



**JOHN  
OVERTON  
HIGH SCHOOL BAND**

2019 - 2020  
Handbook

Eleni Miller  
Director of Bands

Nathan Barna  
Assistant Director

**General Info**

## About This Handbook

This handbook is a resource of information on the policies and activities of the John Overton High School Band program. It will be issued to band members and parents by the band directors in order to provide basic information regarding the program. All band members and parents are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the contents of this handbook, and must complete and return the enclosed Membership Acknowledgement Form in order to participate in the John Overton Band. This handbook is designed to function in harmony with the John Overton High School Student Code of Conduct and MNPS Board policies. This handbook is a living document. The band directors or campus administrators retain the authority to amend band policies if such action is deemed necessary to secure the interest of the overall band program.

## John Overton Band Philosophy of Instrumental Music Education

Music is a subject that affects many facets of the human personality. It shapes individuals on an intellectual, physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual, and social level. Instrumental music can foster a lifelong appreciation of music as an art form. Instrumental music also fosters a sense of cultural awareness as well as an aesthetic appreciation for the arts. The John Overton Band program engages students in a group activity that can enrich their life, personally and socially. It develops proper work habits through the successful implementation of a daily practice routine. It develops confidence and promotes students' abilities of self-expression and intelligent listening skills that encourage heightened communication skills. It is a departmental goal to instill in every member of the John Overton Band a lifelong appreciation for music and to consistently embrace the ideals of self-discipline, commitment, and teamwork. Through the cooperation of band students, parents, campus administration, the community, and the Municipal Nashville Public School District, the John Overton High School Band will strive to provide a musical program that is consistently recognized as one of the finest of its kind.

## Mission Statement

### Band Staff 2019 - 2020:

Developing lifelong excellence in students through the performing arts with a commitment to the values of integrity, respect, positivity, fellowship, and discipline.

## Objectives

The John Overton Band Program, which encompasses wind, percussion, and color guard members, forms an integral part of school life and is recognized as a co-curricular activity. The John Overton Band is the largest and most visible student organization on campus, and its members consistently project a positive representation of their community. The primary objective of the band program is to serve its members with the following opportunities for the duration of their membership:

Cultural Opportunities - to facilitate the continued development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of outstanding music literature.

Educational Opportunities - to develop interested and discriminating listeners, provide a well-rounded music education, and prepare students for musical pursuits beyond high school.

Leadership Opportunities - to foster exceptional personal values through the emphasis of teamwork and integrity.

Service Opportunities - to lend color and atmosphere to certain school and community affairs while promoting and enhancing the distinction and reputation of John Overton High School at all appearances.

Recreational Opportunities - to provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of leisure time, an emotional outlet, and quality social experiences.

## Student Membership Guidelines

### Active Membership Requirements

The John Overton Band Program is open to all interested students at John Overton High School who demonstrate a combination of the following: a desire to participate in the program, a basic ability to perform, and a positive and cooperative

attitude in rehearsal and performance settings. **Membership is based upon a full-year commitment, from the beginning of summer band until the last day of school in May.** Enrollment is maintained by means of an audition that demonstrates a musical proficiency. These auditions are held twice annually in May and December. Students are placed into one of three performing ensembles according to audition results.

As with any co- or extra-curricular organization, membership in the band program is a privilege. Failure to meet the requirements of the campus and/or organizational requirements may result in removal from the program. Any band student who does not maintain enrollment in band through the fall/spring semester sequence may be unable to participate in the John Overton Band for the next school year. **In the case of the color guard, membership continues through the spring semester in the form of winter guard.** Alternative scheduling policies for members who participate in school sanctioned sports will be handled on an individual basis. Such arrangements are at the discretion of the Director of Bands.

## Behavioral Expectations

Behavioral expectations are designed to create an environment that enhances student learning and performance. These expectations are based upon the premise that every student has a right to participate in the learning process without interference.

*Responsibility for behavior lies directly with the individual student.*

### General Behavioral Expectations:

1. Students are expected to adhere to the "Code of Conduct" as detailed in the John Overton High School student handbook.
2. Students are expected to participate in band activities with a supportive and positive spirit.
3. Students are expected to treat all directors, instructors, and clinicians with courtesy and respect. They are expected to respond appropriately to instruction with positive verbiage.
4. Negatively-charged verbal displays or nonverbal actions are considered inappropriate. **This policy also applies to the internet.** Students are expected to maintain a mature level of decorum at all times while representing the John Overton High School Band. *"When you have class it shows, when you don't, it SHOUTS!"*
5. Each student is expected to be in class, in the rehearsal setting, or present for travel or performances on time and with the required equipment and materials.
6. Cell phones and other mobile electronic devices are not permitted during rehearsals or performances.
7. Gum, candy, soft drinks, and other food items are prohibited in all band areas except during designated times by directors and chaperones.
8. Students are expected to help maintain a clean environment in facilities and during travel scenarios.
9. Students are expected to take proper care of all band equipment, including band instruments, music, uniforms, and facilities.
10. Rough-housing/horseplay of any form is prohibited.
11. Students should refrain from public displays of affection during all rehearsal and performance situations. Additionally, displays should never exceed that of static hand-holding in any setting.
12. Students are expected to seek parental permission before riding in friends' vehicles to or from any band-related activity. The allowance of vehicles on campus is a privilege. Irresponsible operation of a vehicle will result the loss of driving privileges on campus.
13. Students are expected to refrain from the use of degrading verbiage, profanity, and/or obscene gestures. Harassment of any form will not be tolerated and could result in immediate dismissal from the program.
14. Any form of hazing is strictly prohibited.
15. Use of illegal drugs, tobacco products, alcohol, and unauthorized medications are prohibited. Please refer to the John Overton High School student handbook and Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct.

### Related Consequences:

John Overton Band students are amongst the best on our campus and in our community. With a positive and team oriented attitude, band members will keep behavioral considerations out of the 'consequence' mode. However, should students exhibit behavioral concerns, consequences may include one or more of the following responses: verbal warnings, student and/or parent conferences, deduction in rehearsal technique grade, principal referrals, loss of role/placement in concert or marching band, or removal from the band program.

Any student who severely disrupts a rehearsal or performance setting may be dismissed from the setting and/or be sent directly to the principal for disciplinary purposes without warning or call to parents. Severe actions may also result in immediate disciplinary action and removal from the band program. The policy stated above applies anytime the band is convened for rehearsal, performance, travel, and social activities. It will also apply anytime the student is in the John Overton High School band room and/or marching field.

### **Classroom Rehearsal Etiquette:**

In order to have a successful musical program, the band must use every minute of rehearsal efficiently. During school, rehearsals begin promptly following the bell. At that time students are expected to be seated and ready for rehearsal. The John Overton High School tardy policy will be enforced at all times. During rehearsals, students are expected to be attentive and engaged in the task at hand. Students should raise their hand to ask for permission to use the restroom or to retrieve items from their lockers. A student may be removed from the ensemble setting at the director's discretion if talking or inattentiveness becomes a consistent distraction. Insubordinate behavior will result in a conference with student and/or parents. Consistent insubordination will result in role reassignment or removal from the program.

*A professional and orderly classroom stimulates thinking and lends itself to high achievement by all students!*

### **Travel Related Etiquette:**

Due to the extensive amount of band travel, proper behavior on buses and in situations where students are hotel or restaurant guests is a must. Students are expected to always be courteous to drivers, chaperones, and other passengers. Loud, abusive, and rude behavior will not be tolerated. Students are not allowed to move around the bus while it is in motion. Audio devices are allowed with headphones only. Disregard for these items will result in the inability of the student to travel with the band. Students should stay in the designated travel uniform unless otherwise specified by a director. All MNPS policies are in effect when students are traveling with the band.

### **Concert Performance Etiquette:**

Audience manners are based upon respect for the performers and for others in the audience, and they are considered a measure of civilized society and an expression of courtesy. Young people in today's society are seldom exposed to formal concert or performance situations and are often not aware of these standards for appropriate behavior. The following guidelines will enable John Overton Band concerts to maintain a proper and enjoyable example for everyone in attendance:

1. Students are expected to remain in the audience following their performance and to participate as an audience member until all remaining ensembles have performed. *\*This is a part of the educational process and is included as a part of the performance grade for the concert.* Students should avoid entering or leaving the auditorium during a performance.
2. Applause is encouraged; however, calling, whistling, or shouting is considered inappropriate for a formal concert.
3. Attention should be directed to the performers at all times.
4. Talking should be avoided during performances. Cell phones and other electronic devices are not to be used for the duration of a concert performance.

### **Football Game Etiquette:**

Varsity football games are highly visible and public performance venues for the John Overton marching band. It is imperative that students remain attentive and focused within the ensemble to help insure the intended functions of the band at these games: 1) to provide musical support to the varsity football team, and 2) to provide a quality and noteworthy halftime performance. Behavioral infractions are considered particularly serious in such a public setting. Therefore, the handling of disciplinary issues will be treated as such. As the ensemble is under the public eye, students must maintain a professional and dignified appearance at all times. Game time spirit in the form of verbal or physical encouragement should include the use of good judgment and taste at all times.

*Behavior in the stands (including pep rallies) – The implementation of the following behavioral guidelines help to insure that the John Overton Band is able to provide outstanding performances on and off the field:*

- Each band member is to remain in his or her assigned seat during the entire game.
- Restroom visits are granted only by securing permission from a band director or chaperone.
- Band members must be ready to play immediately following a tune request.

- Students must pay attention to drum majors/directors for visual cues so that professional musical entrances are always achieved.
- The marching band uniform must be worn in its entirety unless specific instructions from directors indicate otherwise.
- The marching band (including all sections within) should present only organized musical efforts. There are to be no spontaneous ‘hacking’ or jam sessions by individuals or sections either in the stands or en route to or from the performance.
- Students should play with their printed music at all times and without exception.
- Parts should be played exactly as written.
- Water is the only drink to be consumed in uniform.
- Students will be formally dismissed as a group once we return to school and all materials have been returned to their proper place.
  
- Cell phones are prohibited any time while the band is in session. Attempted use will result in the temporary confiscation of the device.

Students should be polite to everyone in manner and in speech; however, they should avoid being too sociable in performance settings. Once preparation for a performance of any sort has begun, members should avoid contact with other band members, family members, friends, girlfriend/boyfriends, etc., and should be focused on a section leader, drum major, or director. Visits should follow performances and be kept brief. (Students should not make conversation with members from other bands prior to performances).

Visitors will only be allowed into the band set-up with a director's approval.

While watching other bands perform, members should remain silent, attentive, and should avoid visual or verbal criticism of any sort in public (THESE THINGS ARE REALLY NOTICED BY OTHERS). When a band finishes a performance, enthusiastic applause and acknowledgement is ALWAYS appropriate.

## Responsibilities Regarding Facilities and Equipment

**Band Hall** – The band hall is an instructional facility and students must treat it with respect at all times. All students, regardless of age or leadership designation, are responsible for cleaning and maintaining the band facilities. There is to be no gum, food, or drink at anytime in the band hall or in any other music room. These items are to be consumed in the hallway, cafeteria, or offsite. John Overton campus policies will be followed in addressing this particular disciplinary concern.

**Equipment** – Chairs in the band hall are to be used expressly for seating musicians during rehearsals. These chairs are not to be moved or utilized outside of the band hall area unless expressed permission is granted by a band director. Music stands are to be used expressly for holding music. The band practice rooms are for individual student practice and for private lessons. Vandalism or misuse of any item or space within the band facilities will be considered a major behavioral infraction.

**Personal Items** – Student instruments and equipment for class and ensemble participation must stay in the designated areas and lockers in the band hall. Personal items required for activities like marching band and indoor groups will be designated a storage area at the beginning of the season. It is important that we respect our rehearsal facility by keeping it organized at clean.

**School books and lunches should be kept in the John Overton-issued lockers, not in the band hall.**

After each band rehearsal or performance, all personal items are to be removed from the band hall. *Clothing items, water jugs, books, purses, school projects, cell phones, electronic devices, other valuables, etc. left in the band hall or hallway area are not the responsibility of the band or band staff.* John Overton custodians are instructed to dispose of all loose items on the floors in hallways after hours.

**Restrooms** – Students are asked to take care of personal needs before class begins in order to minimize classroom disruptions. If special needs arise, students must ask for permission to leave the classroom from one of the directors.

**Water** – During concert season, if students feel they may need water during the rehearsal, one water bottle may be brought into the rehearsal setting as long as students use good judgment in consuming the water. Water jugs (as utilized during marching band) are to contain only water, and are to go home with students on a daily basis.

**Band Directors' Offices** –Although the band offices are business areas, they are not totally off limits to students. When the door is open, students are welcome to enter with director approval. When the door is closed, students should knock briefly and wait for a response. Students should use common sense in regard to the timing and/or pertinence of their questions or concerns. If it is obvious that a meeting or conference is taking place, students are asked to either refer their questions to student leaders or to wait and come back at another time.

## Responsibilities Regarding Travel and Transportation

Students will be expected to use school transportation or official transportation provided by the district and/or Booster Club when provided. In the case where alternate transportation is permissible, a signed parent note must be submitted and signed by a principal and returned to the band directors at least 24 hours prior to the trip departure. While traveling with the band, students may not arrange meetings with or inclusions of non-band members without express and prior approval by the Director of Bands. ***In the interest of protecting the band members, such requests must be completed in writing by parents and should be made well in advance.*** The band directors reserve the right at any time to modify these guidelines in the interest and safety of the John Overton Band students.

Transportation to and from rehearsals and events is the responsibility of the students and their parents. It is expected that students follow all traffic laws and use common sense when transporting themselves, equipment, and other band students to and from these activities. Riding in unauthorized vehicles to or from band activities is prohibited. Vehicles are to be operated and parked in a safe manner that does not impede the instructional setting or threaten the safety of band members or equipment. Charter buses utilized by the John Overton Band have been officially approved by MNPS. They meet all liability requirements and perform extensive background checks on all personnel handling the buses.

## Band Course Guidelines

Students are placed into 1 of 3 concert bands as a result of auditions held in both December and May. Students may be reassigned in the interim as a result of a change in musical progress, behavioral issues, or as a result of specific studio needs.

### Performing Ensembles

The John Overton High School Band is comprised of three concert ensembles designed to give students a learning experience in music that is commensurate with their experience, musical proficiency, and level of commitment. Membership in the John Overton Band is based on a full-year commitment. The directors reserve the right to reassign students within each ensemble according to student standing and compliance to course requirements.

The **Wind Ensemble** is considered the top-performing ensemble for the band program and is open to students in grades nine through twelve, although most students are grades 11 and 12. In order to be a member of this group, a student must:

- demonstrate the highest level of musical maturity, technical proficiency, and commitment to performances, rehearsals, practice time, and private lessons (***It is strongly recommended that each wind ensemble student take individual private lessons in order to maintain the technical demands of the course***)
- pursue individual and ensemble goals on their instrument
- attend sectionals held after school between the months of January and May
- attend a full ensemble rehearsals outside of school as scheduled during the spring semester
- prepare and audition for the Mid-State Band auditions
- attend additional performance opportunities specific to the Wind Ensemble

The **Symphonic Band** is the second performing ensemble for the band program and is open to students in grades nine through twelve, although most students are grades 10, 11, and 12. To be a member of this group, a student must:

- demonstrate a high level of musical maturity, technical proficiency, and commitment to performances, rehearsals, and practice time (***It is highly recommended that each student take individual private lessons in order to maintain the technical demands of the course***)
- attend full ensemble rehearsals outside of school as scheduled during the spring semester
- attend a sectionals held after school between the months of January and May
- attend all concerts and other performances

The **Concert Band** is the third performing ensemble for the band program and is open to students in grades nine through twelve. To be a member of this group, a student must:

- demonstrate a high level of musical maturity, technical proficiency, and commitment to rehearsal and practice time (*Private lessons are highly encouraged*)
- attend sectionals held either before or after school between the months of January and May
- attend all performances

**NOTE:** *Though the Mid-State Band auditions are not required for students in the Symphonic Band and Concert Band, students are encouraged to audition. Focused commitment to the preparation of the Mid-State music is expected.*

**Marching Band** is an ensemble comprised of the band membership, pulling from the three concert bands, drumline and color guard. The marching band rehearses 10 hours a week outside of the school day until the last football game or competition in November. Participation in the marching band is strongly recommended for all members in the band program, and P.E. credit is awarded to participants. There are required pre-season training camps that enable the group to put on public performances early in the school year. Each student is responsible for the annual band fees to help pay for expenses necessary to put on a quality and competitive program on the field and concert stage.

**Percussion** is a year long course. This percussion ensemble works together toward competitive festivals with the band and as a separate ensemble as well. Percussionists are expected to be enrolled in the band program for the entire year.

**Color Guard** is a year long course. This group works as a unit with the marching band to visually enhance the field show. Auditions are held in the spring and are open to any current or incoming John Overton student. In addition to their color guard audition, all color guard members who play a wind or percussion instrument must also audition for placement in a concert band. These color guard members are required to play in their assigned concert bands. They are expected to maintain a high level of performance on their instrument throughout the year. Auditions will be held for a competitive Winter Guard during the spring semester. This group has extra costs associated with membership and is a supplemental but important part of the band program. A special instructor is hired to work with the group by the John Overton Band Booster Club. The guard members help offset this expense with the aid of fundraising and a guard fee.

## Additional Information

### Music and Supplies:

Music will initially be issued to each student at no charge. Additional copies are \$0.10 per page. All music is to be kept in a black binder. Students will be expected to have certain supplies at all rehearsals: pencil(s), music, instrument, valve oil, cork grease, dot books, water jugs, binders, etc. A comprehensive supply list will be included at first days of school.

### Individual Practice:

All band students are expected to practice in a manner commensurate for the individual and ensemble goals according to band assignment. Individual musical improvement is expected of every student. Instruments are not to be left in the band hall overnight. Band placement, chair placement, and course grades will be determined by the student's ability to prepare assigned parts in a timely manner. Failure to adequately prepare music may result in a grade reduction or band reassignment.

### Mid-State and All-State Ensembles:

The Mid-State audition is a contest designed to improve the individual performance level of the students. Participation requirements are listed with descriptors for each performing ensemble. The audition entry fee is \$10 per student (non-refundable in the case the student does not audition for any reason). Students will be ranked competitively among like instrumentalists at John Overton and from other high schools in Middle Tennessee. Please see the band calendar for mock audition and Mid-State audition dates. Students who place among the top chairs in the Mid-State Band audition process may be certified to participate in the All-State Band audition. Students advancing past the Mid-State audition will be named to the Tennessee All-State Band. Once the student has entered this process, they will be required to complete their audition. Failure to do so will be considered an unexcused absence from a performance and will result in a grade deduction. Please refer to the John Overton Band performing ensemble descriptions for audition requirements. Barrier (mock) auditions with a John Overton band director must be completed before a student is allowed to audition for the Mid-State Band. All students gaining

Mid-State and All-State honors will be expected to participate in the resulting clinics and concerts. Failure to fulfill this obligation may result in band reassignment.

### **Private Lessons:**

It is the goal of the John Overton High School Band Department to provide the very best learning experience for each student. One important aspect of a student's musical growth includes the opportunity to study privately with a professional instrumentalist. This enrichment opportunity is available to all band students. The private lesson program allows interested students to receive personalized instruction on their instrument. This individual interaction generally improves the performance level of the student and also has a positive effect on the band in which the student participates. Students interested in excelling in the Mid-State /All-State process will benefit tremendously. One of the greatest contributing factors to the success of the John Overton Band is the active involvement of our students in the private lesson program.

*The fee for lessons will be \$20.00-\$25.00 for a 30-minute lesson with a degreed teacher.* All fees will be paid directly to the teacher. Each teacher will have policies and guidelines that they will cover at the student's first lesson. Students and parents can find contact information for the private lesson staff online at [www.johnovertonband.org](http://www.johnovertonband.org). Any additional questions regarding the private lesson program should be directed to Ms. Miller at [Eleni.miller@mnps.org](mailto:Eleni.miller@mnps.org).

## **John Overton Marching Band Assignment of Leadership Roles**

The John Overton Marching Band is the largest positive image-projecting organization on campus. The group appears in halftime performances during varsity football games and represents John Overton High School in public community events as well as in the competitive marching band arena. Each year from January through July, much thought and effort is put into the numerous factors that determine the number of 'positions' that should be charted in the competition show, or Field Production, for that season. These decisions must be made well in advance as a result of the time involved in the construction and design of the program each year. These estimations define how the music is arranged and determine the number of drill positions that are plotted. It is the responsibility of the directors to ensure that the students in the marching band are set up for success, including the job of fielding a complete ensemble.

The directors carefully consider several factors when determining these numbers:

1. Current and prospective enrollment in the band program
2. Student's demonstrated behaviors and attitudes
3. Academic history of each student
4. Attendance during previous school year and preseason training rehearsals
5. Basic skills and physical conditioning that allow the student to march and play without the threat of injury to him/herself or others

### **Attendance & Participation Considerations:**

Members may forfeit his or her role if they miss a performance of any kind. In addition, a loss of position may result from unexcused absences, extended absences (even if excused), or recurring tardiness/early departure from rehearsals.

- Absences are categorized as excused by virtue of two occurrences: student illness rendering them incapable of observation or participation, or family emergency. All other absences are considered elective and are indicated as unexcused unless deemed otherwise by the Director of Bands.
- All marching band attendance notifications must be communicated via online attendance conflict form by a parent as soon as is possible to Ms. Miller at [Eleni.Miller@mnps.org](mailto:Eleni.Miller@mnps.org)
- Preseason absences will affect students' initial assignment of roles
- Any elective absence during the weekly rehearsal schedule may result in that students' inability to march on the field during the weekend performances
- Students with more than one excused absence during the school week may result in that students' inability to march on the field during the weekend performances
- Students with three or more elective absences during a three week period will forfeit their marching role for the remainder of the season
- Students with elective absences from performances may forfeit their marching role for the remainder of the season

### **Participation Considerations:**



Participation is expected during marching rehearsals. The students' health and safety during the outdoor rehearsals is paramount. Multiple precautions are taken to insure that students are able to participate safely in the Tennessee heat. Students with three consecutive days of disengagement due to any range of physical issues must present a doctor's note to be considered excused from participation. Students with injuries that prohibit equipment or instrumental participation should continue to march their positions. Student with injuries that prohibit marching or standing should continue to play their instruments or manipulate their equipment. It is preferred that students be in attendance even if they cannot be on the field so that they might observe and absorb material covered. Students with chronic participation issues for any reason may be subject to additional physical requirements in conjunction with a campus physical education course in order to receive their PE credit for the semester.

### **Behavioral Considerations:**

Students are subject to assignment or reassignment based upon behavioral considerations. Disciplinary matters on or off campus may impact a student's role and/or membership in the band program.

## **Marching Band Uniform**

### **Uniform Guidelines, Performance Decorum, and Presentation:**

Individual Member Presentation –

As members of The John Overton Band, individuals are regarded as representatives of the entire band program and school district. When carrying the instrument or wearing identifiable John Overton Band attire, members are responsible ambassadors for the organization, both past and present.

Uniformed members should always exhibit the utmost presentation of pride and dignity. They should not run, horseplay, or yell in a loud, boisterous manner when in the hot weather or formal marching or concert uniforms. A member should never sit on the ground in uniform, lean against walls, buses or cars, etc.

Uniforms should be worn properly and in their entirety in public. No individual physical aspect should draw the attention away from the ensemble. Food and drink, other than water from band water jug, is not to be consumed in uniform with the exception of booster-distributed refreshments at football games. All uniform parts (including shoes and gloves) should be clean and in pristine condition for EVERY performance. Instruments and shako hats should be carried with great care when moving from one point to another. At no point should any part of the uniform be set on the ground.

Instruments should always be perfectly polished and in working order before the performances, and, if necessary, horns and cases should be set down very neatly in GROUPS of instruments only.

These guidelines apply to every public appearance of any member or group representing the John Overton Band, particularly in situations preceding and following performances (exiting the busses for games and competitions, watching other groups perform, awaiting scores or placements at a contest, etc.).

### **Uniform Care and Storage –**

The uniform must be kept meticulously clean, and it should appear newly pressed at all times.

The uniform must always be hung and stored in the proper manner:

- Pants must be draped halfway over the hanger rod with creases aligned.
- The uniform jacket and pants must be hung on the hanger in such a manner that the hanger hooks to the right when viewed from the front.

The uniform should be cared for when traveling:

- Uniform jackets will be placed on the equipment trailer for most away events.

If uniform travels on the bus with the student:

- Uniforms should be carefully placed in the bus seats when traveling for away games, laid flat in the overhead bins, hung on window seal, or underneath charter busses.

- Students should avoid putting other bags or instruments on top of them, as uniforms will wrinkle quickly.
- Surfaces such as stadium seats should be examined before sitting on them in uniform to avoid stains from dirt, grease, etc.
- There is to be no gum chewing or eating (including candy or soft drinks) in uniform.

***NOTE: Students will be charged replacement costs for uniforms that are lost, damaged or stolen. Students are responsible for the uniform items that are assigned to them at the beginning of the school year.***

## **Appearance in Uniform –**

The uniform must fit each individual uniformly:

- Pant hem should be adjusted according to instructions provided at uniform distribution.
- Jacket sleeve should be at the wrist bone when the horn is in playing position (directors will determine need for alteration for pants and sleeves).
- Material should not be cut from the hem of the uniform! If material is removed, the student will be assessed the replacement cost for that garment.

Specific items are to be worn underneath the uniforms on all occasions:

- You will be required to wear your assigned John Overton Band t-shirt and shorts under your performance uniform. These are required to enable you to change modestly in public situations (be prepared to change with no dressing rooms).
- The "game" or "contest" shirt is always to be worn under the jacket. Inclement weather may call for alternate plans; these instructions will be given by a director.
- Only long black socks may be worn. (No short to medium length socks will be accepted)
- Shoes must be perfectly clean and polished.
- Gloves should be perfectly clean and should fit properly.

Personal grooming is to be uniform throughout the band for all public performances.

This includes but is not limited to: marching performances, concert performances, and community performances (parades, pep rallies, etc.)

- All hair must be cut or secured in such a way so as not to obscure the uniform collar or the performer's face. For ladies – the hair should be placed in a secured bun which fits into the shako hat. All stray hair should be secured back with spray or bobby pins. Short hair will be dealt with on an individual basis – please see a director. For gentlemen, hair should be short enough to clear the collar.
- Members should refrain from wearing any individualized accessories in uniform. This includes: ALL JEWELRY, WATCHES, HAIR ORNAMENTS, FINGERNAIL POLISH, ACRYLIC NAILS, etc.
- Gentlemen should be clean-shaven for every public performance.
- Ladies should refrain from wearing noticeable makeup in uniform. Foundation and light mascara are permitted if not visible from a distance.

***NOTE: the color guard and drum majors may be required to wear theatrical makeup for performance; separate guidelines will apply.***

Outerwear may be worn over the uniform in certain settings (in the stands, on buses, etc.) in the case of cold weather. These instances will be delineated by staff members. Although absolute uniformity is not a reasonable expectation regarding personal outerwear, we ask that coats be neutral in tone and conservative in styling. Letter jackets are permitted in these cases as well.

***Audience spectators, competing organizations, and community members will form opinions based on the individual uniformity and collective presentation of the John Overton Band. The visual image of the band as a whole makes a huge impression on others!***

## **Concert Band Uniform**

The John Overton Band wears traditional concert attire for all formal indoor concert performances. The formal concert band uniform for the male members that consists of solid black suit or tuxedo jacket, modern fit black slacks, black long sleeve button down, black skinny tie, bow tie, long black socks, and black dress shoes - no sneakers or marching shoes. All female

members will need to acquire solid black dress or slacks, closed-toed shoes, black stockings, and black blouse that is conservative in style. Any questions or concerns of appropriateness can be directed to a director.

## John Overton High School Band Grading Policies

Band grades are based on a) the student's ability to prepare playing assignments punctually and correctly, and b) the presence of required materials at all rehearsals and performances. Student participation will be assessed for the regular presence of required equipment and supplies. All students will be held accountable for specific daily assignments, playing tests, section rehearsals, and participation/citizenship. Grades are NOT given for marching band. Marching band is a separate, extracurricular activity, that takes place purely outside the school day.

### Attendance (please refer to page 12 and 13 for marching band attendance information)

#### During the School Day:

##### Class Period –

Students who are absent during the school day have no additional formal responsibility to contact the band directors once the appropriate steps have been taken to notify the campus attendance office. However, it would be very much appreciated if the parent or student could email their respective class director prior to or on the date of the classroom absence. Class material covered is the responsibility of the student, and any missed rehearsal segment is expected to be addressed by the student on his or her own accord. *Sectionals must be made up within one school week regardless of the nature of the absence.*

#### General Attendance Requirements for Events Outside of School Day:

##### Before/After School Rehearsals (including sectionals) –

In the case of sudden illness or emergency, the student or parent should notify the band director(s) via email as expediently as is reasonable. Other absences must be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the rehearsal if an excused absence is to be considered. Band students and parents are respectfully asked to make a concerted effort not to schedule doctor's/dentist/driver's license appointments during band rehearsals except in case of emergency. Absences will be excused at the discretion of the band directors, provided that a written request via email by a parent or guardian has been submitted and approved 2 weeks in advance.

Missing a band rehearsal with an unexcused absence, or missing a band rehearsal with a good excuse but without advance notice may result in a student being reassigned to a different role in rehearsal and performance.

***NOTE: Absences due to avoidable, elective conflicts or as a result of poor planning will not be excused. Students should stay familiar with the band calendar and communicate with parents, siblings, employers, friends, etc.***

##### Performances –

All performances are required. Unavoidable circumstances that cause absences from performances must be approved in advance at least 2 weeks prior to the performance. In an effort to positively represent the John Overton Band at all times, the directors will ensure that the missing part or spot will be covered for performances. Any student who misses a performance, regardless of reason, may have their role replaced by another band student. Unexcused absences from performances may result in a student's removal from the band program.

The quality of the John Overton Band Program is directly proportional to consistent attendance. Absences hurt the student and the overall team goal. Everyone plays a vital role as a team member in the organization. Conflicts with school activities will happen and will be worked out provided both sides of the issue are willing to communicate and compromise to make the situation work. Clubs, organizations, tutorials, and make-up work is to be completed outside of band time. Students should communicate with teachers in advance to avoid double booking. In most cases, students are given schedules for the semester well in advance. Referring to the band schedule can greatly assist in preventing scheduling conflicts.

Punctuality is essential for all rehearsals and performances. If problems are persistent, disciplinary action will result.

## Financial Considerations

## General Membership Fees

All fees are outlined in the financial contract provided at Kick-Off Camp and Band Camp.

### Individual Fees

*NOTE: Certain fees and contests are not required of all band members. Please see the performance ensemble description included in this handbook.*

Mid-State Auditions:

\$10, due mid - October

Other Miscellaneous Expenses:

**Music/Material Replacement Fees -**

\$0.10 per replacement sheet

*Private Lessons -*

\$20.00 - \$25.00 per half hour in most cases

### Member Expenses for Replacement Items

Red band shirt \$10

MTX Viper marching shoes \$30

Water Jug \$10

Gloves (Wind players only) \$3 x quantity

### Instrument Care and Maintenance

Every student will be expected to either provide his/her own instrument or to check out a school-owned instrument. Students playing school-owned instruments are expected to care for them as if they were their own. Students are not allowed to play instruments that they do not own or personally have checked out. Only percussionists are allowed to play on the percussion equipment. All instruments must be stored in a case when in the band room.

*For school-owned instruments in need of repair:*

Students may bring the instrument to Ms. Miller or Mr. Barna to assess and transport offsite for repair.

*NOTE: Please do not take a school-owned instrument to any repair shop without prior director approval!*

Instrument Insurance:

It is highly recommended that all personal instruments have proper insurance coverage. The Municipal Nashville Public Schools and John Overton High School are not responsible for any damage, theft, or loss of student property. We stress the importance of every instrument going home daily, as the school district is not responsible for instruments left at school overnight. Some homeowner's policies may provide coverage of musical instruments in the case of accidental damage, fire, theft, etc. To properly identify your instrument, keep your instrument's serial number and brand name, and model name on file.

## Miscellaneous Information

### Audio/Video Taping, Photography, and Display of Images:

Today's varying communications media - including the local newspapers and the internet - could allow the publication of a student's name and/or photo in a manner accessible throughout the district, community, and across the world via the world wide web. During the many band rehearsals, performances, and contests, photographers from various news sources take photos and videotape of the whole band, over which we have little or no control. Please be advised that it is the John Overton Band's

policy to only disclose first names when associated with photos posted on the official band website. Any other postings, publications, or broadcasts in the media are not the responsibility of John Overton High School or the band staff.

## Band Banquet:

The John Overton Band holds an annual awards banquet in the latter part of the Spring semester for all "members in good standing". The purpose of the banquet is to reflect upon the year's accomplishments, to honor those who have realized special achievements, to acknowledge special individuals who have volunteered their time, and to recognize graduating seniors for their four years of service to the band.

*Should a student's membership cease during the academic year prior to the banquet, he or she will no longer be eligible for organizational awards, honors, scholarships, or other member benefits..*

Senior recognitions are reserved for students who maintain active membership in the band program for the duration of their enrollment at John Overton High School.

## Charms

Charms is an online service that allows you to login and get information quickly and frequently. It is also the most effective communication tool we have to offer our students and parents other than our website. Charms can give you access to you student's ledger balances, personal information, calendars, and other very important information regarding the band. Please make sure your information is always kept up to date so that you get emails and information from the band directors. If you need more information about CHARMS, such as login information, please email Ms. Miller, [eleni.miller@mnps.org](mailto:eleni.miller@mnps.org).

## John Overton High School Band Directors

[www.johnovertonband.org](http://www.johnovertonband.org)

Director of Bands Ms. Eleni Miller  
[Eleni.Miller@mnps.org](mailto:Eleni.Miller@mnps.org)

Assistant Director Mr. Nathan Barna  
[Nathan.Barna@mnps.org](mailto:Nathan.Barna@mnps.org)

Percussion Instructor Mr. David Watkins  
[David.watkins@mnps.org](mailto:David.watkins@mnps.org)

Color Guard Instructors Heather Arnett and Jeff Scales  
[jobbguard@gmail.com](mailto:jobbguard@gmail.com)

## 2019 - 2020 Band Booster Club Executive Board

Heather Gaskin - Booster Club President  
Kristina Hemphill - Booster Club Vice President of Fundraising  
Mike Sheeler - Booster Club Vice President of Transportation  
Jennifer Ussery and Kim Evernham - Booster Club Co-Treasurers  
Kelli Huston - Booster Club Secretary

## Student Leadership Structure

Student Leaders are elected through a process in involving student, director, and teacher input. They are the heart and soul of the band. The band functions best when all the student leaders are working together. The student leaders consist of Sophomores, juniors, and seniors and include the following:

### Instructional Leadership:

Drum Majors  
Drill Instructors

Section Leaders

**Logistical Leadership:**

Electronics Crew (E-Crew)

Field Crew

Social Chair

Music Librarians

Public Relations

**PARENT PERMISSION FORM  
FOR THE  
INDIVIDUAL MUSIC INSTRUCTION PROGRAM**

**I GIVE MY PERMISSION** for \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Name) (Band Period)

**To participate in the private music instruction program understanding that a fee of \$25.00 for individual lessons of thirty minutes will be charged by the instructor delivering the lessons.** I also understand that while private music instructors may not be employees of the John Overton High School. A district employee or an adult volunteer will be supervising the area in which the individualized instruction is taking place. We must have enough interested students on your particular instrument in order to provide a private lesson instructor. Lessons for beginners will not begin immediately, but at the director(s) discretion. Please do not secure a private lesson instructor without first consulting your band director.

**PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION BELOW:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years playing: 4 years \_\_\_ 5 years \_\_\_ 6 years \_\_\_ 7 years

Parent's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Area Code)

Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Area Code)

When is the best time to reach you? Daytime \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

**CONCERT BAND FEES**

Each student that participates in a concert band class is asked to pay a fee of \$50. This fee ensures that we have a budget for music, instrument supplies, transportation to Concert Performance Assessment, and more. Please return the following form with a check (made out to John Overton Band Boosters) or cash in an envelope with your student's name on it to the band room lock box by September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Form of payment: \_\_\_\_\_ check      \_\_\_\_\_ cash      \_\_\_\_\_ money order

## Handbook Signature Form

NOTE: Please refer to the John Overton Band Handbook on the [www.johnovertonband.org](http://www.johnovertonband.org) website under "resources."



After doing so, please sign the following statement.

I have read, understand, and acknowledge the rules and policies governing my participation in the John Overton High School Bands. Realizing that my best performance and contribution to my school and my group will result from my following those rules and guidelines, I accept the responsibilities associated with membership in the John Overton High School Band.

-----  
Student Name (printed):

-----  
Student Signature:

-----  
Date:

I have read, understand, and acknowledge the rules and policies governing my son/daughter's participation in the John Overton High School Band.

-----  
Parent/guardian signature:

-----  
Date:

This form must be completed by the student/parent and placed on file in order to participate in the 2019 - 2020 John Overton High School Bands.

**Please return by Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**