

Auburn
Maroon Vanguard
Marching Band

Member Handbook



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The Auburn Maroon Vanguard Marching Band

Auburn High School
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Auburn, NY 13021

Mr. Ed Meier, Director
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The Auburn Maroon Vanguard Marching Band consists of the Marching Instrumental Band, a Drumline, and a Colorguard composed of silks (flags) and dancers. Each area of the band has staff members responsible for training, direction, and supervision of their group. The entire band is overseen by the Director.

The Vanguard has an impressive history earning many awards both on the local and state levels, over the past twenty – five years. The look may change, but the enthusiasm, dedication and commitment truly make this group of young adults the Pride of Auburn.

Philosophy

The Auburn Maroon Vanguard Marching Band is dedicated to commitment, self-discipline, unselfishness, and the dignity of each member. The Maroon Vanguard offers all members the opportunity to combine their talents, including musical and athletic skills, in unique expression... “a musical art form.”

Our goal is working together toward excellence. To meet this goal, each person, staff, members, and parents, must rise to the challenge. Only then will we share in the pride and enjoy the experiences that will become memories to cherish forever.

“YOU’LL NEVER WALK ALONE”

The Schedule

Every attempt has been made to give each member as much “lead time” as possible to make any adjustments to their own schedule to ensure good attendance. However, we in the Vanguard realize it is also a time for family, vacations, and increased work schedules. You will be excused up to four (4) rehearsals if prior commitments are unavoidable. Please confirm this with a note from your parent(s).

JULY & AUGUST: Rehearsals are scheduled on Monday & Wednesday evening (6 pm to 9 pm). These are important rehearsals, especially for new members. We begin learning the music and drill as well as our “basics” program.

Note: ***Band camp is required.*** (Call the Director if you have a conflict.) There will be a special “Debut Performance” and Social during the camp. Family and friends are invited to the special evening.

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER: Rehearsals are scheduled on Monday & Wednesday evenings, 6 pm to 9 pm, and on Saturdays, usually from 1 pm until departure for competitions. Extra practices may be scheduled as necessary.

THE SINGLE, ***MOST IMPORTANT*** FACTOR IN THE CONTINUED GROWTH AND MORALE OF OUR BAND IS YOUR CONSISTENT ATTENDANCE. WITHOUT YOUR PRESENCE, THE STAFF CANNOT TEACH AND YOU CANNOT LEARN!

Band Member Expectations

Students participating in the Auburn Maroon Vanguard Marching Band must abide by the Auburn School District Participant Guidelines for Co-curricular Activities. The policy will be distributed to all members and a signed copy will be kept on file for each member. Please read the policy carefully

Attendance

1. You are expected to be present at all scheduled rehearsals.
2. You are to be in your assigned areas 10 minutes early to properly prepare for the upcoming rehearsal. This includes instrument preparation, individual warm – ups, stretching exercises and equipment preparation (colorguard).

Excused Absences

1. Illness (Please call the band office prior to the rehearsal)
2. Sports meets or games (cleared in advance)
3. Family emergency or Long-Planned obligation
4. Religious obligation

Unexcused Absences or Tardiness

1. Part – time jobs (most employers will work around school schedules); however it is up to each band member to inform his or her employer of the band schedule.
2. Homework. BUDGET YOUR TIME!!
3. Appointments, haircuts, concerts, birthdays, lack of transportation, etc.

PLAN AHEAD!!

Behavior

To ensure a successful rehearsal, several guidelines must be followed:

1. Come to rehearsal with a healthy attitude conducive to learning.
2. Be prepared by practicing at home, the previous rehearsal's music or work.
3. No talking or negative disruption during rehearsals.
4. Give careful attention to all instructions and directions.
5. Respect the rights of others as well as supporting all members at the various levels of their achievement.
6. Make sure all instruments and equipment are properly put away at the conclusion of a rehearsal before leaving.
7. At no time is any student to use, or possess any alcohol, tobacco or drug paraphernalia on any school premises. This is New York State law.
8. Student guidelines, as outlined in the Auburn High School Student Handbook, must be followed at all times.

Performances

1. You are expected to be at all performances. Missing members affect the overall performance of the band and can affect the judging process.
2. Each performance is considered an opportunity for you to work as a team to put forth your best possible effort.
3. Arrive early to prepare yourself (uniforms, luggage, equipment, instruments, etc.).

4. Help others and work together.
5. Football games are Friday evenings and usually begin at 7 pm. Arrive by 5:45 pm at the High School. The band will be bused to and from Holland Stadium. All members are expected to assist with the loading and unloading of equipment.

Rules for Football Games

1. Ride with the buses to and from Holland Stadium.
2. Sit in the assigned seating areas, and NO WANDERING!!
3. Provide entertainment for fans and support for our team
4. Listen to all directions from staff and chaperons

Competitions

1. Members are to bring a lunch for supper break at 4:30pm.
2. Provide yourself with extra clothing for under your uniform if the temperature is cold.
3. Make sure you have clean gloves, socks, necessary pins for hair, etc.
4. Don't expect others to have what you need.
5. Pit crew and chaperones should arrive by 4:30pm.

Parades

Each year, the Auburn Maroon Vanguard Marching Band is asked to participate in the Annual Memorial Day Parade, as well as other events, as the Director deems possible with schedules. Members are expected to practice for, and participate in each event. Several rehearsals are held prior to each event to familiarize the members with the music and performance.

Band Trip Regulations

1. The Directors and chaperones have the responsibility of making the enforcing decisions for the welfare of all students
2. No alcoholic beverages, smoking or other substances are allowed. Any infractions are subject to school policy and dismissal from the organization.
3. Only lady – like and gentlemanly behavior will be accepted. Be courteous and helpful. No outward displays of affection among “band couples” are permissible.
4. Students are responsible for their own luggage, instruments, and personal items.
5. Students are responsible for room cleanliness and any damages incurred.

6. Only “Walk-man” type players with headphones for individual listening are allowed.
7. Always follow the instructions from the staff and chaperones.
8. Adhere to all trip itineraries.

NOTE: Members must always be transported by school district vehicles or authorized vehicles. If, in a special situation, the member must travel with parents or appointed guardians, the Director must receive written notification from the responsible adults, as well as, visually observe the exchange or transfer of the member from district supervision to parental supervision.

Competitions

The Auburn Maroon Vanguard participates in the New York State Field Band Competitions. These are judged performances in which seven judges score each band separately in marching, music, show, and timing. Bands are classed according to size of the band, ages and grade of members, preference, etc. These events are exciting and inspiring. Advance sale tickets are available at a discount the day of the competition outside the band room at AHS at 1 pm.

Sportsmanship

Please, always display good sportsmanship by giving support for all Field Conference Bands. It may be difficult, at times to understand the outcomes and decisions of the judges. However, it is at these times that members need encouragement and praise for “giving their all.” That is all we can ask of them. Enjoy the performances, and accept the numbers and placements.

Judging

Much of the hard work, that is also a lot of fun, culminates in the various competitions in which the Auburn Maroon Vanguard participates. The bands are all judged on the same criteria: Judging is based on “achievement which is a result of the combination of what is being performed and how well it is performed” or, simply put: how well they do what they’re doing.

What is Heard:

Musical Performance

1. *Musicianship*: phrasing and expression, style and interpretation, and communication
2. *Quality of Technique*: tone quality and intonation, uniformity of method, proficiency, timing and rhythm

Musical Ensemble

1. *Musicality*: phrasing and expression, style and interpretation, communication
2. *Overall Sound and Clarity*: tone quality and intonation, balance and blend, cohesiveness

General Effect Music

1. *Creative Effectiveness*: coordination, style, voicing variety, form, communication
2. *Showmanship Effectiveness*: communication, musicianship, audience command, emotion and mood, expression

What is Seen:

Visual Performance

1. *Excellence*: alignment, spacing, equipment / prop timing and angularity, breaks and turns, body timing, tempo / pulse control, and recovery.
2. *Quality of Technique*: uniformity of method, style, carriage and articulation, poise, body control, recovery.

Ensemble Visual

1. *Composition*: quality of design, musicality of form, equipment and body, complexity, variety
2. *Clarity*: ensemble timing, overall accuracy and definition, orientation

General Effect Visual

1. *Creative Effectiveness*: interpretation, imagination, innovation, time / space utilization, color utilization, staging, conceptual continuity
2. *Showmanship Effectiveness*: communication, emotion, audience command, mood

Time and Penalties:

Set – up, and warm – up time on the field.

NYSFBC BAND CLASSIFICATION

In the New York State Field Band Conference, high school bands are broken down into two main classes – “Large School” and “Small School.”

Within each class, there are three divisions, I, II, III. Division I in the “Large School” class is comprised of the former “National Class” Bands.

Due Process

If, in the course of our quest for excellence, it becomes necessary to speak with a member in reference to disruptive behavior, tardiness or unexcused absences, the following procedure is used:

- Staff member or Director will address the problem by speaking with the member.

If the situation persists.....

- A conference with the member and Director is held. A second warning will be issued and parents will be notified.

If the situation persists.....

- A conference with the Director, parents and member is convened. A recommendation will be made to the Assistant Principal for the member to be suspended from participation until the conference. A final warning is issued.

If the situation persists.....

- It will be recommended to the Assistant Principal that the member be dismissed from the organization.

Due Process for the Member Needing Assistance

In the personal growth for excellence in the organization, questions or problems arise such as, “I can’t get the timing of this portion of the music”, or “I can’t concentrate when I’m placed next to this person”, or, “I feel lost and all alone”

This procedure should be followed:

- Speak to the Section Leader (these students are chosen for their commitment, talents, attitude and overall nature for getting along with and leading their peers)

If the issue is not resolved.....

- Speak with the Staff Instructor for the Section.

If the issue is not resolved.....

- Speak with the Director. (*The Director and Staff members are there for you!*)

Chaperone Guidelines

Chaperones are required by the Auburn School District for all outside trips including, but not limited to events such as football games, competitions, trips, dances, and dinners involving the youth. The Band Director is “in charge” of all field trips and therefore has the responsibility to choose the accompanying adult chaperones. The organization is not involved in selecting the adults who wish to chaperone various events. The Chaperone Committee obtains the names of interested adults and passes the names on to the Band Director who will hold a training session for all interested adults prior to the first event.

The primary objective of the chaperone is to assist the Director and appointed district representatives in caring for the safety and well-being of the members of the Vanguard.

Because the chaperone is serving as a District representative, the chaperone must adhere to all regulations pertaining to students including refraining from the use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs when children are under his or her responsibility on any school-sanctioned activity.

The Chaperone...

1. Helps administer the rules and regulations as upheld by the Auburn Enlarged City School District.
2. Supports the Band Handbook regarding student behavior and responsibilities.
3. Assists in attendance monitoring during various trips.
4. Helps supervise the band members during trips, games, camps, and competitions.
5. Assists in the follow-through of trip itineraries.
6. Assists in meal selections, movement of equipment, and minor first-aid.
7. Performs the role of “mom” or “dad” on trips.

If a problem occurs...

1. Speak with the student in a pleasant but firm manner and voice the concern.
2. If the situation continues, speak with the Chaperone chairperson who will speak with the student(s) involved.
3. If the situation continues, and no resolution is forthcoming, notify the Director of Staff Member for resolution.

Uniforms

Our uniforms are new and will be stored at the school for the entire season and distributed by the Uniform Committee prior to each competition or event. Each marching band member is responsible for all parts of the uniform, including but not limited to replacing parts that are lost or damaged.

Gloves: Each member must purchase gloves at a cost of \$3:00 per pair. They are available in the uniform room prior to each competition. Gloves can be washed and bleached and re-worn.

Shoes: Each member must wear regulation shoes as part of the uniform. Shoes are ordered and purchased during Band Camp. Shoes can normally be cleaned with soap and water or a non-abrasive cleanser. White shoe polish is also a big help.

REMEMBER: When you wear your uniform, you become a recognizable representative of Auburn Schools. Only water should be consumed while in uniform. It is a privilege to wear a Vanguard uniform, and it should be treated with respect.

Vanguard Glossary

Band Camp: an intensive instructional time at the end of summer band practice, which combines hours of practice with entertainment, activities, and events, traditionally culminating in the first “public performance” of the season.

Buddy System: a returning band member is paired with a new member to assist him or her in understanding instructions, marching techniques and expectations.

Drill Commands:

Band Ten Hut: band members stand at attention, body straight, and eyes are straight ahead

Block: Usually consists of seven rows where members learn marching, including necessary terms in small groups

Dress Center: band members stand straight; snap the head to center with eyes looking to center

Horns Down: instrument removed from mouth in a straight pattern, member stands at attention

Horns Up: On two counts, snap instrument up to the mouth

Mark Time Mark: on four counts, feet only move in place, ready to begin march routine

Parade Rest: stand facing forward, horns down, left foot moves sideways to a relaxed position

Harvest of Sound: the band competition hosted by the Auburn School District, the Auburn Maroon Vanguard, and the Auburn music Boosters, traditionally held at Holland Stadium, in early October.

Pit: stationary percussion section of the band which includes keyboards, drum, chimes, bells.

Pit Crew: volunteers who load equipment on and off the trucks for field competitions and performances.

You'll Never Walk Alone

When you walk through a storm,
Keep your head up high
And don't be afraid of the dark.
At the end of the storm
Is a golden sky
And the sweet silver song of a lark.
Walk on through the wind,
Walk on through the rain,
Tho' your dreams be tossed and blown
Walk on, walk on, with hope in your heart,
And you'll never walk alone,
You'll never walk alone!

- Oscar Hammerstein, II