

# FORT CHERRY "RANGER" MARCHING BAND HANDBOOK

Revised January 2017  
Adopted by FCSD School Board  
*January 23, 2017*

# **The Fort Cherry Ranger Marching Band**

The Ranger Marching Band is comprised of instrumental (band) and majorette/banner (band front) student members from grades 7 through 12. The band performs at parades, all football games, and a number of community events. Band camp begins three weeks prior to the start of school in the fall. During the rest of the football season, the marching band rehearses during the school day. Good musicianship, pride, and commitment are essential and encouraged. Marching band is a graded elective course for instrumental players and those majorette members who chose band for credit. Majorette members do not have to take band for credit to be a member of the squad.

## **Band Staff**

### **Band Director**

The band director oversees the entire organization (band and majorettes). All major decisions are approved by the director. The director is responsible for writing drill, choosing music, and rehearsing the entire organization. The band director is also the liaison between the administration and the marching band organization. Volunteer sponsors are approved by the director. All staff is under the director's leadership.

### **Assistant Band Director**

The assistant band director oversees the entire organization (band and majorettes). The assistant director is responsible for helping to write drill, choose music, and rehearse the entire organization when needed. All staff, except the director, is under the assistant director's leadership.

### **Majorette Sponsor**

The majorette sponsor oversees the majorette squad, majorette volunteers, and works with the majorette captains to create successful performances. See the majorette handbook for more information.

### **Majorette Volunteer Sponsors**

Volunteer sponsors/band staff is selected by the director. These individuals have the approval to run rehearsals of the squads when necessary. The director has the right to release any volunteer if they are not working with the director for the good of the organization. See the majorette handbook for more information. As a reminder, all volunteer sponsors must have appropriate clearances on file with the district.

**\*\*All Officers should be in attendance at all rehearsals and performances\*\***

### **PRESIDENT**

1. Is elected to act as a student representative for the organization.
2. Must be a member of that organization.
3. Must have 4 years of previous band membership.
4. Will assist the director in preparation of all band activities and concerts.
5. Will collect and distribute money through the Student Activities account.
6. Will know the roles of every Staff member and Officer; will motivate each of these individuals to fulfill their responsibilities to the very best of their ability.

### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

1. Is elected to act as a student representative for the organization.
2. Is elected to act as the student representative in the absence of the president.
3. Must be a member of that organization.
4. Must have 4 years of previous band membership.
5. Will assist the director in preparation of all band activities and concerts.
6. Will assist the president as needed

### **SECRETARY**

1. Is elected to act as a student representative for the organization.
2. Must be a member of that organization.
3. Must have 4 years of previous band membership.
4. Will assist the director in preparation of all band activities and concerts.

### **TREASURER:**

1. Is elected to act as a student representative for the organization.
2. Must be a member of that organization.
3. Must have 4 years of previous band membership.
4. Will assist the director in preparation of all band activities and concerts.
5. Will collect and deposit money for the student activities band account.

### **DRUM MAJOR:**

1. Is selected by an audition comprised of: conducting skills, marching skills, vocal and whistle commands.
2. Will assist the band director, as needed, with marching and/or playing rehearsals.
3. Will demonstrate a strong quality of leadership.
4. Will be expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances.
- 5. Must be at all rehearsals and performances. Candidates cannot split practices with other activities. This includes the band period during the school day.**
6. Must be a member of the band for at least 2 years. If there is no one eligible with two years experience then band members with one year of experience will be permitted to audition for drum major. Candidates must be entering 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade the following year.

### **MAJORETTE CAPTAIN(S) & CO-CAPTAIN(S):**

1. Are selected by an audition.
2. Will be expected to work with the sponsor to create routines for football halftime shows, pep rallies, etc.
3. Will demonstrate a strong quality of field leadership.
4. Will assist the majorette sponsor and band directors in the organization of Band Camp and all rehearsals.
5. Will report to their unit all action taken by the band directors, sponsors, and officers.
- 6. Must be at all rehearsals and performances.**
7. Must be a senior with at least two years of experience or a junior if no seniors are on the squad for that season.
8. For more information, see the majorette handbook.

### **SECTION LEADERS:**

1. One is appointed by the directors for each instrumental section in the band.
2. Each will conduct equipment and uniform inspections before performances.
3. Each will act as a liaison between the section and the director.
4. Each will be given instructional duties to aid the section in their musical pursuits.

### **LIBRARIANS\***

1. Will be selected by the band director
2. Will assist the director in all facets of organizing and maintaining band music.
3. Will file, catalog, and repair all music.
4. Will prepare concert and marching folders.
5. Will issue and collect music.
6. Will keep all music neat and easily accessible.

### **EQUIPMENT MANAGERS\***

1. Any eighth grader (in 8<sup>th</sup> grade for the season) interested in majorettes or who wishes to join or assist the band.
2. Will help set the stage/field for rehearsals and performances.
3. Will assist the band directors and sponsors when needed.
4. Must attend band camp
5. May carry the banner for that band at all parades and trip performances; if there are not majorette alternatives

\*Remember that each of these Officers or Staff members volunteer his or her time for the betterment of our band.

## Policies and Expectations

In order to operate efficiently and effectively, every organization must establish and abide by certain rules. The following guidelines are written so that the various Fort Cherry performing organizations will be able to run smoothly and successfully. "Extenuating circumstances" do exist and these should be brought to the director's attention so that they may be dealt with properly.

### **I. Attendance:**

- A. Students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances.
- B. Students must be punctual! To be early is to be on time.
- C. **To miss for work is an unexcused absence.**
- D. Students must attend at least half a day of school the day of a performance (or attend school the Friday before a Saturday performance) to be eligible to perform that night.
- E. All excuses must be written and given to the director **at least one week prior to any performance. The form must be given to the director. The director will not accept excuses if not informed directly by that person.**
- F. Everyone is expected to be at all performances. The schedule is distributed many months prior to the season. All vacations, concerts, etc. are to be scheduled around the performance schedule. Any unexcused absences are unacceptable. "Once in a Lifetime" events are excused but must be approved by the band director. These are very rare.
- G. **Trips** – Every student in the organization attending a trip must be performing on that trip. Anyone unable to perform on the trip will not be permitted to attend.
- H. Majorettes see majorette handbook for more information.

### **II. Policies:**

- A. All rules, regulations, and policies of the Fort Cherry School District are in effect when the band is rehearsing, performing, and/or traveling as a group.
- B. Students will treat others as you wish to be treated. Students will display courtesy and politeness at all times to instructors, band parents, guest band members, and to each other.
- C. School district rules concerning bus behavior will apply on all trips. All students are required to ride the bus to and from all events. Students may ride home with parents if it is an emergency. The director must have notification at least one day prior to the performance. **NO ONE WILL BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE FROM THE PERFORMANCE WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT.**
- D. Possession of alcoholic beverages, drugs, or tobacco products is strictly prohibited. Any violation will be handled in accordance with school policies governing possession. (Violation of this school policy will result in suspension from the organization for the year).
- E. No gum, candy, food, or beverages are allowed during rehearsals or performances, unless it is needed for medical reasons. You **MUST** have a doctor's excuse to use these items.
- F. Members are not permitted to leave the stands anytime at home or away games or events except for bathroom breaks with an escort. No one is allowed to leave the stands at any other time, without permission from the director. Friends and family are not allowed to sit in the band's section during games.
- G. Student Contract: Before a student can participate in rehearsals, he/she must have a completed contract on file. Students that do not return a completed contract will not be permitted to participate in any band and/or majorette event!
- H. Members are to remain seated at all times during a game or event, except when performing.
- I. Any person other than approved sponsors or observers are not permitted to be at or "hanging around" practices. This includes boyfriends/girlfriends.
- J. Only approved sponsors are permitted to run rehearsals. Parents are not permitted to run practices/rehearsals.
- K. Tennis shoes and socks are to be worn at all practices and rehearsals.
- L. Only natural hair color is permitted. Any unnatural hair coloring is not permitted for performances. Students that dye hair unnatural colors will not be permitted to perform and it will count as an unexcused absence.
- M. No earrings are permitted to be worn during a performance, including new piercings. Only pre-approved earrings for the majorette squad are permitted. See majorette handbook
- N. Any punishments set outside of school are unexcused absences. Such as grounding, this **DOES NOT** excuse a student from rehearsals or performances.
- O. All members are expected to load and unload their instruments/equipment.

### **III. Demerits:**

- A. Demerits are given by a Director and/or Sponsor for any violation of the rules and regulations of the band organization.
- B. For every 10 demerits, the students will not be able to participate in the next activity and their grade will be lowered by one letter grade for those that are taking band for credit.
- C. Any offense which carries an automatic failure also means that the student could be dismissed from the organization.
- D. If a student receives 15 demerits or more, they will automatically fail the class and possibly be dismissed from the organization.
- E. Only a Director/Sponsor may assign demerits.

### **IV. Instruments and Equipment:**

- A. Students are responsible to maintain the condition of the instruments and equipment they are using.
- B. Students should have identification tags on instrument cases and equipment at all times.
- C. Students should store all instruments and equipment stored in their assigned places.
- D. Students will report to all rehearsals and performances with the necessary instruments and equipment.
- E. Students are responsible for providing extra reeds, valve or slide oil, sticks, or mallets when they are needed. If you run out, see the appropriate director or sponsor.
- F. Students will be responsible for the loading and unloading of their instrument and equipment onto and from the busses and van when the group is traveling.
- G. Any student using a school instrument is responsible for it. If it is damaged in any way, the student is expected to pay for repairs. If a school instrument is damaged beyond repair, then the student must purchase a new instrument for the school.

### **V. Uniforms:**

- A. The yearly required band t-shirt, which is purchased by the student, is the only shirt that is permitted to wear under the uniform.
- B. Band shirts and pants are to be purchased for warmer weather.
- C. Everyone is expected to be uniform. All shoes should be the same and clothing under the uniforms should not be showing.
- D. Students are to purchase a pair of white MARCHING shoes. Any other shoes ARE NOT PERMITTED!!
- E. Shoes are to be cleaned before every performance.
- F. Students must provide themselves with plain white tube socks to wear with the uniform.
- G. It is a good idea to have extra CLEAN socks with you in your garment bag pocket.
- H. All students must purchase a clear band raincoat unless the school purchases them. Any replacements must be purchased by student.
- I. Majorettes refer to the majorette handbook concerning uniforms.
- J. All uniforms are to be turned in two weeks after the end of the football season. Any uniforms not turned in will be billed to the student's account as a replacement fee.

### **VI. Trips:**

- A. All students and staff are expected to adhere to school district behavioral code of conduct.
- B. Regardless of where the trip is, absolutely no bikinis or halter tops. This also includes swim suits. Any violation of this rule and students will not be able to participate in the activity.
- C. After any room checks students are expected to go to sleep. Anyone that is disrupting other rooms will be given demerits.
- D. Directors and chaperones have the authority to discipline when necessary. Talking back or not listening is a violation of the Band Code of Conduct

# **BAND CAMP**

**(Prior to Start of School in August)**

Band Camp is scheduled for the beginning of August. At this camp, the band learns their half-time and pre-game shows. In addition to show music, stand tunes and parade music are prepared; in addition marching techniques are learned and polished. Band camp is mandatory for all members. **If members do not attend band camp, then those members will not be permitted to be in marching band, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

## **BAND CAMP ATTIRE**

1. Dress for the weather!!!
2. Bring rain gear!!!
3. Wear socks and tennis shoes. All other footwear is not permitted!
4. Avoid perfume, hair spray, hand lotions, creams, etc. they attract bees.
5. USE SUNSCREEN!!!!!!
6. Bring sunglasses and a hat.
7. Bikini's and halter tops are not permitted.

## **Fund Raising**

Fund raising is a necessary aspect of our band program. It provides the money to purchase new equipment, refreshments, and to cover trip expenses. Throughout the year, students may be asked to participate in selected fund raising activities. Items purchased with money that has been raised must benefit the entire band.

## **Band Boosters**

All parents and/or guardians of Fort Cherry Ranger Band members are encouraged to join and participate in our Band Parent Organization. Throughout the school year, the members of this organization actively support our band by working at concession stands, helping to set up for performances, and participating in fund raisers that will benefit the entire Fort Cherry Band.

If you want more information, please contact the director, or you may attend the meetings that are held every month in the band room throughout the year.

## The Demerit Point System

1. Unexcused absence from rehearsal	5
2. Unexcused absence from a performance	10
3. Late to rehearsal/practice	1
4. Late to a performance	2
5. Public displays of affection while in uniform or at practice/performance	5
6. Inspection (Instrument, uniform, equipment, and appearance) each deficiency.	1
7. Not being properly dressed or not wearing tennis shoes and socks to practice/rehearsal.	2
8. Using profanity	5
9. Improper care of uniform or equipment	5
10. Being rude to any member of the organization	2
11. Using another person's instrument or equipment	1
12. Disrespecting or disobeying a director or sponsor	5
13. Leaving instrument, equipment out after a performance or practice	1
14. Failure to bring necessary items to practice	2
15. Intentionally damaging any school or other equipment	Failure
16. Smoking, drinking alcohol, or using illegal narcotics	Failure
17. Stealing, fighting, or moral misconduct	Failure
18. Leaving any band event at any time without permission or escort	Failure
19. Lying to the director or sponsor	5-Failure
20. Complaining and disrupting rehearsal	2