

To: All Marching Band Members  
From: Kevin Lagos  
Date: 5/24/06  
Re: Marching Band Summer Info.

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Attention Marching Band Members!!!

If you have not received music by the end of school, please let me know your address where I can send it to you. I am available at GRHS from June through July to give people music and Section Leaders will be calling throughout the summer to make sure you have all the necessary materials. Please be ready to begin playing the music while marching on the first day of Band Camp, August 28<sup>th</sup>-Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. I have also included a rough draft of the 2006 Marching Band Member's Handbook. Please look it over and email me with any questions throughout the summer.

Kevin C. Lagos

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Welcome to the 2005 GRHS Marching Band Season! Our Marching Band has always meant one thing in Glen Ridge, and that is pride. This year is no different. Our show this year will feature music of Modest Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition." We will be showing the audience what a marching band experiences before and during the competitions at the various locations. Combined with a staff of dedicated musicians, a great group of leaders, and some new staff, this promises to be a fun and exciting year.

The season will be marked with many changes. First of all, we have a new color guard instructor. Ms. Dawn Donnadio comes to us with her knowledge of color guard working with the Passaic Valley colorguard and dance team. They are very enthusiastic and a talented. We will also be having a new Assistant Band Director, Jessica Sartori. A graduate of Glen Ridge High School and former Drum Major, she is excited to be working with her Alma Mater.

The schedule for band camp has not changed. I will include a skeleton of a schedule that we will be following through Band Camp and the rest of the season. We will be starting out day one of Band Camp in the band room, but the rest of camp will start out on the backfield behind the school.

The other big change to be prepared for is one that happens every year, and that is the change in student personnel. Graduation keeps this band in a mode of constant change, and that makes each year a completely different experience. This year, we are a small, young band. Does this mean anything to us? Not at all, we are all going to give this our best shot. If we work together, we can overcome any obstacle in our path. Our student leadership is sure to be outstanding. The real questions are....How good do **you** want to be?....How hard are **you** willing to work?....In essence, what kind of band do **you** want this to be??

Before we can begin our newest journey, it is important to understand that there are certain guidelines that must be followed in order for us to be setup for success. There is an information packet attached, that contains important dates, new rules, and other information that you will need to be familiar with.

Being a member of the Glen Ridge Marching Band affords you many opportunities. It also binds you to many responsibilities including the following:

- You are expected to work cooperatively with all of the staff members and other students.
- You must memorize all of your music by **August 28<sup>th</sup>**
- You must report promptly to ALL rehearsals, performances, and functions
- You must practice your music/guard work regularly
- You must "Give It Your Best" every time, all the time

I am very excited about beginning the 2006 Marching Band Season. Every member of the group has so much to offer, and together we **will** achieve greatness. Remember....*Although perfection can never be attained; it must always be the goal!!!!*

"Hard work that you want to do and is enjoyable isn't very hard."

Kevin C. Lagos  
Director of Bands  
Glen Ridge High School

*“A Tradition of Excellence”*

## ....A TRADITION OF EXCELLANCE....

The phrase “*A Tradition of Excellence*” is one that you will see and hear frequently while you are a student at Glen Ridge High School. This school and this band have exhibited this tradition for many years.

Part of being in the GRHS Marching Band means that now you are part of the GRHS Marching Band tradition. As part of one of top schools in New Jersey, the GRHS Marching Band is one of the state’s most established marching bands. It has performed at parades, festivals, ceremonies, and games for many years, and has gained a national reputation as one of the East Coast’s finest bands.

Reaching this level of excellence has not been an easy task. It has taken years of work and dedication from thousands of students, parents and teachers before you, and now it is your turn to continue this age-old legacy of excellence. Over the years, five words have come to describe the philosophy and purpose of the GRHS Marching Band:

*Pride....Respect....Leadership....Trust....Unity*

Throughout your time in the GRHS Marching Band, you will be hearing these five words quite often.

### **PRIDE**

Pride can be a feeling of self-respect that comes from a feeling of self-worth or accomplishment. As a member of this organization you will undoubtedly form your own definition of pride as it relates to this group. One thing we are all proud of is the history of this band and what it has come to symbolize in Glen Ridge High School, the town of Glen Ridge, and all of the areas we have performed in the past. On an individual basis you can all be proud of the work you have and will put into this organization, leading to outstanding, and memorable performances. Pride is shown by the way you exhibit self-respect through your attitude and level of personal responsibility.

### **RESPECT**

When you are proud of a group that you are part of, it is evident to those who watch you and your group, and you command respect. The GRHS Marching Band enjoys a reputation as a HIGH CLASS organization. This reputation comes from a high level of discipline and mature behavior, which is evident in our rehearsals, performances and etiquette. Before we can attain the respect of others, we must gain respect for ourselves and for each other. Remember, all of the people involved (students, parents, & teachers) in the GRHS Marching Band are here because they want to be. We are all working for the same goal and we must work together to attain that goal.

## **LEADERSHIP**

Leadership is a major part of the success of any organization and can be shown in many ways. In the GRHS Marching Band, leadership is shown in several ways:

*Individual Leadership* is something that should be exhibited by every member of the band at every moment. Individual leadership means taking on self-responsibility. As a member of this group, you are expected to be responsible for everything that **YOU** can control. For example, you must make sure that you are always on time, that you are present at every rehearsal, and that you are always prepared. But leadership means going that extra step. It means that you do what you **know is the right thing to do, without being asked**. Most of the success of any group has come from its members exhibiting this kind of leadership.

*Group Leadership* is achieved when a group of people works together for a common goal. It can only be achieved by people who respect each other and who are willing to listen to instructions.

## **TRUST**

Another very important part of group leadership and achievement is having trust. With regard to this organization, you will be asked to trust one another implicitly. You will be asked to follow instructions that seem difficult. Don't worry... you will always be shown how to execute the instruction successfully. You will also be asked to take risks. The risks you will be asked to take, however, will always be explained to you, and will always be designed to make you grow. If you trust those that are asking you to take those risks, and if you realize the benefits, then the only true risk is the one you take by not allowing yourself an opportunity for growth.

You must also be trustworthy yourself. This group maintains clear communications, and the best route is always the honest one.

## **UNITY**

As you can see from what you have just read, the success or failure of this group depends on a unity of purpose. As part of any group, you cannot succeed unless *everyone* succeeds, and if one person fails, then *everyone* fails. Again, remember that we are all in this for the same reasons, and that everyone in this organization has *chosen* to be part of it. Although we are a diverse group with regard to age, interest, background, etc. we must be *united* to reach our common goal of excellence in performance.

# Guidelines for wearing the **Glen Ridge High School Marching Band Uniform**

A uniform is the most widely recognized symbol of any marching unit. Through many years of hard work, the uniform of the Glen Ridge High School Marching Band has become the symbol of the dedication and discipline that makes this group unique. To maintain this reputation, certain rules must be obeyed while wearing the uniform. These rules are meant to promote a feeling of **Pride and Respect**, and to bring one word to the minds of the spectators:

## **Class!**

### GENERAL RULES

- Everyone must maintain the same level of dress at all times (i.e. Everyone wears gloves or nobody does.)
- The Shako **MUST** be kept upright at all times. When not being worn, it must be held in the right hand with the first knuckle of the fingers of the right hand over the brim. The chinstrap should hang straight down. The Shako must never be carried by the plume or upside down by the strap.
- The Shako must always be worn properly, **NEVER BACKWARDS**.
- The gloves are to be kept clean at all times. When they are not being worn, they must be placed under the left epaulet of the uniform.
- **Black shoes must always be kept clean and polished.**
- **Black athletic socks must be worn with the uniform.**
- Any clothing worn underneath the uniform must not be visible.
- Jewelry and heavy makeup may not be worn while in uniform, unless it is a specific part of the costume. Hair longer than shoulder length must be worn up in the Shako.
- The GRHS Marching Band uniform may only be worn **BY MEMBERS**, and exclusively for performance.
- **YOU** are responsible for the proper care and maintenance of your uniform. Uniforms are **DRY CLEAN ONLY** and should be cleaned frequently. The vinyl and brim of the Shako must be cleaned using Fantastic or other all-purpose spray cleaner.
- The uniform must be in a garment bag for all travel or when brought to school.
- When not being used, uniforms must be hung on a wooden or plastic hanger. After each use, the uniform should be hung to air dry for at least 12 hours before being returned to the garment bag.
- Damage to or loss of any part of the uniform is your financial responsibility.

### NOT ALLOWED IN UNIFORM

- Running
- Shouting (Unless called for in performance or in the line of duty)
- Swearing
- Smoking
- Spitting
- Public Displays of Affection
- Any other inappropriate public behavior.

***A uniform can only represent what those who wear the uniform want it to represent. When you wear your uniform, remember who you are and how hard you have worked, and you will project an image of PRIDE and DIGNITY that will command RESPECT.***

# Περφορμανχε Γυιδελινεσ

*ανδ οτηερ ιμπορταντ ινφορματιον.*

- ❖ Sit in the assigned area and play your instrument only when the band plays together.
- ❖ Make sure you have all of your music in a flip folder with a lyre to all games and rehearsals.
- ❖ Watch for the director or Drum Majors when they are in front of the band. Get music ready quickly and be ready to start playing.
- ❖ Complete uniforms must be worn at all times in a proper manner.
- ❖ Cheer with the Cheerleaders and support the team.
- ❖ **ALWAYS** play in a musical manner. Even outdoors, you can play in tune, with a good tone quality, good articulations, and good dynamics. Our marching band is first and foremost a **MUSICAL** organization.
- ❖ The Color Guard may practice during the first half of every football game during the competition season.
- ❖ During the third quarter, refreshments will be served near the Concession Stand. If there is an opposing band, student leaders will invite them to join us for refreshments. All band members must be in the stand ready to play at the start of the fourth quarter.
- ❖ Please be careful not to spill anything on your uniform. You may not bring food or drinks into the stands.
- ❖ Always observe rules for wearing the marching band uniform.
- ❖ When visiting other venues, please be respectful of their grounds and buildings.
- ❖ When you are not seated with the band (for example, getting refreshments at a competition, going to the rest room) you must travel in a group of three band members or with a chaperone. This is for your protection.
- ❖ Your performance and behavior at games and competitions determines the way in which the public perceives our band. **Always conduct yourself with PRIDE, and you will be worthy of RESPECT!**
- ❖ Chaperones are present at all games and competitions, and are there to help you. Please be courteous and cooperative at all times.
- ❖ Following each competition, we will parade back to the buses or clinic. You may not leave any event early unless **PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS**

- HAVE BEEN MADE** with the director. When permission is granted, you must leave with your parents ONLY, and you must report to the director with them prior to your departure.
- ❖ Assignments for Band Room Clean Up will be made prior to arrival back at the Band Room.
  - ❖ You are responsible for your own personal property. Therefore, it is suggested that expensive items are not brought on bus trips. Walkman radios are only permitted on buses.
  - ❖ All instrument cases must be labeled with your name, address, telephone number, and "Glen Ridge High School Band".

*And a few heavy-duty rules and restrictions...*

- ❖ Since participation in the Marching Band requires physical fitness in addition to musicianship, grace, and agility, members are not permitted to smoke at any time during the season beginning with Band Camp, and ending with the final performance.
- ❖ The use of drugs or alcohol will result in immediate expulsion from the GRHS Marching Band.

**RULES AND SANCTIONS OF GLEN RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL  
CONCERNING THE USE OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL WILL BE STRICTLY  
ENFORCED AT ALL TIMES!**

**\*\*Remember...You are representing Glen Ridge High School and the Town of Glen Ridge. Please be courteous and cooperative at all times. The guidelines stated above are for your safety and well-being, and for ensuring a terrific musical and educational experience.**

# ATTENDANCE POLICY

The attendance policy for the Glen Ridge High School Marching Band is actually quite simple. All rehearsals, performances, and activities listed in the calendar are **MANDATORY**. When joining the Marching Band, you accept the rehearsal/performance calendar as your personal responsibility. Realize that successful performances can only be achieved through effective rehearsal technique. Absences from rehearsals have a significant effect on the band's ability to move ahead. Since we must perform as a complete group, it is therefore **imperative** that we rehearse as one.

After school rehearsals are held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3:30 – 6:00 **unless otherwise specified**. After daylight savings time ends, we will begin rehearsals at 3:15 and continue until dark. Music will be rehearsed in the classroom during block 8 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Saturday Rehearsals are held at Hurrell Field and begin at 9:00 AM on days when there are games. For the Saturdays when there are no games, please check the calendar for times and places. **THERE ARE NO SATURDAYS OFF DURING COMPETITION SEASON!**

## Preparation

You are required to be prepared for each rehearsal so that rehearsals may begin on time. That means that you are at the field with your instrument, music, pencil, dot book, drill book, (with your spot highlighted) and other necessary materials **ready to start**. Section leaders should encourage warm up sessions ten minutes before rehearsal is scheduled to start.

## Absences

An absence from rehearsal occurs when the student misses a complete rehearsal or when they are more than thirty minutes late. Excused absences from rehearsal are limited to the following:

- Personal illness that confines you at home. (Excused from school)
- Death in the family
- Religious Holiday
- Other prearranged absences approved **by the Band Director** (One week in advance written notice required)

Unexcused absences include reasons not listed above. Remember that you have regularly scheduled rehearsals that have been given to you long in advance. Please make sure that you do not schedule college visits, medical, or dental appointments, academic tutoring, music lessons, or any other activity during these specified times.

## Tardiness

Unexcused tardiness will not be tolerated. If you have an after school assignment, (meeting with a teacher or detention) please bring your instrument and equipment with you, and come quickly to rehearsal **with a pass** from the supervising teacher. Please do everything you can do avoid after school detentions. Do not cut classes, be on time for all of your classes, and discipline yourself to maintain good standing and behavior in and out of class. Without a pass, you will be required to stay after rehearsal to clean the field and band room.

If you believe that a conflict is unavoidable, see the Director as far in advance as possible. Often times, options can be worked out with other teachers, etc. that will make it unnecessary to miss rehearsal.

**Unexcused absences and tardiness will result in disciplinary action.**

Unexcused tardiness First Offense: Clean field/band room after rehearsal/performance  
Second Offense: Phone call to parent & Clean field/band room after rehearsal/performance  
Third Offense: Phone call to parent & Suspension from one performance  
Subsequent offenses will be dealt with accordingly and could lead to expulsion from the group.

Unexcused absence First Offense: Student conference with Band Director, phone call to parent &  
Suspension from one football game  
Second Offense: Suspension from one competition  
Third Offense: No more performances with the group

If you miss a rehearsal for any reason, the staff reserves the right to prohibit you from marching in the next performance if they feel you are not adequately prepared. Several missed rehearsals could result in expulsion from the group.

**Communication**

Communication of absences must be done DIRECTLY through the Band Director only! For example, do not tell someone to tell the Band Director that you will be absent. Even if the reason is legitimate, this will be considered an unexcused absence. The communication must be made **in person** from student to Director, and all advance absence requests must be provided in writing from a parent. If you are sick at home, it is helpful if you or a parent call in to notify the Director that you will not be present at rehearsal. The Band Office Phone Number is (973)-429-8300 ext. 2250. Absences due to illness must be followed up from a note from home confirming the validity of the absence.

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The success of the Glen Ridge High School Marching Band is dependant upon the dedication and attendance of all the members of the group. Absences and tardiness from rehearsals have a significant effect on the band's ability to move ahead. The attendance policy, as stated in the Band Handbook, is aimed at providing a positive work and learning environment for all students in order to attain the highest level of achievement and performance.

**STUDENT AGREEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the GRHS Marching Band Attendance Policy as stated in the Band Handbook. I realize the importance that my attendance plays in the success of the marching band, and I agree to abide by the guidelines stated in this policy.

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

**PARENTAL AGREEMENT**

I/We, the parent(s) of \_\_\_\_\_, have read the GRHS Marching Band Attendance Policy as stated in the Band Handbook. I/We agree to help our son/daughter to fulfill his/her obligation.

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

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

**PLEASE SIGN THIS AND RETURN ON COPY OF THE ATTENDANCE POLICY TO MR. LAGOS BY AUGUST 31.**

## **Student Leaders – GRHS Marching Band**

**\*\* - The Band Director must approve any changes, additions, modifications, or deletions to the activities or procedures that are currently in use by the Marching band.**

### **Drum Major**

The Drum major is the Student conductor of the Band in rehearsals and performances.

The Drum Major will:

1. Conduct the Band under the guidance and supervision of the Band Director and the Professional Staff.
2. Monitor Sectional rehearsals and assist the sergeants in small group rehearsals of marching.
3. Coordinate with all of the Student Leaders as to announcements and points of information.
4. Attend retreats and award ceremonies and act as a representative of the Glen Ridge High School Marching Band.
5. Conduct stands music at all football games.
6. Act as a role model for the Assistant Drum Major and other officers and Marching Band Members and provide them with the guidance and assistance when needed.

### **Assistant Drum Major**

The Assistant Drum Major is the Drum Major in training. That person is the understudy of the Drum Major who will step up and conduct performances and rehearsals should the Drum Major be unable to perform.

The ADM will:

1. Serve as the understudy to the Drum Major under the guidance and supervision of the Band Director and the Professional Staff.
2. Be responsible for the First Aid Kit. The Kit is to be on site at all rehearsals and performances for the duration of the activity.
3. Work with the captains and Sergeants in small group rehearsals of marching.
4. Attend all retreats and award ceremonies.
5. Act as a role model for all of the junior officers and Band Members and provide them with guidance and supervision as needed.

## **Captains**

The Captains, Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, and Color Guard are the student leaders of the individual sections respectively.

The Brass, Woodwind, and Percussion Captains will:

1. Coordinate music and marching sectionals under the guidance of the director and the professional staff.
2. Monitor the sectional rehearsals through out the year.
3. Coordinate Special Events during Band Camp and through out the season. The Band Director must approve all events.
4. Make sure that your section understands all rules and guidelines of this handbook, and that they are followed by their section, including music memorization and behavior in uniform.

The Color Guard Captain will:

1. Coordinate and run guard sectionals under the guidance of the director and the professional staff.
2. Coordinate communications between the Band Director and Color Guard members.
3. Attend all retreats and award ceremonies.
4. Coordinate Special Events during Band Camp and through out the season. The Band Director must approve all events.

## **Drill Sergeant**

The Drill Sergeant will be involved in the teaching of the Marching basics and drill techniques.

The Drill Sergeant will:

1. Run the Basics block with the assistance of the Drum Major and the professional staff.
2. Call commands for the Band during all retreats and ceremonies.
3. Be a student observer during all Drill Downs.
4. Aid in the demonstration and execution of Marching Band Basics.
5. Oversee sectional rehearsals of marching under the direction of the professional staff.