graduates will from time to time come back for visits and are welcome, but should check with a director so notification can be given to chaperones.
14. Students are to remain in their sections for the duration of the game.
15. Attention should be given to the Band Directors or Drum Majors when they are standing in front of the band.
16. We will play only as a group while in the stands. Solo performance is strictly prohibited. Sections are encouraged to work up brief musical selections to aid in the support spirit. These “cheers: must be approved by the Band Staff prior to the start of the game.
17. No inappropriate cheers. Organized, well planned cheers will certainly enhance “Eagle Spirit” and are definitely encouraged.
18. Musicians should avoid jumping as the team scores a touchdown. We appreciate your support, but instruments may become damaged on the bleachers.
19. In order to move from place to place in an organized manner, we must be able to give instructions to the group in rapid fashion. Everyone will listen to the Band Staff when instructions are being given.



# Etowah Eagle Band Policies and Regulations

## Band Traveling Rules –

1. Drinking alcoholic beverages and taking non-prescription drugs will not be tolerated and cause immediate dismissal.
2. Smoking, chewing, and dipping tobacco will not be tolerated on band trips.
3. Students are expected to behave at all times. You are representing Etowah High School, Woodstock, GA, and Cherokee County. Anyone deemed guilty of gross misbehavior will be dealt with by the directors.
4. All students are expected to participate in all activities.
5. ABSOLUTELY NO HAZING OR INITIATION OF ANYONE IN ANY FORM WILL BE TOLERATED. New students will not run errands, etc., for older band members.
6. Parents and students will be held responsible for paying any property damage.
7. Shirts and shoes are to be worn at all times.
8. There will be NO breaking in line.
9. Courtesy is expected at all times.
10. There are to be no wearing of hats, hair rollers, or sunglasses in the building.
11. Please refrain from playing instruments when not instructed by the staff.
12. All school rules (including smoking) will be strictly enforced. Any infraction of these rules will be dealt with by both the directors and the school authorities.
13. All students should realize that for the duration of the trip, any personal desires, uniqueness of character or other individualities must be considered secondary to the traits that facilitate large group control and management.
14. Profanity is not a part of the Eagle Band Program. Make sure that your language is never offensive while in the band.

**REMEMBER:** Young adults do not roughhouse or damage property. As EHS Band members, you reflect not only the values you learn at EHS, but those of your community as well. **BAND MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE AT THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME, WITH THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT---READY TO GO!!!** The Band Directors reserve the right to dismiss and send home any student who disobeys the rules and whose general conduct and attitude towards the trip and its participants is determined to be detrimental to the rest of the group.

**Call times for football away games and other events that require travel will be announced as soon as possible and will take into consideration distance and traffic to the location.**



# Etowah Eagle Band Lettering Information and Points System

## Band Letter –

The band letter represents achievement and is awarded annually to students who demonstrate their commitment and dedication to all band activities. The letter represents not only participation, but achievement beyond the minimal standards. Students may earn a band letter in each of their four years of band participation. Second, third, and fourth time recipients will receive a service bar that may be affixed to their letter.

## Band Letter Requirements –

**The point total for an instrumentalist in the Etowah Band Program to earn a band letter is: 500**

**The point total for a guard member in the Etowah Band Program to earn a band letter is: 440**

**The point total for a concert only member in the Etowah Band/Orchestra Program to earn a letter is: 300 and can be accumulated over the course of multiple school years.**

In order to earn a band letter, a student in the Etowah Band Program must meet two sets of criteria.

First, they must participate in the band program for both semesters of a given year. Participation in marching band and symphonic band is required.

Second, students must adhere to the policies and guidelines of the program regarding behavior and participation. Failure to meet the minimum standard will result in the loss of ability to letter, no matter the participation point total earned. The two sets of points that will be maintained simultaneously and participation points will be awarded as follows:

## Marching Band Points –

Band Camp (Both Weeks)	100 points
Marching rehearsals (pre-camp and regular season)	5 points each
Football games	10 points each
Competitions/Exhibitions	20 points each
Extended Practices	15 points each





# Etowah Eagle Band

## Lettering Information and Points System

### Concert Band Points –

Concerts	20 points each
Concert Band Rehearsals/Sectionals	5 points

### Supplemental Activities –

Jazz Band	20 points
District Honor Band Tryout	10 points
District Honor Band Participation	25 points
All State Band/Orchestra State Tryout	25 points
All State Band/Orchestra State Participation	50 points
Solo & Ensemble Solo Superior Rating	5 points
Solo & Ensemble Solo Excellent Rating	4 points
Solo & Ensemble Superior Rating	4 points
Solo & Ensemble Excellent Rating	2 points
Any additional Etowah sponsored performance activity (Pep Bands, chamber ensembles, parades, etc.)	3 points each

**Submit all of these to the director for approval.**

### Procedural points will be assigned for the following situations:

Rules Infractions:	-3 points each
Behavior/discipline	
Missing materials	
Missing or non-functional instrument	
Missed deadlines for music pass-off	
Uniform violations	
Missed Deadlines (paperwork, fees, material turn-in)	

Disrespect of staff, chaperones, student leaders\* -5 points each

\*(Instances of disrespect will be reported to the band director who will review the situation and either confirm or deny the request for points.)

Tardy or Early Dismissal -1 point per 15 minutes

**Once a student attains 20 procedural points, that student will no longer be eligible for a band letter, no matter how many participation points he/she has accrued.**

**EACH STUDENT IS EXPECTED TO TRACK THEIR POINTS FOR ACCURACY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!**



# Etowah Eagle Band General Information

## 2017-2018 Concert Band Attire –

Freshman male students are required to perform in concerts in either a solid black tuxedo or black suit with white shirt and black bow tie. Advanced Band and Mastery band students are required to perform in concerts in a solid black tuxedo with black bowtie and white shirt. The purchase or rental of these is the responsibility of the student. Any local clothing store can be used. Amazon features classic tuxedos between \$70 and \$90 dollars and many local clothing stores should have pricing that is comparable. Please be sure of your student's size or alterations will need to be made at cost to you. Reminders will be sent with enough lead-time before the first concert of the year to secure your students attire. This website link is to a tuxedo package that includes everything: <https://tinyurl.com/kwsl6kx>

Female students are required to perform in concerts wearing a solid black dress that is available for an online vendor which is Formal Fashions Inc and their style is 3762AA. The website link is: <https://tinyurl.com/j2lrvro> at a cost of \$59 plus shipping. You may also order by phone at 1-800-528-7909. Sizing information is available at the site link above. Graduating seniors might want to consider posting their used dress for sale in the band room and the EBBA can communicate used dress availability also.

# Attachment A



## Etowah Eagle Band Absence Form

Attendance at all Eagle Band rehearsals, sectionals, and performances is mandatory and is vital to the success of our program. However, if you must miss a rehearsal, complete this form with both your signature and Mr. Long's signature and notify your section leader no later than 3 days before the rehearsal you will miss. Students/Parents should also send an email to Mr. Long at [stephen.long@cherokee.k12.ga.us](mailto:stephen.long@cherokee.k12.ga.us) .

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

Date or dates of rehearsal to be missed: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Section Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Director: \_\_\_\_\_



# Etowah Band Boosters Association Student Handbook Acknowledgement

I, \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledge I have read and understand the information listed in the Student Handbook.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I, \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledge I have read and understand the information listed in the Student Handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please sign and return this page no later than the first day of band camp.**