

The logo features a large, stylized letter 'U' that is split vertically. The left half of the 'U' is a light olive green, and the right half is a dark navy blue. The word 'UNIVERSITY' is written in a blue, serif font across the top of the 'U'. Below the 'U', the word 'BAND' is written in a white, outlined, serif font.

UNIVERSITY  
BAND

**HANDBOOK 2017 – 2018**



## **BAND PROGRAM GENERAL INFORMATION**

The University High School Band Program is a comprehensive musical arts program that trains students in musicianship, leadership, and responsibility. The following ensembles are available to students:

### **Marching Band**

The most visible performing arts group at University High School, the marching band is combined forces of the wind ensemble, symphonic band, percussion ensembles, and color guard. **It is a policy of Orange County Public Schools that participation in marching band is required of all students enrolled in high school band courses. Students must maintain a GPA of at least 2.0 in all classes to participate.**

The following exemptions are available:

- **Medical** conditions that preclude the student's ability to march, or participate in a non-marching role (i.e. performing in the football stadium stands during sporting events.)
- **Religious** conflicts with calendar holidays, participation in marching band, or a marching event, that is a contradiction to the beliefs of the individual's or family's religion. The directors must be informed in writing ahead of time.
- **Extraordinary Circumstances** which would prohibit the student from participation in the marching band. Exemption requests must be sent in writing to the directors (see the Band Website section for more information.)

### **Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band**

In addition to participating in marching band, every wind instrument player in the University Band must be enrolled in one of these concert band classes for the year. These ensembles meet as regular classes during the school day. Membership in the wind ensemble or symphonic band is by audition only. Students with academic conflicts (IB, GT, etc.) should work with a director and their guidance counselor to get them in an appropriate class. Students in these ensembles are required to attend all rehearsals and performances.

### **Jazz Ensembles**

University High School offers two levels of jazz study: the Big Band and the Jazz Ensemble. Membership in the Big Band is by audition only; Jazz Ensemble is open to all students interested in learning, regardless of experience. To participate in a jazz band, each student must also be enrolled in a concert band class. Students in these ensembles are required to attend all rehearsals and performances.

### **Percussion Ensemble**

All students studying percussion at UHS must be enrolled in the percussion ensemble class. In addition to studying specific percussion techniques, students in this class also perform with the concert bands. Students in this ensemble are required to attend all rehearsals and performances, including after school practices and performances for the concert bands.

### **Blue Steel**

“Blue Steel” is our steel drum ensemble. This class is open to every music student already enrolled in a concert band, percussion, or chorus class. Students in this class are required to attend all rehearsals and performances.

### **Color Guard and Winter Guard**

The color guard is a select group of students studying a unique form of performance incorporating music, dance, and elements from military “silent drill.” During the fall, the color guard performs with the marching band; during the spring, the winter guard competes as a member of the Florida Federation of Color Guards (FFCC). The color guard class is called Eurythmics and meets during the school day.

## **INDIVIDUAL MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Class Responsibilities**

All students must be enrolled in a concert band, percussion, or color guard class. Band courses in Orange County are “co-curricular,” not extracurricular. Performance material is rehearsed primarily during class time and students are assessed based on their ability to perform in a satisfactory manner. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is therefore mandatory.


### **Solo & Ensemble**

All students enrolled in band or guard classes must participate in the FBA Solo & Ensemble Festival in February. Detailed information about this will be given out in the second quarter.

### **Attendance Policy**

All rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Our schedule is announced far enough in advance to avoid conflicts. Parents, please make every effort to schedule regular doctors’ appointments around the band’s schedule whenever possible.

If a change of schedule is necessary, the band will usually give at least two weeks’ notice. Students are responsible for arriving at each rehearsal and performance on time and prepared (properly dressed, instrument and equipment ready, music in hand, etc.) Parents are urged to ensure that their students take this responsibility seriously and build a habit of punctuality and preparedness.

	Students are expected to leave campus or be picked up no later than <b>30 minutes</b> after an event’s scheduled end time. Parents, <i>please</i> pick your child up promptly or make arrangements for him/her to get a ride if you are not able to do so.
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All rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Unexcused absences are never acceptable and will be reflected in the student’s grade. Of course, legitimate reasons for absence sometimes arise; if this is the case, please contact a director as soon as possible.

Excusable absences may include but are not limited to:

- Sickness (with an excused absence from school)
- Emergency doctor visit (please schedule regular check-ups around the band schedule)
- Death in the family
- Important family engagement (wedding, etc.) with minimum two weeks’ notice
- Religious holiday
- School related performances/games (arrange these conflicts in advance)

Non-excusable absences may include but are not limited to:

- Homework
- Driving test
- Attending an unapproved concert or sporting event
- Birthday party
- Work (arrange your schedule around the band calendar)
- Family trips with insufficient notice
- Lack of a ride to/from rehearsal (your section leader can help you find a ride)

In addition to the grade related penalty, students with an unexcused absence from a marching band rehearsal will be ineligible to perform that week.

### **State and County Course Descriptions**

The Florida Department of Education statewide course description for band classes includes the following statement: “This course generally requires students to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day.” In addition, OCPS course descriptions for high school band I – VI state the following: “As a co-curricular performance oriented activity, attendance is required for rehearsals and performances beyond regular school hours.”

## **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **School Band Funding**

The Orange County Public School system provides only basic support for band programs. The majority of the responsibility for meeting the financial needs of a vibrant and successful program rests on the shoulders of the band members. Fundraising events are scheduled throughout the year to help each family offset these costs.

*No student will be denied arts education because of financial hardship, as long as steps are being taken to fulfill financial obligations.* Families seeking special financial arrangements must contact the band director.

### **Personal Instruments and Equipment**

Students are required to own or rent an acceptably functioning instrument. Students are also required to maintain, at their own expense, this instrument in full working order. With basic care, instruments are designed to last and these expenses should be minimal. Students are also required to obtain accessories such as reeds, valve oil, mutes, mouthpieces, etc.

Reed players (oboes, bassoons, clarinets and saxophones) should have at least one spare reed on their person during rehearsal. All reed players should have four to five good reeds that are rotated from day to day. Reeds will need to be purchased with some regularity.

Percussionists should own a pair of concert snare sticks, xylophone and marimba mallets, and tympani mallets. Additional equipment for specific needs in marching band, percussion ensemble, or concert band will be provided by the University Band program.

Students must also provide, at their own expense, personal accessories for marching band uniforms and concert band formal wear.

**School Instruments**

Students who use school-owned instruments will be assessed a \$40.00 per semester fee to cover instrument maintenance. This includes percussion, tubas, baritones, mellophones, bass clarinets, and baritone saxophones. The University Band also has a limited supply of tenor saxophones and French horns, although these students are encouraged to acquire their own instrument.

**Annual Assessments**

Each year, the University Band spends over \$75,000 in operational costs. Each member of the program contributes to help cover summer band camp, qualified instructional staff, uniform maintenance and cleaning, shirts, transportation, music, equipment truck rentals, entry fees, and numerous other expenses.

In summary, the main band assessments are as follows:

**Fall Semester Assessment**

*This is for everyone in marching band; it covers uniforms, props, drill, instructional staff, etc.*

\$50 – deposit, due June 2, 2017 (non-refundable)

\$75 – due August 4, 2017

\$75 – due September 1, 2017

\$100 – due October 6, 2017

**Equipment Maintenance Assessment**

*This applies to students using school-owned instruments and covers acquisition and repairs.*

\$40 – due August 4, 2017

\$40 – due January 12, 2018

**Percussion Assessment**

*This applies to all percussionists and covers sticks, mallets, heads, and other related items.*

\$60 – due July 20, 2017

\$40 – due January 12, 2018

**Fall Guard Assessment**

*This applies to color guard members who perform with the marching band. It covers uniforms, gloves, shoes, flags and equipment.*

\$160 – due July 20, 2017

**Uniform Accessories**

*This is for members who need marching shoes, gloves, and socks.*

\$50 – due August 4, 2017

**Transportation**

*This is for all members and covers transportation throughout the year.*

\$35 – due November 3, 2017

Any additional trip fees will be announced with at least two weeks' notice.

### **Concert Attire**

*If your student makes it into the Wind Ensemble or Symphonic Band, he or she will need to acquire a tuxedo or dress for concerts and performances. We use the same attire every year, so it is a one-time purchase for all four years and can be used well beyond high school.*

\$120 – Tuxedo (for boys; includes pants, jacket, shirt, bowtie and cummerbund)

\$60 – Dress (for girls)

### **Miscellaneous Expenses**

Throughout the year, there may be various small expenses affecting students on a case-by-case basis. All State and All County Band auditions have a small audition fee (\$5 – 15) for those students who participate. Solo & Ensemble Festival has a registration fee and some students will need to pay for an accompanist. These fees vary from year to year and the directors will pass on that information once it is made public. Students may also purchase accessories (valve oil, reeds, etc.) and extra socks and gloves in the band office for a small fee.

### **Band Accounts**

Every student has an individual ledger to help you track payments and fundraising progress. This is available at [www.UHSband.com](http://www.UHSband.com) (more information in the Band Website section.)

## **THE BAND WEBSITE**

Most questions can be answered with a quick stop at our band's website, [www.UHSband.com](http://www.UHSband.com) ("your source for all things UHS, band, and dot com.") Here is a quick overview of some of our website's features.

### **Home Page**

The home page is your first stop for announcements and upcoming events. Check back here regularly (it makes a lovely home page for your browser) for updates. The navigation bar on the right hand side includes director contact e-mails, access to our full calendar page, and a link to our Facebook group, where announcements and reminders are posted regularly.

### **Ensembles**

This drop-down menu contains links to web pages for each of our individual classes. Course descriptions, homework, and itineraries are sometimes posted here. Students can also print out fingering charts, major scales, and access other resources from these pages.

### **Programs**

Our band program includes several special programs students have the option to join, including our Color Guard, International Baccalaureate (IB) Music courses, Performing Arts Academy, and Student Leadership Program. Information about these programs is available here.

### **Parents**

The Parents' Page contains information useful to parents of students in our band program. Here, you will find information about fundraising, band assessments, how to volunteer, contact information for our volunteer coordinators, and forms to fill out (with at least two weeks' notice, please) if your student needs to miss a band event or be picked up from an away location.

### **Members**

The Members' Page is for current members of the University Band. This page is password protected; the password, which changes every year, is given out at mini-camp at the end of the

school year. This page contains videos, recordings, music, stands tunes, coordinate sheets, drill, and other content exclusively available to current members.

### **Accounts**

The Band Accounts Page has two features. The first link will take you to view your student's individual ledger, indicating payments and assessments. Please note that this can take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks to update after a payment has been made. To log in, enter your student's ten-digit OCPS ID number as both the username and password. Once logged in, you will be prompted to change the password. If you forget your password, e-mail a director and it will be re-set for you. (Please note: the individual accounts page does not seem to work with the default settings of every Internet browser. If you are having difficulties, try accessing the page with a different browser.)

The second link on the Accounts Page will take you to "SchoolPay," where you can pay band assessments online. Simple instructions to register for this system are found on this page.

## **TRADITION AND PHILOSOPHY**

### **"Committing to Greatness Every Day"**

The University High School Band is an organization committed to excellence in everything we do. This commitment goes far beyond musical performance. Excellence and integrity are expected from our band members all the time, in class, at school, at home, wherever they are. Members of our band are expected to take responsibility for their own actions and to take initiative to improve themselves as musicians, students, and human persons. As a University Band member, your character is even more important than your musicianship. Always act with the dignity, virtue, and respect that will represent our Band Program in the best possible way.

## **STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Band Website**

[www.UHSband.com](http://www.UHSband.com)

### **School Phone**

(407) 482 – 8700

### **Band Office Phone**

(407) 482 – 8709

### **Jon Brown**

Band Director

[jonathan.brown@ocps.net](mailto:jonathan.brown@ocps.net)

### **Jeff Willis**

Associate Band Director

[jeffrey.willis@ocps.net](mailto:jeffrey.willis@ocps.net)



## **BAND PROGRAM MEMBER CONTRACT**

### **Student Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to abide by all the policies laid out in the University High School Band handbook.

### **Parent Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to all the policies laid out in the University High School Band handbook. I give my child permission to participate in all the University Band events for the ensemble(s) in which he/she participates throughout the 2017 – 2018 school year (unless an absence is pre-arranged by me.)

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact E-Mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Phone Number