



Spring-Ford Area Senior High School
"Golden Ram" Band

Band Code of Conduct & Contract
2006 – 2007

Membership in the Spring-Ford Area High School "Golden Ram" Marching Band is a privilege, not a right. As members of this organization, band members will agree to the following basic tenets of membership:

- I will treat all adults and fellow band members with courtesy and respect.
- I will take proper care of my equipment, instrument, and uniform, following all guidelines which are applicable, including proper uniform hanging, instrument placement in the case in the instrument room, etc.
- I will behave in a professional manner while in uniform at all times. This includes remaining in my seat at football games, never wearing any extraneous apparel with my uniform, never using profane language, etc.
- I will obey all Spring-Ford Area School District bus rules, as well as any additional band bus rules.
- I will adhere to the attendance policy of the Spring-Ford Area High School Band. I will miss no rehearsals or performances for any reason other than illness or death in the family. When family functions require precedence, I will provide 2 weeks written notice as required in the attendance policy.
- I will take pride in this band, striving to
 - A) perform at the highest level at all times
 - B) improve my musical abilities throughout the entire school year
 - C) never display a negative attitude
- I will arrive on time and work hard at all rehearsals, talking only when necessary
- I will adhere to the Spring-Ford Area School District discipline policy at all times.
- All band and color guard students will represent Spring-Ford High School in a classy, professional manner, including in the stands at all performances, on the buses, and in public.

Band members agree to this code of conduct, as well as the Spring-Ford Area High School discipline policy, at all times. Failure to do so will result in possible disciplinary action, as well as eventual expulsion from the band.

Attendance Policy

All rehearsals and performances are required. As with school, legitimate illness and death in the family are excused absences. All absences are to be followed up with a written excuse from a parent or guardian, not a student. Any absence that fails to do this will be considered an unexcused absence.

There is a major commitment made on a yearly basis to provide you with a schedule as early as possible to avoid conflicts. Because of this, you are expected to clear your schedule for all band rehearsals and performances. Any exceptions to the following rules will be made at the discretion of the band director. Absences due to vacation, weddings, or other major family commitments are not excused. Work is never an excused absence.

Membership in the Marching Band will be based on the following system. All absences will be considered unexcused except for legitimate illness and death in the family. You will be allowed a total of 3 points for the remainder of the season (as of 9/21/06).

Absences will be considered as follows:

- Absence from rehearsal
(1 point)
- Absence from Spring City or Royersford Halloween Parades
(2 points)
- Absence from Football Game, or other non-competitive performances
(2 points)
- Absence from Competition
(2 points)
- Unexcused Absence (lack of parental notification by written note) from a rehearsal
(2 points)
- Unexcused Absence (lack of parental notification by written note) from a performance
(3 points)

When a member reaches 3 absences, they may be removed from band, at the discretion of the band director. All excuses are to be in writing from a parent or guardian, and turned into Mr. Eckstine 24 hours prior of the event.

A student that misses a rehearsal the day of a performance may be placed on the sideline for that days performance, at the discretion of the band director and staff. There are many corrections and/or changes made the days of competitions, and it is imperative that you are in attendance.

Rehearsal Rules and Guidelines

- If you are on time, you're late. Rehearsal begins at published times.
- Always arrive 10-15 minutes early to prepare for practice.
- Students who drive to practice: You are not permitted to use your car during practice hours for any reason.
- Our rehearsals, except for lunch break during summer band, are held without extended breaks. No one is permitted to leave school property at any time without the specific permission from a staff member.
- No one is enter or exit any part of the school building except for door #10 (the band room entrance), the band room, band room storage areas, and the door #10 rest rooms, unless with a staff member, for any rehearsal.
- Students must wear comfortable athletic shoes and clothing to all rehearsals. No sandals, boots, tight jeans, etc. Pants that touch the heel must be rolled up.
- Bring water to band camp and extended rehearsals. Do not bring or drink sugary or carbonated beverages.
- Baseball-style hats and sun block should be used during band camp.
- It is imperative that you attend all practice as required.
- No chewing gum during ANY rehearsal or performance.
- No talking during practice. Talking in not allowed any time a staff member is talking. Good discipline will help make a good band great.
- All band members will be required to have following items during band rehearsal: Instrument (in good working condition); pencil; drill sheets (throughout summer band); a dot book, filled out correctly, at all times; and all issued music (the "Star Spangled Banner, the "Notre Dame" Fight Song, and all show and stand music.)

Rules for Uniform Use

The Spring-Ford High School Marching Band Uniform is to be worn with PRIDE. Each band member is responsible for caring for his/her uniform in such a way that it will be in good condition for the next child who will wear it.

Please note that all uniforms will be stored at the high school. No uniform (except for the cadet-style hat) will be taken home at any time unless with permission of Mr. Eckstine.

- No trousers, pants, jeans, are to be worn under the uniform under the uniform trousers at any time. When wearing white marching pants, students must wear plain white undergarments. Anything else WILL SHOW THROUGH the uniform pants.
- Only a blue Spring-Ford High School Band shirt may be worn under the uniform jacket. No sweatshirts, sweaters, or other coats of any kind.
- ***Instrumentalist must provide:***

- A. Full length white socks (no short socks)
- B. Clean white shoes
- C. Clean white gloves
- D. Clean white gauntlets
- ***Color Guard must provide***
 - A. Black marching shoes
 - B. All other accessories needed
- All items are to be cleaned and /or polished weekly. No gloves or socks may be left in the hat box. No shoes are to be placed in the garment bag at any time. These items must be taken home after each performance.
- All students will pick up your band uniform in the uniform room upon instructions from Mr. Eckstine before each performance. The name and number will be displayed on each garment bag.
- At the conclusion of each performance, band members will return their uniform to the uniform room, properly hung on the correct hangars. There will be no exception to this rule. Please allow extra time before and after each performance. All plumes are to be returned to the plume box.
- There will be a \$5.00 fee assessed per item to the responsible student to re-issue uniforms or uniform parts not placed in the proper storage area (that is not the instrument room lockers).
- Unless specifically informed, there will be no eating or drinking in uniform in the stands during football games and competitions. DO NOT bring, or have them brought to you, snacks or treats to eat during the games.
- All students will be instructed when and where to put on or take off uniforms. No student will be permitted to dress or undress on the bus unless there is no changing area. NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE. Specific instructions will be given prior to each performance.
- A rain coat will be provided for each student. After a performance where the raincoat is used, it is to be hung up on a hanger (hangers will be provided) and placed where instructed.

Proper care of your uniform will add life to the garment itself and help to keep you perfectly groomed.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS:

- Do not apply perfume, cologne, or hairspray while your uniform is on. You must spray your hair BEFORE putting your uniform on. The residue from these items will cause a build up on the uniform and damage the fabric. This in turn will discolor the uniform and jackets. YOU MUST FOLLOW THIS RULE.
- Treat stains immediately. If something is spilled onto your uniform, or chewing gum or candy gets stuck on it.....PLEASE find an adult chaperone or the uniform chairman to help you.

- Take care of repairs immediately. If something becomes loose or seems to be tearing or falling apart..... PLEASE find an adult chaperone or the uniform chairman to help you.

PLEASE...read over these guidelines and use them. You and your parents are responsible for the cost of these uniforms if they become damaged or lost. You are only borrowing them for your use while you are participating in the marching band.

Let's all work together to keep these uniforms and all their parts looking good so that you and the band will look their best!!

Uniform Replacement Parts

The band uniforms are the property of the Spring-Ford Area School District and are paid for by the taxpayers. If a band member damages or loses any part, it is the parent's responsibility to pay for this item. If damage occurs, the band member will receive a bill from the high school office.

The band member's report card and/or diploma will be withheld until the charges listed below have been paid to the school district.

- Cadet-Style Band Jackets
(\$250.00)
- White Band Trousers
(\$100.00)
- Black Band Trousers
(\$100.00)
- Cadet-Style Hat
(\$45.00)
- Band Hat Box
(\$20.00)
- Band Plume
(\$25.00)
- Garment Bag
(\$15.00)
- Raincoat
(\$45.00)
- Flags (each)
(\$25.00-\$60.00)
- Rifle and Sabers
(\$250.00)

All color guard uniforms costs will also be covered under this contract, and will be assigned a value price upon issue of a uniform.

Bus & Football Games Procedures

The following are procedures for bus transportation to & from performance events. Any additional policies and procedures will be covered by the Spring-Ford Area School District Bus Transportation Policy:

- All students will travel to and from all school-related events by bus transportation provided by the school district. Any exceptions to this policy will have to be approved by the band director and high school principal. If exception is granted, the student must only travel with a parent/guardian.
- Students are to remain seated at all times. If a problem occurs with this policy, all students on that bus will be assigned a seat.
- You may NOT take glass bottles on the bus. Please be neat when eating or drinking on the bus. All individuals will be responsible for cleaning the bus before you are dismissed.
- Please be quiet & seated while roll is being called.
- You will not be allowed to switch buses during a trip.
- Do not get off of the bus until Mr. Eckstine or a designated staff member tells you to get off.

The following policies and procedures apply during the football games:

- The band will be seated in the stands in sections. Please remain in those sections during the game.
- All students will be expected to play during as an ensemble while in the stands.
- While in the stands, all hats, gloves, and gauntlets will be taken off. The uniform jacket may be unzipped half-way only.
- You will not eat (food, candy, cookies, etc.) or drink anything but water in the stands.
- You will not be allowed to leave the football game early as an individual. Any exceptions to this rule must be approved by the band director and the high school principal.
- You will be responsible for the safety and condition of your instrument during the game. Any damage to school-owned instruments will be your financial responsibility – don't let anyone else play your instrument – if they break it, you pay for it.
- The winds, brass, percussion, and color guard will be given a set time each game to return to the stands from their 3rd quarter break. Anyone who does not return to the stands in time will not be granted a break the following week. You can avoid this – simply, BE ON TIME!
- The area where the band sits at football games or competitions is off-limits to anyone not in the band – brothers & sisters, friends, boyfriends & girlfriends, etc.

- Outward signs of affection with band boyfriends & girlfriends should be displayed when you are on your time and not with the band when we are functioning as a whole.
 - You are representing Spring-Ford High School at football games and competitions – be on your best behavior
 - All other rules in the Spring-Ford High School Student Handbook must be observed at all times.
 - All students must be accompanied, by a chaperone, to restrooms while the group is together, as a whole, in the stands.
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_____ have fully read & agree to abide the
(Name/Date)

above mentioned rules of conduct and behavior for the 2006-2007 school year.

