

Somerset Academy



**2016 – 2017
Handbook**

**Mrs. Tatiana Ortega
Band Director**

Member Expectations

- **Attendance at all performances and rehearsals are mandatory.** All performance dates are set up in advance to allow family events, appointments, or vacations to be cleared or planned around the dates. Not having transportation is an unacceptable excuse to miss a rehearsal or a performance. You will, in most cases, have at least two weeks notice of any upcoming performance or rehearsal. Please make sure to not schedule doctor's appointment of any type on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mondays and Wednesdays are great days to set up doctor's appointments please be proactive. Each student that misses any portion of rehearsal jeopardizes the success of the program.
 - Those students that are involved with other organizations or sports outside of band are to give the director's written schedule to the corresponding sponsor. Likewise, the student must give the director a schedule for the other extracurricular activities. Remember, that once you commit yourself to the band, you are required to be at **100%** of all rehearsal and concerts. If there is a conflict, the director will decide whether the student is allowed to miss a rehearsal.
 - If you are aware of a day in which you will miss a rehearsal, please notify the director at **least one week before the event/rehearsal.**

- **Students are expected to maintain a minimum GPA (Grade Point Average) of 2.0 throughout the entire semester.** Mrs. Ortega will periodically check your GPA and/or your class grades. This may result in suspension from band activities including pep rallies, football games, and/or competitions.

- **Dual-Enrollment-** We have scheduled rehearsals in a way to accommodate dual enrollment. **Please take your dual enrollment classes on Mondays and Wednesdays only.** Please do not ask for exceptions to miss rehearsal, leave early or come late on other days. Each student that misses any portion of rehearsal jeopardizes the success of the program.

- **Honors Societies/Clubs-** Dress out/Set up equipment prior to rehearsal and make sure to notify your respective captains of what meeting you are going to and return no later than 3:15pm. Our band captain will be responsible for attendance. Students who are tardy and cannot warm up or stretch out properly can cause injury to themselves and hold the group back in the long run.

<u>Disciplinary Action for Unexcused Tardies/Absences</u>
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|--------------------------------|
| 1- Warning |
| 2- Warning |
| 3- Band Detention pick up duty |
| 4- Suspension from band event |

Absences are accumulated throughout the season. If a member is suspended from pep rallies/football games/competitions, they will still be expected to attend the event and remain there for the duration of the entire event without being able to participate.

- **Students are expected to practice at home. Practicing is what makes the difference.** Students must develop a daily habit to practice in order to continue improving at a faster rate.
 - Besides practicing at home, sectionals will occasionally be scheduled at their captain's discretion to improve musicality, basics, choreography, or anything else they believe is necessary and needs improvement.

- **Students are responsible for all money due, whether it is a fundraiser, trip or band fee, if financial difficulty presents itself, please talk to Mrs. Ortega.**
 - Marching Band Fee **\$675 w/ fundraising or \$775 w/o fundraising**
 - Marching Band Fee for all members includes: Original music composed for Somerset, drill written exclusively for Somerset, choreography, transportation to and from competitions, competition entry fee for each student (Including FMBC events, state FMBC, FBA concert, FBA marching, and FBA Solo and Ensemble), use of marching uniform, new uniforms for guard, one set of show flags, Subway lunch meal for competition. dry cleaning of uniforms, use of lyre and flip folder, band t-shirt, band polo, gloves, instructors for marching season and miscellaneous band equipment. The fee covers the 3-day trip to Tampa – including 2-night stay, state championship competition, theme park ticket, meal voucher and transportation)
 - Fee for new members include all of the above, as well as: new marching shoes and duffle bags
 - Wind/Guard Members- - **regular band fee. *Band fee is non-negotiable and non-refundable*** – our yearly budget is set on a set number of students involved. If we have less members we will need to make up the difference.
 - Percussion Members- **regular band fee plus** an additional **\$75** (percussion fee *is non-negotiable and non-refundable* – our yearly budget is set on a set amount of percussion students involved. If we have less members we will need to make up the difference. Due on in July Camp.
 - NEW Guard Members- **regular band fee plus** an additional **\$75** (Track suit fee *is non-negotiable and non-refundable* – All guard members are required to purchase a track suit as part of the guard uniform. Due on in July Camp

 - Additional Expenses may include: extra practice uniforms (purchased through the booster) replacement shoes (if student loses shoes, breaks shoes or out grows shoes), replacement gloves (if lost, broken or dirty), reeds, weapons (guard), section shirts, etc.

 - If a student is dismissed, transfers, or quits once the contract is signed during any point of the season, there will be no refunds and they will be held responsible for any portion of the fee that is not paid. The fee is calculated at the beginning of the season and it is divided equally amongst participants, if a participant leaves the group for any particular reason, we have already accounted for the payment of the student. Therefore, should you leave the group, the participant is responsible for finishing all payments to the Panther Marching Band on a timely manner.

 - The band fee will be divided into 4 monthly payments. The first two payments will be paid to the Somerset Panther Band Boosters, and the last two payments will be paid online to Somerset Academy.

Total fee is \$675 w/ fundraising or \$775 w/o fundraising

Option One - \$675	Option Two - \$775
Band Fees with <u>Mandatory participation, attendance and support of Fundraiser programs.</u>	Band Fees at a Flat Rate with no requirement to fundraiser or optional support of Fundraiser programs.
Option is: \$675, Plus fundraising: -two (2) boxes of chocolate - ten (10) raffle tickets - participation in car wash event and Publix canning	Flat Rate Option is: \$775 NO Fundraising
All families are responsible for contributing: -two (2) cases of water: (4 oz. bottles; case of 35) -two (2) cases of Gatorade: (12 oz. bottles; case of 28)	All families are responsible for contributing: -two (2) cases of water: (4 oz. bottles; case of 35) -two (2) cases of Gatorade (12 oz. bottles; case of 28)
#1- \$200 due on 06/13/16 cash/money order to Somerset Panther Band Boosters. #2- \$200 due on 07/11/16 cash/money order to Somerset Panther Band Boosters. #3- \$150 due on 08/03/16 Online @ Somerset Academy #4- \$125 due on 09/30/16 Online @ Somerset Academy	#1- \$250 due on 06/13/16 cash/money order to Somerset Panther Band Boosters. #2- \$250 due on 07/11/16 cash/money order to Somerset Panther Band Boosters. #3- \$150 due on 08/03/16 Online @ Somerset Academy #4- \$125 due on 09/30/16 Online @ Somerset Academy

- **Students are expected to keep their instruments clean and in working order.** If repairs are needed, tell the band director first and take them to get repaired immediately. If taken to All County, please ask for a replacement
 - **The color guard must have all equipment re-taped for competition and for regular maintenance.**
 - **Percussionist are expected to have all sticks taped, drum heads polished, cables organized, and mallets in excellent condition. If a mallet or stick breaks it is the member's responsibility to replace it immediately.**
 - **All instruments must be polished, tuned, and presentable for competition.**
 - **All members are expected to have with them all materials needed for maintenance of their instruments or equipment. (Tuner/metronome, tape, valve oil, extra reeds, polishing cloths, electrical tape, etc.)**

- **When performing with the Panther Band, each member represents not only themselves, but the school and the community. Be polite, respectful, and cooperative.**

Marching Band Policy

1. No inappropriate public displays of affection will be tolerated in the band room or while a member is wearing anything representing the Somerset Academy Marching Band.
2. Each member should respect their peers as well as the student leaders within their section.
3. No electronic or cell phone use during rehearsal unless there is an emergency. Staff and student leaders should be made of aware of this beforehand. Members will be allowed to use their phones during meal breaks or water breaks and phones should remain out of reach at any time during rehearsal.
4. Mandatory items for camps and rehearsals: Water jug, sneakers (no vans or converse), band rehearsal attire, socks, hair ties, gloves, black hand towel (small), sunblock, bug spray, first aid items including any over the counter medications needed, pencils and dot books.
5. **No talking on the field during rehearsal.** Instructional staff will give any corrections necessary and if there is a question regarding music or drill, those questions should be directed to section captains or staff. Less talking will facilitate smoother and more productive rehearsals.
6. Practice uniforms will consist of black band shorts and gray band shirts for band, color guard will wear white shirts with black or blue shorts.

General Band Rules

1. Be Respectful.
2. Use Appropriate Language.
3. No eating, drinking, or gum chewing anywhere in the band room.
4. Be On time.
5. Support other bands at competition.
6. Think before you speak.

LEADERSHIP HIERARCHY

Mrs. Ortega
Instructional Staff
Drum Majors/Band Captains
Student Leadership

Marching Band Uniform Policy

When students are in their band uniform, they are representatives of the school and the community. Not only does the student behavior reflect our program, but so does our appearance. All students must be well groomed. No excessive earrings, no nail polish, make-up or any other accessory will be allowed to be worn while the student is representing the band at any function. The way students wear their uniform reflects the pride students have in their school and most importantly in their band.

- Marching Band Uniform consist of:
 - Black marching shoes (provided your rookie year)
 - Solid black long athletic socks (on your own)
 - Marching uniform (provided)
 - Black gloves (provided)
 - Shako (provided)
 - Plume (provided)
- Auxiliary Uniform consist of:
 - Jazz shoes (provided rookie year)
 - Track suit for warm-up (provided your rookie year)
 - Body tights (on your own)
 - Uniform (provided)
 - Hair design (on your own)
 - Make-up (on your own)

Fundraising Expectations

FUND RAISING IS CRITICAL. Students' band fees do not cover all the expenses that a marching band generates. We collect around \$55,000 in band fees which does not cover all the expenses. Last year the marching band spends an average of \$80, 000 - \$90,000. Fundraisers provide money for the band to decrease cost of fees, buy any necessary equipment, music, and/or supplies needed throughout the year. Fundraising projects will be announced throughout the year and will be sent home with the students. All students are encouraged to participate in fundraisers throughout the year. We must fundraise together for the marching season to be successful.

GO PANTHERS!