

SILVER JAGUAR BANDS
STUDENT HANDBOOK
2008-2009



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Fort Zumwalt West High School Band Student Handbook, 2008-2009

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I. Preface

This handbook describes the Fort Zumwalt West High School Band Program and its policies, rules, and regulations.

Band members are required to follow the policies, rules and regulations of the Fort Zumwalt School District and the Band Program. School rules and policies are enforced at all times that a member is directly or indirectly involved in any activity sponsored by or in the name of Fort Zumwalt West High School. School policy shall have priority over band policy in the event of any policy conflict.

The band directors shall have authority to suspend or amend any band policy at any time deemed necessary in the best interest of the overall band program.

To Band Members:

What is the High School Band Experience?

Unlike most other classes, band offers a wide variety of opportunities for the student. Band is one of the few classes where excellence is not only expected, but also essential to success. Imagine if an English teacher graded everyone in the class to the level of the weakest student! I'll bet you would not see heads on desks and homework going undone. In band, everyone **MUST** perform at the highest level of excellence or a performance will sound terrible. Even one person making a grade of 60% on a piece of music means 40% of the notes were played in error...not pleasant to hear!

In addition to teaching performance skills, band teaches the student to be an active, thinking person. For each note played, there are numerous considerations and instantaneous decisions to make. How loud or soft? How fast or slow? How does the note start? How does it end? Who else plays it? Am I in-tune? Nowhere else on campus is the demand for active thought any stronger.

Band also teaches life skills. Communication is the main component of music. The rehearsal and performance schedule of the band demands planning and time management...skills that will be valuable all through life. Goal setting, problem solving, peer interaction... all of these develop quickly as a part of the band experience.

The Band Program at Fort Zumwalt West High School has established itself as one of the finest in the area. Students here have had experiences of which others can only dream. Few other activities offer the travel opportunities, the chance to meet and interact with professionals in the field, and the satisfaction of knowing that your time, talent, and effort have paid off through high levels of achievement.

To Parents:

Welcome to one of the most exciting organizations available to your student! The band program at the Fort Zumwalt West High School offers many varied performance opportunities and gives members the chance to learn with each other and grow closer to one another. We strive to offer the best available instruction and the widest array of events for our members.

We strongly believe that there is a place for everyone in the band. We have hundreds of success stories. Many times, members who thought that they were not interested have become some of the most dedicated members once they have been a part of the experience. If you choose to participate you can reap a variety of rewards. In addition to all of this, you become a member of a very active, multifaceted family.

The band program at Fort Zumwalt West High School has established itself as one of the finest in the area, with performing ensembles in marching, symphonic, jazz, chamber music, color guard and drum line activities.

We hope that you share our excitement in creating these phenomenal opportunities for the students. We encourage parents to be active supporters of our efforts through booster club participation (the Silver Jaguar Band Booster Association or SJBBA), assistance in fundraising,

and through volunteer work such as chaperones, equipment crew, or as a parent leader. We also hope that you will be visible supporters of the students by attending as many performances as possible.

Parents are sometimes overwhelmed by the amount of information that high school band “throws” their way. This handbook should help orient you and your student to the many different aspects of the band program. Attendance at band booster meetings is advised. The band program produces a calendar kept on our website www.fzwestband.com; you’ll want to keep it nearby. Feel free to call any director or SJBBA officer for help and remember to come to the meetings to get the latest information about each event.

Rarely do you see such a large group of students assembled in one organization with such a strong focus on achieving excellence. Take the opportunity to get to know the instructors, other parents, and the members who make our success a reality.

On behalf of our high school band staff,

Dale Sharkey
Director of Bands, Fort Zumwalt West High School

II. Objectives of the Band Program

The Fort Zumwalt West High School Bands form an integral part of school life and are recognized as an all-school activity. Band is one of the largest and most active voluntary student organizations and its members form an active group. The primary objectives of the band program are:

Cultural - To foster the continued development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of the best in music.

Educational -To develop interested and discriminating listeners, provide a well-rounded musical education and prepare members for musical activities beyond high school.

Service -To lend color and atmosphere to certain school and community affairs while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of Fort Zumwalt West High School at all appearances.

Citizenship -To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of the group, to enhance the member's ability to interact with others in a positive manner, and to develop the ability to function as a responsible member of the community.

Recreational - To provide all members with the opportunity for worthy use of leisure time, an emotional outlet, and good social experiences.

III. Band Program

a. Band Program Options

Concert bands:

- Students may enroll in band as a class, which meets during the normal school day. These classes are referred to as Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble.
- All students enrolled in band as a class are also members of the Fall Pep Band and Parade Band.

Marching Band:

- Fall Pep Band and Parade Band
 - It is comprised of all students who are enrolled in band (see above), both JV and Varsity
- Varsity Band
 - Varsity Band is a competitive marching show band. Students audition for membership.
- Junior Varsity (JV) Band
 - Junior Varsity Band is a marching band. Students audition for membership.

Jazz Ensembles:

- Students may elect to enroll in Jazz Band as a class, which meets during the normal school day. Freshmen and Sophomores in Jazz Band must be enrolled in a concert band. Membership is by audition and instructor consent ONLY.
- High School Band members may participate in Jazz Lab Band as an after school activity. This is also auditioned.

Winter Drum Line:

- Concert Band members may audition for membership in Winter Drum Line.

Guard:

- Membership in Varsity Band may be obtained by auditioning for and making Color Guard. This group meets after school during marching season.
- Guard members may also audition for Winter Guard. It meets extra-curricularly during winter season.

b. Concert Band

CONCERT SEASON

Because the marching band performs so often in public, concert season seems “forgotten”. This is far from being true. Concert season is the time when the majority of musical training takes place. Each band receives a performance rating during the MSHSAA large ensemble contest, which is the basis for evaluating the entire band program. Each band member will be placed in one or more band classes based on the number of members applying and the applicant’s playing ability. Tryouts are held in late spring and band selections are announced in at that time to facilitate the students’ class schedules. At least three concerts are presented during the year and are open to the public. These are wonderful, well-attended concerts and you will hear challenging music. This is a great time to invite the grandparents, aunts and uncles and let them hear “what else the Silver Jaguar Bands can do”.

MSHSAA STATE LARGE ENSEMBLE CONTEST

The MSHSAA State Large Ensemble Contests are held in March. The concert bands travel to area high schools where they perform and are critiqued and scored by adjudicators. Each band performs their concert music followed by the sight-reading portion of the contest. The band is given music they (or the directors) have never seen or heard and have approximately 6 minutes to talk their way through the piece. They then receive a “one-time-shot” at their performance. Many do not understand that MSHSAA concert contests are open to the public. Even though performance times are sometimes inconvenient, parents are encouraged to come hear and cheer on the bands.

BAND TRIPS

The band may take a short overnight trip in the spring to a concert band festival. In the past, we have gone to MSU in Springfield for their band festival. Varsity Band has taken a short overnight trip in the past, as well. It usually involves going to a festival on the other side of the state, either in Warrensburg, Kansas City, or Springfield.

In addition, every two years, the band takes a “major” trip. In years past, this trip has been to Orlando, Florida (2001, 2005), Calgary, Canada (2003) and Washington D.C (2007). The next trip is scheduled to take place in 2008-2009 school year, pending approval by the Fort Zumwalt School Board. We are planning to go to Southern California for this trip, during the second week of June, 2009.

The primary objective of this trip is to provide a “world class” venue in which the bands can perform for a much wider audience than would normally see and hear our band. Costs for the trip vary. A payment schedule will be announced. As with all Fort Zumwalt West High School Band trips, plenty of adult supervision is available. Student conduct rules are strictly enforced

and those not complying will be sent home at their parent's expense. You will receive complete details, which include cost, locations, times, and phone numbers prior to departure.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CONTEST

These contests are sponsored by the MSHSAA. They give the band member and director a good idea of how each member is progressing musically. District Solo and Ensemble contest is usually held in March. Students receiving a Superior Rating at the District Contest qualify for the State Solo and Ensemble Contest in April/May. Students will be given plenty of time to prepare a solo or ensemble performance. All band members are strongly encouraged to participate.

ALL-DISTRICT AND ALL-STATE HONORS BANDS

Individual band members are strongly encouraged to tryout for these bands. Pre-selected tryout music is available to all students. The Metro 8 Honors Band (Concert and Jazz) tryouts are held in late October. If a student is selected for the district band, they are then eligible to audition for Missouri All-State Ensembles (Concert, Jazz or Orchestra). These tryouts occur in December. Band members who become All-State musicians are highly praised and honored. These students assemble at the Tan-Tar-A Resort at the Lake of the Ozarks in January to perform at the Missouri Music Educators Association convention. The bands and orchestras made up of these wonderful musicians represent the top high school band members in the state of Missouri. Advancing to All-State is the highest individual honor a high school musician can achieve.

BAND BANQUET

The Silver Jaguar Band holds an annual awards banquet in the spring. The purpose of the banquet is to reflect upon the year's accomplishments, to honor those who have realized special achievements, and to recognize graduating seniors for their years of service to the band. Outstanding achievement awards are also presented at the banquet as well. We strive to make the banquet a special evening for everyone and the format changes slightly from year to year. This special evening brings the band together one last time to review the year and wish the seniors a fond farewell. This event is usually held in the FZWHS Commons, and is considered a formal evening. Have your band member ask the older students on dress attire if you are uncertain on such details. Some students bring dates, but many prefer to come with their group of friends. A fee is collected to cover the cost of the dinner.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons give the student a chance to progress at an accelerated rate towards the mastery of his/her instrument. The private instructor is able to work with the student on an individual level, gearing the lessons to fit the specific needs of the performer. The student is able to hear the improvement in playing almost immediately, unlike the full band setting where players can "hide" or cover their areas of inexperience by allowing stronger players to carry the weight of the section. Students with the benefits of private lessons have a history of becoming top players in the program (and sometimes become private lesson instructors themselves while in college). The cost per lesson varies with the instructor, as does the location. Some teach at home, others at area music stores, and some at our local universities or colleges. It is well worth the time and effort of scheduling lessons if the student can achieve higher levels of achievement in his or her musical endeavors.

GRADUATION PERFORMANCES

All band members will be expected to perform for these ceremonies (except Graduating Seniors). The ceremony is held at the St. Charles Family Arena. Transportation is provided.

SPRING AUDITION

The spring semester is a very busy time for all band members. Tryouts for the Varsity and JV Bands, Concert Bands, drum majors, Jazz Band, color guard and drum line are all held during this time. Selection of section leaders and band officers also takes place. Your band member will be able to get information from the directors if they choose to tryout for any of these positions.

c. Marching Band – Fall Pep and Parade Band (Varsity Football Support Band)

DESCRIPTION

This is an all-encompassing marching band consisting of the members of the Varsity Band and JV Band. They will perform on the field during pre-game ceremonies and in the stands for all home varsity football games.

GOALS

The Fall Pep and Parade Band (FPPB) will provide a means for uniting members of the Fort Zumwalt West High School Band Program from the 9th through 12th Grades. The FPPB will provide an entertainment contrast from that of the state-of-the-art and contemporary Varsity Marching Band. The FPPB will achieve an entertainment contrast by performing a pre-game program that will focus on enhancing school spirit and patriotism.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the FPPB will include all members of the Varsity and JV Bands.

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals for the FPPB will take place at a variety of times and places, but are not limited to the following:

- School Band Class: Students will rehearse various musical and visual techniques during their band class that meets during the school day.
- Dress Rehearsal: A Dress Rehearsal may take place after school at the Dave Hoekel Stadium on selected dates of a home varsity football game.
- A detailed calendar with all rehearsal and performance dates and times will be provided to each member in the FPPB as well as posted on the internet at www.fzwband.net.

PERFORMANCES

The FPPB will perform in a variety of situations:

- Pre-game Show: The FPPB will perform a Pre-game show at all home varsity football games. It will be comprised of popular and patriotic music.

- Varsity Pep Band: The FPPB will play in the stands at all varsity home football games.
- Parades: The FPPB will march in a variety of community appearances and parades including but not limited to the FZWHS Homecoming Parade and O’Fallon Independence Day Parade.

COSTS

Each FPPB member’s costs and fees are based on but not limited to the following:

- Uniform Fees: Each member purchases their uniform shoes, uniform T-shirt, casual uniform polo shirt and gloves. These items will be ordered as a group to achieve the lowest possible discount pricing to each member.
- “Fair Share”: The members are fed at competition, in between the Homecoming Parade and Game and given a snack during football games. The cost per member is included in “Fair Share” fees.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

FPPB members receive a grade on their report cards and their permanent transcript in conjunction with the requirements of the band class (i.e. Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band). Grades fall under the guidelines of the Fort Zumwalt School Board approved curriculum.

d. Marching Band – Varsity Band

DESCRIPTION

Varsity Band is a state-of-the-art competitive marching band. It explores the latest trends in competitive marching band. The Varsity Band is a co-curricular activity for band members at Fort Zumwalt West High School.

GOALS

Varsity Band provides an outlet for members interested in the realm of state-of-the-art design, performance, social, and competitive opportunities.

MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

Membership in this ensemble is by an audition. All band members must earn membership based on their performance ability – both musically and visually. All students in band, except for those playing a fall sport, or on the cheerleading or pom pon squad will be in Varsity Band.

SECTIONS

Horn Line/Wind Section

The Varsity Band Horn line is selected following the musical and visual audition that takes place in conjunction with the Spring Audition Camp.

Color Guard

The color guard is an auxiliary group that enhances the visual performance of the marching band. Selection is based on tryouts in the spring. The group has their own specially trained instructors

and may work with rifles, sabers, and flags. You'll find many interesting guards at various contests and be amazed at some of the things they can do. Members of the Color Guard who wish to be in band must audition for and be accepted in one of our two concert bands.

Drum Line/Percussion

The percussion section of the Varsity Band consists of:

- Field Battery Instruments (Snare, Tenor Drums{Quints}, Bass Drums and Crash Cymbals)
- Front Ensemble or "the Pit" (Grounded Percussion Instruments, Mallet Percussion, Timpani, Electronics, etc.). The percussion section is selected based on performance at the May Audition Camp as well as the musical audition.

DRUM MAJOR

Members are eligible to audition for Drum Major after completion of a full season in the Varsity Band. Drum Majors audition in areas that demonstrate their skills in leadership, conducting, maturity, musicianship and marching ability. A clinic is held sometime early in second semester to begin preparing the interested students, followed by an audition later in the spring. Drum Majors must attend a summer Drum Major Camp.

REHEARSALS

Since the Varsity Band is a co-curricular activity, its rehearsal schedule extends outside of the typical school day. Rehearsals are as follows, but not limited to:

- Audition Camp: 3 days, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, April 28 & 30, with make-up auditions on May 1, from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Percussion and Color Guard will have auditions on May 1 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM.
- Summer Mini Camp: 3 days, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM, July 1 - 3.
- Varsity Band Camp: This will be in two parts. The first week is at FZWHS from July 28 – 31. The second will be held at an area group camp from August 3–9 (this will be an "away" camp).
- School Day rehearsals: 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM rehearsal on school days. Tuesday evenings from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM. Attendance at these rehearsals is mandatory, and is a part of your grade. Missing a rehearsal for any reason is considered the same as skipping class.
- Sectional Rehearsal: An additional rehearsal per week devoted to a particular section (i.e. Percussion, Guard, Winds, etc.) may be called by a director or section leader, with a director's permission.
- Extra Rehearsals: Typically, there may be a Saturday rehearsal in the months of September and/or October. Occasionally an evening rehearsal is substituted for an after school rehearsal.
- A Detailed calendar with all rehearsal dates and times will be provided to each student as well as being posted on the internet at www.fzwband.net.

VARSAITY BAND CAMP

The end of July and beginning of August marks the start of our busy Varsity marching season. Attendance at this camp is mandatory so plan vacations accordingly. Speak to the directors with any concerns. The summer band camp will consist of the most concentrated rehearsal time for

the entire season. During this time, we build fundamental skills and teach a large amount of the competitive marching show. As you can imagine, this puts important emphasis on this camp.

We will hold Band Camp at school on July 28 - 31. It will run from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM). The morning portion of this camp will be outside to avoid the heat of the day. The afternoon sessions will be held inside to work on music.

We will go away for the second week of Band Camp. The dates will be August 3 – 9. Students should arrive at camp during the late afternoon of Sunday, August 3, and will be dismissed for pick up in the late morning on Saturday, August 9, after we are cleared by the camp staff to leave following clean-up.

Comfortable tennis shoes, light colored clothes, and a cap are the best type of attire. It also will be helpful to have a small water jug, sunscreen, and sunglasses. Have your band member check with their section leaders for other good advice. Some of the things happening at this camp will include:

- Learning show music
- Learning drill
- Learning “stand tunes” (music for football games and pep rallies)
- Lots & lots of bonding between old and new band members.

“SCHOOL DAY” REHEARSALS

Once school starts, the practice schedule during marching season can be rather hectic. It will greatly aid your student to mark your calendar accordingly. The majority of the school day practices occur from 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM, and Tuesday evenings from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM. Students are required to attend ALL of these rehearsals, as a portion of their grade. Absences are detrimental to the entire band. Students will be given a schedule of these rehearsals before the start of the school year. There will be a few days off through the season, so please plan accordingly to schedule various appointments on these days ONLY!

Students with more than one absence may be held out of a performance. This will be done at the discretion of the band director.

SECTIONALS

An additional rehearsal per week devoted to just the members particular section (i.e. Percussion, Guard, Horn line, etc.).

EXTRA REHEARSALS

Typically, there are very few instances when an extra rehearsal is needed, however, it does occur. Due to the nature of the weather between August and early November, anything can happen, and we may need to call a rehearsal out of necessity. All members should be flexible to this occurring.

PERFORMANCES

The Varsity Band performs at halftime of all home varsity football games. The Varsity Band also performs at all competitive contests and festivals; between four and six contests per season.

Varsity Band also performs various community support appearances based on need and accessibility.

VARSITY FOOTBALL GAMES

Fridays in the fall semester become pretty fast paced for the Varsity Band. The members may have a “dress-rehearsal” after school is dismissed. Following the dinner break, the members will have time to change into uniform and make necessary adjustments prior to the designated report time in the Band Room. Warm-ups and inspections will take place prior to marching to ‘Hoekel Stadium’. Students are dismissed as soon as possible after each game. Each section will be responsible for double-checking that any area of the school we have been in is cleaned up after one game each. If you need to pick up your non-driving band member, you can wait in the band front parking lot, but beware, there are many cars doing just the same thing. Car-pooling with other parents/students might be a good alternative to this problem.

CONTESTS

Each year the directors choose locations to fit our busy fall schedule. You will know in advance so that you can plan accordingly. Destinations that we are familiar with are Farmington H.S., Washington H.S., Lafayette H.S., Francis Howell H.S. and Mizzou. Some parents choose to follow the buses to these contests. A calendar with the festivals listed will be provided.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Uniform Accessories: Each Horn Line and Color Guard student purchases their uniform shoes, uniform T-shirt, casual uniform polo shirt and gloves. Percussion students purchase the same items, except for gloves. These items are ordered as a group to achieve the lowest possible discount pricing to each student.

Band Camp Fee: During camp we must pay for various items, such as food, camp rental, a nurse, equipment, etc.

“Fair Share” Fee: The costs of a marching band show exceed what the school district is able to provide. We believe that all students can be able to achieve paying for their fair share of this additional cost through various fundraising opportunities that we provide. These costs include:

Trip Food: The members are fed at least one meal at all marching contests.

Clinicians: We hire additional staff during summer camp to maximize the potential of each student’s participation.

Show Creation: The music, choreography and design of a show specifically created for our band.

Visual Effects: A major portion of our show is visual effect, from color guard equipment (flags) and costumes to props and other visual effects.

Festivals: We pay for additional festivals (2 or 3), including entry fees and transportation.

Color Guard Fees: Because of the continual evolution of the Color Guard program, it is difficult to foresee exact costs to guard members. However, typical costs include: Summer Instruction Fee, Performance Shoes, and Specialized Equipment.

Percussion Fees: Because of the specialized nature of percussion, **there will be additional costs associated with playing percussion instruments.** This is to help cover the cost of mallets, drumheads and other percussion items. The exact cost per member will be determined prior to summer rehearsals and camps.

VARSITY BAND LETTERS

Students in Varsity Band may earn a “letter” for participation in Varsity Band. Students earn points towards this letter based on their participation and good standing in band. All members will earn a Varsity Letter, except freshman members, who will earn a freshman letter. These “letters” are awarded at the end of the school year.

e. Marching Band - Junior Varsity Band

DESCRIPTION

Junior Varsity Band is the marching band component of the Symphonic Band class. The Junior Varsity Band is a co-curricular activity for band members at Fort Zumwalt West High School.

GOALS

The purpose of JV Band is to give all band members a glimpse into the heritage of school bands by providing them with a marching band experience. In addition to this, it helps students establish a sense of community service and pride through exposing the area to their musical talents.

MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

Membership is required in this co-curricular ensemble and an audition is required. All band members must earn membership based on their performance ability – both musically and visually.

SUMMER MINI BAND CAMP

All JV Band members must attend Summer Mini Band Camp. During this time, we build fundamental skills, both marching and musical in nature. As you can imagine, this puts important emphasis on this camp.

We will hold camp at FZWHS this year. It will run for four days, July 1 – 3, from 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM.

Comfortable tennis shoes, light colored clothes, and a cap are the best type of attire. It also will be helpful to have a small water jug, sunscreen, and sunglasses. Have your band member check with their section leaders for other good advice. Some of the things happening at this camp may include:

- Learning marching fundamentals
- Uniform fitting & assignment
- Football program pictures
- Learning “stand tunes” (music for football games and pep rallies)
- Collection of camp fees

Lots & lots of bonding between old and new band members.

FALL ATHLETE PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

Due to the time demands of a student who is involved in another fall sport, cheerleading or dance team, there is a lesser demand placed on them in terms of their band commitment. These students are still required to participate in the FZWHS Homecoming Parade and Game OR the parade competition. However, they are only required to attend one of the home varsity football games, in addition to Homecoming. Many students really enjoy the experience of playing at these games, and choose to attend all of them. In that case, they will earn full credit towards a freshman or JV letter, rather than partial credit.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

FEES - Each Junior Varsity member's costs and fees are based on but not limited to the following:

Uniform Accessories: Each Horn line student purchases their uniform shoes, uniform T-shirt, casual uniform polo shirt and gloves. Percussion students purchase the same items, except for gloves. These items are ordered as a group to achieve the lowest possible discount pricing to each student.

Food and Snacks: The members are fed one meal at the parade competition and between the Homecoming Parade and Homecoming Game. In addition, students are given snacks on many occasions, including Home Varsity Football Games.

Technical Fee: Each student will pay a fee that in turn will help offset the cost of adjunct and technical staff.

Percussion Fees: Because of the specialized nature of marching band percussion, there will be additional costs associated with playing percussion instruments. This is to help cover the cost of mallets, drumheads and other percussion items. The exact cost per member will be determined before the fall semester begins.

Students Who Miss Band Camp: Even if a student does not attend JV/Freshman Band Camp, they must still pay a portion of the fees – their “fair share.” This is to cover the expense of above mentioned items.

JUNIOR VARSITY BAND LETTERS

Students in JV Band may earn a “letter” for participation in JV Band. Students earn points towards this letter based on their participation and good standing in band. All members will earn a Junior Varsity Letter, except freshman members, who will earn a freshman letter (graduation year numerals). These “letters” are awarded at the end of the school year.

f. All Marching Band Members

PREVIEW NIGHT

This event, similar to a Varsity football game, is scheduled each year prior to the first football game. It will be held at Dave Hoekel Stadium per the band calendar. The Fall Parade and Pep Band will perform at this game. In addition, Varsity Band will give a “preview” of their fall show.

SPRING CLINIC AND AUDITIONS

There are two purposes to the Spring Clinic and Auditions. The first is to introduce incoming prospective members to marching techniques, and reinforce those skills in returning members. The second purpose is to evaluate the level of all students, both in marching and playing ability, and place students in an appropriate concert season ensemble. The clinic will be held April 28 & 30 from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM. Make up auditions will be held on May 1 from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Percussion and Color Guard will go from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM on all three days (April 28, 30 & May 1). If you anticipate any problems with attendance, please contact one of the directors.

PARADE BAND REHEARSALS

Typically, there may be two instances when ALL marching band members, Varsity and JV Band members (including fall athletes, cheerleaders and dance team members) will have after school parade rehearsals. These rehearsals are for the purpose of coordinating the parade band for the Homecoming Parade and our parade competition.

PERFORMANCES

The combined Varsity and JV Bands, known as the Fall Pep and Parade Band (FPPB) will perform during all home varsity football games. They will also perform in the FZWHS Homecoming Parade and one parade competition. This band also performs various community support appearances based on need and accessibility.

VARSITY FOOTBALL GAMES

Fridays in the fall semester become pretty fast paced for the band. The members are given a “call time” to change into uniform and make necessary adjustments prior to the designated report time in the Warm-up areas. Warm-ups and inspections will take place prior to marching to Dave Hoekel Stadium. Students are dismissed as soon as possible after each game. Each section will be responsible for double-checking that any area of the school we have been in is cleaned up after one game each. If you need to pick up your non-driving band member, you can wait in the parking lot, but be aware, there are many cars doing just the same thing. Car-pooling with other parents/students might be a good alternative to this problem.

SPECIAL EVENTS

From time to time, special events may arise in addition to school ball games, contests, parades, concerts, and other such appearances. Participation in special events not previously scheduled

will be at the discretion of the band director and school officials. The band is not able to accept all invitations for obvious reasons and is not able to do instant performances.

UNIFORMS

FZWHS band uniforms will be issued to band members. We have a large stock of uniforms. Uniforms are inventoried, repaired, distributed, and maintained by the Band Boosters. There are several personal accessory items that each marching band member is responsible for purchasing. For marching band, these include gloves, shoes and socks. All members (excluding color guard) will wear the same 'member' T-shirt under their uniform at all times. Finally, all band students must purchase a band polo shirt used on various occasions during the year, including two pep rallies and Winter Pep Band.

SPIRITWEAR

Spirit wear is available for parents and other family members. We have many different types of clothing items that are available throughout the fall season. You will have opportunities to view the products for sale at the band parent meetings, and at some football games. It is a great way to show your support for the band.

g. Jazz Ensemble:

The Silver Jaguar Jazz Ensemble meets during the school day. Admission to this group is based on auditions. Members are limited to grades 10 – 12 (9th grade under special circumstances). Members must be concurrently enrolled in Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble, unless they have already been a member of either concert band for two years. The jazz band performs at various events in the area and participates in jazz festivals. Concerts are held at least three times during the school year.

h. Winter Guard:

Winter guard performs a routine to recorded music. Winter Guard competes in the Mid-Continent Color Guard Association (MCCGA) circuit. These competitions are from January – early April. This activity culminates with MCCGA Championships, usually held in Springfield, Missouri.

i. Winter Drumline:

Winter drumline performs a routine developed specifically designed for the drumline activity. Winter Drumline competes in the Mid-Continent Color Guard Association (MCCGA) circuit. These competitions are from January – early April. This activity culminates with MCCGA Championships, usually held in Springfield, Missouri.

j. Jazz Lab Band:

The Silver Jaguar Jazz Lab Band meets outside the school day, beginning sometime after the conclusion of marching band season. Admission to this group is based on auditions. Members must be concurrently enrolled in a band class, unless exempted by the director. The jazz lab band typically performs at one concert at the end of the year. This group is only formed when there is enough student interest to do so. Attendance and commitment is a key in the success of this group.

k. Winter Pep Band:

The Winter Pep Band meets outside the school day, beginning sometime after the conclusion of marching band season. This band typically performs at an approximate total of ten (10) Home Varsity Boys AND Girls Basketball games. Every student in band is required to attend at least two (2) of these games. Students may choose to attend more, and will receive extra credit towards their band letter for doing so.

IV. Procedures (How we do what we do)

Buses

- a) Loading – Buses are loaded when the band director says to do so. Do not load a bus before that time.
- b) Bus Assignments
 - a. Band members are assigned buses based on their section in the band.
 - b. Stay seated when requested to do so and when buses are in motion.
- c) Chaperones
 - a. Chaperones ride on buses.
 - b. Band members are expected to respond appropriately to directions given by chaperones.
- d) Unloading – Band members are not to unload off a bus until directed to do so. Before being directed to unload, either a director or lead chaperone will give directions to the group.

Rehearsals

- a) Upon entering band rooms, take your assigned seat with necessary instruments, music, and equipment
- b) For an outdoor rehearsal, get to your assigned spot quickly and be ready to begin. Once you arrive at the rehearsal spot you should be at a silent ready position, facing where the director/instructor will be, regardless of whether or not he or she has actually shown up yet!
- c) Cease talking and making noise when the director steps in front of the ensemble. This includes playing your instrument. It is very difficult to get your attention when people are making sounds.
- d) Warm-up should take place per instructions of the director/instructor.
- e) Return instruments, music, and equipment to storage upon dismissal by the director. Each member should store his or her own items.

Football Games

- a) Band assembly times will vary with the football schedule, and will be announced prior to the day of the game.
- b) Members will change into FULL uniform in a facility on campus. Once dressed in uniform, all members will remain in FULL uniform for the entire event. NEVER wear a “partial” uniform, unless instructed by the directors.
- c) Instrument cases will not be needed, except in the event of inclement weather.
- d) All instruments and uniform parts should be CLEAN and in good condition. Instruments should be cleaned regularly to remove the excess dirt that accumulates when playing outdoors.
- e) No band member is permitted to leave the organization in advance of group dismissal at any time, unless excused by the director PRIOR TO THE PERFORMANCE.
- f) While seated in the stands, only band members are allowed in the ranks.

- g) The band will always sit in assigned seats and sections, in the South end zone bleachers. Non-band members are not allowed in this area. The students are performing during the entire game, and they must be able to give their undivided attention to the Directors and Drum Majors.
- h) Attention should be given to the Band Directors and Drum Majors when they are standing in front of the band.
- i) We play only as a group in the stands. Solo performance is strictly prohibited.
- j) No inappropriate cheers. Organized cheers, planned ahead of time, or done with the cheerleaders are permitted.
- k) Members should avoid jumping around in the stands in order to avoid damage to the uniforms and instruments.
- l) In order to move from place to place in a rapid manner, we must be able to give instructions to the group in an organized manner. Everyone will give full attention to staff members, chaperones, or to the Drum Majors when instructions are being given.
- m) Each section will take turns staying after a football game or marching festival to be the clean-up crew. Students will be notified in advance when their section is to take their turn. If a student does not stay to do this, their grade will be docked.
- n) Members will ride buses back to FZWHS following any away performance (except members who have been released to their parents, with Director approval) and will be dismissed after the all uniforms and equipment have been put away properly.
- o) Members are personally responsible for loading and unloading their own equipment from trucks and buses. Designated loading crews will help with this process

V. Policies, Rules, Regulations

OBSERVANCE OF POLICIES, RULES, REGULATIONS (POLICIES)

- a) Band members are expected to behave properly at all times.
- b) Misbehavior reflects poorly on the band, school, and community.
- c) Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of the Policies of the FZ School District and the Band Program by their proper behavior.
- d) Professed ignorance of Policies will not be accepted as an excuse for misbehavior.
- e) Every effort is made to provide Policies, however, directors and chaperones may find it necessary to add to or alter Policies. These may or may not be in writing as the situation allows.
- f) Policies and directions delivered verbally should be considered the same as a written Policy.

ATTENDANCE & ABSENCES

School Attendance: Students may be temporarily excused from school as stated in the FZ School District Student Policies.

Absences From Required Rehearsals Or Performances

- a) Attendance is mandatory for all scheduled rehearsals and performances.
- b) The following rules will govern authorized absences:
 - a. Personal illness or Family Emergency
 - i. The appropriate band director should be notified prior to the required rehearsal or performance.

- ii. A written verification from the school attendance office is needed upon return to school.
 - b. Conflicts with other school activities.
 - i. Notify your band director well in advance (one week prior) of the date of conflict.
 - ii. Written verification is needed to describe the problem and resolution.
 - c. Religious observance - The appropriate band director should be notified prior (one week minimum) to the required rehearsal or performance.
 - d. An absence for any other reason will be considered unauthorized.
- c) Consequences of unauthorized absences
 - a. An unauthorized absence from a performance will result in a reduction of one letter grade for marching season, and two letter grades for all other performances. This is in accordance with the FZ School District's policies regarding performances.
 - b. An unauthorized absence from a rehearsal will result in the lowering of a student's grade by 1/3 of a letter grade, thus three absences from rehearsal will equal a deduction of one letter grade.
 - c. Process:
 - i. First absence: Student and Director conference and lowering of grade.
 - ii. Second absence: Student is placed on probationary status by Directors and lowering of grade. At this point, the student may be assigned a detention.
 - iii. Third absence: Student may lose his/her position in the performing group and become an alternate performer to the main performing group. This will also result in the lowering of a letter grade. If the student is already an alternate and obtains more than the allowed number of absences, he/she may be removed from the extra-curricular activity. If an alternate is not available at the time the student is removed from the performing group, the student will not perform in two consecutive performances. Thereafter, the student may return to his/her position. This procedure is followed so that the performance ability of the group is not further jeopardized. However, the student's grade may be affected, according to school board policy. Leadership positions or "chairs" will be forfeited.
 - d. Tardy: marching band
 - i. A student will be deemed tardy if he/she is not in his/her assigned position when roll is taken. Roll will be taken as soon as set is called by the instructor directing the daily stretch. On regular after school rehearsals, the start time is 2:30 p.m. For extra rehearsals, the start time given will be the time used for roll call.
 - ii. Students will be given the time from 2:15 until 2:30 to attend any meeting or conferences with teachers. Students will only be admitted to rehearsal after that time with a pass from that teacher/sponsor. All instances when a student knows he/she may be longer than this time must be cleared with a director prior to the occurrence.
 - iii. Tardies will be counted until the member reaches three unauthorized tardies at which time the three tardies will constitute one unauthorized absence. The policy for Absences from Rehearsals and Performances will be followed.

BAND ROOM(S), PRACTICE FACILITIES AND REHEARSALS

- a) Access to band rooms, practice facilities, and rehearsals is limited to band members unless authorized by a director.
- b) Food or drink is not permitted in band rooms, practice facilities, and rehearsals unless authorized by a director.
- c) Instrument storage lockers and rooms
 - a. Members are assigned a specific spot for storage of instruments/accessories. Use the spot assigned to you.
 - b. These spots must be kept clean and clear of personal items. Use your school assigned lockers for these other items.
- d) Personal items
 - a. The FZ School District and the band are not responsible for personal items left in the band room or on campuses. Keep valuables (purses, wallets. Etc.) locked in your school locker.
 - b. Store personally owned instruments in instrument lockers or rooms.
- e) Practice
 - a. Band members may practice in the band room(s) and practice facilities before and after school, or during lunch.
 - b. Directors will issue permission for practice during lunch.
 - c. Directors will issue permission for use of practice rooms.
 - d. Practice rooms are for personal or ensemble practice only.
- f) Rehearsals
 - a. Band members are required to be prepared for rehearsals including having required equipment and supplies. The requirements for various bands, ensembles, and marching bands will vary.

DISMISSAL

- a) Directors are responsible for band members until events are completed.
- b) Remain with the band or ensemble until dismissed following all events.
- c) If a time is given as the ending of an event, that is when the actual rehearsal or event will end. The students will then be expected to properly clean up and put away equipment. This process will normally take a few minutes, so parents should not expect their child to be immediately available to leave.
- d) Band members and their parents should arrange for transportation prior to dismissal from events. Members may choose to notify parents that events are completed using personal phones or pay phones.
- e) Parents may request to provide transportation for their child after the conclusion of performances.
 - a. Such requests must be presented in writing prior to departure from FZWHS before the event.
 - b. If a student is picked up by a parent at the conclusion of an away performance, a director or lead chaperone must witness that event. This is for everyone's protection.

ELIGIBILITY

- a) All members must be eligible to participate according to guidelines set by FZ School District and the Missouri High School Activities Association.

- b) Eligibility is defined as showing progress toward graduation. This includes having completed at least 2.5 credits the previous semester.
- c) Students who do not satisfy this requirement, may still be registered in band class, but may not participate in any interscholastic activities. This includes all festivals and contests. However, students may still perform in school concerts, as these are not interscholastic performances.

HAZING, INITIATION

Hazing or initiating is prohibited.

- a) Hazing is defined as the act of be-littleing or making fun of someone who is a freshman or rookie.
- b) The FZWHS Bands strive to make the band room a place where all band students are welcome, regardless of their grade level.
- c) Initiation is a form of hazing. There are no initiations in the FZWHS Band Department. Students earn their spot by audition only.

INTERNET ETIQUETTE

There are an abundance of newsgroups and bulletin boards visited by band members and parents. These sites are a great way to hear about what bands are doing around the state and country.

- a) Though entertaining, these places are littered with posts, which reflect poorly on individuals and organizations. It's obvious that many people either don't realize or don't care that their personal thoughts, when subjective or inflammatory, reflect on their entire group.
- b) Unfortunately, we've had incidents where someone from our school posted something they thought innocent, but it upset others when taken a certain way and drew criticism. Even when not intended, this is embarrassing.
- c) Policy: Please do not post comments on band related internet bulletin boards.
 - a. The safest way to avoid criticism or scrutiny is NOT to post. We want to continue our first-class reputation, and posting comments about other bands, drumlines or guards detracts from this good reputation.
 - b. This policy applies to members and parents.

MEDICATIONS ON TRIPS

- a) Students will be issued medical information forms that must be returned before participating in band camps or activities.
- b) Any medication needed while on trips or at camps should be turned in with specific directions included.

SCHOOL OWNED PROPERTY

- a) All property
 - a. Band members must properly care for school owned property.
 - b. Band members may be financially responsible to repair or replace school owned property, which is not properly cared for.
- b) Instruments and related equipment
 - a. A user fee per semester may be required for use of some school owned instruments (percussion included).

- b. If school owned property appears to require repair, notify a director prior to attempting to repair or hire such repair.
- c) Uniforms
 - a. Never wear the uniform to events other than those designated by the director. Always wear the entire uniform with all accessories.
 - b. Never wear any jewelry (including watches) or make-up while in uniform.
 - c. You are responsible for the EXACT NUMBERED UNIFORM ITEM that you receive.

TRIPS

Bands take trips for contests and performances. All persons associated with the band on these trips are responsible to adhere to school district policies and our code of conduct.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- a) As members of the Fort Zumwalt West High School Band Department you will be highly visible, not only as a musical organization, but as representatives of our school, community, and state. That responsibility and opportunity carries with it an obligation to project and maintain the absolute highest moral and musical integrity. Many of those who come into contact with us as we perform and travel will form their opinions of Fort Zumwalt based upon the impressions we create, both in close proximity and from a distance. Therefore, the rules of the Fort Zumwalt School District and individual campus program rules and regulations apply at all times. As in any situation, good judgment must always prevail.
- b) All rules and expectations are set forth to help you enjoy your trips to the fullest and to avoid the embarrassment and inconvenience which momentary lapses in judgment may bring about. It is the goal of the Fort Zumwalt West High School Band Program, that upon our return home, you will have acquired an even greater sense of pride as a Silver Jaguar Band member and as a Fort Zumwalt School District musical ambassador.
- c) Punctuality is essential in adhering to our busy trip schedule. Be early for everything and help each other stay organized. When enjoying free time and during sightseeing excursions, always stay in groups of three or more members. This is for your safety. There should not be any deviation.
- d) School dress code is required on all trips. In swimming pool areas, keep attire modest. When in concert attire, remain in full concert attire. It is unprofessional to have shirttails out, to wear athletic shoes while in formal attire, to chew gum, etc. The loading of equipment may necessitate adjustments to these expectations. Follow the instructions of the chaperone or adult sponsor in charge.
- e) Mixed company in hotel rooms is not allowed.
- f) While staying in hotels we will share facilities with other student groups and individuals from other schools and programs. Some of these groups and individuals may be unsupervised at times and may engage in behavior that would violate this Code of Conduct. Do not be influenced nor persuaded to engage in any behavior that is in conflict with the spirit of this Code of Conduct.
- g) Members must remain reasonably quiet at all times when in hotel facilities. Curfews will be strictly observed. Any personal needs, which might require leaving your room after curfew, must be arranged in advance with a chaperone or director.
- h) Band members are responsible for all their own equipment and personal items (triple check for uniform parts, extra reeds, valve oil, mutes, music, etc.) However, we all must

share in the logistical responsibilities of the trip. We will all participate as equipment movers, sanitation engineers, stagehands, etc. Please perform the duties asked of you.

- i) There will be times when changes to our plans become necessary. Look for solutions to problems and avoid complaining. Concerns should be expressed at an appropriate time and in an appropriate manner. Suggestion: Never complain to anyone who cannot solve your problem. See a director.

MISBEHAVIOR

- a) Consumption of alcohol, drugs, smoking, chewing, dipping
i) Drinking alcohol, taking drugs, smoking, chewing tobacco, or dipping is not permitted.
ii) Violation of this policy may result in immediate dismissal.
- b) Violation of this policy at an event, which requires overnight travel, may result in being sent home in advance of the conclusion of the event.
 - a. All costs associated with being sent home in advance will become the responsibility of the member and/or his family. This may include the cost of transportation for the member and a chaperone.
- c) Destruction or damaging of property
 - a. Clearly apparent attempts, whether successful or not, to damage or destroy property, are not permitted or acceptable.
 - b. This policy applies to any property, whether personal, school, or private.
 - c. Band members and/or their parent(s) will be financially responsible for costs associated with restoring or replacing damaged or destroyed property.
 - d. If required, band members who are suspected of violating this policy may be reported to appropriate civil authorities.
- d) Using Profanity
 - a. Band Members, Chaperones and anyone associated with the band should refrain from the use of profanity at all times. This reflects poorly on our group and our school.

OBEDIENCE

Band members should show respect for directors, instructors and chaperones. When students are given a direction by any director, instructor or chaperone, they are expected to follow it.

UNIFORMS

- a) Marching band members will be issued a uniform (owned by the FZSD).
- b) Members are required to pay for some parts of their uniform (e.g. shoes, socks, gloves). Directors will identify which parts must be purchased and which must be purchased from designated sources.
- c) Uniforms are inspected before every performance. Everything must be clean and in good repair. Failure to comply with this policy may lead to being excluded from performing.
- d) FZSD owned uniforms will be stored at school and may not be taken home without permission of one of the Directors.

GRADING

- a) Band members receive a grade on their report of progress and their permanent transcript.
- b) Grades in band are comprised of the following:

- a. Playing ability – determined through playing tests and quizzes.
- b. Marching ability – determined through marching evaluation.
- c. Attendance – attendance at scheduled events.
- d. Punctuality – attendance is taken at “call time.”
- e. Uniform/Dress Code – students with missing uniform items or inappropriate clothing are documented.
- f. Care of facilities and equipment – abuse of school owned property will be documented and turned in to the administration for payment by the student responsible.

FUNDRAISING/STUDENT “FAIR SHARE” TRACKING

- a) Students are expected to pay or fundraise their “Fair Share” of the co-curricular expenses of the band program.
- b) Students DO NOT have accounts with the Band Boosters.
- c) Band Boosters “track” the amount of money either paid by or fundraised by each student or their family. This is done for convenience of knowing that you are fulfilling your Fair Share. Any money that is raised is the property of the band program, and is not “owed” to any particular student or family.
- d) Under very limited circumstances is any money that a student actually paid refundable.
 - a. Once a student has participated in a band event, the money paid for that event has been spent. At that time, it is no longer refundable.
 - b. If an item has been ordered for a student, the money is refundable only if that item can be cancelled or returned. Any return or restocking fee will be subtracted from the amount that is refundable.
- e) Money that is raised cannot be transferred from one student to another. The only exception to this is when a sibling enters the band program within one year (12 months) of an older sibling leaving the band program.
- f) When a student graduates, provided the condition in section e) above does not apply, the money raised by that student or their family is re-tracked into the general fund of the Band Boosters.