

# Zion Chapel High School Band Program



## Handbook 2018-2019



Dear Students and Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to WELCOME you to the Zion Chapel High School Band Program! If you enjoy singing or playing an instrument, and want to become a better musician, then this is the place for you. You will enjoy the experience of learning in groups, developing quality citizenship and building a tradition of musical excellence. This handbook is designed to help make your orientation to the Zion Chapel Band program a quick and easy task. Through the reading of this handbook you will be informed of the responsibilities that will allow you to be a successful and active band member at Zion Chapel High School.

Parents and students are requested to read the content of this booklet. Your careful attention will answer most of your questions and hopefully eliminate any misunderstandings later in the school year. Remember, your positive attitude may contribute as much toward your success in music as your musical excellence and skill. My hope is that the expectations set forth in this booklet will aid students in their musical growth, their feelings of accomplishment, and their appreciation of the rewards and positive emotions connected with commitment. These are acquired life skills that develop with sincere involvement in the Zion Chapel High School Band program, where the real satisfaction comes with the hard work students are willing to devote to their band.

I am very excited that your student has chosen to be a part of our organization, and I am sure that you and your student will be an asset to the music program. If you have any questions about any of the information in this handbook, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely

Justin Compton,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Compton", written over a horizontal line.

Director of Bands, Zion Chapel High School

Email- [comptonj@coffeecounty.k12.al.us](mailto:comptonj@coffeecounty.k12.al.us)

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# Statement of Purpose

Participation in the music program allows students to develop a variety of human experiences and emotions. The goal of the band program here at Zion Chapel High School is to help each student learn, grow, and understand the value of their musical studies and experiences. This goal is achieved through daily instruction which allows students to:

1. Develop their musical talent to its fullest potential
2. Experience music as a part of an ensemble, and as an individual
3. Learn to listen to ensemble sounds and to evaluate what factors make the musical sounds complete
4. Develop self confidence and discipline
5. Participate in a group activity which results in personal enjoyment and pride.

## Ensembles

**There are many ensembles that occur within the ZCS Band Program. They are as follows:**

### ZCS Symphonic Band

This band is the premier ensemble at ZCS and represents the core of the Band Program. This auditioned group performs concert literature at the highest level and represents the hub of the wheel that is the ZCS Band Program.

### ZCS Intermediate and Beginning Band

These groups exist for new students to learn the basics of playing their instrument and within an ensemble. Students will get the experience of playing alone and with a large ensemble to contribute to achieving a superior sound.

### ZCS Marching Rebel Band

The Marching Rebel Band presents the halftime entertainment at ZCS Football Games and competes in marching festivals throughout the Southeast. Membership in this ensemble is required of band members in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of playing or 8<sup>th</sup> grade and above.

### Other Small Ensembles

Groups such as Jazz Band, Brass or Woodwind Quintet, Percussion or other like instrument ensembles may exist at different times throughout the school year; however, rehearsals for such ensembles will occur outside regular school hours. Participation in these groups is on a volunteer basis and they are not required.

# Expectations

## Classroom Expectations and Daily Routine

Band is a cooperative venture where every single member of the band contributes to our success. To that end, the following are expected **each and every day**:

- Be in class on-time. You should be in the room when the bell rings and be in your seat warming-up on your own within 3 minutes of the bell. Failure to do this will result in a tardy.
- Have your instrument in **proper working order**. Percussion students are expected to have the proper sticks / mallets **every day**
- Have all your music and books **each** day in class. Music and books should be kept in your folders.
- Have a pencil in your folder**. You will be expected to make marks in your music.

The music room contains equipment and instruments that are worth a great deal of money. This equipment must be in good condition for us to use it. The following guidelines apply to equipment in and around the music room:

- If it is not yours, DO NOT TOUCH IT!**
- Only percussion players are allowed to play on the percussion instruments.
- Percussion instruments are exactly that, instruments – not noisemakers. Please treat them as such.
- No food, drink, or gum is allowed in this room; the only exception is bottled water. Keep any food/drink items away from ALL equipment. **Not meeting this expectation will result in immediate break detention for the first offense, a week of break detention for the second offense and an office referral for the third offense. This includes storing your lunch in the bandroom. It should be stored in your school locker.**
- RESPECT whatever equipment you use. Without our equipment, we cannot be a band.**

Band is a LARGE CLASS. We must adhere to a stricter level of cooperation and discipline than an average class.

- There is no talking when the director is on the podium running rehearsal. The director will not rehearse during your conversations in the hall, so do not talk during his rehearsals.
- Negative comments about other students in the class are not acceptable at any time.**
- It is your responsibility to take out and put your folders away each day. I do not need to clean up after you.
- Stop playing as soon as a cut-off is given. Once time in rehearsal is lost, we can never get it back!
- Students are required to put locks on their band lockers.**
- Please use the restrooms before rehearsals begin. Failure to leave the restrooms clean will result in revocation of restroom privileges.
- There will be no horseplay of any kind in the music room.
- Students are expected to follow the directions of the teacher at all times.
- Students are to store their instruments in their proper locations. I cannot ensure that your equipment will not be tampered with if it is not stored properly.
- Students will not be allowed to play on another student's instrument, regardless if that student "told you that you could use their instrument", as this is impossible to police. Play on your equipment and your equipment only.

Consequences for not meeting these expectations may include: cleanup duty, discipline essay, reduction of participation (preparedness) grade, parent conference, discipline (office) referral, or dismissal from band.

# Travel Policies

- In the event that any ensemble within the music program is **required** to travel to another location for a performance (such as Alabama Music Educators Association Music Performance Assessment), transportation will be provided or approved by the school.
- All members traveling must be in good standing with Zion Chapel School
- All members **must** travel to every performance with the group.
- Chaperones will be assigned to each bus.
- Standard rules of conduct for school buses are in effect for all trips.
- All Coffee County Board of Education Policies are in effect for all trips.
- Upon arrival, everyone will remain seated on the buses until the Director gives instructions.
- Drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products are not allowed at any school or band function. Results of being in possession of these items result in you being dismissed from the music program IMMEDIATELY.
- Students who wish to ride home separate from the band may do so under the following circumstances:
  - The event has concluded. (Football game, marching contest, etc.)
  - They are signed out following the event by their parent or legal guardian. (No Exceptions)
  - They agree to either check in their uniform before departure or bring it appropriately hung up on the next school day.
  - They have properly stored all equipment and their personal instrument
  - Personal instruments must be taken with them after departure. (It is unfair for the students who do ride the bus home to have to unload everyone else's instruments.)

# Social Media

Social media is absolutely unavoidable in this day and age. It can represent a great resource for networking and communicating with a large amount of people in a short amount of time, however the transparency of social media allows for a large number of people to see your posts whether you want them to or not. As a member of the Zion Chapel Band program, you must be aware that your posts on social mediums such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and Instagram may reflect on the program itself. If it is brought to the attention of the Director or Principal that a member of the band is posting content that reflects poorly on Zion Chapel High School or its Band program, appropriate actions will be taken at the discretion of the Band Director and Principal.

# Cellular Device Policy

It is understood that most students attending extra curricular activities (performances and rehearsals) will be in the possession of cellular devices. During school hours, the school's cellular device policy will be in effect. Students are not to be in possession of cellular devices during any rehearsal or performance. Students found in possession of these devices during a rehearsal or performance will have them confiscated and they will be released only to a parent or guardian. During all rehearsals students with cell phones will turn them in to their section leader and they will be stored in a central location for the duration of the rehearsal and the students will have access to them during breaks and will pick them up following the rehearsal. If there is a situation where a student needs to have their cell phone on their person during a rehearsal, they should see Mr. Compton and he will grant such permission as he sees fit.

# **Uniform Policies**

A uniform look is important during performances to establish a clean, professional look in any ensemble. In all performances, band members must be in uniform in order to receive full credit for the activity.

## **High School Marching Band**

- Full Marching Uniform as prescribed by the performance.
- Solid Black Marching Band Shoes
- Solid Black Calf or Knee Length Socks
- Black Gloves
- Black “Zion Chapel Band” Under Uniform Shirt

## **Auxiliaries**

- Uniform prescribed for each performance by Auxiliary Sponsor/Captain

## **Symphonic Band:**

- Full Symphonic Band Uniform
- Solid Black Closed Toed Shoes (Flats strongly encouraged)
- Solid Black Calf or Knee Length Socks
- All attire must be clean and without wrinkles. We wish to appear as a professional ensemble, and attire that is not properly cleaned and wrinkle free does not present that image.
- Students should not eat or drink anything in uniform that could stain the uniform (Clear beverages only, no condiments such as mustard, chili etc.)
- Should a student lose or damage a part of their uniform in any way that is not constituted by normal wear and tear, they will be responsible for purchasing a replacement before they may perform.
  - Prices for replacement uniform parts:
    - Marching Band Jacket \$200
    - Marching Band Pants \$60
    - Tuxedo Jacket \$65
    - Concert Dress \$65
    - Vest \$25
    - Bow Tie \$5
    - Band Shoes \$32

## **All other ensembles:**

Uniform will announced with the date of performance and may vary based on the needs of the performance.

# **Academic Policies**

**All Zion Chapel Band students are expected to maintain a certain academic standard. Students academic work must come first. If your student is struggling academically, please do not hesitate to contact the director and he will try and find your student help.**

## **Beginning Band**

- All students must maintain a C average in all other academic subjects to remain in band. These grades will be checked at each progress report. Students who fail to meet this academic standard will not come to band and will instead stay for remedial work. Once the students grade is satisfactory, the student may return to band.
- Any student who fails to maintain a C average in all other academic subjects for more that 2 consecutive 9 weeks may be removed from band.

## **Intermediate Band**

- All students must maintain a C average in all other academic subjects to remain in band. These grades will be checked at each progress report. Students who fail to meet this academic standard will have their parents contacted by the band director to determine an appropriate course of action.
- Any student who fails to maintain a C average in all other academic subjects for more that 2 consecutive 9 weeks may be removed from band.

## **Marching/ Symphonic Band**

- All students must maintain a C average in all other academic subjects to remain in band. These grades will be checked at each progress report. Students who fail to meet this academic standard may be placed on non-performance status until the grade is brought up.
- Any student who fails to maintain a C average in all other academic subjects for more that 2 consecutive 9 weeks may be removed from band.

# **Grading Policies**

Class participation:	20% This includes class and after school rehearsals which are on the schedule. This also includes any practice logs and other assignments. Students must have their instrument every day, a pencil at every rehearsal, and show maximum effort to earn the best grade.
Pass Offs/Google Classroom:	25% Students will be assigned short excerpts from the literature they are studying for evaluation by the director. Excerpts will be evaluated in person or via Google Classroom. iPads will be available before and after school for student use.
Performances:	40% Students are expected to be present, in proper attire, and prepared for all performances as outlined above.
Nine Weeks Exam:	15%

# **Band Fee Policies**

## **Band Fee Schedule**

### **Beginning Band**

- There shall be no fees for beginning band, as most students will be responsible for purchasing an instrument at this time.
  - The only exception shall be a student who is using a school owned instrument, who will pay the standard fee listed below

**Intermediate Band- All students enrolled in 7<sup>th</sup> grade band are responsible for this fee. Fees (including miscellaneous fees) for these students will be due by the first Friday in September each year.**

- Band Course Fee: \$50.00- This fee will be used to offset the cost of music and basic classroom supplies (valve/ slide oil, mutes, etc)

**Marching/ Symphonic Band- All students enrolled in band in grades 8-12 are responsible for the following fees. All fees (including miscellaneous fees) will be due by band camp registration each year.**

- Band Camp Fee: \$100.00- This fee covers the cost of band camp instruction and all required clothing (tshirt, etc)
- Uniform Fee: \$75.00- This fee covers the cost all required uniform pieces and the upkeep of vests, bowties, alterations and other equipment.

**Miscellaneous Fees- These fees are only required if your student uses the items the fee covers.**

- School Owned Instrument Fee: \$60.00- Required of wind players playing a school owned instrument. Helps cover upkeep and repairs of instruments
- Percussion Fee: \$65.00- Required of all percussionists grades 8-12. Covers purchase of sticks, heads and other percussion accessories.

**Any student who has not paid their fees by their due date will be considered not in good standing with Zion Chapel School and placed on non-performance status. Students who miss graded performances due to this policy will have to complete an alternate assignment in order to earn their grade.**

## **Student in Good Standing Policy**

In accordance with the Zion Chapel High School's Student in Good Standing Policy parents and students are hereby notified that should a student lose their status of being in good standing for any reason, they will be barred from attending any rehearsal, performance, or event that occurs outside of the normal school day. Students who miss rehearsals due to having their good standing status revoked will be placed on non-performance status until their Good Standing Status is regained. Students who miss graded performances due to being not in good standing must see Mr. Compton within 3 days of the event to receive an alternative assignment.



# Facility Use Policies

Organization and care of facilities and equipment go hand in hand with pride and musical excellence. Please make careful note of this statement.

1. Neatness and cleanliness of the band room.
  - A. The room must be left in order after every rehearsal.
  - B. Only instruments and music may be stored in the band room
  - C. The band room will be open at 7 A.M. every day, use this time before school to properly store your instrument during the school day.
2. Proper storage and care of instruments and equipment.
  - A. Always shelve your instrument after using it. Do not leave it out. Handle instruments with care. Clean them regularly.
  - B. All instruments and equipment must be put in their proper place after all rehearsals and performances.
3. Good attitude and behavior while in band room
  - A. Have pride in your band room and ensemble
  - B. When asked to do your part in helping clean up, do your part willingly.
  - C. During marching season, certain sections will be assigned cleanup duty weekly. This duty includes sweeping and cleaning the instrument storage room and foyer, picking up all excess trash in the bandroom and on the baseball field, and taking out the trash in the restrooms and instrument storage room.
4. Any deliberate abuse or defacing of facilities, equipment, or instruments will not be tolerated. Individuals caught abusing facilities or equipment will:
  - A. Pay any expense due to the abuse or defacing.
  - B. Be removed from the program.
5. No loitering in the band room. **NON BAND MEMBERS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE BANDROOM WITHOUT SPECIFIC PERMISSION. THIS IS FOR YOUR SAFETY AND THE SECURITY OF OUR INSTRUMENTS.**
6. **DO NOT BRING FOOD, GUM OR DRINKS OTHER THAN BOTTLED WATER WITH A LID INTO THE BAND ROOM!**
7. The band room is primarily a place for work. The striving to make good music is enjoyable work nevertheless. When you enter a church for worship, your behavior changes, reflecting your purpose for being there. Similarly when you enter the band room, your purpose for being there should be reflected in your behavior.

# Rehearsal Attendance Policies

- Marching and symphonic band contain extracurricular rehearsals and performances by their nature. Students and parents will be given no less than two weeks notice of these rehearsals. Musical information that is given to the students during a rehearsal cannot be made up (like a history lecture) because students have to hear the problem and experience the solution in order for the rehearsal to be effective. Even one student missing from a rehearsal lowers the performance quality.
- All members of performing groups **will** attend any extra rehearsals that are scheduled by the director and approved by the principal.
- Conflicts with a rehearsal should be brought to the attention of the director at least 3 school days prior to the rehearsal in question. The director may or may not excuse the student's absence from the rehearsal.
- Any student who is absent from any APPROVED, REQUIRED REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE MUST FILL OUT AN ABSENCE FORM WITHIN 2 DAYS OF THE ABSENCE IN ORDER FOR THE ABSENCE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR AN EXCUSE. YOUR EXCUSED ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL DOES NOT COUNT.
- Marching band rehearsals occur on Tuesday and Thursday of each week with sectional rehearsals on Wednesdays from August until the end of October. Students who have an unexcused absence from a Tuesday rehearsal will not be allowed to participate in the halftime show on Friday night. Students who are absent from a Thursday night rehearsal EXCUSED OR NOT will not be allowed to participate in halftime on Friday night. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS. Many changes are made at Thursday rehearsals, and students not present to learn these changes risk confusion or injury. Students who are suspended from halftime performances must still attend the game with the band, will perform in the stands and will stand on the sidelines for the halftime performance. If a student is suspended due to absences and has an unexcused absence for the following game, that student will not be able to perform until their suspended halftime is served.
- Symphonic band rehearsals occur on Wednesdays from January to early March. If a student is absent for more than two of these rehearsals for any reason, the director may choose to place that student on non-performance status and disallow them from travel to Music Performance Assessment.
- Students who miss after school rehearsals due to being not in good standing with Zion Chapel High School will be placed on non-performance status until their Good Standing Status has been regained.
- Students placed in In School or Out of School Suspension will not be allowed to attend after school rehearsals. Absences due to this will count as unexcused absences.
- Students suspended for more than 2 performances due to lack of attendance may be removed from band.

# Performance Attendance Policies

Absences from a performance are detrimental to any of the performing groups. Every effort and sacrifice should be made to be there because the entire ensemble is counting on you! Attendance at performances is mandatory and is a factor in the student's semester grade. Performances will include concerts, competitions and any other opportunities to perform as scheduled by the director and approved by the Principal. Personal illness, death in the family, or family emergencies are the only excusable absences and these **must** be reviewed and excused by the director. Students who have an excused absence from a performance will see the director about an alternate assignment within one week of the performance date in order to receive a grade for that performance. Those with an unexcused absence will receive a zero for that performance grade and may be placed on non-performance status.

Students placed in In School or Out of School Suspension that occurs on the day of a performance will not be allowed to attend after performances. Absences due to this will count as unexcused absences.

Students barred from an after school performance due to being not in good standing with Zion Chapel High School must see Mr. Compton within 3 days of the performance to receive an alternate assignment.

Students with more than 1 unexcused absence from a performance may be removed from band.

Excuses that **may** not be accepted are:

<i>"Couldn't get a ride"</i>	Be responsible. Arrange this early. Get a carpool.
<i>"Didn't know about it"</i>	Be responsible. Listen and read all information carefully.
<i>"Forgot instrument, etc."</i>	Be responsible. <b>Show up anyway.</b> Work it out.
<i>"Parents leaving town"</i>	Be responsible. Make arrangements early. Communicate.
<i>"I have homework"</i>	Be responsible. So does everyone else. Uphold your commitment and learn to budget your time. Rehearsal is your homework too!
<i>"I have an appointment"</i>	Be responsible. Schedule these at a different time. You will know these dates well in advance.
<i>"Relatives visiting"</i>	Be responsible. Explain your commitment to the ensemble. They will respect that!

**Communication about absences:** Communication is the student and parent's biggest asset. Students will be given plenty of advance notice about rehearsals and concerts, therefore it is expected that conflicts will be resolved beforehand. If the student is ill or there is a last minute emergency, the parent must e-mail the director at [comptonj@coffeecounty.k12.al.us](mailto:comptonj@coffeecounty.k12.al.us) or notify Mr. Compton at (205)-903-3520 prior to the beginning of the rehearsal. The student will then fill out the appropriate absence form for the rehearsal. This includes if the student is absent from school. Be proactive.



## Student/ Parent Agreement

Student Name (Print) : \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (Print) : \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I state that I have read and understood this manual and will follow all rules and regulations that it contains.

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please sign and return ASAP. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact me at [comptonj@coffeecounty.k12.al.us](mailto:comptonj@coffeecounty.k12.al.us) or (205)-903-3520. Remember, I'm here to help!! I truly look forward to a great year with your students!**