



Highland High School

Marching Band and Colorguard

Student and Parent Handbook
2018 - 2019

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Director's Comments

Welcome to our family. We are glad you have elected to be a part of the Highland High School Marching Band and Colorguard. The Highland Marching Band is one of the most accomplished, decorated and artistic marching bands in Southern California. Over the last 5 years we have finished in the top 5 bands winning silver and gold the last two years in the Southern California Schools Band and Orchestra Association Championships. Here at Highland High School we train our members to perform at their best. The success of this program centers on pride, commitment, and the willingness to work hard to achieve our goals and objectives.

As a member of this organization you will make long-lasting friendships and develop a sense of camaraderie that is unique to our program. As the director I expect each student to develop short-term and long-term goals for his/her musical and equipment skill development. I also expect that each student who commits to this program will accept the responsibility to perform to the best of their ability and help others achieve this goal.

The Highland High School Marching Band program focuses first on musical skill development and then marching and equipment skills. Through this development the following will be the result:

Attitude:

1. Confidence in one's own potential
2. Desire to improve one's competence, skill and knowledge
3. Desire to perform for an audience
4. Loyalty to the Highland High School Marching Band

Habits:

1. Performing with proper posture and technique
2. Performing with expressive elements, articulation and dynamics
3. Daily practice – outside of regularly scheduled rehearsals
4. Acceptance of responsibility for one's own actions

Appreciation:

1. Discrimination of different styles and idioms of music
2. Sensitivity to skilled and tasteful performance in music
3. Preference for listening to quality music
4. Appreciation and respect for other members in the group

The information in this handbook is provided to help the student understand the level of commitment and the behavior expected to meet our goals. It also contains the organization's policies and rules. If there are any other concerns that are not addressed in this handbook, please feel free to contact me and I will help in any way I can.

Staff and Leaders 2018 - 2019

Staff

Director:	David McCaslin
Assistant Band Director:	Brian Almirón
Percussion Caption Head:	Nick Bley
Front Ensemble Instructor:	George Jackson III
Colorguard Caption Head:	Joscelyn Teran
Colorguard Instructor:	Kevin Cardenas

Leaders

Drum Major:	Tony Retamozo
Assistant Drum Major:	Dayna Kross
Colorguard Captain:	Cynthia Perez
Co-Captain:	Kathryn Jenkins

Music Boosters

President:	Brian Kross
Vice President:	Randy Carbonel
Secretary:	Kathy Kross
Treasurer:	Renee Thresher
Ways & Means:	Open

The Staff

David McCaslin – Band Director: Mr. McCaslin has been an active music teacher and band director since 1975. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education at Northeastern Oklahoma State University in Tahlequah, OK. He completed his graduate work at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK where he was the assistant director for two years. His experience includes all grade levels from kindergarten through university. He began his teaching career in Oklahoma and came to California in 1987.

Brian Almirón – Assistant Band Director: Brian has been involved in music programs since the fourth grade, was a member of the Highland Marching Band for all four years playing Baritone Saxophone, Marching Percussion and Drum Major. Has performed with the Antelope Valley College Marching Marauders (Baritone Saxophone and Tenor Line), California State University at Northridge Marching Percussion Ensemble (Front Ensemble), Antelope Valley College Symphonic Band (Baritone & Tenor Saxophone), Cirque Bizerk (Bassline), and West Coast Classical's Wind Ensemble and Saxophone Choir (Baritone Saxophone). Brian has been part of percussion & visual staffs in Southern California and Arizona since 1998. Brian is currently attending Antelope Valley College to pursue a degree in Nursing.

Nick Bley – Percussion Caption Head: Nick was born and raised in Tucson, AZ. He first began playing percussion in seventh grade and has been involved in marching bands and indoor percussion ensembles throughout college. Nick attended the University of Arizona where he studied Aerospace Engineering and marched snare with the Pride of Arizona Marching Band, marched three seasons with Breakthrough Indoor Percussion (Snare) and was the Percussion Instructor/Arranger at Walden Grove High School in Sahuarita, AZ. Nick is currently a Flight Test Engineer at Edwards Air Force Base.

George Jackson III – Front Ensemble Instructor: George started playing music at the age of 9 and picked up a pair of mallets his freshman year of high school. He graduated from Lancaster High School where he spent all 4 years as a member of the front ensemble and was the percussion section leader. While in high school, George also performed with the Highland High School Indoor Percussion Ensemble, was a member of Royal Cavaliers Performing Arts (Front Ensemble) and was a member of the Pacific Crest Drum and Bugle Corps (Front Ensemble). George is currently continuing his General Education at College of the Canyons in Valencia and marching with Pacific Crest in Drum Corps International (DCI).

Joscelyn Teran - Colorguard Caption Head: Joscelyn graduated from Highland High School, was a member of the colorguard for three years, and guard captain her senior year. After graduating, Joscelyn continued helping the colorguard staff. She is currently attending Antelope Valley College for a Bachelor of Science in nursing to become a Nurse Practitioner.

Marching Band

The Marching Band consists of the wind instruments, drumline, keyboards and colorguard performing as one unit. This unit performs a field show at home football games and field competitions. The main part of the marching season is on the field show tournaments. This group requires a fee to purchase equipment not supplied by the school.

Colorguard

During the fall semester, the Colorguard participates with the band at all performances. They perform routines that include spinning flags, rifles and sabers while performing a choreographed routine - all elements that will enhance the overall effect of the field show. Their schedule usually matches the Marching Band schedule but **will** include additional practices. To be a member of the Colorguard a student must audition for a place in the group. Colorguard members must be enrolled in Marching Band in the fall semester.

Wind Ensemble

Wind Ensemble is an important part of the instrumental music program at Highland High School. This is where each student learns to play more musically and with more maturity. Without a concert experience, a student does not have the opportunity to increase his/her skill and knowledge of his/her instrument. All Marching Band instrumentalists will be enrolled in the Wind Ensemble in the spring semester.

Indoor Percussion – known as Winterline

Indoor Percussion is a marching percussion and keyboard group which performs on a basketball court and competes against other schools throughout the state in the spring semester. To be a member of the Indoor Percussion Ensemble a student must audition for a place in the group. This is a volunteer group of elite musicians that meets in the evening during the week. The rehearsal schedule will be determined by the percussion staff. There will be an additional TBD cost for participants. This is a non-enrolled group and there will be no school credit.

Indoor Colorguard - Winterguard

During the spring semester, the Colorguard is known as the Winterguard. This group performs a choreographed routine to recorded music on a basketball court and competes against other schools throughout the state. The rehearsal and competition schedule will be determined by the Colorguard staff. There will be an additional fee for participants. This is a non-enrolled group and there will be no school credit.

POLICIES

Grading Policy

A student's grade will be determined on how they perform and improve on the skills taught during the year and on their attendance and citizenship. An "A" in band is for outstanding performance and commitment to the success of self and the overall group. Points are earned for rehearsals and performances –points will be given for rehearsals, 100 points for football games and 200 points for field and parade marching competitions. Excused and unexcused absences receive zero points, which will impact the student's grade.

Basic Skills for Instrumentalists

- Students will have proper playing posture, embouchure, and hand position at all times.
- Students will consistently produce tones that are clear, and unwavering in pitch.
- Students will maintain a steady tempo while performing materials being studied.
- Students will be able to read notes and rhythms correctly.
- Students will be able to consistently play all major and minor scales which are assigned.
- All members will **memorize** the marching band music.

School Grade Policy

Students must maintain a 2.0 grade point average to continue to participate in any performance group, which performs outside of the school day.

Performance/Rehearsal Attendance

All concerts, competitions, parades, festivals, football games, pep assemblies, rehearsals and all other performance opportunities are required attendance for all members of the marching band and colorguard unless otherwise noted. To be absent from a planned activity requires a written note from the parent/guardian **two weeks** prior to the rehearsal or performance. Examples of excused absences would be weddings, funerals or religious requirements. Illness will be excused with a doctor's note. Examples of unexcused absences are: homework, school projects, work, college or SAT Prep classes, medical and dental appointments, lack of transportation, forgetting, shopping, birthdays, only one car, etc. An unexcused absence will result in your grade being lowered.

Tardies are unacceptable and will be considered an absence without an excusable reason. You are considered tardy if you are not in your assigned spot and ready to rehearse or perform when the director, instructors or drum majors arrive on the field or podium. Being tardy is not acceptable and can result in removal from the competition unit. Leaving early will be considered the same as tardies.

It is understandable that there may be some unavoidable events such as accidents, illness or family emergencies. These will be excused at the **director's discretion**. Please contact the director or instructor prior to the rehearsal or performance if possible. A note saying "please excuse" without a good and verifiable reason will not be excused.

Leaving Concerts/Competitions/Festivals/Other Events Early

Watching other performing groups is an important, educational part of any trip or competition in which we participate. All students are expected to attend the full duration of each event. Arriving late or leaving early diminishes the effectiveness of the rehearsal and performance experience. This is not acceptable. Arriving late or leaving early will result in loss of grade points. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the director or instructor.

In the event that a student must leave an event early, no student will be permitted to go or return in a private car unless such car is owned and operated by their own parent or guardian and **PRIOR** arrangements are made with the Activities office. You may obtain the Student Trip permit from the Activities Office, Mr. McCaslin or may be printed from the Highland Band Website.

All students must travel to and from an event on the bus or school van. Students may travel with their own parent or with a school-authorized parent depending on what group(s) is traveling and where they are going if a bus or van is not provided.

Call Times

Students will be given a "call time" for all rehearsals and performances. This is the time that you are required to be in the band room or designated area waiting for instructions from the band directors, instructors, or drum majors. You are to be fully dressed out, instrument or equipment ready to start rehearsal or to load the bus or trailer.

Student pick-up after events

Please be prepared to pick up your student promptly at the designated pick-up time. An estimated pick-up time will be listed in the itinerary that will be posted on the band app and website. We will make every effort to provide you with a reasonable estimate. However, please understand that an exact time is not usually possible. Students will be able to call home when we arrive at the band room. Please pick up your student within 30 minutes of our arrival time. If a student is left at the school for more than 30 minutes after being contacted the student may be taken to the local sheriff's office and left as an abandoned child.

Band Room and Field Rules

Having food in the band room is a **privilege**. It is **everyone's** responsibility to make sure the band room is not trashed.

- Students not enrolled in a band class are **not** allowed in the band room.
- No instruments, music, uniforms, shoes, etc. are to be left in the major area of the band room with the exception of the keyboard percussion instruments. All instruments will be kept in the proper instrument storage areas.
- Do not leave personal belongings (purse, wallet, money, iPods, phones, etc.) in the band room. The school and staff will not be responsible for items left in the band room.
- **NO talking or playing after "cut-off" or "halts" by the directors, instructors, drum majors. This wastes time.** Repeat offenders may be removed from the program.
- No items of any kind are to be thrown in the band room at any time. This includes **drumsticks** and playing cards. The only exception is the Colorguard equipment during practice and special drummers' stick work for performance enhancement.
- **No running in the band room at any time.**

Football Games

- Stay in full uniform (except shako).
- No food or drinks (except water) while in full uniform.
- Break time is third quarter. You may remove your jacket if you are wearing your black compression shirt and remember the bibber straps stay up.
- Stay in your instrument section.
- **No non-band persons in the band area.**
- Be **ready** to play your instrument at any time.
- Guard members must stay in the assigned band area.

Competitions/Events

- Know the call times and **be on time**. When in doubt, ask.
- Keep track of your instrument, uniform and all equipment.
- Abide by the **School Dress and Uniform Code** at all times. (See Uniform Code.)
- Stay in your designated or assigned area.

Consequences for Infractions of the Conduct Rules

- 1st Offense: Warning – push-ups or laps.
- 2nd Offense: Push-ups or laps or after school detention or Saturday school.
- 3rd Offense: Director/Principal Conference to determine punishment.
- 4th Offense: Parent/Director/Principal Conference.
- 5th Offense: Removal from the program, Grade of F for the semester.

Spring Trip

The Spring Trip is an opportunity where the Marching Band and Colorguard members can attend an end of the year event. In years past the ensemble has gone to Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm. To be eligible, if the student participated in fall marching band, the students fall account must be paid in full by December 31st. If participating in any second semester ensemble (Indoor Percussion or Guard) must be paid to 75%. If the student only participated in 2nd semester, their account must be paid in full. More information to be announced. (There is an additional cost.)

Marching Band Uniform Code

- The uniform must be worn complete at all times except when specified by director.
- **Correct color socks** are required for all marching band members and pit ensemble (unless part of a costume). This rule does not apply to Colorguard.
- Shoes must be cleaned and polished before every performance.
- **Hair must be off the collar.** Longer hair must be worn in a manner that allows it to be tucked underneath the shako.
- All members must be **clean-shaven** for all performances.
- Make-up, nail polish and jewelry of any kind are NOT allowed at competitions and events, except for performance make-up for Colorguard.
- NO eating or drinking (except water) is allowed while in uniform.
- Students must wear their black compression shirt and a light weight pair of shorts underneath their uniform. This protects the uniform and allows all students to change in and out of their uniforms together. Show shirts will be worn after performance.
- Instrumentalists are required to show up at all call times with: Shined shoes, gloves, correct color socks, wearing a black compression shirt, and shorts ready for inspection by the director. Colorguard members will be dressed in costume or as instructed by their instructor. Inspections will be done before each competition and event.
- **Always hang uniform up correctly. If you don't know how, ask.**
- Your uniform should never be taken home.
- **YOU are responsible** for making sure that your pant hems are done properly. If your pant hems are not done properly, you may be removed from the performance. You will be held financially responsible for damage to the bottom of pant legs that drag on the ground or are walked on. Uniform pants cost \$200.00.

Instrument and Equipment Care

- Students are expected to supply their own instrument (except for the larger instruments).
- Students are fully responsible for their instrument, whether school, or privately owned. Make sure you put your instrument away correctly after each rehearsal, performance, competition, or other event. Any damages or serious malfunctions should be immediately reported to the director. Damages, theft, or negligence of care of the school instrument will be charged to the student and their parent.
- All school owned instruments, uniforms and other equipment must be checked out from the director and a proper form must be signed.
- Colorguard equipment should be taken care of and stored properly after each use and should be considered the instruments of the Guard

Schedule/Calendar

Practice for the band, drumline and colorguard is ongoing through the summer (See website and band app calendar). Full Marching Band practice (all groups) begins with Band Camp on July 30th and goes for one week. Camp will be Monday through Friday from 1:00pm to 9:00pm with a one-hour dinner break. Please bring your dinner because you will not be allowed to leave campus. The purpose of band camp is to develop team work, learn how to march and to start learning the field show.

Marching Band rehearsals during the regular school year will be; Monday from 2:50 to 5:00, Tuesday from 6:00 to 9:00, Wednesday from 1:30 to 2:30, Thursday from 6:00 to 9:00. Guardians should expect their child to be done cleaning up after rehearsal at 9:15pm. Rehearsal before Friday night home football games will be from 3:00 to 5:00 (the boosters will provide dinner). We reserve the right to change or add rehearsals at a later date.

If there is a football game prior to a competition, the trailers will be loaded after the game. Loading of the equipment trailer for a trip will be the responsibility of **ALL** members of the competition unit. No one will be allowed to leave until either given permission by Mr. McCaslin or the trailer is loaded and locked.

A weekly schedule will be posted on the website & band app but it is the **student's responsibility** to keep their parents informed of all schedules for rehearsals, activities, performances and competitions.

2018 Fall Marching Band Schedule

June

23rd – Winds Rehearsal - 9a - 5p

July

14th – Winds Rehearsal - 9a - 5p

23rd – 27th – Drumline Auditions - 5p - 9p

28th – Marching Band Rehearsal - 9p - 5p

30th – Band Camp - 1p – 9p

31st – Band Camp - 1p – 9p

August

1st – 3rd – Band Camp - 1p – 9p

18th – AV Fair Parade

25th – Marching Band Rehearsal

31st – Home Football Game

September

21st – Home Football Game

22nd – Marching Band Rehearsal – 9a – 5p

October

6th – Palmdale HS Field Show Tournament

10th – Marching Band Rehearsal

19th – Home Football Game

20th – West Ranch HS Field Show

Tournament

23rd – Quartz Hill HS Field Show

Tournament

November

3rd – Centennial HS Field Show Tournament

10th – Moorpark HS Field Show Tournament

10th – Oxnard HS Field Show Tournament

17th – SCSBOA Championships

December

1st – Lancaster Holiday Parade

8th – Palmdale Holiday Parade

*Schedule is subject to change – Please see the Band App and/or the Marching Band Website for updated information.

Required Supplies

Instruments

Students in a high school music program should have their own instruments. Some of the larger instruments (drums, bass, and "color" instruments) are provided by the school. Students using these instruments will not be charged a fee for their use. However, any and all possible repairs will be the responsibility of the student and their parents. Students who have their own instruments are also responsible for their repairs. You are required to purchase all necessary supplies for your instrument: **reeds, oil, grease, tape, etc.** These will not be supplied by the band, the boosters, or the school. This includes tape for the Colorguard as well as any hair supplies and make-up necessary for performances.

MARCHING BAND INSTRUMENTALIST – Cost \$325.00

This cost covers:

Show Shirt	Marching Shoes	Uniform Cleaning	Banquet
Band Shirt	Gloves/Wristbands	Music & Drill	

(Returning members will receive a credit if new shoes or band shirt sizes are not needed)

*The Drumline will have an additional expense of \$150.00

Payment Schedule:

May 03, 2018	\$ 50.00
July 30, 2018	\$150.00
August 15, 2018	\$ 75.00
September 15, 2018	\$ 50.00

COLORGUARD – Cost \$515.00

This Covers:

Show Shirt	Shoes	Pep Pack
Band Shirt	Gloves	Rifle
Custom Costume	Tights	Banquet

(Returning members will receive a credit if Pep Pack, shoes, band shirt, rifle, tights, or gloves are not needed)

Payment Schedule -

May 17, 2018	\$ 50.00
June 15, 2018	\$120.00
July 15, 2018	\$120.00
August 15, 2018	\$120.00
September 15, 2018	\$105.00

***Drumline Members:** Due to wind/horn players having to purchase reeds, mouthpieces, valve oil, slide grease and/or any other accessories that pertain to their instruments, the percussion section will have an additional cost of \$150.00. This fee will cover the cost of sticks, mallets, drumheads, uniform parts and any miscellaneous items that will be required.

Winterguard members & Indoor Percussion members' cost will be determined.

All members – make money orders/cashier's checks payable to HHSIMBC and place in the payment box (locker # 12). For a nominal convenience fee, payments can also be made on our Website at hhsbandprogram.com. If the payment schedule is a problem, please contact the band booster treasurer at cgmbboosters@outlook.com so special arrangements can be made. We're here to help!

Special note: All money can be returned before any equipment or supplies are ordered. After equipment and supplies are ordered for your student, reimbursement will not be possible.

NO EQUIPMENT OR PIECES WILL BE GIVEN TO ANY STUDENT UNTIL PAID.

Highland High School Instrumental Music Booster Club

The Highland High School Instrumental Music Booster Club consists of a group of adults, mainly band student parents, whose main function is to provide financial and physical support for the HHS Music Program. We would like to encourage all parents to become members and show your support and become actively involved in the committees and fundraising projects. The boosters need many people to plan and work for the benefit of the students. Membership is free (please see the membership application in this packet).

The future success and growth of the band program is dependent upon the continued support of all of our talented students **and their families.**

We need assistance in the following areas:

Volunteers for Events

The band needs your help with moving uniforms and instruments, driving trucks, chaperoning trips, and cooking food and cleaning up during all scheduled events. Our biggest fundraiser of the year is the **fireworks booth in July.** All Marching Band Members must have a representative over the age of 18 work a minimum 2 hour Shift. The Sign Up for available times can be found on our Band App page and our Website.

Corporate Donations

Many companies both large and small have policies that provide financial support for educational and community development. We are a non-profit organization and may qualify for many of these corporate contributions. The boosters can prepare any documentation necessary to assist you in applying for support from your employer.

Donations

The music program can use donations of assorted items. Musical instruments in fair or better condition are always welcome as are donations of cash or time. Additional items needed are: snacks for rehearsals, dinner items (food, plates, forks, etc.) for game nights, AA, AAA and 9-volt batteries, tools and other items. A list will be posted before each activity on Band App and e-mails.

Assistant Instructors

Assistant instructors are necessary for the success of the program because of the number of students, the diversity of the needs of the students and the groups, and the amount of time required for each group. We have an excellent staff that will ensure success and help each student reach their full potential.

Highland High School Band Information

Student's Name: _____ **Graduation Year:** _____

Instrument: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Home Phone: _____

Father's Cell Phone: _____

Mother's Cell Phone: _____

Would you be interested in being part of the booster club? **Yes:** _____ **No:** _____

_____ **Initial** – We agree to give our Email address to the band boosters so we will be able to receive information concerning the band and our child's participation thereof.

Dad's Email: _____

Mom's Email: _____

_____ **Initial** – We agree to allow the HHSIMBC to reproduce thorough printed, audio, visual or electronic means activities in which your pupil has participated in this program

Please return this form to Mr. McCaslin in the band room.

Highland High School Marching Band and Colorguard Agreement

- _____ I/We understand that the HHS Marching Band program will begin having rehearsals during the 2018 summer break. Band camp will begin on July 30th – August 3rd from 1pm – 9pm.
- _____ I/We agree to have our member of the program present and ready to rehearse and practice for the entire fall season.
- _____ I/We agree to have our student member present at every performance required of his/her group.
- _____ I/We understand that participation with the Highland High School Marching Band has a time and financial commitment that is required to participate.
- _____ I/We understand if my child is not present for any required rehearsals and/or performances his/her grade will be adversely affected.
- _____ I/We agree to make the financial payments on or before the required dates.
- _____ I/We agree to be financially responsible for all equipment/instruments checked out to our student.
- _____ I/We understand and agree to participate in and to have our student participate in every fund raiser in which the band or band booster organization hopes to raise money.

We have read and understand the contract, expectations and consequences listed in the band handbook.

Student's Name (please print) _____ Graduation Year _____

Parent/Guardian (please print) _____

Signatures: Student: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Please return this contract to Mr. McCaslin in the Band Room.