# Parent's Guide to Marching Band

## Welcome Band & Color Guard Parents!

**Congratulations!** Your child is now a part of the Ashley Ridge High School Marching Band and Color Guard (collectively referred to as the Band), which means that you are now also a part of the Band Boosters. We hope this guide will help you feel more comfortable with the complexities you may find within your marching, concert, and winter guard season, and also give you some "insider" information to help you.

One aspect of the ARHS Band of which we are most proud is that we perform at a very high level while maintaining a balance with the total school experience. We have top academic scholars, athletes, honor society members, student government leaders, etc. among our membership. We believe that students should experience many diverse activities. We work with other school sponsors to encourage and promote a wide range of school activities.

Another great thing about high school band is that incoming freshmen and their parents arrive at Ashley Ridge High School with a built-in support group of upperclassmen students and their parents. The Ashley Ridge Band Boosters provides opportunities for involvement on all levels.

During the fall semester, the Marching Band is entirely extracurricular. The Marching Band performs at all Varsity football games and competes on weekends from September to early November. Marching Band begins full ensemble practices in July/August, approximately three weeks before the start of school (Band Camp). Once school starts, the Marching Band meets three times a week after school during football season on Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays with games on Friday. The Band or some of the Band will travel to most of the away games. Further information regarding dates and materials will be available through the ARHS Band website www.arhsbands.org the band boosters or our Facebook page Ashley Ridge High School Band Boosters.

# Band Essentials

There are few essentials needed that are **not** supplied by the Band program. These include:

**For Color Guard**: Makeup, flag bag, marching shoes, and possibly the costume for Winterguard season.

**For Marching Band**: The **Summer** uniform (for those games early in the season when it is still very hot) consists of Khaki shorts (specific from Tomlinson's), short white socks, predominately white tennis shoes, show shirt and a black belt.

The **Fall** uniform consists of school provided marching bibbers, jacket and gloves. Parents must purchase student's own long black socks and black marching shoes (shoes *must* be ordered thru a band supplier, date for order will be announced), athletic shorts to wear under the bibbers and show shirt.

Color Guard members will have a provided costume but the shoes *must* be ordered thru the school band program (this is done on a specific day and will be announced when that is)

Jackets and color guard warm-ups will also be available for purchase.

**For Concert Band**: Girls – Black floor-length dress and black dress shoes (we do have a supplier that provides the same type dress we will provide more information about this for you to order the dress). Boys - A black dress shirt, black dress slacks, black socks, belt, and shoes

# Learn the Lingo!

**Director:** District employee over the band programs

**Staff/Consultants:** Instructors through the school district or band boosters

**Drum Major:** Student that leads conducting while Band performs

**Band Captain:** Student leader assists Drum Major and Section Leaders.

**Section Leader:** Student leaders that are in charge of assisting their instrumental section

**Band Boosters:** Parents and volunteers that make up the non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the band program.

**Fair Share:** Each student's shared portion of fees to operate the band program

**Shako:** The marching band hat

**Plume:** Feather adornment that goes on the Shako

**Bibbers:** Similar to overalls they are part of the uniform

**Gauntlet:** Wraps around the forearm

**Mellophone:** Marching French Horn

**Sousaphone:** Type of Tuba used for marching

**Percussion:** Any Striking instrument, not just drums

**Color Guard:** Dancers, flag tossers and rifle tossers

**Pit:** The non-marching percussion positioned on the front side lines during the field show

**Drumline:** The percussionists that march on the field

# What to Expect…

• **At Band Camp (July/August)**: Band Camp is both a mental and physical challenge, but it gives your child a sense of accomplishment at the end. For band camp your child will need a large (1/2-1 gallon) water bottle, a towel, hat, sunblock, athletic shoes (no sandals or converse), bug spray, breathable clothing.

• **At Football Games (September/October)**: Band students will report to band room at the time specified by the director. At this time, the students change into their uniforms and load the bus and trailer (if an away game). Dinner will be offered game nights for a fee or they can bring their own. Students are not allowed to eat while in full dress uniform. During the game, they will sit in a designated section of the bleachers and perform the fight song, pep tunes, etc. Parents and friends cannot sit directly with the band, but are welcome to sit in the stands and watch the game and the band perform. At some of the games, the band will perform a portion of their show as halftime entertainment. After the game is over, the band will put away their uniforms and instruments, get final announcements if any, and then be dismissed by their section leader.

• **At Competitions**: Marching band competitions are where many different bands compete/perform. Students should arrive 20-30 minutes before the call time and come prepared (girls have hair up in a bun, guard has hair and makeup ready, and everyone has their required undergarments and instrument). For the band, competitions are like "game days". Each band will be critiqued, scored, and ranked by qualified judges in the different areas of their performance. Some judges walk the field while others observe from stadium seats. The band needs your support as a cheering section in the stands! We do try to set in the same section if possible. Please do not share video of performances openly on social media. Be aware that you can only enter and exit the stands between each band's performances. Usually, the awards are given out after all bands have performed. If you do not attend the competition, please arrive at ARHS a little before the designated time to pick up your student but be prepared to wait as they need to check in uniforms before they leave. The boosters will provide many meals during the marching/ winter guard season, we will ask for donations of water, sodas, chips snacks and paper goods when there is a need for these items. Donations of these type items are always welcome!

## Things to bring with you to :

- A good stadium seat cushion
- Your ARHS spirit wear (booster shirt) or school colors
- Money for admission and food. Competitions are a fundraiser for the host school, so there is a small admission fee charged to spectators. There are also concessions for spectators and other band-related merchandise available at some events.

*For all of these things to go smoothly and well we will need many helping hands. Please be on the lookout for our requests to help!*

# Parent Involvement = A Successful Band Program

- **Stay informed** – follow us on Facebook at Ashley Ridge High School Band Boosters.
- **Keep us Informed** - Turn in all paperwork and inform us of any changes to phones or e-mails
- **Read** - e-mails from the BAND and any paperwork / forms sent home
- **Attend Band Booster meetings** – **1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00** in the Band Room unless notified of a change, meet other parents
- **Volunteer** – chaperone, work concessions, move equipment, props, feed the band, help with uniforms, seek sponsors/donations, help with fundraisers, donate snacks and water
- **Be Present & Supportive** - attend football games, competitions, parades, show them you are proud to be with the Band

## Each of us have a combination of Time, Talent, and Treasure.

## Please consider how you can use your gifts to make the Ashley Ridge Band program a success.

### $ Put the Fun in FUNdraising $

While the band is co-curricular program at Ashley Ridge, school funding does not cover all the expenses of operating the program. This usually comes as a surprise to new parents. Fundraising and fair share payments help to pay for everything from caring for the uniforms, paying for the staff/consultants, bus transportation to competitions, equipment and large instrument maintenance, etc. There are several fundraisers throughout the marching and concert season that your child and you can participate in.

A few examples would be: The District Wide Car Wash, Concessions, Spirit Wear, and Flower Sales to name a few.

The Band also offers a rebate program, Scrips, to parents for use when purchasing everyday items. Information regarding Scrips will be provided on another sheet.

## Contact Information for Band Director and New Band Booster Board (effective 7/1/18):

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to call or email one of your board members or director. The Boost Board President acts as liaison between the Band Director and Parents.

Director: Mr. Ben Pouncey- bpouncey@dorchester2.k12.sc.us

Booster Board President: Aimee Pereira- arhsboardpresident@gmail.com

Booster Board VP: Cerah Warner- arhsbandVP@gmail.com

Ways and Means VP: JJ Evans- arhswaysandmeans@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sharon Evans- arhsband.treasurer@gmail.com

Secretary: Kim Ecklund- swampfoxbandboosters@gmail.com

Color Guard Liaison: Cerah Warner – arhsguard@yahoo.com