

# ***East Lake High School Silver Sound Band Program Handbook***



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Band Calendar: <http://www.eastlakeband.com/calendar/>  
East Lake High School Website: <http://www.eastlake-hs.pinellas.k12.fl.us/>

## ~ East Lake High School Silver Sound Marching Band ~

### Marching Band Staff:

**Band Director:** John Fulton

**Visual Director:** C.J. Obartuck

**Colorguard Director:** Josh Guyatt

**Colorguard Instructor:** Emily Roman

**Percussion Instructor:** Josh Wood

**Front Ensemble Instructor:** Kristin Hecht

**Marching Tech:** Taurean Mathis

**Woodwind Tech:** Andi Miller

**Brass Tech:** Shawn Anderson

**Drill Designer:** Bob Barfield

**Music Arranger:** Bill Calhoun

Kristin Hecht (front ens.)

Josh Wood (drumline)

### ♪ Common Core Values: (drafted by students)

The East Lake High School Band Program will continuously strive to attain and build upon the following standards, as drafted and created by all parties involved in, or associated with the program (including the Band Director, Mr. Fulton, the East Lake High School Band students and staff, and Band Booster Organization): showing complete and total respect to all members of the East Lake Band Program and all other bands; displaying ourselves in a professional, classy, and humble manner, both, in and out of school; being proactive and fully prepared to work at every rehearsal and competition; and of course, enjoying every moment spent together by encouraging each other and using teamwork to achieve the common goal of success and pride in ourselves, one another, and the program as a whole.

It is vital that students and staff show respect for one another. No degrading or offensive language will be tolerated. It will be the goal of the staff and students to build up rather than tear down.

The members of the East Lake High School band program are expected to conduct themselves with the utmost classiness, humility, and professionalism. Students are to remember that they are not only representing themselves, but also their fellow band members, band director, staff, and school. Violations of this include, but are not limited to the following: excessive celebration upon victory; obvious public display of disappointment or anger upon loss or undesirable rating, score, or performance; expression of contempt or condescension toward other bands or fellow ensemble members; any other inappropriate or immature reactionary behavior. This expected conduct holds true not only within the walls of East Lake High School, but also at any other venue that we may travel to. Also, this behavior is expected everywhere in the school, from the classroom to the rehearsal field to the football field and bleachers. Students should keep in mind that it is just as important that we as a program are exemplary musicians as well as honorable and dignified people in general.

Every member of the East Lake High School Band is expected to be fully prepared for every band event and be proactive outside of the band room. Punctuality is imperative for every rehearsal, football game, competition, and any other performances. Students are expected to arrive on time (preferably at least 15 minutes prior to scheduled start time) and have all needed materials (instruments, individual water jugs, guard equipment, etc.) to be successful. This also includes taking care of any issues with instruments, music, or anything else before rehearsal to further the productivity of the band. It is essential that every band member is completely focused at every rehearsal and maintains a positive attitude so that the band can accomplish as much as possible. Band members who choose to have a poor attitude and lack of willingness to work will only hold the band back.

Finally, let us not forget to enjoy the company of one another and the immense joys brought from this program. We strive to have fun whilst maintaining these common core values wherever we may travel with this program.

### 🎵 **Positive Behavior – defined:**

- Arrive early to all rehearsals and performances
- Have all needed equipment (instrument, music, pencil, dot book, etc.)
- Dress properly for the occasion
- Strive for personal and ensemble success
- Know and adhere to leadership ranks/roles
- Be prepared in all facets of performing by knowing your part (musically and visually)
- Display and encourage the highest expectations for behavior during rehearsals
- Always show respect towards oneself and others
- Be humble in success by demonstrating class

### 🎵 **Academic Eligibility:**

Each individual student is of the utmost importance to the program. Therefore, each member is expected to responsibly manage his or her time effectively, while being considerate of the effects of time management on the individual's and ensemble's ability to improve and reach its goals. The Pinellas County School Board regulations regarding extra-curricular academic eligibility include the following:

- *Eligibility is based on an unweighted cumulative GPA in all courses taken since first entering the 9th grade.*
- *Eligibility status is determined at the end of each semester (18 weeks) to determine if a student is eligible.*
- *A student who maintains a cumulative 2.0 grade point average is eligible for an entire semester (18 weeks).*

### 🎵 **Attendance:**

The following section outlines specific practices that outline correct attendance. Any violations, that are unexcused (intentionally or not), hurt the entire ensemble and the establishment of trust between you and your peers, the director, and staff. Much like the school's tardy policy, the band program will treat excessive tardiness as an unexcused absence.

- Arrive early and be warmed up before the required start time
- Stay for the entirety of rehearsal (unless properly preapproved by Mr. Fulton directly)
- Attendance is taken at the start of rehearsals, football games, and competitions by a student leader
- Written and verbal notification must be submitted to Mr. Fulton (or designee) at least 2 weeks prior to the date in conflict (*Mr. Fulton will decide whether a request be deemed as excused or unexcused*)
- If a student misses a rehearsal during a performance week, any one or several of the following consequences will result:
  - Student will not be permitted to perform in the show that week (*however, the student is still expected to be in uniform and attendance for the performance*)
  - Student's musical part (solo/feature/part placement) will be taken away
  - Student must submit a written explanation and apology for the absence by the next rehearsal
  - Student's parent(s) will be notified and possibly asked in for a conference
- If a student arrives late to any scheduled rehearsal without having cleared it properly with Mr. Fulton (written and verbal notification 2 weeks in advance), the following consequence will result:
  - Equal compensation of missed time (late to or disruptive/off-task during rehearsal) – stay for a comparable time after rehearsal to do marching basics, rehearse drill or music

#### **Top 5 unacceptable excuses for missing a rehearsal:**

“I have a doctor/dentist/orthodontist appointment.”

“I have too much homework due/test coming up.”

“I don't have a ride to/from rehearsal.”

“I have a birthday party (or other family gathering) to go to.”

“I didn't know/forgot we had practice.”

## **Attitude and Preparedness:**

There are many aspects of demonstrating professionalism and class. The following guidelines are expected of all members. Remember, your words and actions represent the integrity of the entire program. As part of the program, approach every situation with the utmost respect and humility. Remember, if something questionable—or even confrontational occurs—there are people and procedures in place to protect your safety and the program's reputation; do not think you must ever take matters into your own hands. If you disagree with the decision or actions of a fellow band member, student officer, staff member, parent, or any other student or adult, display professionalism by waiting until the appropriate time to discuss the matter with someone. When in doubt, demonstrate patience and discretion.

- Have all necessary items for rehearsal
  - Have water, sunscreen, shoes, instrument/equipment issues addressed prior to start time
  - Have drill and music for warm-ups, the show, and stands tunes memorized

## **Competitions/Public Performances:**

- Know and follow proper report times
- Be completely ready for inspection
- Be in attendance for the entire day and duration of the event (usually the only exceptions include great illness or death in the family)
- Display your best behavior, while in and out of uniform (this is imperative in developing and maintaining the integrity of the program, which includes those who were once a part of the program, are currently part of the program, and who will be in the future)
- Maintain the highest level of class and represent the program with pride
- Know and follow all expectations of being prepared for a performance
- Know and follow all expectations of being dismissed from a performance
- No member is permitted to leave or separate from the band until explicitly dismissed by the director, drum major, or a staff member
- Show professionalism by avoiding public displays of affection. PDA is not allowed at performances, contests, football games, rehearsals, practices—in uniform, practice uniform, travel uniform or on buses. Do not do anything as a band student that you would not be comfortable doing in front of your parents and/or Mr. Fulton!

## **Football Games:**

- Know and follow proper report times
- Be completely ready for inspection
- Be aware that several away games will be scheduled rehearsal times
- Maintain the highest level of class and represent the program with pride
- Remain with your section, assigned seating, while in the stands or moving to the field
- Do not play at any time on your own; the drum major, designated student leader, director, or staff member will let you know when to play
- Display your best behavior at all times (even while on 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter break)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter breaks will be conducted in the following manner:
  - Dismissed for break together (including front ensemble and Colorguard)
  - Be back in the stands, ready to play immediately upon the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter
    - Students late from 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter break forfeit their entire 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter break the next game
  - Know and follow the approved manner of wearing bibs during the break

- Know and follow the approved liquids and foods allowed while in uniform
- Correctly fold uniforms, place shakos, and store equipment while not in use
- Maintain proper behavior expectations
- Know and follow all expectations of being prepared for halftime/postgame performance
- Know and follow all expectations of being dismissed from the stands and band room
- Remain professional by refraining from all public displays of affection (PDA)
- Cheer in an appropriate manner
- Always follow the “buddy system”

### Inspection:

- Entire band will be called to “attention” and “parade rest” for the duration of inspection (remain at parade even after you have been inspected—do not talk or get off-task)
- Wear the correct undergarments
- Black socks (no ankle socks)
- Black marching shoes (purchased from ELHS Band)
- White gloves (purchased from ELHS Band)
  - If your section does not wear gloves, you will be informed
  - If your section has “cut fingertip gloves”, the gloves should all be cut to approximately the same length, defined by section leaders, and should be sewn properly to avoid frayed ends
  - If your section wears gloves, they are to always be clean and stain-free (new gloves can be purchased in the band room)
- No jewelry of any kind is to be worn while in uniform (i.e. necklaces, watches, wristbands, earrings, or visible piercings are to be removed or covered)
- Instruments/Equipment should be clean and displayed in their best shape (shined, polished, taped)
- Slides, valves, reeds, or any other other instrument accessories (including spares, if needed) should be in working performance condition
- Boys and girls should wear their hair up (*must completely fit inside shako and above uniform collar*)
- Student leaders are inspected by the staff; student leaders will then inspect their respective section(s)

### 🎵 Leadership Hierarchy:

Ultimately, we all share the same goals and help encourage each other towards successes on and off the field. Leadership roles are established to delegate responsibility and duties for maximum efficacy and organization. Knowing and respecting the roles of every leader is an integral part of the program—and furthermore, in life. Please understand that the roles are not intended to be positions of unlimited or demeaning power. Knowing the ranks and who is responsible for you is important for leadership and members alike. (We are all busy, and feel our problems are immediately concerns for the director, but the hierarchy will help direct you to the appropriate person who can help or advise you.) Furthermore, if you are not a part of a particular student-leader’s or staff member’s section, but are instructed or asked to do something by this leader, you are still expected to comply.

In being a student leader, one is expected to take an active responsibility for his or her respective section. This means taking the proper actions to communicate expectations of behavior, being prepared, and motivating those in your section. If someone in your section does not fulfill any requirements or duties, you are expected to stand in for them and get the task done. Conversely, when someone in your section succeeds or is commended, know that it is a direct result of the example you set and strive to project.



### **Leadership Roles – defined:**

- **Staff Members:** Caption Heads coordinate with the band director to schedule and pace rehearsal. Caption Heads are responsible for their caption’s preparation and success. All staff (captions and techs) are to be treated with the respect appropriate for East Lake High School faculty. All of our staff are full time Pinellas County School Board faculty or adjunct faculty. Caption Heads are perfectly within their ability and authority to “cross caption” and make observations about other sections. We have a varied and talented staff and will make use of those talents in a way that will help us grow as people and performers.
- **Drum Major:** Always set the example of proper rehearsal etiquette. The Drum Major(s) act as the “central” voice during rehearsal, where to start, where to end, etc. Instructions given by the Drum Major(s) are to be treated as if they came from the band director or a Caption Head.
- **Field Commander:** Always set the example of proper rehearsal etiquette. He or she will be prepared to conduct the show, in case of illness or injury to the Drum Major(s). He or she will conduct the pep-band in the stands during football games.
- **Section Captains:** Always set the example of proper rehearsal etiquette. Captains will insure that section leaders are checking parts, etc., and are available to “troubleshoot” or help with students that may face challenges. Captains may also lead sectionals.
- **Section Leaders:** Always set the example of proper rehearsal etiquette. A section leader’s primary role is checking musical parts (preparedness and memorization) and dot books. Section leaders will listen to section members play parts and make corrections in pitch and rhythm. Additionally, they will check dot books, assuring they are updated and annotated accurately.
- **Quartermasters:** Always set the example of proper rehearsal etiquette. Quartermasters are in charge of the packing and safe transfer of instruments and equipment. They will instruct students in the correct way to store their instruments and will direct the loading/unloading of trucks, trailers, and buses. In addition, they have direct responsibility for the condition of the instrument storage rooms. They will plan and implement “best use” plans for those rooms, trailers, etc.

### **Student Leadership Duties:**

- Assist band director and staff
- Set exemplary standards of behavior
- Exhibit great pride and enthusiasm
- Display and maintain the integrity of the program
- Facilitate positive attitudes
- Demonstrate responsibility for actions/behavior of represented section(s)
- Show utmost respect and demonstrate great character at all times
- Be the first to arrive for rehearsals and performances
- Remain until all students have left
- Attend any and all officer meetings
- Remain in the highest academic and behavior standing with teachers and school
- Lead by example

### **♪ Range of Consequences:** (for minor infractions, major infractions, and/or repeated behavior)

- Written letter of explanation and apology (generic form or specific guidelines)
- Parent contact (letter, phone call, conference, etc.)
- School designated detention/Administrative referral
- Suspension or dismissal from the marching band or any performing group may be necessary for repeated offenses, absences, disciplinary issues (including discipline issues in school), low GPA, etc.
- Officers may be suspended or dismissed from a leadership role for repeated offenses, absences, disciplinary issues (including discipline issues in school), low GPA, etc.

**🎵 Signature Sheet:**

I have read the East Lake High School Silver Sound Band Handbook and understand all aspects covered therein. I agree to abide by the rules and regulations covered in the Handbook.

Student's Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the East Lake High School Silver Sound Band Handbook with my child and we understand and agree to abide by all aspects covered therein.

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Email: \_\_\_\_\_