



Houston County High School Black and Silver Brigade

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www.hocoband.org

EXPECT EXCELLENCE. BEAR DOWN.



Welcome to the Houston County Black and Silver Brigade family.

You are now part of one of the finest band programs in the state of Georgia and we are glad that you are here! The Black and Silver Brigade provides musical activities that encompass a wide range of musical experiences that allows every member an opportunity to find their level of commitment and reach their highest possible level of excellence. In addition to the legacy of excellence created by the successes of each performing group of the HCCHS Band, the individual members of the Black and Silver have distinguished themselves as gifted and talented musicians from their selection to the Georgia Music Educators' Association All State Band, the Governor's Honors Program, District Honor Band, and many collegiate and local honor ensembles.

Hard working students, dedicated staff members, involved and active parents, and a supportive administration and community all combine to make it possible for the Houston County High School Band program to flourish and thrive. Our students are expected to set and reach high goals for themselves and their program. The rewards of meeting those expectations are immeasurable in the development of our students as well-rounded human beings. Members of the Black and Silver will develop musically, emotionally, mentally, socially, and physically during their time in the band program at Houston County High School. This handbook is intended to be used by the students, parents, administrators, staff, and directors as a convenient source of information regarding the varied aspects of the HCCHS Band Program. Students and parents must read this handbook carefully and are expected to abide by and understand all rules and regulations set forth in this handbook.

Welcome again to the Black and Silver Brigade! We promise to give you one of the most rewarding and fulfilling experiences of your high school career.

Looking forward to a great season! Bear down!

Jay Davis
Director of Bands

Dillon Watkins
Assistant Director of Bands

About the Directors...

Jay Davis

Director of Bands

Jay Davis is currently beginning his twenty-first year in education, eighth as the Director of Bands at Houston County High School in Warner Robins, Georgia. He holds degrees in Music Education (with honors) from Georgia College and State University and Auburn University.

As Director of Bands at Houston County High School, he oversees 300 students daily, divided into four concert ensembles, a jazz ensemble, a percussion ensemble, and a color guard class. The Black and Silver Brigade, HCHS's marching ensemble, includes two marching bands, serving over 240 students. Bands under his direction have consistently received Superior ratings at adjudicated events throughout the southeast in both the concert and marching areas, including several Grand Champion honors. The Houston County Band was awarded the Exemplary Performance Award by the Georgia Music Educators Association for the 2016-2017 and the 2021-2022 school years. Most recently, the Houston County Wind Symphony performed at the Music for All Southeastern Regional Concert Band Festival and was selected to perform at the 2023 GMEA In-Service Conference in January 2023.

Davis holds or has held memberships in GMEA, the International Trumpet Guild, Kappa Kappa Psi (Honorary), National Band Association, Pi Kappa Lambda, and has served as a Province Governor for Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. He has served as Chair of the All-State Committee as well as two terms as GMEA District Eleven Chair. He has presented at the GMEA Conference on three occasions and was recently elected to serve as GMEA Vice President for All State. He is an advisor to the Educational Resource Committee of the International Horn Society and is on the Board of Directors for the Jazz Association of Macon. He has previously served on the Board of Directors for the Georgia College Alumni Association and the community band, Tara Winds. Davis currently performs with the Wellston Winds, where he serves as a conductor. He was inducted into the Phi Beta Mu International Bandmaster's fraternity in March of 2020.

Jay has been married to Dr. Tina Holmes-Davis, Associate Professor of Music Education at Georgia College, for 21 years. He is a proud dad to 17-year-old twins, Emma and Jonah, who will be Seniors this year at HoCo.

Dillon Watkins

Assistant Director of Bands

Dillon Watkins is incredibly excited to join the Black and Silver Brigade as Assistant Director of Bands for 2022-2023! Dillon is the former music teacher at Hilltop Elementary School in Bonaire, Georgia as well as the former Director of Bands at Tattnell Square Academy. Mr. Watkins has been on staff with Mercer University Athletic Bands, the Wesleyan School, ALLIANCE Drum and Bugle Corps, Jones County High School, Forsyth Central High School, Georgia Military College Preparatory School, and Genesis Drum and Bugle Corps. His drum corps career began as a marching member in 2013 with the seven-time world champions, Cavaliers of Rosemont, Illinois. Soon after aging out of the Cavaliers, Dillon began teaching scholastic and independent ensembles throughout the Southeast and Southwest regions of the country. He joined ALLIANCE as a member of the visual staff in 2015 during which the corps placed second in DCA A-class Finals. In 2016, Dillon returned to ALLIANCE as the assistant caption head for both the brass and visual captions and helped lead the brass caption to a DCA Open Class finals finish. Most recently, Mr. Watkins was appointed as the brass caption head for Genesis Drum and Bugle Corps in Austin, Texas beginning in the Fall of 2019.

Dillon holds an Associate of Arts degree from Georgia Military College and a Bachelor of Music Education from Mercer University. Dillon has studied conducting under Dr. Douglas Hill, Dr. Stanley Roberts, Maestro Adrian Gnam, Dr. Jamie Nix, Scott Boerma, and Craig Kirchoff. While an undergraduate at Mercer, he studied trumpet with Jonathan Swygert, Michael Tiscione, Bill Denton, and Dr. Ramon Vasquez.

Dillon is an active performer, adjudicator, clinician, and conductor in the middle Georgia area. Mr. Watkins is extremely involved as a visual designer and educator with pageantry arts ensembles throughout the Southeast and Southwest. His show designs have been awarded top honors at competitions throughout the region. Mr. Watkins currently resides in Bonaire, Georgia with his wife, son, and their dog, Kona.

2022-2023 Marching Band Handbook

PARENTS: PLEASE READ ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ***WITH YOUR STUDENT.***

Marching Band Program:

The HCHS Black and Silver Brigade enjoys a rich and varied history of excellence in the marching arts. All band students are eligible to participate in the Black and Silver Brigade. Students must participate in a band class to be eligible to participate in the Black and Silver Brigade. Marching band begins in July with practices at the school during our marching band camp. Once school begins, the marching band rehearses after school from August through the end of football season in early November (could be extended further depending on the football team's success.). The program fields two marching bands each season.

Social Media and Website:

The HoCo band has a fantastic website that is full of information about the band program. **This should be your first stop for getting your questions answered.** The website is located at www.hocoband.org. Please visit this page often to stay fully connected to the daily activities of the BASB. Please also follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for the latest band information.

General Band Rules:

In addition to all the behavioral rules and policies outlined in the school handbook, students are expected to follow the code of conduct outlined below that deal with band-specific rules/regulations. **Professed ignorance of policies will not be accepted as an excuse for misbehavior.**

- DO WHAT IS RIGHT AT ALL TIMES!
- Have a positive attitude about the work that is to be done. Every rehearsal is hard, but we work to improve every day.
- To protect your feet, athletic shoes and socks must be worn to all marching rehearsals.
- Chewing gum is not permitted in any rehearsal or the band room.
- No food or drink is allowed inside the band room at any time unless announced by the Director. (Water is the only exception.)
- Band members must respect the band uniform at all times.
- There is absolutely NO HAZING allowed within the Black and Silver Brigade.
- Be in your seat, prepared for rehearsal on time.
- Treat others as you would like to be treated.
- Respect other people's property.
- Overt public displays of affection are not allowed.
- Remember to always show your support for other groups' performances.
- Show respect for all adult staff/chaperones assisting with our band program at all times.
- Profanity is not allowed. You never know who might be listening!
- The Black and Silver Brigade is, and always has been, a class act, one that exudes professionalism in everything we do. Always conduct ourselves with character, integrity and maturity.
- Any infraction not listed here will be dealt with according to HCBOE policy.

Consequences:

- 1st Offense-Verbal Warning
- 2nd Offense-Meeting with Directors
- 3rd Offense-Parent Contact/Detention
- 4th Offense-Possible dismissal from program/ Office referral
- In cases of major infractions of school policy or blatant refusal to cooperate, student will be referred to the office immediately. The band staff will have the final say in these matters.

Rehearsal Etiquette:

- Rehearsal's need to be as silent as possible to ensure that everyone hears instructions.
- Attendance will be taken by the band captains at the start of practice-be present and be on time!
- Students are to have their music and drill coordinates at each rehearsal, whether inside or outside.
- Make sure you are aware of where and when you are to be back on field following breaks.
- The Black and Silver Brigade is, and always has been, a class act, one that exudes professionalism in everything we do. Always conduct ourselves with character, integrity and maturity.

CHARMS:

Every member of the HCHS Band program is assigned a login for CHARMS. CHARMS is the program that we use to stay in contact with parents and keep up with the financial responsibilities of the individual student within the band program. It also contains the calendar for all band events.

Attendance Policy:

Rehearsal attendance is necessary for the success of our marching program. You have made a commitment to this activity. It is your responsibility to arrange your schedule in such a way that you make all practices and performances. Keep this in mind when you consider joining other extracurricular activities, dual enrollment, or getting a job.

Any absence or tardy from all or part of a rehearsal requires a note or email from parent, teacher, or doctor with a thorough explanation or reason for the absence or tardy. All notes should be emailed to tara.elderkin@hcbe.net as soon as possible. We need all band members present in order to set drill and clean forms. **If you miss the rehearsal prior to a performance for any reason, you will not be able to participate in the performance.**

Reasons for excused absence from practice:

- Illness
- Family emergency that has been communicated to the band staff.
- Conflicts with other school activities (require prior approval by band staff).

Although a student may need to leave the practice field temporarily for health reasons, abuse of this situation will not be tolerated. Repeated unauthorized breaks (3) will result in an unexcused absence. **On practice days, students should schedule their tutoring and test make-ups before school.** A signed teacher pass is required to be admitted to practice from detention, club activities, tutoring, or test makeups. These need to be given to Mrs. Elderkin upon arrival in order for the absence to be considered excused.

A student will be marked absent if they are not in place by the time roll is taken. Excessive tardies and unexcused absences could result in the student not being able to perform at that week's performances. This will be decided at the discretion of the staff and directors. **Any student who misses the final practice before a performance will not be allowed to perform that week (excused or unexcused) at halftime or pregame.** The attendance policy will be as follows:

- Three tardies will equal an unexcused absence.
- Three unexcused absences will lead to a phone call from the band staff alerting the parent to their child's attendance record.
- Five unexcused absences will lead to a conference with the student and parent and could result in being dismissed from the group.
- Absences from a performance must be approved by Mr. Davis at least two weeks prior to the absence. In all cases, the band staff will determine whether the absence is considered excused or unexcused.

Dress Code:

This dress code applies to practice. Performance dress code is addressed in another section. All school dress code rules apply with the following exceptions/clarifications-

- All students must wear tennis shoes or Bandos at practice
- Shorts must be at a modest length.
- Shirts can be sleeveless but not tank tops. No t-shirts with cut out sleeves. Shirts cannot be ripped down the side.
- No one is allowed to take off or hike up their shirts.
- The Black and Silver Brigade is, and always has been, a class act, one that exudes professionalism in everything we do. Always conduct ourselves with character, integrity and maturity
- In all dress code matters, the band staff will have the final say concerning the appropriateness of the attire.

Payments:

All fees can be paid by cash or check at the band room. The money box is located on the wall next to the band office. Money can also be sent to the booster's PO Box at the following address:

Black and Silver Brigade Band Boosters, Inc
1114 Hwy 96
Ste C-1 #313
Kathleen, GA 31047

Fees can also be paid online at <https://hocoband.org/student-fee-payments>. A small fee for this service is charged in addition to the fees being paid.

Bus Assignment:

Bus sign up will be done by grade level prior to the first performance. Mrs. Elderkin is handling assignments and will do everything to accommodate your requests. Requests for changes should be addressed to Mrs. Elderkin.

Game Day and Performance Procedures:

Report times for all games will be announced as travel plans are finalized usually a week prior to the game. Typically, report time is around 5:30.

What to wear: bibbers, solid black socks (calf or higher), band dry fit shirt, and Bandos. Summer uniforms will be used as appropriate. Shorts must be worn under the uniform. Make sure you have your water jug as well. Pants cannot show under bibbers. If you lose or forget your shirt, socks, or gloves, a replacement set will be issued to you by the uniform crew and your account will be charged through CHARMS. Hair should be styled in such a way that it does not touch the collar. Long hair should be pinned and tucked under the shako. Small post earrings or studs in school colors are the only acceptable jewelry that can be worn with the uniform. Fingernails must be painted in a neutral color.

Home Games:

- Students will report to the band warm-up area inside the stadium. Band will enter the stadium through the main stadium gate. Do not drop off behind the stadium. Students will be picked up in the same area as drop off. Students should arrive dressed as stated above. All students must be picked up in a timely fashion following the game.

Away Games:

- Load your instrument on the semi (if not loaded during class). Percussionists and guard bring your equipment to the loading crew at the semi. Do not expect someone else to load it for you. If your instrument is not loaded before the semi departs, it will ride with you to the event.
- Get your uniform and hat box from the uniform room
- Confirm that you have your hat, plumes, gloves and gauntlets as needed.
- Report to the band room for further instructions. Use the restroom. Sit with your section.
- Section leaders will do a uniform check for all in their section.
- Buses will be loaded by gender. Report to the bus you have been assigned to.
- Away games in Houston County will not use bus transportation. Students will drop off at the designated stadium.
- These procedures may be amended due to COVID 19.

Bus Rules: (All students will ride to events with the group.)

- All county bus rules apply.
- What to bring: Necessary band items, personal items, water (no glass containers), jacket (if needed).
- Seating: Female band members a required to sit in the back of the bus and male band members ride in the front. Chaperones or staff will be located in the front, back and middle of the bus.
- When we arrive at any location, stay on the bus and wait for further instructions.
- A signed note from your parents must be emailed to the chaperone chair (hocobandchaperones@gmail.com) if you wish to ride home with your parents. These must be emailed by the end of Thursday's practice in order to give the chaperone coordinator time to organize the notes. You and your parents must check out with a **staff member** before you leave the event.
- Absolutely no undressing on the bus. All band members are to ride to and from events in bibbers or costume.
- Every student will be assigned bus or band room cleanup during the football season

Seating in the stands (current band members only):

- Assigned seating (no switching sections)
- No switching instruments
- No eating or drinking anything other than water while wearing uniform jacket.
- Parents may not bring anything other than water for students in the stands.

Stands Etiquette:

- No solo performances. We play as a group.
- Injured football player – students will sit and remain quiet until situation is cleared
- No inappropriate cheers. Only preapproved and organized cheers are permitted. Everyone is required to participate in stands music and cheers.
- Proper language is to be used at all times.

Third quarter break:

- This is a chance for students to eat, use the restroom and relax. It can be taken away if behavior warrants.
- All students must be back in the stands with two minutes remaining in the third quarter.
- You may not bring any food or drinks back into the stands.
- Concession stands are off-limits during third quarter. Meals will be preordered and ready to go following the halftime performance.
- Failure to clean up following 3rd quarter break could lead to loss of break privileges.

End of the game:

- Wait for instructions.
- Instruments will be returned to semi and students check in with chaperones and board the buses.
- If you are riding home with parents--Mr. Davis, Mr. Watkins, or another band staff member must acknowledge that your parents have you. You are responsible for making sure your uniform and equipment are returned safely to the school that evening. Don't forget to email your note to the chaperone chair!
- Upon arriving at the school, students assigned bus cleanup must remain on the bus when other have departed to fulfill their duties. All other students report to the band room
- Students will be dismissed by grade level. Percussion and section leaders will be called first. All students must put your instrument away and turn in uniform before you are allowed to leave.
- Please remember to be respectful of other performing groups during the game. All band students work very hard to perform at the highest level possible. Be supportive of your peers' efforts at all times.

Competition Day Procedures:

- All Game Day Performance rules apply. Competition arrival procedures are the same as the game day procedure. We will practice at the band field prior to departure.

Competition Etiquette:

- Show respect and support for all bands.
- Silence cell phones.
- Do not talk or enter/exit during a performance.
- Be mindful of what you are saying at the performance or putting on social media.
- *Each band performing at this event has their own story to tell. Some come from urban areas, some come from rural areas. Some come from large schools, others come from small schools. Some have overcome odds just to have a marching band in which to participate. Some may have experienced difficult set-backs, while others are experiencing their most positive marching season ever. Regardless of each band's particular circumstances, every student who takes the field has made the choice to make music and art. As spectators, we each have a responsibility to recognize those efforts by simply being a good audience.*

Student Leadership:

Students may audition for the following leadership positions: Drum major, section leader, drum captain, color guard captain, and band captains.

Auditions will be held in April. All interested parties are required to complete an application and go through an interview process. A panel of judges not associated with the band will handle auditions for drum major and guard captain. Student leadership requires a time commitment above and beyond that of a student in a non-leadership position.

Internet Etiquette:

There are an abundance of newsgroups and social media outlets that can be utilized by band members and parents. These programs and apps are a great way to discuss performances and schedules and share pictures from various band events. Please be mindful about what you post on social media. Our digital presence is just as important as our on-field presence and everyone, **students and parents**, should be very judicious in what is posted. We always want the Black and Silver Brigade to be presented in the most positive way possible. If this policy is abused, appropriate steps will be taken according to system policy to handle the situation. We also ask that you do not post videos of our shows until after the competitive season.

Band Letters:

Band Letters are earned through exemplary participation in marching band for the fall season. In order to be considered for a Band Letter, a student must:

- Register for a band ensemble class for the entire year (waived for Colorguard members)
- Participate in the marching band for two years
- Maintain exemplary attendance

Important Contact Info:

- Jay Davis-jay.davis@hcbe.net
- Dillon Watkins- dillon.watkins@hcbe.net
- Christina Sullivan, President-hocobandpres@gmail.com
- Joe Pittman, Vice-President-hocobandvp@gmail.com
- Michelle Byrd, Treasurer-hocobandtreasurer@gmail.com
- Jennifer Prewitt, Co-Treasurer-hocobandcotreasurer@gmail.com
- Barbara Deuber, Secretary-hocobandsecretary@gmail.com
- Jolene Taylor- Ways and Means-hocobandconcessions@gmail.com
- Alanna Fox- Co-Ways and Means- hocobandcoconcessions@gmail.com
- Tara Elderkin, Attendance, Medical Forms, Buses-tara.elderkin@hcbe.net

Social Media Info:

- Website: www.hocoband.org
- Instagram: hocobands
- Twitter: @HOCObands
- Facebook: Houston County Black and Silver Brigade- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/234738346548685/>

S-Spirit
U-Unity
D-Determination
A-Attitude

The Houston County Black and Silver Brigade

