

# Upper Scioto Valley School District Band Handbook 2019-2020

Director Contact Information:

Ms. Gamble

Email: [rgamble@usvschools.org](mailto:rgamble@usvschools.org)

Band Room Phone Number: 419-757-3231 ext. 1118

In the USV Music Department, we always strive to...

**Do the right thing, in the right place, and at the right time.**

## Objectives

To foster a love and appreciation for music

To welcome all levels of developing musicianship

To create a positive environment and product that is contagious to others around USV

To develop pride in individual and group achievement

To create lifelong friendships through music

To empower cooperation, confidence, leadership, and self discipline

To represent the Upper Scioto Valley School District well as the USV Band

## Philosophy

USV Band operates under the following philosophy:

1. The exploration of quality, personal and group musicianship is an educational process that leads to knowledge of music as an art and the pleasure of performing at the highest level possible.
2. Students are exposed to different types of music so enjoyment and participation can continue throughout life.
3. Students form opinions on why the arts are an essential and integral part of a quality education and how to appropriately advocate for the arts.
4. Students experience personal growth and maturity to become better citizens in society while understanding that it is okay to make mistakes and learn from them.

## Performance Requirements

**Concert Band** – Full band and sectional rehearsals are necessary. This group offers one (1) credit for each completed year.

**Marching Band** – We will be performing at every home and away football game this year. This is part of the one (1) credit for each year completed. We will be flexible with other sports commitments as well as they are communicated in ADVANCED.

**Pep Band** – This group is organized to perform at home varsity boys' and girls' basketball games. Rehearsals are during school and/or before each performance. Additional performances are at the discretion of the Director. We will be flexible with other sports commitments as well as they are communicated in ADVANCED.

*All required performance dates are on the last page of this document.*

### Highly Encouraged Performance Opportunities:

*Solo and Ensemble* – The director will work with ANYONE interested in taking a solo or an ensemble to contest. Ensembles are organized when interest is expressed and rehearsal time can be arranged.

*HS Solo and Ensemble – Lima Senior High School - Saturday, February 15*

*JH Solo and Ensemble – Elida High School - Saturday, April 4*

*Private Lessons* – Private lessons are necessary to maintain a high level of performance. This is an opportunity for every band student to improve his or her playing ability. There is a fee due to the private teacher by the student which is determined by the private teacher. If interested, please talk to Ms. Gamble for names of teachers. Ms. Gamble is also willing to stay after school to help all band students free of cost.

*Honor Groups* – Throughout the year, various performance opportunities arise for students to audition for district and state honors ensembles. Students will be approached with information about these groups as they come available. These are wonderful opportunities to meet other great musicians from around the state.

### Attendance

Attendance at rehearsals and performances is a very important part of a successful band program. You must understand that attendance governs the quality of the group. When a student misses a rehearsal or performance, the group suffers. As such, there are **very few** excused absences, but all absences must be cleared in advance with the director. A note to the director from a parent/guardian explaining an absence is due **ONE WEEK before** the absence in order the director to decide if it is excused or unexcused. Turning in a note does **NOT** guarantee it to be considered excused. Please call 419-757-3231 ext. 1118 and leave a message or email [rgamble@usvschools.org](mailto:rgamble@usvschools.org) if an emergency arises. Please remember this thought: to be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is to be left out. These rules apply to all band events.

*Performances* – Attendance at all performances is **mandatory**. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in an “F” for that performance.

*Rehearsals* – Attendance at rehearsals during school hours is governed by school rules. Rehearsals after school hours for Marching and Pep Band are governed by the following: all students must be excused by a Director to miss an after school rehearsal with a written note.

*Athletics* – Many band members participate in sports. It is very possible to be both a great musician and athlete, but it takes responsibility and quality personal organizational skills. We will work to the best of our abilities to help you, but we expect the same in return. We have tried to schedule all band times to avoid conflicts, but when conflicts do arise, it is the student’s responsibility to notify both the Band Director and Coaches as far in advance as possible. This allows the Directors and Coaches to work out an agreeable solution, which is to the student’s advantage. Absences from rehearsals or performances for a sport not sponsored by USV School will be unexcused, unless communicated in a timely manner.

*Student Jobs* – Many band members have part-time jobs. It is the student’s responsibility to work out his/her work schedule so he/she can attend all rehearsals and performances. Your Director will assist, if necessary. Communication with the director and employer are key to this being successful.

### Snow/Fog on Concert on Performance Days

When school is cancelled on a performance day, please watch for a Remind 101 text, check the Facebook page, watch WLIO, and watch for text alerts. A decision to cancel the concert will be made early in the day. In the event of a fog or snow cancellation, the performance may still proceed as scheduled, but listen for other updates. ***If the performance is for a sporting event (Marching Band or Pep Band), there will almost always be a performance -- sporting events are generally not cancelled.***

### Grades

Band grades are an average of class participation and preparedness, playing tests, written tests, rehearsal attendance, performance attendance, and extra credit. Extra credit opportunities will be announced throughout the school year. Be advised that attendance policies may override a student's grade average. An absence from class, just like any other class, will involve make-up work to receive those points for the day. Each day, students will be responsible for 5 points broken down as follows: 2 points for preparedness (instrument, music, pencil, etc.), 2 points for doing the right thing in the right place at the right time, and 1 point for overall attitude and approach to the day. Every marching/pep band performance is worth 75 points, each concert band concert is worth 100 points, and each after school practice is worth 10 points. Playing tests and pop quizzes for preparedness will be included as well. ***A student's band grade is calculated into their overall GPA and included on the student's transcript.***

### Equipment and Facilities

We are fortunate to have equipment for our band program, which have been provided for you through the cooperation of the USV Board of Education and the USV Band Boosters. Please respect the facilities and equipment -- they represent a monetary investment and are difficult and expensive to replace. You are responsible for the cleaning and care of the instrument you play, and only YOU should play it. Advise the Director ***immediately*** if it is damaged or needs repair. Students using a school instrument will be responsible for a once-a-year fee of \$10 for the general maintenance of the instrument as well as the signed agreement. (If this is not possible, please communicate with Ms. Gamble).

### Band Lockers

Lockers have been provided for the safekeeping of band materials and music academic tools. It is your responsibility to keep it locked and clean at all times. Be aware that small items, such as a cell phone, could be pulled through the wire doors -- not everything is completely safe, even if the locker is locked. The lockers are designed for instrument storage, not to replace your "school" locker. You will be ASSIGNED a lock with a combination this year. If you lose your lock, you are responsible to pay to replace it. Locks cost \$10 as they are a special order.

### Awards

Awards will be handed out during the spring band concert. The awards presented are TBA.

### Miscellaneous Information

Staying after school before a football or basketball game is okay IF that is the main way to ensure attendance at the game. Please mark the appropriate area if you give your student permission to go to the Ram's Roost pending their behavioral choices.

### Calendar

The below calendar represents all currently known dates for band commitments. Any added date by Ms. Gamble that is communicated two weeks in advance may become mandatory with the regular absence procedure required. Any added date less than two weeks in advance will be strongly encouraged to represent the USV band but will not be mandatory.

# 2019-2020 USV Band Calendar

## By Date

School Weekly Marching Band Practice Schedule through football season.

Mondays – No Rehearsal

Tuesdays – 5:00-7:00

Wednesdays – 3:30-5:00

Thursdays – 3:30-5:00

MB: Friday, August 16 – practice 3:30-5:00

MB: Friday, August 23 – practice 3:30-5:00

MB: Friday, August 30 – home football game vs. Springfield Catholic Central

MB: Tuesday, September 3 – Band Fair Show (evening)

MB: Friday, September 6 – away football game @ Cory Rawson

MB: Monday, September 9 – band leadership event at ONU (evening and optional)

MB: Friday, September 13 – home football game vs. Springfield Catholic Central

MB: Friday, September 20 – home football game vs. Hardin Northern

MB: Friday, September 27 – away football @ Waynesfield

MB: Sat, September 28 – Riverdale Tri-County Invitational Band Show (rehearsal early afternoon, meal, performance)

MB: Wednesday, October 2 – homecoming parade (evening)

MB: Friday, October 4 – home football game vs. Ridgemont

pb: Wednesday, October 9 – senior night volleyball

MB: Friday, October 11 – away football game @ Perry

MB: Friday, October 18 – away football game @ Riverside

MB: Friday, October 25 – home football game vs. Lehman Catholic

MB: Friday, November 1 – away football game @ Elgin

MB: November 25 OR November 26 – Kenton Christmas Parade (evening)

MB: Wednesday, December 4 – McGuffey Christmas Parade (evening)

pb: Friday, December 6 – BB-ball vs Hardin Northern

pb: Saturday, December 7 – BB-ball vs Kenton

pb: Thursday, December 12 – GB-ball vs Ridgemont

CB: Tuesday, December 17 – Winter Music Concert (feat. bands & choirs) – begins at 6:30pm

pb: Thursday, January 9 – GB-ball vs Perry

pb: Saturday, January 11 – BB-ball vs Ada

pb: Friday, January 17 – BB-ball vs Temple Christian

pb: Saturday, January 18 – GB-ball vs Arlington (afternoon)

pb: Tuesday, January 28 – GB-ball vs Ada

pb: Thursday, February 6 – GB-ball vs Riverside

pb: Saturday, February 8 – BB-ball vs Cory Rawson

pb: Monday, February 10 – GB-ball vs Allen East

pb: Saturday, February 22 – BB-ball vs Allen East

CB: Saturday, April 18 – tentative Charlie's Kettle Corn Sale

CB: Tuesday, May 5 – Spring Band Concert – begins at 7:00pm

CB: Saturday, May 23 – USV Graduation

MB: Monday, May 25 – Alger Memorial Day Parade (afternoon)

USV Music Department Day Trip – TBD

\*\*\*Report time for all: To be announced via Remind app

Any changes will be communicated as soon as they are known!

### Marching Band Performances (MB):

All required for marching band members

### Pep Band Performances (pb):

All 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade band members must attend 9 out of 13; if you attend at least 12 events, you will be invited to a pizza party – no additional absences regardless of reasons

### Concert Band Performances (CB):

Required of all 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade band members required



# Sign up for important updates from Ms. Gamble.

Get information for Upper Scioto Valley High School right on your phone—not on handouts.

Pick a way to receive messages for **USVBand**:

- A** If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

**rmd.at/usvb**

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



- B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @usvb to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @usvb to (937) 401-8049.

*\* Standard text message rates apply.*



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to [rmd.at/usvb](http://rmd.at/usvb) on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

## 20 Important Benefits of Music In Our Schools - <https://nafme.org/20-important-benefits-of-music-in-our-schools/>

Nearly everyone enjoys music, whether by listening to it, singing, or playing an instrument. But despite this almost universal interest, many schools are having to do away with their music education programs. This is a mistake, with schools losing not only an enjoyable subject, but a subject that can enrich students' lives and education.

1. **Musical training helps develop language and reasoning:** Students who have early musical training will develop the areas of the brain related to language and reasoning. The left side of the brain is better developed with music, and songs can help imprint information on young minds.
2. **A mastery of memorization:** Even when performing with sheet music, student musicians are constantly using their memory to perform. The skill of memorization can serve students well in education and beyond.
3. **Students learn to improve their work:** Learning music promotes craftsmanship, and students learn to want to create good work instead of mediocre work. This desire can be applied to all subjects of study.
4. **Increased coordination:** Students who practice with musical instruments can improve their hand-eye coordination. Just like playing sports, children can develop motor skills when playing music.
5. **A sense of achievement:** Learning to play pieces of music on a new instrument can be a challenging, but achievable goal. Students who master even the smallest goal in music will be able to feel proud of their achievement.
6. **Kids stay engaged in school:** An enjoyable subject like music can keep kids interested and engaged in school. Student musicians are likely to stay in school to achieve in other subjects.
7. **Success in society:** Music is the fabric of our society, and music can shape abilities and character. Students in band or orchestra are less likely to abuse substances over their lifetime. Musical education can greatly contribute to children's intellectual development as well.
8. **Emotional development:** Students of music can be more emotionally developed, with empathy towards other cultures. They also tend to have higher self-esteem and are better at coping with anxiety.
9. **Students learn pattern recognition:** Children can develop their math and pattern-recognition skills with the help of musical education. Playing music offers repetition in a fun format.
10. **Better SAT scores:** Students who have experience with music performance or appreciation score higher on the SAT. One report indicates 63 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on math for students in music appreciation courses.
11. **Fine-tuned auditory skills:** Musicians can better detect meaningful, information-bearing elements in sounds, like the emotional meaning in a baby's cry. Students who practice music can have better auditory attention, and pick out predictable patterns from surrounding noise.
12. **Music builds imagination and intellectual curiosity:** Introducing music in the early childhood years can help foster a positive attitude toward learning and curiosity. Artistic education develops the whole brain and develops a child's imagination.
13. **Music can be relaxing:** Students can fight stress by learning to play music. Soothing music is especially helpful in helping kids relax.
14. **Musical instruments can teach discipline:** Kids who learn to play an instrument can learn a valuable lesson in discipline. They will have to set time aside to practice and rise to the challenge of learning with discipline to master playing their instrument.
15. **Preparation for the creative economy:** Investing in creative education can prepare students for the 21st century workforce. The new economy has created more artistic careers, and these jobs may grow faster than others in the future.
16. **Development in creative thinking:** Kids who study the arts can learn to think creatively. This kind of education can help them solve problems by thinking outside the box and realizing that there may be more than one right answer.
17. **Music can develop spatial intelligence:** Students who study music can improve the development of spatial intelligence, which allows them to perceive the world accurately and form mental pictures. Spatial intelligence is helpful for advanced mathematics and more.
18. **Kids can learn teamwork:** Many musical education programs require teamwork as part of a band or orchestra. In these groups, students will learn how to work together and build camaraderie.
19. **Responsible risk-taking:** Performing a musical piece can bring fear and anxiety. Doing so teaches kids how to take risks and deal with fear, which will help them become successful and reach their potential.
20. **Better self-confidence:** With encouragement from teachers and parents, students playing a musical instrument can build pride and confidence. Musical education is also likely to develop better communication for students.

## Upper Scioto Valley Band Handbook Agreement

Please **SIGN AND RETURN THIS ENTIRE PAGE**. This signature is to indicate that you have received, read, and understand the expectations outlined through this handbook as well as showing that you agree to the band calendar as stated on the previous page. This is worth 50 points and due Wednesday, August 21, 2019. Students will lose 5 points each day it is late.

*Thank you for your support of the USV Band!*

*Printed Student Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Student Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent/Guardian Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

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

Family/Guardian:

What is the best way for Ms. Gamble to contact you if needed?

\_\_\_\_\_

Email address for handouts sent to you: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I am interested in chaperoning trips this year, and I have or will get my background check done for the school.

Did you sign up for Remind either on your phone, email, or both?

Yes    No

Can your student go to the Ram's Roost with other members of the band?

Ms. Gamble asks that all students go with at least one buddy, and Ms. Gamble is not at the Ram's Roost to supervise. The expectation is that they go straight there, get what they need, responsibly eat there if they would like, and come straight back.

Yes    No

Student:

What is the best way for Ms. Gamble to contact you if needed?

\_\_\_\_\_

Did you sign up for Remind either on your phone, email, or both?

Yes    No