

# Important Reminder Concerning Rehearsal Attendance

In order to participate in band, students are required to read and agree to abide by the rules and regulations put forth in the [UHS Band Handbook](#), including those concerning attendance at rehearsals and performances.

Students (and parents) are reminded that attendance is REQUIRED of all band members at all rehearsals and performances, and that student grades are determined primarily by attendance.

Examples of absences that are EXCUSED are as follows:

1. EXCUSED absence from school during the day of the rehearsal
2. Participation in a school-sponsored sport (see “50/50 Policy” on p.7 of the Band Handbook)
3. Medical emergency (with a doctor’s excuse)
4. Death in the family

Examples of absences that are UNEXCUSED include, but are not limited to:

1. Work
2. Doing homework/studying
3. Unable to arrange for a ride to or from rehearsal
4. Non-school related lesson, class, or sports conflict

Because we only rehearse two nights a week, each rehearsal is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. When a student misses, not only are they missing important information and rehearsal time, but they are also negatively impacting all those who march or play around them. Unlike sports, marching band has no “second string”. Every student “starts” and every student is equally important to the success of the band.

The fall rehearsal schedule has been available in the Band Handbook since late July, and our competition schedule ends October 4<sup>th</sup> this year. We ask that any non-emergency doctors appointments be scheduled for Mondays or Wednesdays, or be pushed back until our competition season has ended.

Likewise, if a student has a difficult course load, time management becomes vital, and if a student has a history of difficulty getting to and from rehearsal, they must arrange for transportation IN ADVANCE. (Directors can sometimes help in arranging for students to ride with other parents and/or students.)

We have a terrific group of kids this year, and had our most successful band camp to date. Our only major shortcoming has been sporadic attendance. By following the guidelines and suggestions above and in the Band Handbook, we can accomplish great things.

**Mark S. Palmer**  
Director of Bands