

AHS “Purple Pride” Band Handbook 2025-2026

The purpose of this handbook is to inform parents and students of practices and procedures which apply to a student participation in the Ashdown High School Band. While I attempt to cover as much information as possible, I realize there may be topics about which you, the parent or student, would like further explanation. In the event of this document being in conflict with district policies and procedures, district policy will be upheld. I encourage you to call or email me. Thank you for helping us make this year a great one for the AHS “Purple Pride” Band.

Timothy Avery, Director of Bands

tavery@ashdownschools.org

Office Phone: 870-898-3562 ext. 1017

Best time to call: 4pm

High School Band

The high school band is made up of 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students who meet daily 6th period as well as other scheduled rehearsals outside of the school day . All students participate in the marching band that performs at football games, parades and competes at marching contests as well as the concert band that performs concerts in October, December, March and May as well as our graduation ceremony. All students are expected to practice individually outside of class a minimum of one hour each week. This individual practice is essential to the success of your student and our band program.

Eligibility

Band is classified by the Arkansas Department of Education as an academic subject. This means that full credit is awarded to students in the same manner as math, english, history, and all core academic classes. The knowledge obtained in band is demonstrated through performances and competitive events approved and sanctioned by Ashdown Schools, Arkansas Department of Education, Arkansas School Band and Orchestra Association, and the Arkansas Activities Association.

- Incoming 9th graders must pass four core subjects from the previous semester in order to compete in Arkansas Activities Association sanctioned events.
- Starting 2nd semester of 9th grade students must have a Grade Point Average of 2.0 from the previous semester in order to participate in an Arkansas Activity Association sanctioned event. If a student is not eligible, he or she may remain in band on a probationary status. If a student is not eligible the second semester, he or she may be removed from the band program.

Grading

Band is a participation based course. Students will be graded according to participation in rehearsals and performances, 70% (on time, on task, with needed materials and/or equipment), & playing/memorization pass-offs, 30%.

Attendance

- Attendance at each performance and rehearsal is required.
- Every effort is made to keep parents and students aware
 - 24/25 Schedule given to students this past May and sent out via text
 - 24/25 Schedule and much more information is available on our school website, ashdownschools.org (Dropdown menu: Parents and Students, then Band, then PPMB Information)
 - Updates and reminders via text, handouts, and website
- If you know of a conflict or problem, let me know as soon as possible.
- Failure to attend a regular scheduled rehearsal can result in the student being benched for the following game as well as affect their overall grade.
- Excused absences:
 - 1. Sickness of the student
 - 2. Death in the family
 - 3. Conflicts or problems can be handled ahead of time with prior notification, each person and situation is different and will be handled on a case by case basis at the discretion of the band director
- Each absence requires advanced notification if possible, after the fact will most likely be handled as unexcused
- Notification is the personal responsibility of each student to make contact with Mr. Avery
 - Email tavery@ashdownschools.org
 - Send a message in Remind
 - Office phone 870-898-3562 ext. 1017

Make sure you give your parents and employers a copy of our schedule. There is a reason for giving you the schedule back before summer break.

Electronic Communication

-Text reminders and schedules are sent out as necessary, anyone wanting to be added please visit the school website, go to the band page, and follow the instructions on the 24-25 Remind Sign Up

Marching Band Alternates/Shadows

The alternate system exists to ensure that there are no holes in rehearsals and competitive performances, while providing an opportunity for all members to develop their performance abilities. An alternate will shadow another student within or outside of their section and will march at all football games, parades, and rehearsals. At competitions, an alternate will assist in any way that is needed at the discretion of the staff. The responsibility of an alternate is significant because he/she must be able to perform the show whenever and wherever a vacancy occurs.

Our goal for each rehearsal or performance is to be a little better every time.

Expectations

Rehearsals and Performances

1. Be on time
2. Be on task
3. Bring everything they need to get the job done
4. Bring a positive attitude.

Job Responsibilities - If everybody does a little, no one has to do a lot.

1. Work together in small groups to accomplish each task
2. Tasks are to be completed outside of rehearsal time.
3. Everybody does their part

Down Time (Before, After, Between Rehearsals, Performances and Travel)

1. Respect each other with words and deeds (Golden Rule)
2. Follow directions the first time
3. Refer to one and two

Consequences - for not meeting expectations / this is not necessarily a progression, depending on the severity of the infraction.

1. Verbal Reminder
2. Conference with student and possible extra assignment
3. Suspension till student/parent/teacher conference and extra assignment
4. Suspension till student/parent/teacher/administrator conference with extra assignment
5. Removal from Band

School Discipline and Band Participation

1. If you are assigned to OSS you will not be able to return to band that school year
2. If you are assigned to ISS more than twice you will not be able to return to band that school year

It's my job to make sure the students know what is expected and give the opportunity to meet those expectations. Infractions will result in a conference between the director and student. The director may determine additional consequences as deemed necessary due to the magnitude or frequency of the infraction.

Social Media Acceptable Use Practice

An AUP (acceptable use practice) must be maintained when using social media to post pictures, blogs, e-mails, text messages, or videos. Students should not post negative comments about peers, teammates, the school district, or teachers/coaches. Students should not be associated with posts involving tobacco, drugs, alcohol, sexual content, cyberbullying, slander, or harassing behavior is not permitted.

Marching Band Uniforms

A uniform will be provided to each band student at no charge, with the exception of color guard, and uniform items listed below. Each uniform is expected to have a lifetime of 8 years and must be taken care of for this expectation to be met. It is each student's responsibility to check out and turn in uniforms in a timely manner as well as maintain, hang, and store their issued uniform correctly.

Here are the parts of the uniform that the students must purchase; these are all purchased through the band program except for the long socks and solid black basketball shorts.

2 Band Shirts

1 Pair solid black basketball shorts

2 Pairs Long Black Socks

Black Marching Shoes

Concert Attire

In order to present a professional appearance, there are dress codes for concerts and other performances when it will be necessary for parents to purchase the attire. Our high school band wears all black for all of our concert performances. Gentlemen are expected to wear black slacks, a belt, long black socks, black shoes, and black button down or polo shirt that is tucked in. Ladies can wear black slacks and a top or black dress with black shoes. Accent colors of green and red are appropriate for our Christmas Concert and purple ties and accents are acceptable for other times.

Travel

Students in the Ashdown Band will have opportunities to travel during their band career. All bus policies which appear in our school handbook will be strictly enforced on every bus trip. Before students can travel with the band they must have turned in a medical information form to Mr. Avery. The forms will be distributed before the first trip of the year. Every student who participates in a band trip must travel to the event on a school bus, except in the event of scheduling conflicts with director approval. Each student will be assigned to a bus at the discretion of the director. After an event is over, students may be checked out by their parents with the director/or chaperone who is in charge of their bus. Students may ride home with another responsible adult, only if cleared ahead of time by Mr. Avery. Notification not presented prior to the event will not be accepted.

Letterman requirements

All the following must be met to be eligible to letter in band.

1. Band member has no unexcused absences from performances/concerts and class.
2. Band member passes off all required music/routines.
3. 2.0 minimum GPA average

All students meeting these requirements will have the opportunity to purchase a letterman jacket or add on patches at the end of each school year.