

# EHSMB Handbook Review 2022



**ERIE HIGH SCHOOL  
MARCHING BAND  
ERIE, PA**



# A Message from your Team...

**Dear Erie High School Marching Band Parents and Students,**

Welcome to the Erie High School Marching Band! This great organization hails over a decade of excellence in performance and competition.

We are very happy you have made the choice to become a member of the Erie High School Marching Band family!

This handbook is intended to give all readers an idea of what it is like to be part of the Erie High School Marching Band (EHSMB). In this handbook, you will find information about what to expect, what to look forward to and what you **must** do to be a successful and contributing member. *\*By joining the band you are agreeing to everything written in this handbook.*

Once again, welcome to the Erie High School Marching Band. Please take time to read this handbook carefully and return the appropriate forms by the assigned date so we can start a wonderful year!

Musically Yours,

**Erick Nicklas**, Director

**Staff**, Erie High School Marching Band

# Attendance Policy



Here are some guidelines to help you clearly understand our attendance policy. If you have questions, please contact the director or assistant director of the band.

1. Rehearsal attendance is **mandatory**.
2. Excused absences include illness (must be absent from school) and religious events (weddings, funerals, bar mitzvahs, confirmations).
  - **\*\*Unexcused absences include outside jobs, transportation issues, and social gatherings. If you need a ride, consult with a fellow band member or staff.**
3. Students should fill out an [Absence form](#) also available on the [Forms Page](#) a minimum of **2 weeks prior** to the absence.
4. A student who misses any two rehearsals in a given week during the performance season prohibits his/her/their participation with the ensemble during a performance. This will be left to the discretion of the director/staff. Attendance, however, is still mandatory for these performances. Students will be required to stand during the duration of the performance.
5. If a student arrives to rehearsal more than thirty (30) minutes past the beginning of rehearsal, he/she/they are considered tardy. Three (3) tardies constitutes an (1) absence. \*30 minutes allows for travel between different schools and home.
6. There is, of course, always extenuating circumstances that may prohibit a member from being at multiple rehearsals. These rare occurrences should be discussed with staff as soon as the member is aware of the situation.

# Excuse Format! :)

**Here is an example of appropriate excuses:**

“Please excuse Billy from rehearsal on 1/1/2000 due to an appointment.  
Thank you,  
*Billy’s mom*”

“Madison has permission to leave during lunch on Tuesday 8/8/2000 with Joe’s mother Diane to get food and then return.  
Thank you.  
*Madison’s father*”

ClassDojo: Online/App, parent-staff communication.  
Please see band staff for more information.

Any questions regarding attendance should be directed to the band director(s):  
(814) 580-6680 [voice/text] or emailing  
[info@eacmb.org](mailto:info@eacmb.org)

Any questions regarding fundraising, parental support, etc.: [boosters@eacmb.org](mailto:boosters@eacmb.org)

We are online 24 hours per day at  
[www.erieroyalsmb.org](http://www.erieroyalsmb.org)

EHS Marching Band is also available on all Social media platforms!

# Academic Accountability

As a student of Erie's Schools and a member and representative of the Erie High School Marching Band, members are expected to maintain a passing average in all classes.

Students will be required to submit proof of passing average once every 8 weeks, in the middle of each quarter. This will be submitted via the "Proof of Passing" paperwork, or a screenshot of all passing grades. If the student does not display passing average, the student will be asked to complete one of the following:

1. Complete special help time with teachers, with signed proof that all missing assignments are submitted and passing grade is acquired.
2. Students will come to practice, as usual, and will be asked to bring the assignments for the failing classes. Students will then spend an assigned amount of time completing assignments.

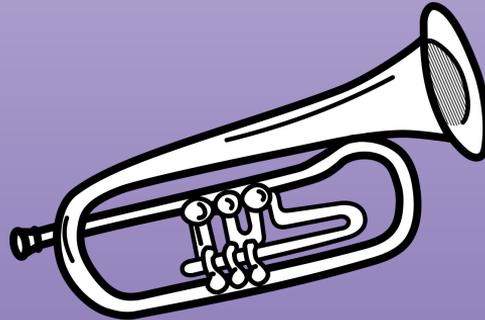
Until the student submits proof of passing average, students may lose the ability to perform or travel.



# Use of School-Owned Instruments and “Stuff”

Erie’s Public Schools has provided high quality instruments for each member to use for the marching band. Members will be assigned instruments for usage with the marching band. Repairs will be financially backed by the EHSMB, however, any abuse or theft of school issued property will be the responsibility of the member and the members’ family.

**Members of the marching band should be cognizant of the importance of instrument care!  
We are fortunate to have such high-quality instruments.**



# Be Good! (Citizen)

1. Students are expected to exhibit behaviors that are conducive to optimum TEAM achievement. These behaviors can include, but are not limited to:
  - a. performing to the best of your ability at all times,
  - b. supporting other members and their efforts,
  - c. showing respect for the goals of the organization.
2. Students will be expected to exhibit behaviors of self-discipline during rehearsals. These behaviors can include, but are not limited to:
  - a. not talking during rehearsals,
  - b. not disturbing instruction in any fashion,
  - c. respecting students, faculty, staff or parent volunteers,
  - d. maintaining the interest and focus toward the goals of the organization.
3. Students will be expected to exhibit courteous behavior at all times. Please refrain from being loud, boisterous, and rude in your communication with or around others.
4. Public Displays of Affection (PDA) are inappropriate in the band facilities, on buses, or official band/school functions at any time.
5. If you can't say it in a G-rated movie, you shouldn't say it while representing the band in ANY manner (i.e. rehearsal, performance, in uniform, in band shirts, social media, etc.) Please be mature enough and respectful enough to consider your surroundings and your audience when you are alone or with others. It has taken years to build a good reputation, but it can be torn down in just minutes!
6. Due to the physical performance nature of marching band, students should make HEALTHY food and beverage choices while participating in and between rehearsal and performance activities. For example, WATER, sports drinks (Gatorade, Propel) are permitted; *pop, soft drinks, energy drinks, etc. are prohibited!* If you learn of a new drink that you think may qualify for use at rehearsal, please ask a staff member.
7. Dress Code: No 3 B's (no belly's, no bottoms, no busts), i.e. no spaghetti straps, etc. You will be asked to either cover up or go home to change.
8. Harassment, hazing, bullying, or abuse of students, staff, or parents will not be tolerated. An infraction of this nature may subject that student to dismissal from the band.
9. **All rules and guidelines of the Student Code of Conduct in Erie's Public Schools policy manual apply.**

**Any infraction of conduct, attitude, or responsibility may result in one or more of the following consequences:**

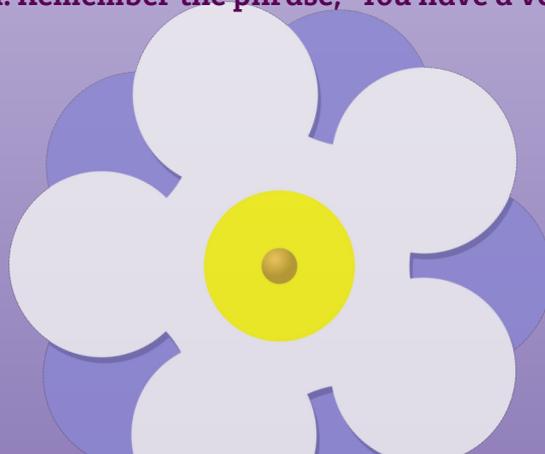
- Laps, push-ups, etc.
- conference with student
- conference with parent
- loss of performance status
- conference with appropriate administrator
- dismissal from the band program



# Band Relations

**Internet:** There are many social networking resources on the internet where marching band is discussed. As a member of the Erie High School Marching Band, it is your duty to uphold our good name in your communication online. Any unfair or poor representation of the Erie High School Marching Band on any internet website will be removed, and the author of that content will be reprimanded via disciplinary action via Erie's Public Schools or by law enforcement. This includes poor treatment of staff, parents, volunteers, students; poor displays in band attire whether at a band function or not.

**Band Functions:** At competitions, district festivals, and other band functions, the good name of Erie High is in your hands. As a member of the band, you are expected to be respectful of other organizations and their respective members, regardless of any comments made to you. Remember the phrase, "You have a very nice marching band."



# Uniform Care

NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING EXCEPT WATER WHILE WEARING THE UNIFORM.

Students are responsible for keeping their uniform in presentable condition at all times. This includes hanging the uniform properly after each performance; this will maintain its form and will reduce the need for ironing.

Visible jewelry is not permitted to be worn while in uniform unless it is a part of the uniform. i.e. piercings, necklaces, bracelets, etc.

Students are required to have marching shoes. Shoes are ordered annually by our booster organization. *Each student is responsible for this purchase.*

The band will supply your child with one pair of gloves. Additional pairs will be at the cost of the student.

Under the uniforms, students will be required to wear the official EHSMB show shirt, or a black shirt w/sleeves (no tank tops), shorts and clean black socks.

- a. Tees will be collected/checked off by section leaders weekly by the rehearsal prior to a performance. Tees will be placed inside student garment bags as part of their uniform.
- b. A replacement tee will cost \$10; a loaner program is available, please see staff for details.

Uniforms will be collected and inspected each year. Students are financially responsible for all uniform pieces that are lost or damaged. Uniforms will be passed out clean and returned clean each year.

Band boosters will provide dry cleaning at the end of the season for uniforms.



## **Drum Major/ Section Leaders** *(What are those?)*



**It is the job of the Drum Major(s) and the Section Leaders of Guard, Hornline, Front-Line (Pit Ensemble), and Drumline, to ensure that all standards listed in this handbook are upheld by everyone in their purview. At events, they will ensure uniforms are properly worn, students are conducting themselves as listed in the handbook, and may from time to time, run sections of rehearsal as seen fit by the directors and staff.**

**These positions are an honor to hold, and require certain skill sets and experiences. Due to that, the following behaviors and procedures are expected to be upheld by all holding these positions.**

# Drum Major/ Section Leader Responsibilities

**Drum Majors-Requirement** to spend one day at EUP Spirit of the Scots Marching Band rehearsal to shadow the drum major. *Goals would be improving leadership skills, conducting, and communicating with all members in the band and adults.*

**Students in any leadership position** who plan to miss rehearsals regularly due to conflicts in other organizations/workplaces must have a written formal request that is approved by staff.

\*Example: Missing every Tuesday for work. Missing the 1st Thursday of every month for Pottery Club.

**THESE WILL NOT COUNT AS UNEXCUSED IF APPROVED BY STAFF.**

**Any more than 5 unexcused absences will lead to the student being stripped of their title.**

**Students in leadership positions must meet with their staff-mentor once a month for a 20 minute meeting. In this meeting, any improvements, recommendations, or resolutions to conflicts that need to be made shall be brought up.**

# Can I Become a Drum Major/ Section Leader?

To hold a leadership position, the staff recommends 1 year of active participation of the marching band.

During the students previous year, they must have attendance that reflects the attendance policy (Only 5 unexcused absences).

Students wishing to hold a leadership position must show behaviors that meet the standards of a leadership position, including:

Responsible

Organized

Knowledgeable

Timely

Participative

Positive

Effective Communication

Inclusive

# Leadership Auditions



**To apply for a leadership position, there will be paperwork, an interview, and an audition, including:**

Students will complete 30-60 seconds of conducting at 60, 120, and one other BPM.

Leadership Exhibition (Conducting/Lead Section/Etc.): perform as a Leader/DM.

Perform Commands: Attention, Parade Rest, Horns-up/down, Mark Time,

etc.

Students will complete an interview with staff.

Students will write a formal essay answering the questions chosen by staff.

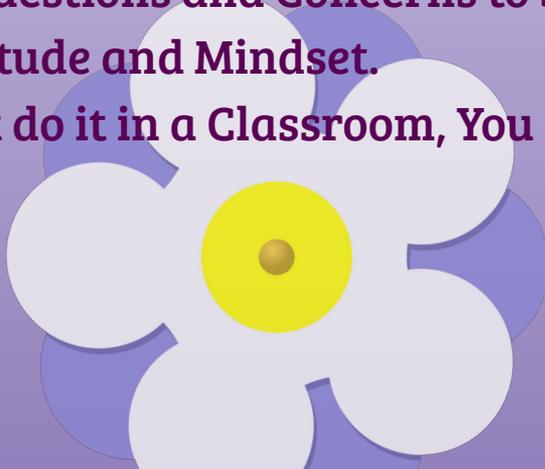
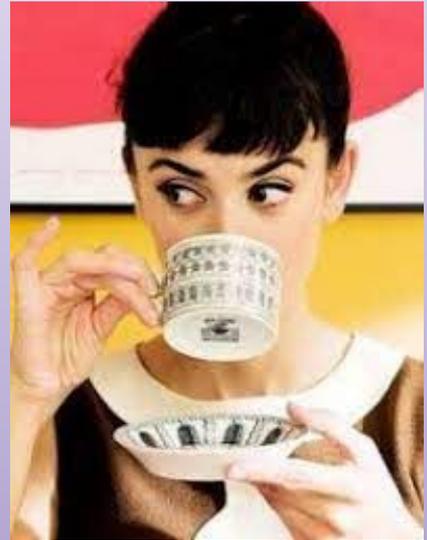
Essay, in your own written words:

*Who makes a good Leader/Drum Major?*

(typed, double spaced - minimum of 1 page in length, but not more than 2 pages)

# Rehearsal Etiquette

1. **Be on Time.**
2. **Be Respectful to Everyone.**
3. **Come Prepared.**
4. **Put Down ALL Electronic Devices.**
  - a. This includes cell phones, earbuds, headphones, smartwatches, ect.
5. **Know When to Bring Questions and Concerns to Staff.**
6. **Be Mindful of Your Attitude and Mindset.**
7. **If You Can't or Wouldn't do it in a Classroom, You Shouldn't do it in Marching Band.**



## Mr. Nicklas' Favorite Tradition... The Quote

**“Watch your thoughts, for they become words.  
Watch your words, for they become actions.  
Watch your actions, for they become habits.  
Watch your habits, for they become character.  
Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.”**

**- Margaret Thatcher**