

STRAUGHN HIGH SCHOOL

SOUND OF GOLD



AUXILIARY HANDBOOK

2020-2021

I. Purpose

The Straughn Sound of Gold Auxiliary are representatives of the SHS student body, our community, and the Sound of Gold Band. We serve as role models to elementary and middle school students and as such are held to a higher standard. It is the purpose of this document to outline the rules and expectations for the Sound of Gold Auxiliary, and at all times, Auxiliary must uphold the standards set herein, as well as those set by the band manual.

II. Eligibility Requirements

- A. Must be within grade level set by band director, and academically eligible.
- B. Each candidate will try out each year for a position on the line.
- C. Must submit parent permission to try out.
- D. Must participate in mandatory clinic the entire duration.

III. Selection of Members

- A. The main purpose of the tryout process is to select the best overall individuals for the Sound of Gold Auxiliary. When selecting members, we are looking for individuals that demonstrate proper technical skills, performance ability, poise, self presentation, leadership, cooperation/communication with other candidates, and a commitment to the program.
- B. One tryout per school year.
- C. Tryouts are closed to outside parties.
- D. Captain will be selected at tryouts. To be eligible:
 - 1. Participated for at least 1 year prior.
 - 2. Have a written recommendation from three current teachers.
 - 3. Interview with the judges. The selection of Captain will also require approval of band director and instructors. Behavior throughout the year will reflect the outcome of captain selection.
 - 4. Individual Routine (colorguard)
- E. Final scores will not be announced. Comment sheets may be available, based on band director's judgement.
- F. A list will be posted with the results of tryouts. No phone calls to band director, judges, or instructors.

IV. Requirements for Tryouts

- A. Try out attire will be decided at the time of tryouts.
- B. Girls should be able to complete:
 - 1. Basics
 - 2. Group Routine
 - 3. Fight Song
 - 4. Individual Routine (majorettes, and colorguard captain candidates)
- C. Basics will be executed by each candidate in order to make the line. Each candidate will have two chances to execute each basic.
- D. Candidates will learn a group routine.
- E. Candidates will learn fight song.
- F. Majorettes:

1. Individual Routine

- a) No shorter than 1 minute and 15 seconds, no longer than 1 minute and 30 seconds.
- b) Vulgar language will result in disqualification.
- c) Routines will be judged based on twirling ability, performance, self presentation, and poise.
- d) One and two baton must be included. Three batons are allowed, but no props.

- V. Band Camp and Practices

- A. Auxiliary members will receive practice/summer schedules prior to the end of school in May. Since the schedules are given out early, it is mandatory for all members to attend the planned summer activities. If additional practices are required, girls will be notified a week in advance.
- B. Members are responsible for the completion of the auxiliary camp and band camp this summer.
- C. Girls will attend all practices scheduled by the instructor(s) and band director. If for any reason she cannot attend, the instructor and band director should be given reasonable notice before practice (example: 5 minutes before scheduled time is not reasonable.)
 1. Excused absences:
 - a) Personal illness (doctor's excuse required)
 - b) Family death
 - c) School-related field trips
 - d) Unusual circumstances to be determined by the instructor(s)/band director.
- D. Girls must practice during their designated class period during performance season. This includes, but not limited to, football, competitions, parades, and clinics.
 1. The captain will be responsible for taking attendance and notify band director/sponsor of absences.
 2. Girls will meet in their designated rooms in the band hall or classroom, take roll, change clothes, and then go to their designated area to practice.
 3. All girls are required to twirl or spin during this scheduled time. There will be no excuses accepted other than the above mentioned for these practice times.
 4. Girls should always have their batons, flags, props, etc. Failure to do so will result in demerits.
- E. A member must attend school at least half of the day in order to participate in an afterschool event. She will not be permitted to participate at a school event if absent from school that day.
- F. Girls are expected to be on time for all practices, games, band competitions, and special events.

- G. Girls are expected to follow the captain's instructions in the absence of instructor(s). If someone feels that the captain is not doing her job, a **private** complaint may be made to the sponsor or band director. Respecting the captain's decisions is essential to the success of the line. Disrespect will not be tolerated.
- H. Cell phones are not to be used during practice or event. They will be taken up by the sponsor or band director if needed. If this becomes an issue, then all phones will be placed in a lockbox kept with instructor/band director, and passed out after practice or event.
- I. Proper practice attire should be worn during practice. This includes tennis shoes/dance shoes, and appropriate clothing. Jeans and flip flops are NOT allowed. Failure to wear proper practice clothing will result in a demerit.
- J. Proper pep rally, and other "casual" performance attire should be worn at the appropriate time. Failure to do so will result in a demerit.
- K. Friends are not allowed at practice. If a friend picks a member up from practice, it is the parent's decision and responsibility.
- L. Friends are not allowed in the band section at football games, nor are they allowed to talk to girls at any time during football games, other than the designated break time given by the band director.

VI. Special Events:

- A. Girls will actively participate in all special events determined by the instructor(s) and/or band director.
 - 1. Additional required activities/special events include but are not limited to:
 - a) Band competition
 - b) Fundraisers
 - c) Community service events
- B. Girls will participate in at least one community service event per year. Suggestions for service projects will be taken and voted for by the line. Active participation is required.

VII. Additional Regulations

- A. Girls are required to learn performance routines. Sometimes routines are learned last minute (band sometimes adds new music to shows last minute, and they are required to learn their music. Therefore, you are responsible for your job too.) Failure to learn routines will result in sitting out during the performance.
- B. If a girl is on homecoming court, she will be required to be back in uniform by the end of the first quarter.
- C. If a girl resigns during the school year, she must reimburse the school for any expenses paid by the school. She will not be permitted to try out for auxiliary again.
- D. The sponsor(s) will be responsible for keeping all auxiliary records. (Demerits will be kept in a record book.)
- E. Girls must be positive at all times. This includes practices, fundraisers, community service events, and performances!

1. Arguing amongst each other will not be tolerated. Regardless of fault, this is not acceptable. If an argument occurs, the parties will be warned. If it continues, demerits will be given.
 2. At the time of next year's tryouts, your interactions with other auxiliary members, band members, and adults will be remembered, and weigh heavily in decisions. This applies especially in the role for captain.
 3. Parent involvement: While we expect and understand your need to defend your children, please talk to the band director/sponsor about the situation before calling other parents. Please respect our decision to hold the girls to this standard of behavior and serve as role models by displaying the same cordial behavior.
- F. Girls must abide by all designated band and school rules.
- G. You will respect fellow band members.
- H. Communication will be regulated through apps such as Remind, Google Classroom, etc. This will be decided on by the sponsor, on what they feel will be best for everyone. Screenshotting conversations to instigate arguments and drama will not be tolerated.

VIII. Uniform Expectations

- A. Girls are to be fully dressed in uniform by the time the band is scheduled to be at the band hall for football games. (If the band's call time is 5:30, you should be dressed and ready - hair and makeup included - by 5:30.)
1. Performance dress includes:
 - a) Uniform
 - b) Boots/shoes
 - c) Tights
 - d) Earrings
 - e) Field makeup
 - f) Hair
- B. Uniforms ideas may be submitted. The line will vote on their favorite uniform. If the line cannot agree and make a decision, the sponsor(s) will select the uniform.
- C. Hair and makeup must be worn in the same style by all girls at performances and special events. This will be decided by the sponsor.
- D. Girls will not wear any jewelry other than specified earrings while in uniform.
- E. Girls are not to wear their uniforms outside of performance events. Camp wear (such as t-shirts) can be worn outside of performance events, but if the outfit is damaged, she will not be allowed to participate in outlined event. If improper behavior is taking place while in any auxiliary clothing (camp wear, band t-shirt, uniform, etc.) demerits will be assigned. You represent not only Straughn, but the Sound of Gold. A high standard will be set.

IX. Cost of Participation

- A. All money paid or earned by a member will be deposited through the school office.

- B. Funds will be raised in various ways with the consent and approval of the principal, band director, and sponsor. Each girl will be expected to assist with fundraising activities.
 - 1. If the fundraiser requires individual responsibility/sales (such as a donut sale), the funds raised will be attributed to that specific girl.
 - 2. If the fundraiser requires group effort (car wash) the total raised will be divided by number of girls and distributed equally.
 - C. Payment will be the responsibility of each girl and her parents/guardian. The amount spent will be kept as low as possible, however please understand these items are essential to the success of any majorette line. Girls must pay for items before receiving them.
 - D. A detailed list of items and costs will be given.
- X. Demerit System
- A. When a girl receives 1 demerit, she will run a lap at the end of the current or next practice.
 - B. When a member accumulates 3 demerits, her parents will be notified of the types of infractions.
 - C. When a girl receives 6 demerits, her parents will be notified, and she will be benched for one performance. This includes standing at attention during the performance of the band. You will still be responsible for attending all performances and practices.
 - D. The sponsor(s), band director, and administration has the right to review all disciplinary actions.

1. Exceedingly tardy to practice/game	1
2. Unexcused absence from practice	1
3. Missing a performance	3
4. Improper or incomplete uniform/practice wear	1
5. Lack of participation in special events	3
6. Use of cell phone at practice	1
7. Inappropriate behavior in uniform	1
8. Suspension from school	9
9. Drug/alcohol use	9
10. Smoking/vaping	9
11. Each day in TRR	3
12. Arguing with other girls	1
13. Misconduct	1
14. Disobeying sponsor/band director/admin	3
15. Disrespecting sponsor/band director/admin	3
16. Bad report from a teacher	3
 - E. When a girl receives 9 demerits, she will be dismissed from the line and will not be able to try out in the future.

- F. Disciplinary actions will be taken with members who are involved in illegal activity at school or away from school. You are now a representative of Straughn High School at all times. Illegal activity may call for dismissal of a girl from a line. Disciplinary actions will be decided upon by the principal, band director, and sponsor.

I believe each of you are smart, beautiful young women! I truly care about each of you, and I'm so excited to get to know y'all. I am excited to see you grow as a performer, leader, and person! I want this year to be filled with fun, safe, and memorable times. I want you to be able to look back on these years fondly, and with your help of following these rules, that can easily be done. Please remember, I am on your side and I want you to succeed. These rules are made for the betterment of the line and yourself.