

# Stewarts Creek High School

## 2025-2026 Band Program Handbook & Membership Policies

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Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX should be directed to Ms. Pierrecia Lyons. Inquiries regarding Section 504 or the Americans with Disabilities Act and Title VI should be directed to Dr. Andrea Anthony of the Rutherford County School System, 2240 Southpark Drive, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37128. Complaints may also be filed with the Tennessee Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights at (615) 253-1550 and/or the United States Department of Education by contacting (404) 974-9406.

Complaints involving harassment or discrimination should be directed to Dr. Andrea Anthony, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Student Services, Rutherford County School System, 2240 Southpark Drive, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37128, Telephone: (615) 893-5812



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# General Information

## About This Handbook

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This handbook is a resource of information on the policies and activities of the Stewarts Creek High School Band program. It is issued to band members and parents by the band directors in order to provide basic information regarding the program. All band members and parents are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the contents of this handbook and must complete and return the Membership Acknowledgement Form in order to participate in the Stewarts Creek High School Band. This handbook is designed to function in harmony with the Rutherford County School System Student Handbook and Code of Behavior and Discipline.

This handbook is a living document. The band directors or principals of Stewarts Creek High School retain the authority to amend band policies if such action is deemed necessary to secure the interest of the overall band program.

## Stewarts Creek High School Band Philosophy of Instrumental Music Education

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Music is a subject that affects many facets of the human personality. It shapes individuals on an intellectual, physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual, and social level.

Instrumental music can foster a lifelong appreciation of music as an art form. Instrumental music also fosters a sense of cultural awareness as well as an aesthetic appreciation for the arts. The Stewarts Creek High School Band program engages students in a group activity that can enrich their life, personally and socially. It develops proper work habits through the successful implementation of a daily practice routine. It develops confidence and promotes the student's abilities of self-expression. It also develops intelligent listening skills that leads to heightened communication.

It is a goal of the Stewarts Creek High School Band Program to instill in every member a lifelong appreciation for music and to consistently embrace the ideals of citizenship, self-discipline, commitment, and teamwork. Through the cooperation of band students, parents, campus administration, the community, and Rutherford County Schools, the Stewarts Creek High School Band will strive to provide a musical program that is consistently recognized as one of the finest of its kind.

## Mission Statement

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As directors of the Stewarts Creek High School Band, we share a vision of serving a music organization that is consistently recognized as one of the finest of its kind. In preparation for meaningful performance experiences, we will uphold a professional environment in which students are inspired to excel. We endeavor to instill within our students the values of commitment, work ethic, and teamwork. We commit our collective efforts in the interest of fostering a musical family united by these common tenets: Integrity, Passion, and Excellence.

## Objectives

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The Stewarts Creek High School Band Program is an integral part of school life and is recognized as an extracurricular activity. The Stewarts Creek High School Band is one of the most visible student organizations on campus, and its members consistently project a positive representation of their community.

The primary objective of the band program is to serve its members with the following opportunities for the duration of their membership:

- Cultural Opportunities – to facilitate the continued development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of outstanding music literature.
- Educational Opportunities – to develop interested and discriminating listeners, provide a well-rounded music education, and prepare students for musical pursuits beyond high school.
- Leadership Opportunities – to foster exceptional personal values through the emphasis of teamwork and integrity.
- Service Opportunities – to lend color and atmosphere to certain school and community affairs while promoting and enhancing the distinction and reputation of Stewarts Creek High School at all appearances.
- Recreational Opportunities – to provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of leisure time, an emotional outlet, and quality social experiences.

## Band Program Overview

### Performing Ensembles

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The Stewarts Creek High School Band is an optional, extracurricular program comprised of the marching band, three concert bands, jazz band, percussion ensemble, and color guard. Each of the curricular classes are designed to give students a learning experience in music that is commensurate with their experience, musical proficiency, and level of commitment.

Membership in the Stewarts Creek High School Band is based on a four-year curriculum with the expectation of a full-year commitment.

The directors may from time to time reassign students to another ensemble as needed according to individual student assessment, attitude, and compliance to course requirements.

## Marching Band

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The Stewarts Creek Marching Band is the largest positive image-projecting organization on campus. The group performs during varsity football games, pep rallies, and represents Stewarts Creek High School in public community events. Marching Band is an ensemble comprised of the entire band membership, including the three concert bands, percussion ensemble and color guard. Students must be enrolled in one of the three concert bands, percussion ensemble, or color guard classes. The marching band rehearses during the last two weeks of July. When school starts in August, the band rehearses for approximately 6 hours a week outside of the school day until the fall break in October. After fall break, rehearsals drop to approximately 3 hours a week (or as needed) outside of the school day until the end of the varsity football season. Participation in the marching band is required for all members in the band program, and ½ of a P.E. credit is awarded to participants.

## Concert Band

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Concert Band is an entry-level performance-based ensemble class for woodwind, brass, and percussion instrumentalists currently in ninth grade. The class emphasizes the continued development and refinement of proper instrument technique, tone production, fundamentals of music reading, and listening skills through performance of select concert band literature.

## Symphonic Band

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Symphonic Band is a performance-based ensemble class for woodwind, brass, and percussion instrumentalists looking to continue sharpening their musical capabilities. Symphonic Band is open to students in grades 10 through 12. Placement is based on individual performance assessments throughout the year and the End of Course (EOC) Performance Assessment. This intermediate class focuses on strengthening individual playing ability, listening skills, music reading skills, and refining ensemble expression through carefully selected repertoire for symphonic band.

## Wind Ensemble

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The Wind Ensemble is the most advanced performing ensemble of the band program and is open to students in grades 10 through 12. Placement is based on individual performance assessments throughout the year and the End of Course (EOC) Performance Assessment. As a performance-based ensemble class for advanced-level woodwind, brass, and percussion instrumentalists, Students work for refinement of ensemble skills toward the collegiate level, mastery of music reading skills, and sound performance fundamentals through the study and performance of advanced wind band literature.

## Percussion Ensemble

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Percussion Ensemble is a class taken by percussion band members of the Stewarts Creek High School Band and is open to students in grades 9 through 12. In order to be an eligible member of this group, a student must complete a skills assessment in the spring semester. The percussion ensemble works together with the three concert bands and also serves as a separate ensemble as well. All Stewarts Creek percussionists are part of this class during the fall and spring semesters. Percussion students in grades 10-12 are assigned via individual performance assessment each semester into the Wind Ensemble or Symphonic Band. It is customary for percussionists to rotate between these ensembles each semester. Percussion students in ninth grade are automatically assigned into the Concert Band, which consists of band students in ninth grade.

## Jazz Band

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This performance-based ensemble class is designed as a supplemental ensemble to the Stewarts Creek High School Band. This intermediate level of class includes the study and performance of various jazz styles. Improvisational techniques are introduced and explored as well as the cultural and historical significance of this art form. Jazz Band is open to students in grades 9 through 12 who are currently enrolled in any of the three concert bands or percussion ensemble class. Instrumentation for this class is limited to only saxophones, trumpets, trombones, guitar, piano, bass, and percussion.

## Color Guard

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Color Guard is a class during the fall semester. This group works as a unit with the marching band to visually enhance the field show. Auditions are held in the spring and are open to any girl in grades 9 through 12 who attend Stewarts Creek High School. This group has extra costs associated with membership and is a supplemental but important part of the band program. A special instructor is hired to work with the group by the directors of the Stewarts Creek High School Band.



# Attendance Policy

The quality of the Stewarts Creek High School Band Program is directly proportional to consistent attendance. Absences hurt the student and the overall team goal. Everyone plays a vital role as a team member in this organization. While the Stewarts Creek High School Band follows all Rutherford County Schools district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the Stewarts Creek High School Band. These attendance policies also apply to activities held during the school day, including pep rallies, as well as campus and community performances. These attendance policies also apply to activities held outside of the school day. Failure to participate in either rehearsals or performances may result in student removal from the organization at the discretion of the band directors.

Punctuality is essential for all rehearsals and performances. Chronically poor attendance/punctuality will be sufficient grounds to be removed from a specific performance or from the Stewarts Creek High School Band entirely.

All rehearsals and performances are required. Each band family will be issued a performance calendar at the beginning of school year. **We kindly ask for students to give a minimum of two-weeks' notice in a request for an excused absence.** Extenuating or emergency circumstances (i.e. student illness, funerals, etc.) that arise after the forms have been turned into the band office will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Band students and parents are respectfully asked to make a concerted effort not to schedule doctor's/dentist/ driver's license appointments during band rehearsals except in case of emergency. The procedures for an excused absence request can be found on the calendar document issued at the start of each school year.

Unexcused absences from rehearsals and performances will result zero for the performance and/or ASR grade. Examples of unexcused absences would include (but are not limited to) the following: work, vacations, homework, family social events, not finding a ride, babysitting siblings, non-school sports, dance practices, etc. Absences due to avoidable, elective conflicts or as a result of poor planning will not be excused. Students should stay familiar with the band calendar and communicate with parents, siblings, employers, friends, etc.

In the case of sudden unexpected absence, parents should notify the band directors via the band text message line and/or email at [stewartscreekband@gmail.com](mailto:stewartscreekband@gmail.com) within 48 hours. Students can also submit an email to the band directors with a valid parent email address copied on the email.

## School Related Activity Conflict Resolution Policies

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The Stewarts Creek High School Band is designed so that students can participate in other SCHS/RCS sanctioned events. Conflicts with the band rehearsal and performance schedule will arise. The following policies have been developed in order to help parents and students in these situations:

- Parents and students should compare the band rehearsal and performance calendar against the team/activity calendar to find any potential conflicts.
- Parents should email **BOTH** the band directors and the coach/activity sponsor about the potential conflict.
- A game/meet takes precedence over a band rehearsal.
- A band performance takes precedence over a team practice/club activity.

If a conflict occurs between a band performance and a game/school activity, the band directors and coaches/activity sponsor will determine which activity the student will participate in. In most cases, these conflicts are easily resolved. Band directors and coaches/activity sponsor will always make it a priority to have the student attend both events if possible.

PLEASE NOTE:

Parents may be responsible for providing transportation between activities when two events occur the same day.

## Grading Policy

Because participation in the Stewarts Creek High School Band program is a unique experience, students will be assessed on their performance and professionalism skills. This includes, but is not limited to being on time for all rehearsals and performances, having all necessary materials (instrument, equipment, music, and supplies) upholding the uniform code (natural hair color, natural make-up, being clean-shaven for performances, professional grooming practices), and having a clean and properly working instrument and equipment for all rehearsals and performances.

In addition, students will be assessed on a series of individual performances using standards based grading for instrumental music.

Students who participate in the Stewarts Creek High School Band will be assessed and evaluated on the following weighted components that will be averaged together:

- After School Rehearsals (ASR's) (45%)
- Performances (45%)
- Diagnostic, Formative, and Summative Assessments (10%)

# General and Behavioral Expectations

**Be Professional.** This is the most important expectation in the band program. It encompasses everything we do during rehearsal, individual practice, and performance. This includes supporting each other's musical training and holding yourself to a standard of excellence in the community at all times.

**Respect Your Instrument/Equipment.** Keeping your instrument in good working order is paramount to creating good sounds. Failure to properly maintain your instrument completely nullifies any attempts to create the best possible sounds. If you are using a school-owned instrument, treat it as though it were your own. Keep your instrument clean and polished, put it properly in its case, store the case appropriately, and have all necessary repairs made in a timely manner.

**Respect Your Facilities.** This is your school. Stewarts Creek High School is extremely fortunate to have a band room for the use of all students in the SCHS Band. All students, parents, and staff are expected to pick up after themselves, store instruments in the proper location, and, unless otherwise permitted, not to bring food or drink into the band room. Storage areas in the band room will be used for instruments and band equipment only. Personal items, such as clothing, books, and other class materials, should be stored in your band locker. The only items permitted in a rehearsal setting are those required for rehearsal.

**Respect Everyone.** Showing respect for everyone at all times is critical to our growth and success. During rehearsals and performances, do not worry about anyone other than yourself. Showing respect for each other, your instrument, each other's instrument, and each other's personal property is a priority.

**Learn Your Music/Routine.** Students are expected to learn their parts during personal practice time outside of class. Failure to do so hinders our growth and success.

## Behavioral Expectations

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Behavioral expectations are designed to create an environment that enhances student learning and performance. These expectations are based upon the premise that every student has a right to participate in the learning process without interference. Responsibility for behavior lies directly with the individual student.

- Students are expected to adhere to the policies as detailed in the Rutherford County School System Student Handbook and Code of Behavior and Discipline.
- Students are expected to participate in band activities with a supportive and positive spirit.
- Students are expected to treat all directors, instructors, and clinicians with courtesy and respect. They are expected to respond appropriately to instruction with positive verbiage.
- Negatively-charged verbal displays or nonverbal actions are considered inappropriate. This policy also applies to text messaging and social media. Students are expected to maintain a mature level of decorum at all times while representing the Stewarts Creek High School Band.

- Each student is expected to be in class, in the rehearsal setting, or present for travel or performances on time and with the required equipment, required attire, and required materials.
- Cell phones and other mobile electronic devices are not permitted during the school day, during rehearsals, or performances unless authorized by the band directors with permission from SCHS Principals.
- Gum, candy, soft drinks, water, and other food items are prohibited in all indoor band rehearsal areas.
- Students are expected to help maintain a clean environment in any facilities used by the band. This also includes travel scenarios.
- Students are expected to take proper care of all band equipment, including band instruments, music, uniforms, and facilities.
- Rough-housing/horseplay of any form is prohibited.
- Students are not allowed to play in the hallway or outside the building while in transit between the band room and rehearsal/performance locations.
- Students should refrain from public displays of affection during all rehearsal and performance situations.
- Students are expected to seek parental permission before riding in friend's vehicles to or from any band-related activity. The allowance of vehicles on campus is a privilege. Irresponsible operation of a vehicle will result the loss of driving privileges on campus.
- Students are expected to refrain from the use of degrading verbiage, profanity, and/or obscene gestures. Profanity or any language unbecoming of a band member will not be tolerated.
- Harassment or hazing of any form will not be tolerated and is strictly prohibited.
- Use of illegal drugs, tobacco/nicotine products, alcohol, and unauthorized medications are strictly prohibited. Please refer to the Rutherford County School System Student Handbook and Code of Behavior and Discipline.

## Athletic Events Performance Behavior Policy

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Behavior at athletic event performances and pep rallies are highly visible performance venues for the Stewarts Creek High School Band. It is imperative that students remain attentive and focused within the ensemble to help insure the intended functions of the band at these games. Behavioral infractions are considered particularly serious in such a public setting. Therefore, the handling of disciplinary issues will be treated as such. As the ensemble is under the public eye, students must maintain a professional and dignified appearance at all times. Game time spirit in the form of verbal or physical encouragement should include the use of good judgment and taste at all times.

The implementation of the following behavioral policies helps to ensure that the Stewarts Creek High School Band is able to provide outstanding performances:

- Cell phones are prohibited at all times during the athletic event. Attempted use will result in the confiscation of the device.
- Each band member is to remain in his or her assigned seat during the entire game.
- Restroom visits are granted only by securing permission from a band director.
- Band members must be ready to play immediately following a tune request. Students must pay attention to drum majors/directors for visual cues so that professional musical entrances are always achieved.
- The required uniform must be worn in its entirety unless specific instructions from directors indicate otherwise.
- There are to be no spontaneous “hacking” or jam sessions by individuals or sections either in the stands, to or from the rehearsal or performance venue.
- Students are required to have their flip folder at all performances. Parts should be played exactly as written. No improvising.
- Students are expected to refrain from the use of degrading verbiage, profanity, and/or obscene gestures. Profanity or any language unbecoming of a band member will not be tolerated.
- While watching other bands perform, members should remain silent, attentive, and should avoid visual or verbal criticism of any sort in public (these things are really noticed by others). When a band finishes a performance, enthusiastic applause and acknowledgement is always appropriate.
- Students will be formally dismissed as a group after the game.

## Concert Performance Behavior Policy

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Audience manners are based upon respect for the performers and for others in the audience, and they are considered a measure of civilized society and an expression of courtesy. Students in today's society are seldom exposed to formal concert or performance situations and are often not aware of these standards for appropriate behavior.

The following policies will maintain a proper and enjoyable environment for everyone in attendance:

- Students are expected to remain in the audience following their performance and to participate as an audience member until the conclusion of the performance. This is a part of the educational process and is included as a part of the performance grade for the concert.
- Students should avoid entering or leaving the auditorium during a performance.
- Applause is encouraged; however, calling, whistling, or shouting is considered inappropriate for a formal concert.
- Attention should be directed to the performers at all times. Talking should be avoided during performances. Cell phones and other electronic devices are not to be used for the duration of a concert performance.

## Travel Related Behavior Expectations

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Due to the extensive amount of band travel, proper behavior on buses, airplanes, and in situations where students are hotel or restaurant guests is a must. Students are expected to always be courteous to drivers, flight attendants, chaperones, and other passengers. Disregard for these and the following items will result in the inability of the student to travel with the band:

- Students should stay in the designated travel uniform unless otherwise specified by a director. All Stewarts Creek High School/Rutherford County Schools policies are in effect when students are traveling with the band.
- Transportation will be provided for most performances. There will be times when students/parents will need to provide their own transportation to for certain events. Advance notice will be provided when transportation is not available for an event.
- All band trips will have received prior approval of the school administration.
- The buses/planes will leave on time unless unavoidably delayed. It is the responsibility of the student to be on time. The buses/planes will not wait for anyone.
- One or more adult chaperones will be on each bus/plane.
- The buses/planes are to be treated with care and all trash must be placed in the receptacle provided.

- No one will leave the group for any reason unless specified by the band directors.
- Use of illegal drugs, tobacco/nicotine products, alcohol, and unauthorized medications are strictly prohibited. Please refer to the Rutherford County School System Student Handbook and Code of Behavior and Discipline.
- Students should refrain from public displays of affection.
- Students will travel to a band commitment as a group on the transportation provided. There will be no exceptions to this policy.
- Students are expected to travel back from a band commitment with the group. Only specific requests/emergencies (like another school event) will be approved. Written requests must be approved by the band directors before the band leaves.
- There shall be no shouting, singing, clapping, etc., or any other loud noises that might be distracting.
- If you wish to listen to music, please bring headphones. Everyone does not have the same taste in music. You will not be allowed to listen to music without headphones.
- Everyone must remain seated, facing forward while the bus/plane is in motion.
- Students are expected to refrain from the use of degrading verbiage, profanity, and/or obscene gestures. Profanity or any language unbecoming of a band member will not be tolerated.
- Harassment or hazing of any form will not be tolerated and is strictly prohibited.

The band directors reserve the right to dismiss and send home, at the parent's expense, any student who disobeys the rules and whose general conduct and attitude toward the trip and its participants is determined to be detrimental to the rest of the group.

## Hotel Conduct and Policies

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- Use of illegal drugs, tobacco/nicotine products, alcohol, and unauthorized medications are strictly prohibited. Please refer to the Rutherford County School System Student Handbook and Code of Behavior and Discipline.
- Band members will not be permitted in any room containing members of the opposite sex. No unauthorized persons will be permitted to visit.
- Parents and students will be held responsible for paying for any property damage/lost room keys.
- Students will be fully clothed at all times.
- Swimsuits are only to be worn at appropriate times, such as going to the pool.

- There will be no wearing of hats, hair rollers, or sunglasses in inappropriate buildings.
- Rooms are to be locked at all times.
- Courtesy is expected at all times.
- Instruments are not to be played in the hotel room.
- No public displays of affection.
- Under no circumstances will you be permitted to leave the hotel except when with the entire group.
- Students are expected to refrain from the use of degrading verbiage, profanity, and/or obscene gestures. Profanity or any language unbecoming of a band member will not be tolerated.
- Harassment or hazing of any form will not be tolerated and is strictly prohibited.
- Curfew will be set by the band directors and requires students to remain in their own rooms.

The band directors reserve the right to dismiss and send home, at the parent's expense, any student who disobeys the rules and whose general conduct and attitude toward the trip and its participants is determined to be detrimental to the rest of the group. All school rules will be strictly enforced, infractions will be dealt with by the band directors and the administration of Stewarts Creek High School Band.

## Related Consequences

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Stewarts Creek High School Band students are amongst the best on our campus and in our community. However, should students exhibit behavioral concerns, consequences may include one or more of the following responses: verbal warnings, student and/or parent conferences, deduction in points towards nine-weeks grade, principal referrals, loss of performance privileges, or removal from the band program.

Any student who severely disrupts a rehearsal or performance setting may be dismissed from the setting and/or be sent directly to the principal for disciplinary purposes without warning or call to parents. Severe actions may also result in immediate disciplinary action, and removal from the band program.

In the event that a student is expelled from Stewarts Creek High School and/or transferred to an alternative school, their membership in the band program will be placed on a two-semester probationary status upon their return to Stewarts Creek High School.

Probationary status – a member of the band program who is placed on probationary status will only be allowed to participate in their designated class during their scheduled class time during the school day. Members placed on probationary status will not be permitted to participate in any band activities that take place before or after the designated class time during the school day. Upon successful completion of the two semester probationary period (and with the consent of the band directors), a band member may return to active member status with all privileges of normal membership restored.

The policy stated above applies anytime and anywhere the band is convened for rehearsal, performance, travel, and social activities.



# Uniform Policies

As members of the Stewarts Creek High School Band, individuals are regarded as representatives of the entire band program, Stewarts Creek High School, Rutherford County Schools, and the Town of Smyrna. When wearing identifiable Stewarts Creek High School Band attire, members are responsible ambassadors for the organization, both past and present. Uniformed members should always exhibit the utmost presentation of pride and dignity.

Uniforms should be worn properly and in their entirety in public. No individual physical aspect should draw the attention away from the ensemble. All uniform parts (including shoes and gloves) should be clean and in pristine condition for every performance. At no point should any part of the uniform be set on the ground. Audiences, other performing organizations, and community members will form opinions based on the individual uniformity and collective presentation of the Stewarts Creek High School Band. The visual image of the band as a whole makes a huge impression on others.

These guidelines apply to every public appearance of any member or group representing the Stewarts Creek High School Band, particularly in situations preceding and following performances. The following information details the five (5) types of uniforms worn by members of the Stewarts Creek High School Band at various times throughout the year.

## Concert Band Uniform

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The Stewarts Creek High School Band wears traditional concert attire for all formal indoor concert performances. Members of the Stewarts Creek High School Band are fitted for formal concert attire which they may keep and use during their time with the Stewarts Creek High School Band.

### Ladies

Ladies are given a black concert gown that will be used for all formal concerts. Ladies will need to provide their own black, flat dress shoes, black knee-high stockings, or black hosiery of their choice. Ladies who are performing members of the percussion ensemble should provide their own version of all black concert attire as the concert gowns are not typically worn for those concerts.

### Gentlemen

Gentlemen are given black tuxedo pants and a black long-sleeved dress shirt that is to be worn for all concert performances unless indicated otherwise. This attire is theirs to keep and use each year. A long-red tie will be provided (this item is the property of Stewarts Creek High School and must be returned at the end of each year).

Gentlemen members of the wind ensemble will need to purchase a white tuxedo shirt. A black tuxedo jacket and bowtie will be provided (this item is the property of Stewarts Creek High School and must be returned at the end of each year). Gentlemen will need to provide their own black crew-length black socks and black dress shoes (cleaned black marching shoes will work as well).

## Jazz Band Uniform

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Members of the Stewarts Creek High School Jazz Bands will typically wear their choice of business attire (dress shirt/blouse/sweater, dress pants/skirt, long-tie/bowtie, dress shoes, optional jacket) for most concert performances.

## Marching Dress Uniform

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The marching dress uniform is the most iconic uniform worn by members of the Stewarts Creek High School Band. The uniform is worn for most varsity football games, parades, and other community performances as designated by the band directors. All band members will be issued their own Under Uniform (red shirt, black shorts) as well as black marching band shoes. Students will need to provide their own plain black (no logos) crew length socks. All members of the Stewarts Creek High School Band will be trained in how to properly hang and store these uniforms. Marching dress uniforms are the property of Stewarts Creek High School and are to always remain on campus.

NOTE: Students will be charged replacement costs for uniforms that are lost, damaged or stolen. Students are responsible for the uniform items that are distributed to them at the beginning of the school year.

## Under Uniform

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All members of the band program will be issued their own under uniform. This consists of a moisture wicking shirt and athletic shorts. This uniform is typically worn under the marching dress uniform. There may be times designated by the band directors where the Under Uniform will be worn for certain rehearsals or performances.

## Casual Uniform

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All members of the Stewarts Creek High School Band will be asked to wear the under uniform shirt which they may keep and use during their time with the Stewarts Creek High School Band. The shirt will be worn on specific days or performances designated by the band directors. Students will typically wear their own khaki-colored pants/shorts (or blue jeans) depending on the performance situation. Members of the color guard will be issued their own version of the causal uniform, often referred to as the pep rally uniform. Color guard members will wear this uniform when the band wears the casual uniform.

## Appearance in Uniform (Uniform Code)

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- There is to be no gum chewing in any uniform. The consumption of food or drink in the uniform will occur at times designated by the band directors.
- Personal grooming is to be uniform throughout the band for all public performances.
- All hair must be cut or secured in such a way so as not to obscure the performer's face. Hair should not touch the collar of the marching dress uniform.
- Hair color must be “natural color” for performances. Band members with dyed hair that is not natural in appearance will need to purchase temporary spray hair dye or purchase a wig or other means to look natural. The band directors will determine what constitutes “natural” hair color.
- When wearing the marching dress uniform, hair should be secured in manner which fits into the shako hat. All stray hair should be secured back with spray or bobby pins. Band members may elect to wear only natural looking makeup (light foundation, etc. only).
- Band members should refrain from wearing any individualized accessories while wearing the marching dress uniform. This includes: all jewelry (including facial piercings of any kind), watches, hair ornaments, fingernail polish, etc. Medical jewelry is permitted.
- When wearing the concert uniform, makeup is permitted so long as it looks professional and not theatrical. Hair should be styled to look professional. Conservative jewelry that looks professional in appearance will be permitted. The band directors will determine what constitutes conservative jewelry.
- Band members will need to have a clean-shaven face for every public performance.
- Lipstick/gloss should never be worn when playing your instrument.

NOTE: the color guard and drum majors may be required to wear theatrical makeup for performance; separate guidelines will apply.

# Instruments and Equipment

## Individually Owned Instruments and Equipment

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Individually owned instruments must be in good working condition at all times. Musicians cannot make high-quality sounds on their instrument if it is not in good working condition. Any damage or normal wear and tear must be tended to as soon as possible.

## Liability

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The school does not insure any privately-owned equipment against loss, theft, and/or damage. We advise you to take out insurance on your instrument through a personal insurance organization in the event of loss and/or theft while the instrument is in use or stored at school. Be sure to keep a record of the make and serial number of your instrument and keep it in a safe place.

## School Owned Instruments and Equipment

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Students playing school-owned instruments are expected to care for them as if they were their own. Students are not allowed to play instruments that they do not own or personally have checked out. Only percussionists are allowed to play on the percussion equipment. All instruments must be stored in a case when not in use.

The Stewarts Creek High School Band Program owns a limited number of instruments. It is the responsibility of the student to return the instrument in as good a condition as when it was issued. Students must report any damage or necessary repair immediately to the band directors regardless of the cause. Unnecessary and expensive maintenance can be avoided by making sure the instrument is cleaned regularly. Failure to properly care for school instruments will void the privilege of using them.

## RCS School-Owned Instrument Maintenance Fee:

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Students playing a school-owned instrument are asked to pay a \$50.00 yearly maintenance fee. This fee is used to pay for routine maintenance and cleaning for the instrument.

Any damage (dents, lost attachments, accidents, etc.) other than those caused by normal usage will be assessed to the student.

NOTE: Students who play two school-owned instruments (ex. horn/mellophone) will only pay a single \$50.00 fee.

# Social Media

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that band members and adults connected to the Stewarts Creek High School Band conduct themselves appropriately online. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members and adults connected to the Stewarts Creek High School Band are responsible for their personal online behavior and postings, as well as posting from or on other student's or parent's social media accounts.

The areas of inappropriateness include but are not limited to: profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards other teaching staff or band students, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship, cyber bullying, or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands.

Keep in mind whatever is said on the internet is permanently and irreversibly available for anyone to view worldwide for the remainder of human history. This includes everything an individual deletes and posts privately.

While using any form of a social media outlet, please adhere to the following policies. These policies are designed to help our program maintain a professional and positive public image.

- Band members and adults connected to the Stewarts Creek High School Band should not make statements that could be misunderstood as official policy of the band program.
- Band members and adults connected to the Stewarts Creek High School Band should avoid escalating drama and spreading rumors about members of the band or the band as a whole.
- Making comments promoting poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated.
- Racial, sexist, homophobic, anti-religious, and any other inflammatory content directed toward any individual or organization will not be tolerated.
- Sexually explicit comments directed toward any individual or organization will not be tolerated.
- Harassment or threats of violence made by a student or adult connected to the Stewarts Creek High School Band toward anyone connected to the band, fine arts department or any other Stewarts Creek Campus and/or Rutherford County Schools organization will not be tolerated.

Any such incident(s) will result in review by the principal (or designee) and may lead to suspension or removal from the Stewarts Creek High School Band.

# Member Financial Contributions

The Stewarts Creek High School Band Program is an extracurricular activity. Participation in band is not a requirement for graduation, but rather is a voluntary and elective choice. Because annual funding through the Rutherford County School budget accounts for a small fraction of the total needed for the fundamentals of an effective band program, funding for about 95% of the overall annual band budget is requested as an investment from each family in the form of class fee payments. The rest of the funding required is provided by the Stewarts Creek High School Music Boosters through its fundraising initiatives.

The 2025-2026 base fee is \$475.00. New Members will have an additional one-time \$175.00 new member fee which will be used to purchase individual items that students will be use through the duration of their participation in the SCHS Band program. Color Guard members may have additional fees for uniforms and accessories. Students who use school owned equipment will be asked for an additional instrument equipment maintenance fee of \$50.00 to help maintain repairs from the normal wear and tear of Stewarts Creek High School/RCS owned instruments and equipment.

**No student will ever be denied participation in the Stewarts Creek High School Band due a family's inability to contribute financially. Fundraisers are setup to help students and families make their contribution.**

If there is ever a financial situation that arises, please do not hesitate to contact the band office. We are here to help. Communication is the key. To avoid report cards and/or student records/transcripts being held, we ask that all families contact the band office to settle all financial obligations. We must also insist that all financial obligations must be current or paid in full in order for students to participate in optional special trips.

Financial contributions can be paid with credit/debit cards online (a convenience fee applies), or with checks, money orders, or cash. Checks should be made payable to "Stewarts Creek High School Band" or "SCHS Band". Checks, money orders, and cash can be placed in an envelope, sealed, labeled and deposited into the black lockbox in the band room, or mailed to:

Stewarts Creek High School Band  
301 Red Hawk Parkway  
Smyrna, TN 37167

All monies paid to the Stewarts Creek High School Band are non-refundable. This includes any and all amounts paid prior to voluntary or involuntary separation of the student from the program.

# Additional Activities and Performance Opportunities

## Private Lessons Program

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The Stewarts Creek High School Band has built a tradition of excellence in all performance areas including the concert band, jazz band, percussion ensemble, and marching band over the past years. One area that has helped build strong Stewarts Creek High School Bands over the years has been one-to-one instruction. Individual instruction on an instrument is the fastest way to attain individual improvement. Students will focus on fundamental skills that are particular to their instrument. These are aspects of development that cannot be offered in a full band setting.

By developing a command of the instrument, the student's enjoyment increases, and their desire to learn fuels future success. Instructors provide individualized assignments and feedback specific to the student's strengths and weaknesses. Individual instrumental instruction develops a life-long love of music, places demands on individual discipline, and enhances self-esteem. Much attention can be given to preparing for auditions for RCS All-County Honor Ensembles, MTSBOA Mid-State Honor Ensembles, TMEA All-State Ensembles, college admissions, and scholarships.

Individual instrumental instruction is designed to make quality instruction convenient and accessible in a comfortable learning environment. Lessons are typically scheduled when students are in their band class or at other times after school.

Individual instrumental instruction at Stewarts Creek High School is completely optional but highly encouraged. Lessons will be billed per month from the instructors. Specific information and policies pertaining to the individual instrument instruction will be sent out to those students who are interested in pursuing this opportunity.

## Honor Ensembles

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The All-Rutherford County Ensembles/MTSBOA Mid-State Ensembles/TMEA All-State Ensembles auditions are contests designed to improve the individual performance level of the students. Participation is elective and voluntary. Entry and registration fees vary per entry and the responsibility of the student and parent. No refunds are given for students who register and then have a conflict or who decide not to audition.

Students will be ranked competitively among like high school instrumentalists from across Rutherford County, Middle Tennessee, and across Tennessee. Student who are interested in this will have separate audition music and performance requirements.

Students who are selected for the MTSBOA All-Middle Tennessee Ensembles will automatically be placed in the All-Rutherford County High Band and/or Jazz Band. Participation in these ensembles is expected and required. Students who place high enough in the MTSBOA All-Middle Tennessee Ensembles will also qualify for the TMEA All-State Ensembles. Students who achieve this honor will receive Distinction status on their high school graduation diploma.

## Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts

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The Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts is a residency summer intensive program for high school students gifted in music, visual art, theatre, dance, and filmmaking. Governor Lamar Alexander founded the School for the Arts in 1984, assembling a team of professionals to develop a program for Tennessee that would rival the best summer arts schools in the nation. Students who achieve this honor will receive Distinction status on their high school graduation diploma.

## Other Summer Programs

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Students who are interested in additional summer study opportunities are encouraged to meet with the band directors early to discuss interest. There are several outstanding summer music festivals and camps available for qualified students. Each camp or music festival have specific audition requirements, with various deadlines, so students are encouraged to start thinking about these events as soon as possible.

## Additional Performing Ensemble Opportunities

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Students who are interested in seeking additional performing opportunities in area youth orchestras, jazz bands, or wind ensembles, should discuss this with the band directors. Each area ensemble has specific audition requirements. It is expected that students understand that all rehearsals and performances of the Stewarts Creek High School Band will take precedence (all of the area music directors and conductors have these policies in place). It is the responsibility of the student and the parent to check calendars for any potential conflicts and to notify the band directors as soon as possible.



# Communication

## Text Messaging

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Text messaging will serve as the primary means of communication with students and parents. Most information, including gig sheets and other information regarding rehearsals, performances, travel, etc. will be sent through text messaging.

## Email

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Email will be the primary means of communication with parents. Email updates will be sent as needed.

- To email the band directors please use the following email address:

[stewarts creekband@gmail.com](mailto:stewarts creekband@gmail.com)

## Website

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The SCHS band program has a website that can be accessed by visiting:

[www.schs.band](http://www.schs.band)

The band website is updated regularly and contains links to the SCHS Band rehearsal and performance calendar and gig sheets. Many questions about band activities can be answered by visiting the website as needed.

## Telephone

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To contact the band office at any time please dial the following number and extension:

615-625-2147 – 24/7 Band Mobile Office Line

615-904-6771 ext. 31600 - Landline

If leaving a message, please make sure to leave your contact telephone number.

