

Mission Statement and Philosophical Goals

The Marching Band program of the Greece Central School District provides every child with the opportunity to experience music in a whole new way. Through the acquisition of specific knowledge, skills and the development of appropriate disciplines, students can participate in a variety of performance situations that will contribute to a lifelong enjoyment of music.

We strive to Entertain our audiences and ourselves.

We strive to Perform with passion, intensity and precision.

We strive to Compete with confidence and class.

We strive to Positively Represent our school District and community.

We will uphold **high moral standards and convictions.**

We will show **respect and fairness to all individuals.**

We acknowledge and abide by the **necessary existence of a set of rules.**

We are committed to the **fulfillment of our potential** as both individuals and as a group.

Eligibility and Membership

Instrumental students in the Greece Central School District are eligible to become a member of the Greece Marching Band if they are currently a member of a school sponsored instrumental ensemble. Members of the auxiliary ensemble are not required to be part of an instrumental ensemble. Membership in the marching band is for students in grades 6-12 and is at the discretion of the marching band director. Students are encouraged to maintain a grade point average of 80% or better. Any student that is performing poorly in their academic areas may be asked to submit progress reports and, in worst case scenarios, suspended from the band pending improvement. A student dismissed from the marching band for any reason is not permitted to perform with the marching band for one year.

Attendance

Commitment to the marching band is essential for its success. Given the size of the ensemble and the number of schools the students come from, it would be highly detrimental to the program if a consistent percentage of students missed rehearsals and performances. Please make every effort to schedule medical appointments and other necessary obligations outside of the marching band schedule. If there is a circumstance where a student misses a number of rehearsals, a parent conference may be necessary to determine if involvement in the program is still a good idea.

Excused absences include, but are not limited to: a previously scheduled school *band* activity, illness that keeps you home from school, death in the family, “once in a lifetime event,” school activity such as PSAT, SAT, ACT, etc.

Unexcused absences are exactly that – unexcused. After two absences that are considered to be unexcused, the situation will be dealt with according to the procedures for discipline outlined in this handbook.

Work is not an acceptable excuse. Students that must work should inform their employer of their obligation to the band (give them a copy of your schedule). With ample advance notice, most employers are willing to schedule around your band commitments.

Being tardy to a rehearsal or call time for a performance is not acceptable. Two instances of being tardy will equal an unexcused absence. Excessive tardiness will be reviewed by the band directors and will be dealt with according to the procedures for discipline outlined in this handbook.

Procedure for missing rehearsals/performances:

Students must request permission *in writing* from the band director as soon as they are aware of their impending absence. An absence can be considered excused only if it is requested with a minimum of 24 hours notice. If it is not possible to talk directly to a band director, please call 585-966-4675 and leave a detailed message as to why you cannot attend the scheduled event. Please note that only excuses for emergency situations will be accepted after an event.

** It is likely that situations will arise where all students from one school or a specific performing ensemble from a school will have to miss because of a school *band* event that could not be avoided in the scheduling of district activities. If this happens, it is the responsibility of **each individual student** to request permission, in writing, from the marching band directors to miss the event with the proper notice as stated above. It cannot be assumed that the marching band directors will know and grant permission for such absences based on the fact the other students are missing for the same reason.

All situations involving attendance will be reviewed and evaluated on an individual basis by the directors.

Conduct and Discipline Policy

Marching band members are expected to follow ALL Greece Central School District policies regarding appropriate student behavior. Violation of the following will be handled through existing district policies:

Boy/girl relationships, class cut, destruction of school property, disrespect, insubordination, drugs, alcohol, fighting, gambling, knives or weapons, profanity, sexual harassment, smokeless tobacco, smoking and stealing.

In the event that existing school policy does not cover a negative student behavior, the band director and band staff will evaluate the behavior and appropriate disciplinary action will be determined based upon the severity of the incident and its impact on the band and its community. Based on the severity of the incident, appropriate school officials will be notified. Discipline may include, but is not limited to: an oral warning, a written warning, a parent meeting with the directors, student and/or parents, sitting out of one or more performances, exclusion from trips or dismissal from the band program.

Any negative behavior towards anyone that is associated with the band in any way will ***not be tolerated.***

If you have questions regarding the GSCD Code of Conduct or its Appeal Process, you may find it on the District homepage at www.greece.k12.ny.us.

Skills/Music Memorization

During each band season, a marching band staff member will assess students individually on their performance skills (i.e. music memorization and preparation, marching skills, dance or flag routines). It is imperative that students take responsibility and memorize their music/routines in a timely fashion. The marching band staff will help in any way that they can, however it is ultimately up to the student to make it happen. If a student is not prepared for a performance, he or she may be asked to sit out.

Performance Policy

Students may be asked to sit out of a performance for any of the following reasons:

1. Wearing the uniform in an inappropriate manner
2. The uniform looks unkempt, stained or wrinkled due to poor care
3. The uniform is not complete (missing parts such as gloves, appropriate black socks)
4. Long hair is not tucked into the band hat
5. Failure to remove all jewelry
6. Do not know music or marching techniques
7. Cannot stay in step for extended periods of time
8. Behavior infractions
9. Do not have instrument/equipment/prop

10. Chewing gum
11. Failure to complete and return all necessary forms, i.e. medical form, permission slip, rules form, etc.
12. Unprepared due to extended absence for any reason
13. Unexcused absences
14. Cannot perform the routine in the style and technique taught

Travel and Transportation

Students are expected to travel with the band to and from all activities where group transportation is provided. In the event that a parent finds it necessary to drive a student to or from a band event (where group transportation is provided) the following will apply:

1. Prior written notification **must be received in advance** of the event and approved by the director.
2. Students will **only be permitted to leave with their parent/legal guardian.**
3. Parents **must locate a band director** at the event prior to taking their child.

Travel and Performance Expectations

One of the bonuses of being a member of the Greece Marching Band revolves around travel opportunities. While many organizations dream about taking trips together, it is part of the nature of our activity that we will take trips to performances and other special opportunities.

There are additional expectations attached to group travel. When we accept an invitation to perform away from our home, we also assume the responsibilities of being ambassadors and representatives of our band, our school district and our community. Individual considerations become secondary to the entire organization's welfare. The term "good behavior" takes on a new meaning. Your best effort is considered "the norm" and you are asked to rise above it many times during our trips, displaying the ultimate in appropriate manners and personal deportment.

We will be judged not only by our intentions, but also by our behavior. There are no second chances at a first impression; therefore, we must pledge ourselves to emulating excellence, both in our musical and our social performances. The growth of our band will be based on the attitude generated by our band members. Our future bands are counting on you to create positive experiences outside of Rochester so that they will have the opportunity to do the same.

Should there be any need for disciplinary action, those in question will be sent home at the expense of the parent/legal guardian, and the problem will be addressed immediately following the trip.

Use of District-Owned Equipment

The District owns certain instruments and equipment used in the marching band. It is expected that any student that uses District-owned equipment will treat it as if it were his or her own. Normal wear and tear is expected and the District will pay for any large-scale maintenance that is attributed to the depreciation of the instrument. The marching band member is responsible for any maintenance that is required due to student misuse. All students that use District-owned equipment are required to complete an instrument rental contract that notes the condition in which the equipment is loaned out and returned.

Uniforms

In marching band, the objective of the uniform is to make every member look the same. Any deviation from the proper use of the uniform takes away from the effect that it is set out to create. Marching band uniforms are not the place to experiment with individuality. This includes the use of make-up, nail polish, etc. As the marching band program develops and grows, the uniform will be explained in great detail. All members and parents are expected to make every effort to conform to the standards that are set forth by the marching band staff.

Uniform/Equipment Inspection

Before each performance, uniforms will be inspected. Students will be evaluated on a pass or fail system. Two consecutive failed inspections will result in not being able to perform with the band until the uniform successfully passes inspection.

The following items will be checked:

1. Clean black shoes
2. Clean black socks that go above the ankle bone (no designs or patterns)
3. Clean band/color guard uniform worn properly
4. Band Members – Black T-shirt for under the jacket and dark mesh shorts for under the pants
5. Clean black gloves

6. No jewelry may be worn, whatsoever (including, but not limited to: piercing of any sort, watches, bracelets other than medical, rings)
7. Long hair properly pulled up under the hat – color guard according to their guidelines
8. Instrument, equipment and performance items in proper working order (e.g. NO broken reeds!)

Medical

Marching band is a physical activity. Students are strongly encouraged to have a physical examination before participation. All students must have a completed medical history and emergency medical release form on file before they will be permitted on band trips.

Students that have any medical conditions (e.g. heart, breathing or joint problems) that would restrict their ability to safely participate in all aspects of the marching band will be required to have a physical and provide a doctor's release before they can be included in rehearsals or performances.

Fundraising

The band personnel represent the finest students in the Greece Central School District. Therefore, we are always looking for avenues of possibility to encourage, challenge and reward our high achievers. They deserve the best and, with the help of a parent booster organization, we can offer our band members exciting opportunities to embellish their academic, social and musical training. This requires an additional source of revenue and it is generated through one or more fundraising programs. However, there is much more to the process than reaching the financial goal; the by-products of this effort may have more worth to all of us (students, parents, school and community) than the fiscal windfall it produces. During a fundraising event, a new sense of community awareness takes place as much of the attention is focused on the band. It would be impossible to buy the kind of positive publicity the students will receive as area band enthusiasts come forward to support our fundraising campaign.

While some parent groups may see such a project as a necessary evil, we approach it from an entirely different perspective. It creates a forum of mutual exchange to tell everyone the good and exciting news about our band, our students, and share a refreshing viewpoint concerning the youth of today who are destined to be the leaders of tomorrow. It is also a time we can "toot our own horns" and give others a chance to experience the pride that is such an important part of our band's success.

Yes, the fundraising effort needs to produce profitable results. *Yes, it is expected that all involved in the band come forward and contribute to this goal.* Yes, we all need to make sacrifices along the way. And most importantly, yes, it will be worth it many times over.

Band Parent Organization

The band booster organization is a support group for the Greece Marching Band and is comprised of parents of active and former members of the band. Its primary function is to help organize and implement programs that will supplement and enhance beyond what the school district can provide. Information about becoming an involved member of the parent booster organization is available through the band director or band booster president.

Student Contract Obligation

Before a student can participate in rehearsals they must have a completed student contract (otherwise known as Rules Form) on file. Students that do not return a signed contract will be dropped from the band roster. (This contract can be found at the end of this handbook.)

The Basic Marching Band Rules

- 1. Be on time**
- 2. Be Prepared**
- 3. Be Ready to Give Your Best, Always**

Marching Band Director: Mr. Jeffrey A. Hoffman
Phone: 585-966-4675
Email: greecemarchingband@hotmail.com

Director for the Arts: Dr. Louise Trucks

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Steven Achramovitch

All rules and regulations within this handbook are at the discretion of the marching band directors, in association of the Director of the Arts for the Greece Central School District.

All decisions made by the directors and/or coordinating District administration are final.

Created 2/28/05
Revised 3/2/07

Greece Central School District

Student Contract

We have read and clearly understand the Marching Band Handbook, as stated, and agree to abide by it completely. *We understand that failure to comply will result in the consequences listed within this handbook.*

Student (print name): _____

Student (signature): _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian (print name): _____

Parent/Guardian (signature): _____

Date: _____



I have read, understand, and give consent for _____

to be a member of the Greece Marching Band. I give permission for my son/daughter to make trips associated with the band throughout the year.

Parent/Guardian (signature): _____

Student (signature): _____

Date: _____

Greece Central School District

Medical Form

Student: _____

DOB: ____/____/____

Field Trip Location: ALL SEASON EVENTS

Field Trip Date(s): ALL SEASON EVENTS

While on the field trip, will your child require medication or any medical treatments?

_____ Yes

_____ No

If yes, describe below:

Does your child have a medical condition of which the teacher should be made aware?
[e.g., diabetes, asthma, seizure disorder, allergies (including bee stings), etc.]

_____ Yes

_____ No

If yes, describe below:

Date of last Tetanus Booster: _____

Family Physician: _____

Physician Phone Number: _____

Insurance: _____ Group #: _____ Medicaid #: _____

Phone: _____ (home) _____ (work) Mother

Phone: _____ (home) _____ (work) Father

Name of Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

In the event of an emergency, I give permission for the supervisor to take my child to a doctor or emergency room. I understand that I will be notified as soon as possible.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Greece Central School District

Registration Form

Please clearly print the following information:

Last: _____ First: _____ (circle one) male female
Address: _____ Date of Birth: ___/___/_____
City: _____ Zip: _____ T-Shirt Size: S M L XL 2XL
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email address: _____
School: _____ Grade: _____ Instrument: _____
Band Director: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Evening Phone: _____
Occupation: _____ Daytime Phone: _____
Email Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Evening Phone: _____
Occupation: _____ Daytime Phone: _____
Email Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Please list any obligations that might conflict with marching band:

<u>Obligation</u>	<u>Time Commitment</u>	<u>Agreement for Compromise</u>
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Please list any community contacts that you or your family might have that could benefit the marching band:

<u>Community Contact</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>How could it help?</u>
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