

**UNIONTOWN AREA HIGH SCHOOL**

**RED RAIDER  
MARCHING BAND**

**2022-2023  
BAND HANDBOOK**

# UNIONTOWN RED RAIDER BAND

**146 E. FAYETTE STREET  
UNIONTOWN, PA 15401  
PHONE (724) 439-5000**

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Welcome!

You are now a member of an outstanding organization: the Uniontown Red Raider Marching Band. Our band is well known and has a very historic reputation. I hope that you will be very proud to be a member of this exemplary group, and that you will work hard and do your share to maintain the excellence that the Red Raider Band has achieved.

In order to be an outstanding organization, a group must have certain rules that must be followed at all times. This handbook outlines the rules and regulations in addition to offering helpful suggestions that will assist you throughout the upcoming band season.

Always keep in mind that a band is only as good as its members make it. This is your band, so make it the best by always contributing the best effort you can put in. I hope that you will work hard and that your membership in this organization will bring you happiness and lasting memories that you will treasure forever.

Mr. Wyatt Wilson  
wyatt.wilson@uasdraiders.org  
*Director of Bands*

# MARCHING BAND SCHEDULE 2022-2023

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
<b>JUNE / JULY</b>			
June 20 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup>	Mini-Camp	Uniontown HS	9:00am – 12:00pm
July 18 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	BAND CAMP WEEK 1	Uniontown HS	9:00am – 3:00pm
<b>AUGUST</b>			
August 7 <sup>th</sup>	DCI Pittsburgh	Baldwin HS	Report TBD
August 8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	BAND CAMP WEEK 2	Uniontown HS	4:00pm – 8:00pm
August 12 <sup>th</sup>	Picture Day & Preview Show	Uniontown HS	Times TBA
August 17 <sup>th</sup>	Kennywood Day	Kennywood Park	Report @9:00am
August 26 <sup>th</sup>	Away Game @ LH	Laurel Highlands HS	Report TBA
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Home Game vs. Brownsville	Uniontown HS	Report @5:00pm
September 9 <sup>th</sup>	Away Game @ Carrick	TBA	Report TBA
September TBD	Possible Alumni Rehearsals	Uniontown HS	3:00pm – 5:00pm
September 16 <sup>th</sup>	Home Game vs. AG (Homecoming + Parade)	Uniontown HS	Report TBA
September 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Home Game vs. Valley (8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band Night)	Uniontown HS	Report TBA
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	LH Band Festival	Laurel Highlands HS	Report @4:30pm
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	Away Game @ Windber	Windber HS	Report @4:45pm
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	Away Game @ Brownsville	Brownsville HS	Report @5:30pm
October 14 <sup>th</sup>	Home Game vs. Waynesburg (Senior Night)	Uniontown HS	Report TBA
October 21 <sup>st</sup>	Away Game @ Berlin Brothersvalley	Uniontown HS	Report @4:45pm
October TBD	Halloween Parade	Downtown Uniontown	Report TBA
October 28 <sup>th</sup>	Home Game vs. Carrick	Uniontown HS	Report @5:00pm
<b>NOVEMBER / DECEMBER</b>			
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Veterans Day Parade	Location TBD	Report TBA
TBD	Light-Up Night Parade	Downtown Uniontown	TBD
<b>2023</b>			
Winter 2023	Raider Dozen Pep Band	Uniontown HS	TBD
January TBD	FayWest Honor Band	TBD	TBD
February 9 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>	WVU Honor Band	Morgantown, WV	TBD
TBD	Spring Band Trip	Location TBD	TBD
April/May TBD	Band Auditions	Uniontown HS	TBD
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	May Day Parade	Downtown Uniontown	Report @TBA
May TBA	Uniform Return	Uniontown HS	Report @TBA

**This schedule is subject to change at any time. Events may be added or deleted as needed. We will make you aware of any changes as far in advance as possible. It is the responsibility of the student to check the board in the band room for changes as well as meeting times and place.**

## **GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

All standard Uniontown Area High School rules and regulations will be in effect at all times.

The use or possession of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, or controlled substances will not be tolerated and shall be just cause for dismissal from the band.

An immediate response is expected when orders are given by the directors, instructors, drum majors, captains, or section leaders.

Disrespectfulness to any of the above-mentioned individuals will not be tolerated and can result in temporary or permanent suspension from the band.

There will be no initiation or hazing for members of the band. This is a professional organization where all members are valued and respected for their contributions from the very first day.

No foul, profane, or obscene language or actions are permitted at any time. Your actions in public make very powerful impressions on people, and we do not intend to bring on embarrassment or show disrespect to our school or band.

Be on time for all rehearsals and performances.

Treat all band property with care. Handle instruments and objects carefully and respectfully.

Do not chew gum in rehearsal or at a performance.

No student is to leave the group at any time (rehearsals or events) without the permission from the director. Leaving rehearsal or an event without prior permission from the director may result in dismissal from the band.

After school rehearsals may be called at any time for individual instrumental sections, auxiliary sections, or the full band. You will receive at least a 1 week notice prior to the rehearsal.

Cell phones are not to be used during rehearsals. Students are permitted to use their phones during breaks. Unless it's an emergency, it can wait! If students cannot follow this rule, cell phones will be collected at the beginning of each rehearsal.

Any posting of social media (ex. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) in a derogatory or negative manner towards the marching band, band members, booster organization, and/or directors will result in an immediate grade reduction and could lead to dismissal from the band.

All section leaders and captains will be appointed by the band staff and could be subject to change at any time throughout the year at the discretion of the director.

**The band director's decisions are final concerning the status of any band or auxiliary member.**

## **DRUM MAJORS**

### **Drum Majors will...**

- check with leaders/captains to make sure they have all materials required for performances.
- be responsible for memorizing the conducting patterns for each performed song.
- be responsible for collecting the attendance sheets from each section leader on a daily basis.
- help the members of the band with their music during the marching and concert seasons and to assist each member in being able to successfully play their part.
- be a teacher and resource for the other students to turn to for help.
- be responsible with checking in on each section to offer help with the rehearsal during sectional time.
- run full band rehearsals when asked to do so by the director.
- put forth a positive attitude at all times and set a good example for each member of the band.
- help with marching technique for those students having difficulty.
- will meet with Mr. Wilson periodically to discuss the progress of any student in the band and to learn instructional techniques and methods of teaching to use during rehearsals.

**The Drum Majors can lose their position, at the director's discretion, at any time if the above standards are not adhered to.**

## **SECTION LEADERS**

### **Section leaders will...**

- take attendance, run section rehearsals, and assist students who are having problems with music.
- set a positive example for behavior and practice habits.
- be responsible for fostering positive a relationship among all section members.
- be teachers and resource people for the other students to turn to for help.
- schedule additional sectional rehearsals when needed (must be approved by Mr. Wilson).
- help with marching technique for those students having difficulty.
- meet periodically with Mr. Wilson to discuss the progress of each student in the section and to learn instructional techniques and methods of teaching to use in sectional rehearsals.

**A section leader can lose their position, at the director's discretion, at any time if the above standards are not adhered to.**

## **AUXILIARY CAPTAINS**

### **Captains will...**

- make sure that each member of the squad learns the required routines.
- make sure that each member of the squad is putting forth effort and learning the routines correctly.
- take attendance, run section rehearsals, and assist students who are having problems with a routine.
- set a positive example for behavior and practice habits.
- be responsible for fostering positive a relationship among all section members.
- be teachers and resource people for the other students to turn to for help.
- schedule additional sectional rehearsals when needed (must be approved by Mr. Wilson AND Mrs. Wilson).
- be responsible for checking equipment before each performance to be sure that it is all in place.
- make sure that all necessary equipment (including the banner, American flag, and state flag) has been loaded onto the trailer before departure.
- meet with the directors periodically to discuss the progress of each student on the squad and to learn instructional techniques and methods of teaching to use during sectional rehearsals.

**A Captain can lose their position, at the director's discretion, at any time if the above standards are not adhered to.**

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

The band requires students to put in a certain number of hours after school and over the summer. These extra hours are considered the same as homework is for any other course. Therefore, attendance at these events and rehearsals will affect your grade.

The only reasons for excused absences are listed below:

- illness
- death in the family
- an excuse approved by the band director

Excuses must be in writing to the directors prior to the event or it will be considered unexcused. The performance excuse form can be found in the handbook and on the website ([uhsbands.weebly.com](http://uhsbands.weebly.com)).

**Work is NEVER considered an excused absence. Arrangements must be made with employers for students to be available for ALL events.**

The directors hold the right to determine each member's performance eligibility based on an excess of unexcused absences or tardiness. It is up to you to hold your spot in the show.

Any student that misses two practices within a one-week period will be subject to eligibility review by the directors. The student's prior attendance and performance in band will be considered when determining their readiness and deservedness to perform.

Any student who misses a performance due to an unexcused absence or lack of proper clearance from the directors via the excused absence form will not be permitted to perform during the next band performance. Attending a performance as a spectator and not with the band when required to be could result in dismissal from the band.

All excuses must be submitted via the excused absence form with necessary materials attached (Doctor's excuse, note from parents, etc.).

\*Students that attend the Fayette County Career and Technical Institute must attend 4<sup>th</sup> period band practice no less than 2 times per week (one of the days being Friday). Busing is provided from the tech school to the high school on prearranged scheduled days. Failure to do so could result in sitting out a performance.

\*Students that are scheduled for a class other than band 4<sup>th</sup> period must attend 4<sup>th</sup> period band practice no less than 2 times per week (one of the days being Friday). Arrangements must be made each week with your 4<sup>th</sup> period teacher to attend. Failure to do so could result in sitting out a performance.

\*Students that are enrolled in Cyber School must attend band practice no less than 3 times per week (One of the days being Friday). Arrangements must be made each week to be in attendance. Failure to do so could result in sitting out a performance.

**Any student that does not attend band camp will not be permitted to perform until cleared by the director.**

## **GRADES**

Marching band students receive two types of grades during each 9-week period, which are totaled together for the final 9-week grade. Each student will receive a **Weekly Participation Grade and a Performance/Event Grade**. Students that attend the tech school or students enrolled in a different 4<sup>th</sup> period class will still be graded. Although the grade will not be reflected on report cards it will be used toward good standing in the band as well as eligibility for section of the week for your band section.

### **Weekly Participation Grade - 10 points each**

Students can earn up to 10 points for each week. This grade will examine the student's preparedness for the rehearsals and how the student participated in the rehearsals. "Preparedness" would include proper attire, having your instrument/equipment, having music/drill charts, etc. Points may be deducted whenever a student is irresponsible in his/her duties as a band member. (For example: not putting instrument away properly, not having necessary materials, etc.) **After 3 unexcused school absences students will begin to lose their participation grade for each additional absence. Students are responsible for turning in excuses to Mr. Wilson for all absences. Without an excuse it will be assumed that the absence was unexcused.**

### **Performance/Event Grade - 50 points each**

Band members will receive a playing grade while auxiliary members receive a routine grade once a week at football games. Grades are determined by the level of performance each student gives at each football game. Participation and preparedness at each game contributes to this grade each week.

A student will not receive points when s/he is absent for **ANY** unexcused reason. Points not received by missing rehearsals or performances may NOT be made up. Any student that skips an event will not be permitted to perform in the next event. Skipping more than one band event will result in dismissal from band.

**Grades can and will be changed after the nine weeks for all unexcused absences for events outside of the 1<sup>st</sup> nine weeks.**

Points may be deducted from a student's grade whenever a student is irresponsible in his/her duties as a band member. *For example: chewing gum in uniform [-1pt], missing long socks [-2pts], dirty uniform [-3pts], disrupting rehearsal [-4pts], inappropriate language [-5pts], etc.*

## **THE BAND APP**

The BAND app is a great tool that allows students and parents to keep track of updates and reminders regarding band rehearsals, performances, fundraisers, and other important news. To sign up, follow one of the methods listed below.

1. In your smartphone's web browser, go to the following link:  
<https://band.us/@uhsband>
2. Scan the QR code:





## **UNIFORMS**

Playing members must wear the required Band T-Shirt under the band uniform, BLACK Dinkle band shoes (no tennis shoes), long BLACK crew socks, and BLACK gloves. (BLACK gloves can be purchased from the director for \$3.50 a pair.) *With prior permission from the director, sections may wear their section t-shirts if all members of the section have one.*

Any lost or damaged portion of the uniform must be paid for; you are wearing a uniform valued at almost \$600.

No alterations of any kind should be done, and no material is to be cut without the permission of the band director.

**After each performance, always hang your uniform overnight in an area that is well ventilated!**

Grade reductions will be given to students who:

- Do not properly take care of their uniform
- Leave their uniform after events
- Have a wrinkled or dirty uniform
- Have dirty shoes or gloves

Students with wrinkled or excessively dirty uniforms will **NOT** perform.

NEVER leave a **damp** uniform in your garment bag because it will mildew and result in permanent damage to the uniform.

Garment bags are for the uniform only. Shoes should only be stored in the outside pocket of the bag.

Auxiliary members are to wear matching tights as part of their uniform.

**Uniform Cleaning:** Uniforms should be dry cleaned when necessary, especially after a hot/humid or rainy performance. All band and auxiliary uniforms should be dry cleaned at Uniontown Dry Cleaners on Morgantown Street. In May, a uniform return date will be set, after which the Booster Organization will all uniforms professionally cleaned.

## **APPEARANCE**

When in uniform, you are representing both Uniontown Area High School and the Red Raider Marching Band. Therefore, your appearance is extremely important. People will judge both the band and the school by how you look.

Instrumentalists should wear the band T-shirt while on the bus. Uniform pants and jackets must be worn fully zipped when at the performance venue, unless given permission to remove jackets during hot weather.

Piercings are acceptable, so long as they are not too large or obnoxious.

Make-up is also acceptable, so long as it is tame and neutral in color (no blues, purples, greens, etc. will be accepted).

Long hair must be pulled up under the hat and not hanging out.

Uniforms must be neat and clean for each performance. This includes hats and gloves. Shoes must be shined and flags free from wrinkles. Clarinets and flutes should not have gloves with the fingers cut out below their first knuckle; if they are cut too much new ones will need to be purchased.

An inspection may be held prior to each performance. Points will be deducted from the student's grade for each item not meeting band standards. (Example: dirty shoes, hair hanging out, etc.)

**Performance privileges will be withheld until the problem is corrected!**

Band members should also be conscious of their appearance before and after local parades when walking downtown and on local streets. Hats must be worn properly or carried. Uniform coats must be fully zipped or taken off and carried. Uniforms are not to be worn to other places after an event.

## **EQUIPMENT**

You (and no one else) are responsible for the equipment issued to you. Do not let anyone else touch your instrument/equipment!

You will be held financially responsible if your instrument/equipment becomes lost or damaged!

Band members are responsible for purchasing extra reeds, valve oil, lyres, folios, and gloves. Do not wait until the last minute to purchase these items! Mr. Wilson will provide these items initially, but any excessive use should fall on the student.

Auxiliary unit members will be responsible for all types of equipment issued to them throughout the year. This includes all practice equipment and show equipment. They are responsible for purchasing accessories for their show uniform.

## **REHEARSALS**

Always be on time. Be in your assigned area BEFORE starting time.

Non-band members are not permitted in the band room during band events without permission.

Wear **tennis shoes and socks** at all times when practicing. Dress appropriately for the weather conditions. We will occasionally practice in the rain.

Auxiliary members must wear clothing that enables them to perform routines. Jeans, skirts, dresses, dress shoes, etc. will not be accepted. Bring a change of clothing if necessary, just as you would for a physical education class.

Each member will be responsible for his or her music/equipment and drill sheets. Put your name on all of your music and number all of your measures. Failure to bring them to rehearsal could result in the loss of points from the **Weekly Participation Grade**.

Please pay attention at all times. Listen to announcements and read all posted information.

## **EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Band members will be responsible for seeing that their equipment is loaded, unloaded, and properly put away following an event. The band managers are only there to assist you, not to do your job for you.

All band members must ride the bus to away events.

Students will be permitted to ride home from away events with their parent(s) if both of the following conditions are met:

- A. The student must have a student release form handed in to the band director before the end of the school day prior to the performance (The student release form can be found in this handbook). Last minute excuses will not be accepted unless in the case of an emergency.
- B. The parent/guardian must be present him/herself in person to the band director following the performance before the student will be released. The parent will be responsible for signing the student out that is being released. This should be done during bus loading at the conclusion of the event. The student will still be responsible for his/her equipment.  
(The above rule applies to parents and legal guardians ONLY; students may not leave with brothers, sisters, grandparents, neighbors, boyfriends, girlfriends, etc.)

Students must be present for entire events. No student will be released prior to the conclusion of any event except in the case of an emergency.

It will not be permissible to meet with anyone at any time who is not a member of our group unless prior approval is obtained from the director.

## **BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES FOR STANDS**

Be ready to play at a moment's notice during football games. The band plays when Uniontown is on offense.

You must sit with your section at all times.

No food or drinks are to be consumed while in uniform unless it is provided to the entire band/section with the director's approval.

Blankets are permitted in cold weather, but the design/pattern must be in good taste.

(Auxiliary) Personal items must be secured neatly in a bag before entering the stadium.

Please limit trips to the restrooms. See a chaperone first.

Non-band members are not to disturb you or sit with you.

Play your instrument only as directed. Playing when not directed to will result in grade reductions.

## **BUS RULES**

All standard Uniontown High School Bus Rules apply at all times.

We will have assigned seating arrangements on all buses wherever we go. Students must always sit in their assigned seats initially for the purpose of taking role.

Cell phones and other devices should have headphones and must not be heard aloud.

No students are to leave the bus until instructed to do so by the band director.

Students are responsible for cleaning up after themselves before they depart the bus. They will not be dismissed until doing so.

Bus chaperones and the bus driver are totally in charge of each individual bus. Their word is LAW. Failure to obey them will be considered serious and will result in disciplinary action.

Chaperones may, at any time, change student seats or separate students who are disruptive, misbehaving, or not acting as young ladies and gentlemen are expected to act.

Couples who cannot 'control their emotions' will not be permitted to sit together.

Students **MUST** stay in their assigned seats at all times. Do not wander or sit on the floor.

**Failure to follow the above rules will result in grade reductions. Directors also reserve the right to change seating assignments as necessary.**

# Uniontown Area High School Red Raider Marching Band

## EXCUSED ABSENCE REQUEST FORM

This form should be submitted at least ONE WEEK prior to the scheduled event.

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

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument or Position: \_\_\_\_\_

I am requesting permission for my son/daughter to be excused from the activity listed below according to the policies outlined in the handbook regarding excused absences.

\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
INDICATE THE SPECIFIC EVENT/REHEARSAL                      DATE OF THE EVENT

Briefly state below the reason you are requesting your student be excused from this Scheduled Band Activity below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE GRANTED BY MR. WILSON ON \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE DENIED BY MR. WILSON ON \_\_\_\_\_

**AGAIN, BAND MEMBERS SHOULD RETURN THIS FORM TO MR. WILSON AT LEAST  
ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE EVENT.**

# Uniontown Area High School Red Raider Marching Band

## STUDENT RELEASE FORM

This form should be submitted prior to the departure of the bus from the high school for the event listed below.

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

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument or Position: \_\_\_\_\_

I am requesting permission for my son/daughter to be released from the event at its conclusion to ride home with \_\_\_\_\_. The listed person shall be in accordance with the policies stated in the handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
INDICATE THE SPECIFIC EVENT DATE OF THE EVENT

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENTS AND THEIR GUARDIANS MUST CHECK IN WITH MR. WILSON BEFORE DEPARTING FROM THE EVENT SO THAT THE STUDENT CAN BE ACCOUNTED FOR.**

# **RED RAIDERS MARCHING BAND CONTRACT**

I have read all the above rules and regulations and other materials contained in the handbook and understand them completely. I agree to abide by these rules as long as I am connected with the Red Raider Band. I also agree to and understand that the breaking of any these rules will be considered just cause for disciplinary action from the band director(s), including the possibility of immediate dismissal from the band or auxiliary group.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Student)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Parent/Guardian)

**This contract must be turned in to Mr. Wilson by Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>.**