

**THE
OFFICIAL
2006-2007
HIGHLANDER
BAND
PARENT
&
MEMBER
SURVIVAL
GUIDE**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE PYRAMID OF QUESTIONS	1
INTRODUCTION	2
1. WHAT IS THE HIGHLANDER BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION?	2
2. WHO IS IN MARCHING BAND? `	2
3. WHAT IS BAND CAMP?	3
4. WHAT IS A “SPORRAN”?	3
Marching Band Uniform Parts	3
ID CARD	3
KILT	3
DOUBLET	3
PLAID	3
BROOCH	3
BELT	3
SPORRAN	4
GLENGARRY	4
HELMET AND PLUME	4
OXFORDS	4
SPATS/LEGGINGS	4
SOCKS	4
FLASHES	4
GLOVES	4
BAND TEE SHIRT	4
CARE & CLEANING OF UNIFORM	4
Highland Dance Guard Uniform Parts	5
5. WHAT CAN I EXPECT ONCE SCHOOL STARTS?	5
6. ATTENDANCE POLICY	6
Grading Policy for Rehearsals	6
Performances	6
7. WHERE DO I GO FOR INFORMATION?	6
THE BAND ROOM BULLETIN BOARD	7
THE HBPA E-MAIL	7
PARENT MEETINGS	7
WEBSITE	7
DIRECTIONS-TO-EVENTS BOX	7
TELEPHONE	7

8. TRANSPORTATION: HOW DO WE GET THERE?	7
9. WHAT HAPPENS DURING FOOTBALL SEASON?	7
WHAT IS A COMPETITION?	8
11. WHAT OTHER EXPENSES SHOULD I PLAN FOR?	9
Concert Performances, Talent Shows	9
Portraits, DVDs, CDs:	9
Spring Banquet	9
Band Tour	9
12. ALL THIS \$OUND\$ EXPEN\$IVE! HOW DO YOU \$PELL R.E.L.I.E.F. ?	9
Scrip, eScrip, Ralphs Rewards & Food-4-Less Rewards	10
Fund-raisers	10
Employer Matching Programs	10
13. OTHER MONEY MATTERS: BILLS AND ACCOUNTS	11
14. HOORAY, I SURVIVED! WHAT HAPPENS IN THE SPRING?	11
What Is Drumline?	12
What Is Winterguard?	12
Horn Line Requirements	12
15. ALL THIS AND HOMEWORK TOO?	12
16. WHERE DO I KEEP ALL OF MY STUFF?	13
17. I'M TIRED OF READING, WHEN CAN WE START?	13
18. WHO CAN ANSWER MY QUESTIONS?	14
Where do I go to get information or pay for items?	14
19. AFTER EVENT PICK-UP	15
After 30 minutes students will be taken to	15
RULES AND EXPECTATIONS	15
Respect	15
Tardiness	15
Gum	15
Focus	16
Cooperation	16
Visitors	16
Attire	16
Jewelry	16
Attendance	16
Highlander Dance Guard	16
What Is Dance Guard?	16

History	17
Rehearsals & Performances	17
Highland Dance Guard Uniforms	18
Friday Day Uniform	18
Football Uniform	18
Competition Uniform	18
Highlander Notepad:	19
Excused Absence Form	21

THE PYRAMID OF QUESTIONS

Who to go to when you have a question

First go to another member of your section...if that person doesn't know...

Ask your section leader.....if that person doesn't know...

Ask someone on Band Council...if that person doesn't know...

Ask a drum major or a captain...if that person doesn't know...

**Ask a supporting staff member...if that person
doesn't know**

Ask a caption head.....if that person doesn't know...

Ask AI

**Thus you should not ask AI a question
that you haven't already tried to ask 6 other people!**

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Granada Hills Charter High School Highlander Marching Band and Dance Guard. You are about to embark on one of the most thrilling, rewarding, and memorable adventures of your entire high school career. Our award-winning band and guard are steeped in Scottish heritage and cultural traditions. The camaraderie, personal growth and self-fulfillment you experience as a member of our organization will remain with you long after you leave "J" building and the gates of Granada Hills Charter High School behind.

As a new parent or member, you may have many unanswered questions as you enter the fascinating world of a competitive performing unit. If you were never a member of a band or auxiliary before, you are in for a treat. You are about to discover an engaging new realm governed by its own unique set of standards and practices, rules and regulations, pomp and pageantry.

As with all things worthwhile, membership in our band and guard program demands time, energy, discipline, dedication and a degree of **financial commitment from parents** as well as students. The following guide was written by two freshmen "band moms" based on their first year experience with the band. It answers some of the questions we had as "rookies" to the program. We hope that it helps give you some insight as to what to expect and how to plan and schedule your time and resources for the upcoming year.

1. WHAT IS THE HIGHLANDER BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION?

As the parent of a band member, you are part of the Highlander Band Parents Association (HBPA). Your role as a member of the HBPA is very important as the band is financially supported by the HBPA. Various fund-raisers are held during the year to help raise money for the band, you will read about some of these activities in later sections of this guide.

You will be asked to complete and return several membership and registration forms, including emergency and contact information forms. These forms are separate from the ones you are required to complete for Granada Hills Charter High School Administration even though they request similar kinds of information.

2 . WHO IS IN MARCHING BAND? `

Marching band members include those who march with instruments, Dance Guard, and Percussion. Percussionists perform on the sidelines and are also known as "the pit". The band's drills and music are complemented by routines performed by the Dance Guard, also known as "guard" or "auxiliary". This unit adds a visually creative dimension to performances through dance and the manipulation of such items as flags, rifles and saber swords (you will sometimes hear these individuals referred to as "weapons experts"). Marching band is under the direction of Al Nelson.

3. WHAT IS BAND CAMP?

Beginning in June, a time of training known as band camp begins. Initially, band camp meets on Wednesdays and is open to all students enrolled in Granada Hills Charter High School **ONLY!** In August, the band camp transitions into an intense 2 weeks of instruction. Instead of meeting once a week, band members meet Monday through Saturday. During this time, band and guard members begin work on the drills and routines that will comprise the "**field show**" that is performed at football games and the invitational competitive events.

Rehearsals are an outdoor activity. Students should wear comfortable athletic shoes and light, protective clothing. Head protection and sunscreen are recommended. Band members should bring their own bottles of water, however, water is available at fountains, and can be purchased from Band Council.

Hours are from 2 p.m. until approximately 8:30 p.m. with a break for dinner around 5:00. Dinner will be provide by the HBPA for a nominal fee. No student can leave during dinner.

4. WHAT IS A "SPORRAN"?

(A GLOSSARY OF BAND AND DANCE GUARD UNIFORM PARTS)

Band members are fitted for their uniforms during band camp. **However, only members who have turned in completed membership forms and fees will be fitted!** The various components of the uniforms are described as follows:

Marching Band Uniform Parts

NOTE: The following is a list of the traditional GHCHS Highlander uniform parts. Uniform parts may vary depending on the field show requirements for each year. Final Uniform Part decisions will be announced during Band Camp.

ID CARD – Identifies Highlander Band Member who meets academic eligibility to perform with the group. These are issued by the school on a 10 week basis. Your student must maintain a 2.0 GPA in order to get this.

KILT - A pleated garment that wraps around the body and is held in place by buckles.

DOUBLET - A long-sleeved jacket. Must be worn over the white military shirt.

PLAID - Pronounced "played". A long, oblong, pleated woolen scarf that wraps around the chest and over one shoulder, resembling a cloak. It is held in place by a brooch.

BROOCH - An ornamental pin with a clasp for holding the plaid in place and worn on the shoulder.

BELT - A length of patent leather with a silver buckle worn about the waist of the doublet, or a white web style with steel appointments (**DO NOT WASH EITHER BELT!**).

SPORRAN - A small fur-covered pouch with tassels worn in front of the kilt. This is the only part of the uniform that can accommodate personal belongings so members can transfer cash, wallets, driver's licenses, student identification, etc. when dressing.

GLENGARRY - Also known as the "glen". A Scottish cap with straight sides that slope backward, a crease in the crown and short streamers in back.

HELMET AND PLUME - A white helmet with silver medallion on the front, white feather plumes are issued and collected immediately before and after performances.

OXFORDS - A low shoe laced at the instep. Regulation marching band oxfords are black (black tennis shoes are not acceptable).

SPATS/LEGGINGS - A white covering worn over the oxford shoe and held underneath with a strap. It is easily fastened with hooks and a shoe lace.

SOCKS – Long hose that extend to the knee and are worn cuffed over the flashes.

FLASHES - Green grosgrain ribbons on elastic bands worn at the outside cuff of the socks.

GLOVES - With clipped fingertips for woodwind players, left intact for brass players. Regulation marching gloves are white.

BAND TEE SHIRT - A white short-sleeved shirt with the Highlander Band logo on the front and back.

CARE & CLEANING OF UNIFORM

Instructions for the care and cleaning of all uniform components will be issued with the uniforms. Please be aware that many of these uniform parts are as old as Granada Hills High School itself and should be treated with the care and respect their age has earned. Other components are sewn by parent volunteers and not easily replaced. Still others were recently purchased or fabricated at significant expense to the Band Parents Association. Never throw anything away! Doublet buttons, kilt buckles, spats/leggings with broken elastic, etc. can all be salvaged. Each member has the responsibility to keep all uniform parts clean and in good repair. Washable items should be laundered **after each use. During band competition season, items will need to be washed after the football game on Friday night and ready to wear on Saturday morning.** Special care should be given to woolen items since these are dry-cleaned only once per year at the band association's expense. Football fields are often muddy so please make sure that spats and shoes are clean. Uniform inspections are conducted prior to each event. A member with missing parts will not be allowed to participate.

All members must purchase a garment bag with their uniform. Please use it. Not only will it keep everything together, it will preserve the life and appearance of your uniform parts. **All members should also have a duffel bag in which to carry shoes and small or soiled items that DO NOT belong in the garment bag.**

The full, formal band dress uniform includes the helmet and plume or glen, doublet, white military dress shirt, kilt, belt, sporran, gloves, socks, flashes, oxford shoes and leggings. Parent help in getting students ready before football games or competitions is always necessary.

Band members are NOT permitted to wear jewelry while in uniform (whether formal or informal).

Some events call for only band tee shirts and jeans or shorts. Al advises members on uniform dress prior to each event. Sometimes, students are asked to bring a change of clothing with them to a performance venue so that they may change out of uniform dress. Talking to your child about the requirements for the day's events in advance will help prepare both you and your child. Also remember that band events often extend into the evening hours and a warm sweatshirt or jacket is a must. **ID Cards must be carried at all Band functions. There is a \$1.00 replacement fee if the card is lost or stolen.**

Highland Dance Guard Uniform Parts

The Highland Dance Guard wears three different uniforms: one for football games, one for competitive events and one for pep rallies.

The football uniform will consist of a kilt, blouse, vest, wool socks and black ballet shoes. Dance Guard members must purchase all items with the exception of the kilt, which may be new, used or borrowed. A limited number of kilts will be available on loan from the Band with a \$250.00 refundable deposit required.

The competition uniforms change year to year based on the theme of show each season. Again, each student must purchase these items. Members are urged not to buy anything until suggestions on where to purchase and order parts are given by their instructor, Captain(s), or Guard Mom.

In addition, all members will be required to purchase a Dance Guard day shirt to be worn with the day kilt when the band wears tee shirts.

5. WHAT CAN I EXPECT ONCE SCHOOL STARTS?

Band and guard practices begin at 7:07 a.m. sharp (students are strongly encouraged to arrive at school by 6:50 a.m.). A member is considered tardy if she or he is not in the horn arc when the first note is played. Band grades are based heavily on promptness and consistent attendance (see following section on Attendance Policy).

The band and guard practice/performance schedule is heaviest from September until winter break (mid-December). At this time, in addition to zero and first periods, members meet on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for field practice. On Wednesday's, most members usually elect to stay on campus after school to rehearse, meet with counselors or teachers, do homework, etc. No dinner break is provided during the evening practice so students should be financially prepared (or have Scrip) to eat off campus after school, bring a snack/dinner or wait until they arrive home for dinner. Additionally, on Monday's, members practice from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with their sections. These practices

are immediately after school. Please keep these times in mind when scheduling personal appointments.

6. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Band is a mandatory participation activity. Students are graded based on attendance, as participation requires 100% attendance and registration in Periods zero and one. Period one provides 5 credits for attendance from 7:07 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. daily. Period 0 provides 5 credits for mandatory after school rehearsal time including sectionals, night rehearsals and pre-performance rehearsals.

Grading Policy for Rehearsals

Absences

- 7 Absences = B
- 14 Absences = C
- 15 Absences = School Mandated Drop Fail

Tardies

- 6 Tardies = S Work Habits
- 12 Tardies = S Cooperation
- 18 Tardies = U Work Habits
- 24 Tardies = U Cooperation
- 30 Tardies = Lowered Letter Grade

Performances

The object of the band activity is to teach artistic expression, teamwork and discipline. Each member is an indispensable part of the total performance. All performances are mandatory examinations. **Unexcused performance absences result in loss of one letter grade and possible loss of position in performance ensemble.** Music is an activity based on love of the artform. Failure to participate will be interpreted as lack of enjoyment and indication that another activity should be found before low grades occur. At the end of this handbook, you will find an Excused Absence Form. Please copy and complete the form in the event an unavoidable absence is anticipated.

7. WHERE DO I GO FOR INFORMATION?

Your most valuable source of information is your band or guard member. Communicate with him or her on a daily basis. Circumstances beyond the band director's control sometimes add, delete or change performance times and schedules. Try to remain flexible. We have found a sense of humor to be a valuable skill for survival during these times. In addition, we have observed that

inconveniences often give way to memorable experiences. Some other valuable sources of information include:

THE BAND ROOM BULLETIN BOARD - The most current and up-to-date information is posted here. Parents as well as members are encouraged to check this board (adjacent the band room door) regularly for event schedules, call times, dress instructions, and other news.

THE HBPA E-MAIL - The most current and up-to-date information is sent by e-mail to Parents as well as members regularly for event schedules, call times, dress instructions, and other news.

PARENT MEETINGS - The Highlander Band Parents Association meets the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the school. ***All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.*** Upcoming events, issues and concerns are discussed. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity to learn more about our organization.

WEBSITE - The Highlander music web site at <http://www.ghchs.com> has information about our program, updates, & events. Other information like competition results, HBPA newsletters, photo's from events and music can be found at www.kiltedband.com.

DIRECTIONS-TO-EVENTS BOX - Is located outside the band room. It will contain driving directions and approximate driving times to all off-campus destinations. These will be made available the day of the event.

TELEPHONE - The band room has a telephone available for members to call home to request rides. If your band member has a cell phone it is suggested that you encourage you student to call when buses are close to school. On late nights or after long trips, an effort is made for one stay-at-home parent to act as a contact person. You can call this person to find out an estimated time of arrival. Still, we recommend keeping a good novel or some paperwork in the car. Events and bus schedules have a life of their own! We also ask that you pick up your child in a timely fashion.

8. TRANSPORTATION: HOW DO WE GET THERE?

GHCHS provides buses for away football games, for competition activities and performance commitments. Directions to venues are available at the band room on the day of the event. Parent volunteers are needed to help transport equipment to performance sites. Please contact our transportation chairperson if you are able to offer assistance.

9. WHAT HAPPENS DURING FOOTBALL SEASON?

Band and Guard members wear their band tee shirts/day shirts to school on Friday to ensure uniformity at the lunchtime pep rallies.

Call-time on the day of a football game is 4:00. Students usually elect to remain on campus after school on these days. Each member is responsible for taking a dinner break between the end of the school day and call time. Again, make

sure your child has money (or Scrip) to buy food or brings food. At call time, members dress in uniform, warm up and then either board buses or march to John Elway stadium. Try to make sure your student has a few dollars tucked away in his or her sporran to purchase food or drinks at the concession stand during the 3rd quarter break after the half-time performance. Playing and marching can work up quite a thirst and appetite!

The Highlander Band Parents have pre-purchased a section of the stadium seating area at football games next to the band. The cost to purchase a seat in the reserved section is \$6.25 for the season, plus the regular admission to each game. Please contact the Treasurer to purchase your seat for the season. Sitting together is a wonderful way to make new friends and support your band and dance guard. Adult admission to football games is approx. \$6.00.

WHAT IS A COMPETITION?

A 'competition' is an event where the entire marching band and dance guard go to perform the field show against other high schools and their field shows. Awards are given to the best marching band field shows as determined by a panel of judges. Competitions are the highlight of the marching band and dance guard programs and season. The huge collection of trophies and awards in the band room attest to the Highlanders' hard work and achievements in this arena. We could never adequately express the chills that run down your spine the first time you see a field show performance--nor should we. That experience is a treat that awaits your own personal discovery. It is an experience you will never forget!

It is both an honor and recognition of excellence to be invited to compete with other marching bands and auxiliaries from high schools within and outside of our district. At these events, performing units are classified by size into divisions and then evaluated on a system of points by an association of professional judges. Awards are given in the categories of band, auxiliary and percussion with the Sweepstakes and High Music trophies being most coveted and prestigious.

Competitions are held on Saturdays and run from the first week of October through the middle of December. They are all-day and evening affairs and make excellent outings for the entire family. Adult admissions range from \$5.00 to \$15.00 per person. A few of the more prestigious competitions charge a second admission for the evening finals. On occasion, parents who accompany band members to help with transporting instruments or equipment are rewarded with complimentary access to the event— a further incentive to become a band roadie!

Food, souvenirs and musical equipment and accessories are generally available at these events. Since these are long days, please make sure that your band or dance guard member has sufficient funds to purchase enough food and drinks to maintain the level of energy needed to give the best performance. We encourage you to support the vendors at these events since they contribute directly to the financial success of the fund-raising efforts of the hosting school. In return, we hope to benefit from reciprocal treatment when we host our own competition at Granada in November.

Please remember that stadium seating can get very hard after a few hours and that temperatures can become quite chilly in the evening hours at this time of

year. Remember to bring seat cushions, binoculars, warm coats, gloves, hats, mufflers and stadium blankets. You'll be glad that you did! Camcorders, tape recorders and cameras are permitted in most stadiums if you wish to chronicle the day's events.

11. WHAT OTHER EXPENSES SHOULD I PLAN FOR?

Concert Performances, Talent Shows

In addition to membership donation, the purchase of uniform parts and the entrance fees to competitions and events, you should plan on nominal admission costs to the band talent shows and the spring performances featuring the concert band, jazz band and the percussion, brass and wind ensembles. The Band Council, a governing body comprised of elected student band members, drum-majors, and Dance Guard Captains uses funds generated from their two talent shows and other events such as car washes and rummage sales to finance their own slate of member activities.

Portraits, DVDs, CDs:

In past years, band group portraits were available for purchase at a nominal fee (both formal and informal poses were taken). In previous years several band members produced a video yearbook that chronicled the years season which contained footage from events and activities from the entire year. It will be shown at the year end banquet, and then made available for purchase. Other band members produced an audio CD of many of the performances of the Jazz and Concert ensembles also offered for sale.

Spring Banquet

The highlight of the year is the Spring Banquet, which is held in May. One of the goals of the Band Council is to raise sufficient funds so that band members pay only a small portion of the actual cost (which is about \$35 per person). Parents are encouraged to attend, but will pay the full cost.

Band Tour

Each year all members of the marching band, horn ensembles, dance guard, winter guard, that is to say, **everyone** are invited on the annual Band Tour. The costs vary depending upon the location chosen, hotels reserved, attractions attended, food etc. Plan on saving a minimum of \$500.00 for this event. Past trips have included Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco, and the Portland Rose Festival. In Portland, the band and guard participated in field and parade competitions, and performed at Pepsi Park. Fundraising is important here. Magazine sales, candy sales, SCRIP credits can help in meeting the costs of this trip.

12. ALL THIS \$OUND\$ EXPENSIVE! HOW DO YOU \$PELL R.E.L.I.E.F. ?

The answer is one little word: **PLANNING**. You can set aside money throughout the year so that paying for the Spring trip or Winter activity fees will not require your paying large amounts of money all at once when due.

Scrip, eScrip, Ralphs Rewards & Food-4-Less Rewards

You can add credit to your account by purchasing **Scrip** through the Highlander Band Parents Association. Scrip is a gift certificate that is used as cash to purchase goods and services from participating vendors. Scrip is purchased on a dollar for dollar basis with no additional cost to you. When you purchase scrip, the vendor donates a certain percentage back to the band. You split this percentage 50-50 with the general band fund (i.e. 50% of the donation goes to HBPA and 50% is credited to the student). This credit is held in your child's HBPA account. It's like earning free money! Occasionally, incentive programs are offered and 100% of the scrip proceeds go directly into student's accounts. You will be amazed at how quickly the money can add up! Scrip is a wonderful opportunity to budget cash outlay with very little effort. HBPA also participates in the **eScrip** Program. This program allows you to shop at selected stores and receive scrip benefits without buying scrip, a registration form is included in your orientation packet. Ralphs Rewards is another great way to participate with up to 4% of your purchases going back to the HBPA. Please register your (and any family & friends) Club card with us. For more information, visit our website (<http://www.kiltedband.com>) or contact Mary Ford at (818) 896-6822.

Fund-raisers

The Highlander Band Parent Association, Band Council, and Dance Guard hold fund-raisers throughout the year. These fund-raisers include magazine subscriptions, candy sales, flower sales, garage sales, drum-a-thons, gift-wrapping during the holidays and other activities. We also hold a Silent Auction during the Spring Banquet (donations are greatly appreciated). While students are not required to participate, we encourage each student to participate in several during the year. As parents, we can volunteer our time and effort, besides buying candy! For example, you can volunteer your home for a garage sale. The more successful we are at these ventures, the greater the benefit to our general operating fund which in turn, translates into a significantly reduced burden on individual members.

Our largest fund-raiser of the year will be our own competition. On Saturday, November 11, 2006 we will host the 24th Annual Highlander Field Competition. More than 30 high school bands from Los Angeles and other areas will descend upon Granada for an exciting day of performance and competition. This event will draw close to 7,000 people. **Parent involvement is essential for this event to succeed.** The first planning meeting for the competition will be held in mid-August. As the time draws closer, you will be asked to volunteer. You will not be asked to help the entire day, just a few hours, so set aside this date on your calendar.

Employer Matching Programs

Many companies have programs that will match your contributions to non-profit organizations through the employee benefits department. Generally a form is obtained from the employer; a portion is filled out by the employee and submitted with a check to the non-profit organization. An additional section on the form is completed by the organization and returned to the company. A check matching the original amount donated is sent to the organization. This is a great way to double your contributions to the band.

Please check with your employer to see if matching or other programs are available. Example: Washington Mutual Bank has a great program that sends direct financial donations to non-profit organizations based upon the volunteer hours invested by their employees. Information is available to all WAMU employees.

13. OTHER MONEY MATTERS: BILLS AND ACCOUNTS

Regarding student expenses, you may receive a bill from time to time indicating that your child owes money (e.g., uniform parts, and other fees). Whenever your child (or you) turns in any money, a receipt is completed to help keep track of incoming funds. Band expenses can be paid by check or by cash, and **now both MasterCard and Visa will be accepted through band website www.kiltedband.com click on PayPal payments.** However, if a check is returned from the bank, the bank charges will be added to the student account.

As you and your child participate in fundraising events, you could be in the favorable position of having a credit balance (i.e. you have money in the bank!). These “credits” can be used to pay your child’s band expenses. At any time during the school year you may check with the Treasurer regarding you student’s account. If you have a credit balance and you wish to use this money, you or your child **MUST submit a written signed note** requesting how much of the balance you want to use and for what purpose. This procedure must be followed each time you want to use the “credits” from your child’s account balance.

At the end of the school year, any “credits” that remains in your child’s account will be carried over to the next year and can also be passed on to siblings. If your child owes money at the end of the school year, the school will NOT release his or her report card until the debt is paid. For graduating seniors, diplomas will not be issued until their debt is paid. Questions regarding your child's account can be directed to the Treasurer.

14. HOORAY, I SURVIVED! WHAT HAPPENS IN THE SPRING?

The Marching Band undergoes a metamorphosis during the Spring semester. Members have the opportunity to join the Concert Band, Jazz Band, Brass Ensemble, Woodwind Ensemble, Orchestra, Drumline (Marching Percussion Ensembles), or Winterguard (Varsity & JV). These units are entered in local and national competitions in varying locations (except the Brass Ensemble). The trips and trip dates for the upcoming year are still undecided.

The spring semester schedule is less rigorous for most members. Tuesday practices and sectionals for both band and guard cease. Marching Band becomes

Concert Band, retaining the 7:07 a.m. call time. Students also have the opportunity to audition for Drumline or Winterguard. Each of these units has its own practice schedule and competition or performance dates.

Besides Drumline and Winterguard, Brass and Wind Ensembles (Horn lines) are available. The Brass Ensemble is divided into two sections, “A” for more advanced students (audition required) and “B” for less advanced students or students who would like to learn a brass instrument. Participation in Wind Ensemble requires an audition. Each of these classes practices either before or after school.

What Is Drumline?

Drumline is a performing unit comprised entirely of percussion instruments. Students are placed according to their ability as demonstrated during their auditions. Drumlines attend regional competitions. Some of the advanced ensembles attend national competitions in such places as San Francisco, San Diego, Las Vegas, and Dayton, Ohio (mandatory attendance for these ensemble members!).

The costs associated with drumline are above and beyond the costs of being in the band. These costs include drumline fees, uniforms, and trip expenses. If you anticipate that your child will be in drumline, start setting aside money **now**.

What Is Winterguard?

Winterguard resembles Dance Guard with one exception—routines are performed indoors to pre-recorded music. We have two Winterguard ensembles, Varsity and Junior Varsity teams, which participate in competitions at both a regional and national level from the end of February through the month of April. The cost associated with Winterguard is the same as that for drumline.

Horn Line Requirements

All horn line members are required to have the following materials and to have them present at **ALL REHEARSALS**:

1. Music (Every student is responsible for his or her own music).
2. 3 Ring binder with plastic sheet protectors. (A majority of our rehearsals are held outside and a folder with sheet protectors will prevent people from chasing their music all over campus when it gets windy.
3. Lip Balm (Chapstick®, Lip Medex®, DCT®, Blistex®, etc.) Our lips are no good to us if they get chapped and burned.
4. Multiple Pencils. (It’s always good to have a spare.)
5. Water.
6. A Great Positive Attitude. (No one likes to play with someone who is negative and non-supportive)
7. Respect for instructors and others.

15. ALL THIS AND HOMEWORK TOO?

Believe it or not, we can boast of students in band with G.P.A.'s of 4.0 and higher! The key is planning and organization. Students often have free time during the hours after school and before practices or call-times. This time can be utilized for studying just as well as for socializing. Most of the teachers at the school will be supportive of your child participating in the band as long as classwork is up-to-date and your child is in good standing. **You should also keep in mind that any student who does not maintain a minimum of a 2.0 ("C") G.P.A. will NOT be allowed to participate in band or dance guard activities.** For students who would like extra help, Granada Hills Charter High School offers a variety of tutoring programs.

Parents of older members who have taken the SAT exams in the fall have advised scheduling these tests early in the semester in order to avoid potential conflicts with the Saturday competition dates. Coordinating your academic and band calendars regularly will help avoid the frustration of discovering that you are supposed to be in two different places, miles apart, at the same time!

16. WHERE DO I KEEP ALL OF MY STUFF?

Band uniform accessories and Dance Guard uniforms and accessories should be kept at home and brought to school only on days requested. Kilts, doublet, sporrans and belts will be kept at the band room and will be issued the day of the event. Privately owned instruments are kept in the band room cabinets along with the school's instruments. The band room is locked after school, during events, and whenever it is not in use. Student backpacks are generally left in the band room during practice sessions and football games. Although every effort is made to keep the band room secure, items have been known to disappear. Favorite targets include cell phones, graphing calculators, and designer sunglasses. As a precaution, we recommend that students be mindful of where they leave their belongings and to take privately owned instruments home each day. Lockers are now available for a nominal \$10.00 fee for the entire school year.

17. I'M TIRED OF READING, WHEN CAN WE START?

Right now! Have fun, build friendships and make memories. And if you have any questions, please call us. We're here to help.

18. WHO CAN ANSWER MY QUESTIONS?

President	Bob Snider President@kiltedband.com	831-0962
Vice President	Jon Acevado VicePresidenet@kiltedband.com	606-5235
Band Director	Al Nelson Kiltedal@aol.com	360-2361
Membership	David Ford Membership@kiltedband.com	896-6822
Secretary	Marlena Tyler Secretary@kiltedband.com	
Transportation	Debbie Snider Transportation@kiltedband.com	831-0962
Treasurer	Judy & Mark Shandling treasurer@kiltedband.com	363-3339
Wardrobe	Renee Norris wardrobe@kiltedband.com	Not Published
Highland Dance Guard "Guard Mom"	Robin Ligerman Highlanddanceguard@kiltedband.com	885-8518
SCRIP Program	Mary Ford scrip@kiltedband.com	896-6822
Competition Chair(s)	Kevin Cox Competition@kiltedband.com	635-3004
Percussion	Chuck Klein Percussion@kiltedband.com	426-2935
Instrumental	Stephanie Edell Instrumental@kiltedband.com	349-1725
Ways and Means	Wendy Gelzer Waysandmeans@kiltedband.com	363-0494

Where do I go to get information or pay for items?

In front of the band room after practices and events there are parent volunteers who can help you with questions regarding membership, lockers, uniforms, Scot gear, scrip, fundraising, etc.

19. AFTER EVENT PICK-UP

Football games, Competitions, Parades, and many other band outings sometimes require the band to arrive back at GHCHS late into the evening. Los Angeles City curfew regulations state that minors (under age 18) cannot be loitering after 10 pm. Therefore, **it is your responsibility to find out when each event is over and when the band members are expected back at GHCHS.** Band members are to be picked up from the school **NO LATER that thirty minutes after the arrival time.**

After 30 minutes students will be taken to:

Los Angeles Police Department
Devonshire Division
10250 Etiwanda Ave (Etiwanda & Devonshire)
Northridge, CA 91326 Desk (818) 756-828

RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

Band is supposed to be fun. Our hope is that everyone is enjoying themselves the entire time they are practicing or performing with the Band and Dance Guard. At the same time, performing well is hard work. It takes dedication and patience to achieve the skills that we ask of our members. At times we all get tired, cranky and goofy. Its sometimes very tempting to take Aunt Sue up on her offer of concert tickets even though you know that it is the same day as a performance. Deciding to join the Highlander Band and Dance Guard means that your child has committed their talents and energies into improving their own performance and, at the same time, enhancing the performance level of the group as a whole. In addition, this is a competitive activity just like any other sport. In order to make sure that everything runs smoothly and that everyone is able to enjoy themselves we do have to lay down a few ground rules. We thank you in advance for helping your child meet these few expectations.

Respect

This is an easy one. Everyone should have respect for everyone, peers and instructors and vice versa. We don't always have to agree with one another but we have to communicate respectfully.

Tardiness

When professional football players are late to practice they are benched. Being late to rehearsals and performances can affect your child's grade. Please help them be on time to events and call times.

Gum

Gum chewing is not allowed during practices and performances by any member of the Highland Band. There are a number of reasons for this but, basically, it just looks unprofessional.

Focus

The way one practices is how they perform. We expect the members to be focused and listening during rehearsals in order for them to get the most out of their time and the instructors' time.

Cooperation

This goes hand in hand with respectful communication.

Visitors

All rehearsals are closed unless otherwise notified. No visitors are allowed during rehearsals or practice.

Attire

All members must be dressed properly at all rehearsals. This means comfortable clothing, no open toed shoes or sandals and no giant clunky sweaters.

Jewelry

The group is judged in part on uniformity. No visible jewelry is permitted to be worn during performances.

Attendance

As has been mentioned before, attendance is extremely important. Routines often include ripples, split parts and partnered work which would need to be re-written at the last minute if someone is absent from a performance and/or compensated for if someone is absent from a rehearsal. Members with poor or even sporadic attendance (regardless of the reason) are usually not the first ones picked for solos or featured sections of the show. Reliability is key.

Highlander Dance Guard

What Is Dance Guard?

The Dance Guard is the auxiliary unit that is attached to the marching band. At other schools this is sometimes called Drill Team, Color Guard, Dance Team or Pageantry. Our Highland Dance Guard is assigned the task of visually interpreting the music that the band plays. This is done in a variety of ways; through dance, spinning equipment such as flags, sabers and rifles, and sometimes using other types of props such as baskets, scarves and balls. The Dance Guard gets to represent the school at football games while wearing the traditional Highland Dancer costume and also perform competitively across the country often wearing a costume more in line with the theme of the competitive show.

In the spring, when the Marching Band's football and competitive season is over, Dance Guard members have the opportunity to audition and perform with one of our two Winterguard teams. In the past, our Winterguard has competed successfully on a local and national level and has traveled to Las Vegas, San Francisco, San Diego, Dayton, Ohio and Utah.

After High School, Highlander Dance Guard members have gone on to compete in independent and college guards on an international level. Many have majored in dance in college and many others teach dance and color guard across the country.

History

Prior to 1995, we had three separate auxiliary units attached to the Highland Marching Band: Drill Team, Color Guard and Highland Dancers. In 1995, primarily for competitive reasons, we combined the Color Guard and the Highland Dancers into one Color Guard unit. Finally in 1999, we merged the Drill Team into the Color Guard creating the Highland Dance Guard. While this was also done for competitive reasons it also gives the members an opportunity to do multiple things. For example, while previously only a Highland Dancer was allowed to Highland Dance, now anyone who passes the proficiency testing on the two Highland routines is allowed to perform those dances. All our members can boast the abilities to dance, highland dance, spin flags, do rifle and saber routines.

Rehearsals & Performances

During the fall, Dance Guard members are responsible for classroom time as well as two extra weekly rehearsals.

Daily Rehearsal	7:07am until the end of first period
Monday afternoon	3:30pm – 5:00pm
Wednesday Evening	5:00pm – 8:30pm

Extra rehearsals may be called on an as needed basis and we will try to give as much notice as possible. If your child is going to miss Monday or Wednesday rehearsal, please fill out the excused absence form in the back of your Highlander Band Parent handbook.

Attendance at all football games and competitions is mandatory. Believe it or not, one missing person can affect the look and timing of the routine. We do understand that there are sometimes things that are out of your control or pre-arranged family events such as weddings and religious occasions. If you know that you are going to miss a performance please fill out the excused absence form in the back of the Highlander Band Parent Handbook as soon as possible.

Football Games	Every Friday during Football season (In the event the team doesn't make playoffs, we use the Friday nights as extra rehearsal time) Call time is 4:00pm Home games usually finish by 10:00pm We're usually home from away games by 10:30pm
Competitions	Every Saturday until the first semester ends (No competition the weekend of Thanksgiving, optional exhibition performance) Call times TBA the week of the event

Highland Dance Guard Uniforms

There are three sets of uniforms this year: one for school events, one for football games and one for competitions. Please do not buy anything until the Instructor, Captains, or Guard Mom give suggestions on where to purchase and order parts. Many items, such as shoes, gloves and socks, will be ordered in bulk. All prices are approximate and if returning members already have uniform parts in good condition, they do not need to purchase new ones. Please feel free to ask captains, instructors or guard moms if you have any questions.

Friday Day Uniform

Worn for school pep-rallies or any time captains request they be worn.

- 👉 Day Kilt (provided by band)
- 👉 White Socks
- 👉 White Tennis Shoes
- 👉 Auxiliary Shirt
- 👉 Black Briefs

Football Uniform

Highland Dance Guard will be wearing their traditional uniform for football games. All girls are encouraged to provide their own kilt (new/used/borrowed). A limited number are available from the Band (returnable deposit of \$250).

- 👉 Kilt
- 👉 Vest
- 👉 Ballet Shoes
- 👉 Undershirt
- 👉 Wool Socks
- 👉 Boxers

Competition Uniform

Each year this uniform is determined by the theme of the field competition show. There is an additional charge for this uniform of approximately \$150.

See the section “Who Do I Call When I Have Questions” refer to Guard Moms if you need further information.

Highlander Notepad:

Highlander Notepad:

Excused Absence Form

MUST be Completed at least ONE WEEK in advance

Date : _____

Date of Absence: _____

Event Missed: _____

Reason for Absence: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Section Coach Signature: _____

Section Leader Signature: _____

Drum Major Signature: _____

Director Approval: _____