

Sumner High School Stingray Band



Handbook

**If you have any questions about this handbook,
please call the Band Office.**

Director of Bands: Mr. Francisco Quixtan
(813) 384-8014
francisco.quixtan@hcps.net

Foundation

Excellence

Virtue

Empower

Resilience

I am responsible for my behavior and the results of that behavior.

I am responsible for what I become in life.

Life does not accept excuses.

**I will not let my need to be accepted by others
keep me from doing what is right.**

I am somebody.

Losers let it happen, winners make it happen.

Therefore, when faced with a mountain, I will not quit.

**I will keep on striving until I climb over,
find a pass through, tunnel underneath, or simply
stay and turn the mountain into a gold mine... I will
do my best. I know I can. I am a winner.**

I am somebody.

I am an integral part of the Sumner Band.

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Sumner High School Stingray Band
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Sumner High School Stingray Band Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome to the Sumner High School Band program! Congratulations on your decision to be a part of one of the finest organizations in Hillsborough County. The Sumner Band Program provides a variety of musical opportunities including Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Colorguard giving students a venue to develop leadership skills reaching their highest potential.

The Marching, Concert and Jazz ensembles give students the opportunity to explore different types of music repertoire. These ensembles will perform in different public venues and Music Performance Assessments (MPA) at District and State levels. The Color Guard will perform with the Marching Band in the Fall and compete in the Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit (FFCC) in the Spring.

Additional individual performance opportunities include the All-State Honor Band, All-County Honor Band, Solo and Ensemble Festival, Honor Bands at Florida universities, as well as the Master Musician Program.

Success is a direct result from a committed staff, student body, and an active parental involvement, all striving for the highest goals. Through hard work and dedication students will develop indispensable life skills and will achieve the reward of being part of something bigger than anyone can accomplish alone. Involvement in music provides a disciplined environment for students to learn musical skills and interact with others in a respectful manner.

Please keep this handbook and review its contents periodically. It is intended to be a convenient source of information regarding the Sumner Band Program. Communication is essential to the success of our band, please feel free to contact me regarding any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,
Francisco Quixtan

Basic Band Principles

“The Three A’s”

ATTITUDE: Loyalty, spirit, unity, cooperation, self-control, patience, and good conduct as reflected in your willingness to work for the band, accept responsibility, and account for yourself according to good citizenship, tradition, and policies.

ATTENDANCE: Dependability and accountability as an individual to be present and punctual at all events, rehearsals, and performances. “If you’re early, you’re on time; if you’re on time, you’re late!”

ABILITY: Execution of your assigned musical and visual role through the progress you make in the execution of your assignment and responsibilities on a continuing basis. Dedicating time for individual practice and group rehearsal has a direct effect on the development of ability.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SUMNER BAND PROGRAM

- To improve and cultivate individual musicianship and performance.
- To continuously strive for musical excellence through individual and group performance and commitment.
- To develop character, leadership, and professionalism through the maintenance of high moral standards, discipline and teamwork.
- To promote school spirit.
- To provide entertainment for both school and community activities.

MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS IN THE SUMNER BAND PROGRAM

Any student of Sumner High School may be a member of the SHS Stingray Band Program under the following stipulations:

1. Must be legally registered for Band 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 (Instrumental Ensemble for percussionists) or Eurhythmics (for Colorguard) within the regular school day.
2. Must maintain an acceptable 2.0 grade point average to be eligible to participate in outside-of-school activities. (Per Hillsborough County School Board)
3. **Must accept financial responsibilities for instrument, equipment, uniform, cleaning, and travel charges.** Any concerns or problems should be brought directly to the band director. Financial aid and solutions for hardships can be discussed individually.
4. Must meet minimum performance/audition standards set by the Director.
5. Must participate in both the marching and concert band (Colorguard and Winterguard).

EXPECTATIONS

1. Tennis shoes and socks **MUST BE** worn at all times for all marching band rehearsals and events.
2. Chewing gum is **NOT PERMITTED** in the band room, choir room, orchestra room, auditorium or during any rehearsal. It is a safety issue.
3. No food, candy or drink of any kind (except bottled water) is allowed inside the band room, choir room, orchestra room, auditorium, or on the rehearsal field.
4. If it is not yours, **DO NOT TOUCH IT!** (This includes all school instruments you do not have explicit permission to handle.) Respect other people's property.
5. There will be **NO** hazing of band members.
6. We take a very strict stance against bullying of any kind. It will **NOT** be tolerated.
7. Be in your designated seat or warm up block position, warmed up, and ready to begin **ON TIME**.
8. Insubordination will not be tolerated.
9. Public displays of affection **ARE NOT** allowed during 'band time.' Band functions are not dates and professional behavior is expected.
10. A band member will wear no jewelry, finger nail polish, or excessive make-up while in uniform.
11. **ALWAYS** respect and support another band and its members...**ALWAYS!**
12. Show respect to all directors, administrators, teachers, band staff, and parents at all times.
13. Keep your language clean! Remember, you are always representing the entire group.
14. The rehearsal room and field are academic classrooms, not a playground. No horse playing. Failure to uphold this standard will result in a district referral and possible removal from the program.
15. Remember, you are an Ambassador of Sumner High School. Do not do anything that would have to be explained to the director or an administrator or parent. Always conduct yourselves as ladies and gentlemen.
16. No cell phone usage during rehearsals or performances.
17. Come prepared to rehearsals with all the required supplies and be ready to work.
18. Strive for excellence by referring to The Three A's at all times.

AWARDS POLICIES

Awards are earned on the basis of participation and outstanding performance. Awards are presented at the discretion of the band director. Awards are presented at the end of the year Band Banquet. The Awards Program is funded solely by the Sumner Band Boosters.

In order to be eligible to receive an award, the following criteria must be met:

- A student must have been actively participating in the marching, concert, or winter guard activities of the band for the entire school year and must be a current member of the band in good standing at the time of the award presentation.
- A student must have at least a "C" average in band. Students who do not meet this requirement may receive only a certificate of participation.
- Any student who drops band or is dismissed from band for any reason will **NOT** be eligible for any band award.
- Any student who has not cleared his/her individual band account by returning items checked out or who have not paid fees owed for lost, damaged or purchased items will have his/her awards held until the records are cleared.

Service Awards

- Letter Award & Band/Colorguard Pin - will be presented to each first year student who has been in band for a minimum of two semesters.
- Second Year Pin - will be presented to each second year student who has been in band for a minimum of four semesters.
- Third Year Pin Award - will be presented to each third year student who has been in band for a minimum of six semesters.
- Fourth Year Pin Award - will be presented to each fourth year student who has been in band for a minimum of eight semesters.
- Senior Award – will be presented to each graduating senior from the Band/Colorguard.
- Most Improved Award - will be presented to the most improved person from each of the following groups: Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, & Colorguard.
- Most Outstanding Award – will be presented to the most outstanding person from each of the following groups: Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, & Colorguard.
- Most Improved Section – will be presented to the section that shows the most improvement throughout the year.
- Most Outstanding Sections – will be presented to the section that proves to be the most outstanding throughout the year.
- Highest Section GPA Award – will be presented to each member of the section with the highest average GPA.
- Colorguard Rookie of the Year – will be presented to the most outstanding 1st year member of the colorguard.
- The Louis Armstrong Jazz Award- will be presented to the outstanding member of the Jazz ensemble.
- Band Director Award – will be presented to the outstanding senior who best represents the ideals of the Florida Bandmasters Association through their bands-men-ship.
- The John Philip Sousa Award- recognizes superior musicianship and outstanding dedication of a graduating senior and is the highest high school band award in the nation.
- Additional Awards- may be presented at the discretion of the band director and/or staff to meet the needs of deserving students.

SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL BAND STUDENT LEADERSHIP

In the Spring, students may audition for a band leadership position. The audition process consists of an interview, three leadership clinics, an audition, and the completion of a leadership portfolio. The leadership team is then selected based on successful completion of all components, a satisfactory score on the audition rubric, and the needs of the upcoming band program. The director reserves the right to accept or deny any candidate. Leadership members can be placed on probation or dismissed at the discretion of the director should they not honor their leadership commitments.

Each student leader position comes with specific duties for which the officer is responsible the entire school year. Each position is listed below with its responsibilities and requirements. Band members should feel confident to go to any of the officers, at any time, for any questions they may have about schedules, procedures, etc.

ALL OFFICERS have the following responsibilities:

- 1) Serve as a role model in individual success on his/her instrument, behavior and commitment to the SHS Band
- 2) Attend all officer meetings
- 3) Attend band camp
- 4) Maintain momentum for all rehearsals and performances
- 5) Participate in all band activities, including fundraising or volunteer work
- 6) Communicate regularly with the band director, colorguard instructor, and percussion instructor
- 7) Participate at Solo & Ensemble

Band Captain	Drum Major	WW/Brass/Drum Captain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presides over all band officers and affairs concerning the SHS Band. • Supervise all other student leaders • Responsible for aiding in teaching drill and fundamentals during marching season to all band and auxiliary members • Assemble stage crews during concert season • Any other duties deemed necessary by the band director 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attends drum major camp • Supervises Section Leaders • Responsible for aiding in teaching drill and marching fundamentals as well as assisting other band members in being prepared at every rehearsal and performance • Responsible for organization of inspection before each performance • Assist director with attendance for rehearsals and performances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for all musical sections of the marching show • Responsible for scheduling and conducting sectionals • Communicates regularly with the Band Captain • Responsible for making sure each member in their section has instrument that is in good playing condition • Assist with inspection process before performances • Responsible for keeping record of music/equipment assigned and collected • Assist director and sponsor with record keeping

<p style="text-align: center;">Section Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead by example through consistent preparation, positive attitude, punctuality, strong musicianship, and professional behavior during rehearsals, performances, and school events. • Support and mentor section members by helping teach music, reinforcing marching or performance fundamentals, encouraging teamwork, and assisting younger students with organization and confidence. • Communicate effectively with directors, drum majors, captains, and section members by sharing important information, monitoring attendance and morale, and helping maintain accountability within the section. 		<p style="text-align: center;">Drum Captain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and lead the drumline during rehearsals and performances by reinforcing technique, timing, music preparation, and ensemble consistency while setting a strong example in work ethic and discipline. • Assist with percussion equipment management, including setup, transportation, inventory, maintenance, and ensuring all instruments and supplies are performance-ready for rehearsals and events. • Foster communication and teamwork within the percussion section by mentoring younger members, helping resolve conflicts, relaying information from staff and leadership, and promoting a positive and focused rehearsal environment.
<p style="text-align: center;">Color Guard Captain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicates regularly with the Band Captain and Colorguard Sponsor • Responsible for making sure each member in their section has equipment that is in good condition • Assist with inspection process before performances • Any other duties deemed necessary by the band director • Responsible for keeping record of colorguard equipment assigned and collected 	<p style="text-align: center;">Equipment Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for all equipment used by the SHS Band (including the sound system) • Assists director with keeping a record of school owned instrument usage and forms • Responsible for loading and unloading of all equipment needed at rehearsal and performances and securing a crew for each event. • Any other duties deemed necessary by the band director 	<p style="text-align: center;">Librarian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for all music used throughout the year by the SHS Band • Responsible for keeping record of music assigned and collected • Responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the band library as well as organizing a filing system and updating the database of the music library regularly • Any other duties deemed necessary by the band director
<p style="text-align: center;">Uniform Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for all uniforms used by the SHS Band • Assist director with keeping record of school owned uniform usage and forms • Responsible for inspection of uniforms at all performances for officers and members • Any other duties deemed necessary by the band director. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Historian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for maintaining the band bulletin board • Responsible for collecting and documenting band activities and organizing them in a creative way • Any other duties deemed necessary by the band director 	<p style="text-align: center;">Social Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for maintaining the band social media pages • Responsible for photographing and recording band activities and documenting them in a creative way • Coordinate social activities during scheduled band events • Collaborate with other performing arts programs to uphold collaborative efforts

FOOTBALL GAME PROCEDURES

- Call times for inspection will be announced prior to each game.
- Students will report to the band room at call time for away and home games.
- Students should arrive at the school wearing their dark athletic shorts and the Summer show shirt which will be worn underneath their uniform. They should also be in tall, black athletic socks and their black marching shoes when they arrive.
- “Band Gear,” the show shirt and black athletic shorts, will be worn on specific dates (pep rallies, competitions, etc.) announced by the band director.
- All long hair must be pulled back with a black hair tie. No hair ribbons. Hair colored bobby pins will be permitted.
- No jewelry will be permitted, except for watches. Earrings that cannot be removed must be covered by flesh-colored Band-Aids before the call time.
- Brass and woodwind players must bring their clean white gloves. Woodwinds cut the fingertips off their gloves above the second knuckle.
- For those members who have their fingertips showing or do not wear gloves, fingernail polish is not permitted.
- For home games, students will line up for inspection completely dressed with instruments and flip folders at the designated time.
- For away games, students will report to the band room in their show shirt, dark athletic shorts, shoes, and tall black socks for warm-up. Students then load the truck with their instruments (in cases), put on uniform pants and report to the band room to be sent to their assigned bus with their hat boxes, gloves, and jackets (on the hangers).
- On the buses after the game, students will take off their jackets and hang them on their hangers in the correct manner. Each student is responsible for his or her own uniform and instrument. Instruments are to be returned to the band room after we unload at school.
- No food or drink, with the exception of water, will be permitted in the band section of the stands. Water will be provided in the stands by the chaperones.
- Once all students are seated back in the stands after the halftime performance, the band will be dismissed as a group to take a break. During this break, all students must remember to conduct themselves as representatives of the band. No student may leave the stadium. Please take great care in how you treat your uniform during this break.
- If all students are not back in their assigned seats in the stands by the time the clock hits zero from the third quarter, the entire band will lose their third quarter break privileges for the next game, whether they are home or away. No exceptions. Remember that a third quarter break is a privilege; many bands don't even take a break.
- As long as you are in uniform, you are performing. This includes before, during, and after the game.
- No band member is permitted to leave the game or event before group dismissal at any time; unless permission is granted by the director (**an email from a parent is required**).
- While seated in the stands, only band members are allowed in the ranks. Alumni, family and friends are always welcome to watch us perform, but will not be allowed to sit in the ranks of the band while in the stands.
- While seated in the stands, the band members will always sit in assigned sections.
- We will play as a group while in the stands. **Solo performances are not permitted.**

- No inappropriate cheers will be allowed.
- In order to move in a safe and organized fashion, instructions may be given where a rapid response is necessary.
- Everyone must pay attention to the director, student leadership, and chaperones when instructions are being given. Please stay flexible.
- After games and performances, which can sometimes be late, parents are expected to pick up their students in a timely manner at the band room door. The band room will be open for a short time so students may store instruments and gather belongings.
- Chaperones are needed for home and away games. Parents/Guardians may volunteer for this by viewing the chaperone needs on the CutTime calendar and contacting the volunteer coordinator, and the Booster President at sumnerhsmusic@gmail.com All chaperones must have an approved application filled out through the HCPS website.

REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

- The required rehearsals are scheduled on Tuesday and Thursday after school until 6:30 p.m.
- Students are required to be on the field in their assigned attendance block position 20 minutes after the school dismissal bell with their **instrument, proper attire, music app uploaded, drill app uploaded, and blue ½ gallon water jug.**
- 20 minutes after the school dismissal bell the attendance whistle will sound, section leaders will begin inspections and the band will begin warming-up as a group. Students not in their assigned attendance block position will be considered tardy. Being on time is extremely important because the band room will be locked to secure all personal belongings in the band room.
- Rehearsals will never be canceled due to bad weather. We will have full music rehearsals or sectionals in the band room if the weather is bad.
- Students **MUST** wear cool, light colored, non-restrictive, non-revealing clothing, and tennis shoes to receive full credit. Students are required to wear socks to prevent blistering. These requirements are in place to keep students safe.
- School dress code also applies to rehearsals.
- Sunscreen and bug spray is also needed at times. Students are encouraged to eat a healthy snack or meal and to drink water before practice. This is for competitions & games as well.
- Students are responsible for bringing their own filled ½ gallon water jug. We will provide water coolers for refills. Write your student's name on their jug & buy these NOW!
- Students are required to attend every rehearsal. A new part of the show is added at each practice, so please schedule work and other appointments accordingly.
- The percussion and the colorguard may have additional practices with the days and times being announced as the season progresses.
- There will also be sectionals scheduled with dates and times announced in advance.
- The school board policy on cell phones applies to after school rehearsals as well. Please note: Your student should **NOT** be using their phone during a game or competition during warm-up & game time! We will ask them to put their phone away.

The Hillsborough County music programs utilize a parent/student information system named **CUTTIME**. This is where you will see financial obligations & outstanding fees. This system is for current band/guard students and their parents. How to create a student/parent account in **CUTTIME**:

- Once your student is added to Cuttime, you will receive a text message with your “magic link” Log on to **www.cutttime.net**, and click the “ENTER” link at upper right.
 - After you click the magic link, which opens in your mobile or desktop browser, you're asked to trigger the verification code to authenticate their device.
 - The member and guardian will come back to that page and enter the pin code sent to them. Once the member or guardian has entered the code, the *My Student(s)* page loads.
 - You will want to **bookmark their magic link** so that they can easier access and open their view of CutTime without potentially needing to re-authenticate.
 - Anytime Mrs. Ross or the Boosters send an announcement, add a cost, or does another important activity in CutTime, you will receive a notification to click on the magic link to come back to the My Student(s) page and see the new activity.
- Once added, student fees, balances & payments can be viewed & paid through CutTime. (CashApp is NOT an accepted form of payment for fees.)

** Please note, Students AND Parents will each have their own magic link.

** Please reach out if you are not receiving any notifications. We can help!!!!

*** Outstanding fees will prevent a student from participating in optional band activities, trips. (*overnight & day trips such as HOT Day & FSU Prism*) & the end of year banquet.

**** Outstanding fees will prevent your student from having a “spot” the following year.

***** ALL Outstanding fees will prevent a senior from participating in the graduation ceremony. (*Including all fees from the Hillsborough County School District - we have no control over this.*)

Marching Band

Payment Options:

Credit/Debit Card (2.75% fee charged)

Cash or Check: Make checks payable to SHSPAB, please add student name

Payment Date: _____ Payment Amount: _____ Payment Method: _____

Parent & Student Signatures will be electronic in Cuttime

I, _____, the parent/guardian of _____ agree to pay and/or fundraise the 2026-2027 BAND fees. I understand that the fees are to be paid or it may affect their participation in other programs, graduation, or band events. Balance due information is tracked in the Cut Time program on-line.

Parent Signature: _____ Principal Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Email Address: _____ Parent Phone #: _____

Band Fees	Amount	Due	Payable to
Marching Season			
\$400 fee includes: <i>Band Participation Fee: FBA/FOA Memberships, Registrations for events, Director continued Ed, Buses, Clinician/Tech salaries, Music, Show Music Rights, Drill, Props, Booster Supplies, Student Meals & Snacks, Percussion Supplies, Guest Clinicians and Meals, Banquet, End of Year Awards, Sunbiz annual report filing, Insurance, Show Shirts, Gloves/Hats/Shoes/Bags, Truck Rentals and Gas, Uniform, Cleaning/Repairs, Ultimate Drill Book Licenses</i> *\$30 discount on fees if total amount paid by June 30, 2026	\$150.00 Deposit *NON-REFUNDABLE* Required to march in opener	June 30, 2026	Sumner High School Performing Arts Boosters
	\$85.00	August 31, 2026	Sumner High School Performing Arts Boosters
	\$85.00	September 30, 2026	Sumner High School Performing Arts Boosters
	\$80.00	October 31, 2026	Sumner High School Performing Arts Boosters
Marching Uniform Rental *	\$38.00	August 31, 2026	Must be paid through MyPaymentPlus

Instrument/Equipment Rental (if provided by SHS, includes all percussion.) **	\$43.00	at rental	Sumner High School (cash only)
Replacement Show Shirt (if needed)	\$15.00		Sumner High School Performing Arts Boosters
Replacement Gloves (if needed)	\$5.00		Sumner High School Performing Arts Boosters
Marching Shoes (if needed)	\$40.00	August 31, 2026	Sumner High School Performing Arts Boosters

WHY DO WE HAVE TO PAY BAND/GUARD FEES?

Band fees are financial obligations that each student will be responsible for paying to help defray the expense of participating in the required trips, performances, and competitions. Fair Share is \$400 this year for each student. Fundraising for the general Band Boosters is very important as well. There are always unexpected costs during the year and the general Band Boosters must make up the difference between the Band Fee amount received and the actual expenses. In addition, the Boosters have goals to maintain the facilities of the Band and purchase new items for the band and colorguard program as it grows. If the general band account does not have enough money for the required expenses, the band fees will have to go up to cover the actual costs which puts more burden on families.

WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNT FOR MY CHILD?

All money is managed by the Sumner High School Performing Arts Boosters which is an IRS recognized non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. We conduct all business and fundraisers under those regulations. We choose to offer some of the proceeds to our band students in return for their fundraising efforts. We keep an accounting of the money that each student owes and what money they have paid. If you have two band students, they each have their own account. If you have one student graduate and another student starting band the next year, we roll that account to your next student with the balance intact. If you have money left in your account when your student graduates or if your child decides to quit band, that money will not be refunded. The money was raised and managed under the Sumner High School Performing Arts Boosters organization name, therefore the money belongs to that organization. Also, we are not allowed under the IRS non-profit organization rules to give money to individuals. The contracted band parent can tell us when and how they want to use the money that is contained in their account. However, this is not a credit card. The money must already be in your account before it can be applied to an expense. The money can be used for any band related expenses including fees, merchandise, bus expenses, family trip payments, banquet & ball expenses, and even fundraiser items. A note must be sent for each item that the parent wants to use the accumulated money for.

Color Guard

Payment Options:

Credit/Debit Card (2.75% fee charged)

Cash or Check: Make checks payable to SHSPAB, please add student name

Payment Date: _____ Payment Amount: _____ Payment Method: _____

Parent & Student Signatures will be electronic in Cutoff

I, _____, the parent/guardian of _____ agree to pay and/or fundraise the 2026-2027 COLORGUARD fees. I understand that the fees are to be paid or it may affect their participation in other programs, graduation, or band events. Balance due information is tracked in the Cut Time program on-line.

Parent Signature: _____ Principal Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Parent Email Address: _____ Parent Phone #: _____

Colorguard Fees (Fall Fees Only)	Amount	Due	Payable to:
Total Fee \$600.00 includes: Colorguard: Band Participation Fee: FBA/FOA Memberships, Registrations for events, Director continued Ed, Buses, Clinician/Tech salaries, Music, Show Music Rights, Drill, Props, Booster Supplies, Student Meals & Snacks, Percussion Supplies, Guest Clinicians and Meals, Banquet, End of Year Awards, Sunbiz annual report filing, Insurance, Show Shirts, Gloves/Hats/Shoes/Bags, Uniforms, Spirit Uniforms, Truck Rentals and Gas, Cleaning/Repairs, Ultimate Drill Book Licenses	\$300.00 Deposit *NON-REFUNDABLE* Required to march in opener & uniforms	June 30, 2026	Sumner High School Performing Arts Boosters
	\$100.00	August 31, 2026	Sumner High School Performing Arts Boosters
	\$100.00	September 30, 2026	Sumner High School Performing Arts Boosters
	\$100.00	October 31, 2026	Sumner High School Performing Arts Boosters
*\$70 discount on fees if total amount paid by June 30, 2026			

Jazz Shoes (if needed)	\$45.00	August 31, 2026	Sumner High School Performing Arts Boosters
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WHY DO WE HAVE TO PAY BAND/GUARD FEES?

Band fees are financial obligations that each student will be responsible for paying to help defray the expense of participating in the required trips, performances, and competitions. Fair Share is \$900 this year for each student. Fundraising for the general Band Boosters is very important as well. There are always unexpected costs during the year and the general Band Boosters must make up the difference between the Band Fee amount received and the actual expenses. In addition, the Boosters have goals to maintain the facilities of the Band and purchase new items for the band and colorguard program as it grows. If the general band account does not have enough money for the required expenses, the band fees will have to go up to cover the actual costs which puts more burden on families.

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Guidelines for students receiving a percentage of fundraising profits

This program is designed to help defray the costs of band camp, band fees, and field trips for all students.

- Selected individual fundraisers will be split with 50% of the profit going to the student's individual band account and 50% going to the general band booster account.
- 50% of the profit of selected group fundraisers (Ex. Car Washes, Games, etc.) will be split in equal shares among the fully participating volunteers at that event.
- Each student who fully participates in a fundraising event will receive one share of the 50% split of profit.
- For group fundraisers (Ex. Car Washes, Yankees Games, etc.) students must be signed up for the event to receive credit; you may not simply show up.
- One parent per family who fully participates in a fundraising event will receive one share of the 50% split for their child.
- In a multiple band student family, when both parents fully participate, they will receive two shares.
- In a single band student family, if both parents fully participate, they will receive one share.
- Chaperoning at a car wash counts as participation for a parent, but you must be an approved chaperone for that event.
- ALL participating students and parents MUST sign in, or they will NOT receive any shares.
- When a student graduates or leaves the band program, any left-over money in the student's individual account will be rolled into the general band booster fund. The only exception would be for the money to transfer to a sibling already in the band program or entering the following year. No exceptions.

If you have any question about the amount in your account,
please contact the **Band Treasurer, Ms. Jessica Carlisle** at
sumnerhsmusic@gmail.com.

SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL BAND & EURHYTHMICS SYLLABUS 2026-2027

Instructor: Mr. Francisco Quixtan
francisco.quixtan@hcps.net

Meeting Time: TBD
Room 523

Contact Info: Director of Bands, Mr. Francisco Quixtan

Welcome to the Sumner High School Band/Color guard program! Congratulations on your decision to be a part of one of the finest organizations in Hillsborough County. The Sumner Stingray Band/Color guard Program provides a variety of musical opportunities including Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Colorguard giving students a venue to develop leadership skills reaching their highest potential.

The Marching, Concert and Jazz ensembles give students the opportunity to explore different types of music repertoire. These ensembles will perform in different public venues and Music Performance Assessments (MPA) at District and State levels. The Colorguard will perform with the Marching Band in the Fall and compete in the Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit (FFCC) in the Spring.

Additional individual performance opportunities include the All-State Honor Band, All-County Honor Band, Solo and Ensemble Festival, Honor Bands at Florida universities, as well as the Master Musician Program.

Our success is a direct result from a committed staff, student body, and an active parental involvement, all striving for the highest goals. Through hard work and dedication students will develop indispensable life skills and will achieve the reward of being part of something bigger than anyone can accomplish alone. Involvement in music provides a disciplined environment for students to learn musical skills and interact with others in a respectful manner.

In Hillsborough County, band and eurhythmics are co-curricular courses. This means that students are graded during AND after school hours. Members are required to attend all out-of-school and class rehearsals. Members are also required to participate in all concerts and out-of-school performances. Being a member of the Stingray Band consists of participating in both the marching and concert band. Being a member of the Stingray Colorguard consists of participating in both the marching band and winterguard.

ELP: Afterschool Tutoring/extra help will be scheduled as needed and/or requested by students.

Assessment Plan:

40% Performances
30% Class Work and Playing Assessments (Pass-Offs & Writing)
20% Rehearsal Participation and Preparation
10% Class Participation and Preparation

Grading Scale:

90% - 100% - A
80% - 89% - B
70% - 79% - C
60% - 69% - D
59% - Lower - F

Students in all grades will:

Study and use basic music theory
Develop their musical vocabulary
Study the historical aspects of the music performed

Participate in Music Performance Assessments
Perform in concerts and at football games
Audition for chair placement

Students in all grades will have an opportunity to:

- Perform as a group for different audiences
- Perform in small groups
- Audition for All-County and/or All-State
- Prepare for Master Musician
- Prepare solos & ensembles

Attendance Policy:

- Attendance at all after school rehearsals and performances are **MANDATORY** for every band member.
 - Excused absences may be granted by the director only for illness, family emergency, pre-approved academic obligation, family wedding, religious holiday, or court appearance. The schedule is given out far enough in advance and made accessible through Cut Time so that there are no surprises and conflicts can be avoided.
 - Please schedule any non-emergency appointments, meetings, and other similar events around the band calendar. In most cases, they will not be excused.
 - All absences must be submitted in writing with the **Request to be Excused From an Event form** found on Cut Time. Note: Prearranged absence requests must be turned in 10 school days prior to the event. Emergencies will require students to submit the form 24 hours after a student returns to school. Please attach any paperwork to the form verifying absence. Failure to follow procedure for approval for a missed event will result in an unexcused absence and will affect the 9-week grade (please refer to individual handbook for policies).
 - An unexcused tardy will lower the performance/rehearsal grade.
 - An unexcused Thursday rehearsal absence will result in the student not being able to march the halftime show at that Friday’s game. This is for the safety of the student and the other band members around them. The student will still be required to perform with the band in the stands.
 - Work is not an excused absence.
 - Class absences will be dealt with according to the Sumner High School attendance policy.
 - * Recruiting Performances may be held during the year at the local elementary/middle schools.
 - ** Homework Due Dates will be given when the assignment is assigned.
 - *** All band students will be required to work at Solo & Ensemble for a grade.
- Events/Rehearsals may be added to our calendar with at least two week’s notice.
Student work schedules will be planned around student performance times.

Marching Season Rehearsals

Tuesdays Thursdays
4:00pm - 6:00pm 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Concert Season Rehearsals

Wind Ensemble, Tuesdays Symphonic Band, Thursdays
4:00-6:00pm 4:00-6:00pm

Please check the Cut Time frequently for all announcements and calendar information.
www.cuttime.net

Materials

Instrument w/ accessories	Black 3 Ring Binder	Pencil	Tuner (or Tonal Energy App)
1/2 Gall. Blue Water Jug	Dot Book	Hand Towel	Flip Folder and Lyre
Music Theory Book (provided)	Music (provided)	Band Gear (provided)	Sun Protection

Print Student’s Name

Date

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Course Calendar

2026-2027 Football Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Location</i>
8/14/26	TBD	TBD
8/21/26	Strawberry Crest	Strawberry Crest H.S.
8/28/26	TBD	Sumner H.S.
9/4/26	Gaither	Sumner H.S.
9/10/26	Durant (Homecoming Game)	Sumner H.S.
9/18/26	Armwood	Armwood H.S.
9/25/26	Manatee	Sumner H.S.
10/2/26	Jefferson	Jefferson H.S.
10/9/26	Parrish (Senior Night & Pink Out)	Sumner H.S.
10/23/26	Palmetto	Palmetto H.S.
10/30/26	Plant	Plant H.S.
TBD	Playoff Games	TBD

Other Important Dates

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
6/15/26 - 6/17	Gebhardt Leadership Camp (Leadership Only) (9:00AM - 1:00PM)
7/13/26 - 7/15/26	Guard, Percussion Mini Band Camp (9:00AM - 5:00PM)
7/13/26 - 7/16/26	Leadership Camp (9:00AM - 5:00PM)
7/16/26	New Member Camp (9:00AM - 2:00PM)
7/20/26 - 7/23/26	Full Band Camp (9:00AM - 5:00PM)
7/27/26 - 7/31/26	Full Band Camp (9:00AM - 5:00PM)
7/31/26	Stingray Showcase & Parent Meeting (6:00PM)
9/5/26	USF HOT Day (optional)
9/14/26	Hispanic Heritage Parade (Drumline)
9/26/26	Rehearse - a - Thon (9:00 - 5:00)
10/3/26	Lion's Pride Competition
10/10/26	FFCC Outdoor Marching Comp @ Lakewood Ranch H.S.
10/24/26	Rehearse - a - Thon
11/7/26	MPA @ Steinbrenner High School
11/14/26	FFCC Outdoor Championships @ The Villages
TBD	FSU PRISM (optional)
12/12/26	Winter Extravaganza Concert

* Recruiting Performances may be held during the year at the local middle/elementary schools.

** Homework Due Dates will be given when the assignment is assigned.

*** If hosting district events, all students will be required to work the event for a grade.

Events/Rehearsals may be added to our calendar with at least two week's notice.
Student work schedules will be planned around student performance times.

Marching Season Rehearsals

Tuesday & Thursday After School until 6:00pm

Please check the Band App & Cuttime frequently for all announcements and calendar information.

ATTENDANCE

Participation in all music functions (rehearsals and performances) is crucial, as the group is interdependent upon all its members. All students will be expected to participate in a concert ensemble, and the marching band. Because other students are counting on each individual to pull their weight, participation and attendance at functions will weigh heavily upon a student's grade in their respective music class. Non-Emergency medical appointments, lack of transportation, working at a job, or lack of proper attire/uniform will be counted as unexcused and will result in the student's grade being lowered. If a student needs to miss a rehearsal for any reason, they should give written notice to the director from their parents in the form of the "Request to be excused from an event form" (**found on Canvas or Cuttime**) 3 days in advance. If the absence is excused, a make-up assignment will be given. This assignment must be completed within 3 school days of the absence. Only medical emergencies and family emergencies will be excused for music performance absences, with proper written notification to the director. Please note; bringing in a note does not necessarily excuse an absence – This is at the discretion of the director. Requests will not be excused after an absence has already occurred. Emergencies will require students to submit the form 24 hours after a student returns to school. Please attach any paperwork to the form verifying absence. The director has the right to approve or deny any request at any time for any reason.

An unexcused tardy will automatically lower the performance, rehearsal, or class grade by 10%. A missed Thursday rehearsal will result in the student not being able to march the halftime show at that Friday's game. This is for the safety of the student and the other band members around them. The student will still be required to perform with the band in the stands.

Students who are ill MUST provide the proper form within 24 hours of returning back to school AND must have also missed school either that same day of the missed rehearsal or the day after in order to be excused from the rehearsal. If a student is well enough to attend school, they are well enough to attend rehearsal. If the student attends school both those days but not rehearsal, the illness is considered unexcused.

Marching events and concert band dress rehearsals that are held the day before a competition or concert are required in order for the student to perform the following day. No exceptions. Everyone needs to be there.

Learning time management early will help you for a lifetime!

First and Second Unexcused Absence (from rehearsal) – Students are not allowed to march during halftime and they receive a zero for the rehearsal grade.

Third Unexcused Absence – Removal from the band program.

Students are responsible for arriving at each rehearsal and performance on time and properly prepared (properly dressed, instrument ready, water, music ready, and all other supplies).

Communication with the director & the board is key!

The schedule will always be announced far enough in advance to avoid conflicts.

Calendar updates are emailed regularly and are always posted on CutTime, the bulletin board in the band room, and the band website.

Request to be excused from an event

Student Name _____

Phone Number where a parent/guardian can be reached _____

Today's Date: _____

Date of Requested Absence: _____

Event You Would Miss (circle one): Rehearsal Performance Trip Other: _____

Before filing out this section, please refer to the handbook regarding excused and unexcused absences.

Detailed Reason for Absence: _____

Prearranged absence requests must be turned in at least 4 school days prior to the event. Emergencies will require the student to submit this sheet 24 hours after the student returns to school from said emergency. Please make sure the appropriate documentation has been attached, or else this form will not be considered. Failure to follow procedure for approval for a missed event will result in an unexcused absence and will affect the 9 weeks grade (please refer to Band Handbook for policies). I, the undersigned, understand it is my responsibility to request to miss an activity with the Sumner High School Band. I also understand that my director has the right to approve or deny any request at any time for any reason.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

* If this absence is approved, an alternative assignment will be assigned by the Director. The student will have three days from the absence to complete the alternative assignment.

(Director Use Only)

_____ Approved

_____ Denied

Documentation: _____

Meets Requirements: _____

Alternative Assignments

LIFE AFTER MARCHING BAND

The emphasis of concert ensembles begins when school starts. The first performance is the Winter Concert before our Winter Break. Students will be involved in preparing for concerts, assessments, and individual solo and ensemble performances. Students may begin now to prepare a selection of music for individual solo or ensemble assessment in February. Playing from an approved list of musical selections, students play before a judge and are assessed. Please see Mrs. Ross now for help with selecting a solo or ensemble to prepare. Solo & Ensemble information is posted on the band website with a link to the list of music to choose from. Students may also audition for the All-State and All-County Honor Bands. (To participate, an audition is held in the fall with the concert taking place just after winter break. The dates of auditions are on the calendar.) The Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA) holds Music Performance Assessments (MPA) at area high schools. There are 3 MPA's that we participate in: Marching Band, Jazz Band and Concert Band. At these assessments, the band is given ratings from a panel of adjudicators on their performance.

TRAVEL

The Sumner High School band travels frequently during the year, in county, out-of-county, and occasionally out of state. Trip fees pay the cost of transportation and lodging. In the event of an overnight trip, a detailed itinerary will be distributed to all students and parents. All Hillsborough County, Sumner High School, and Sumner Stingray Band policies are in effect for the duration of the trip. We will be representing ourselves, Sumner High School Band, Sumner High School, the city of Riverview, Hillsborough County, and the State of Florida whenever we step off the bus; we will all do our best to maintain the highest of standards.

Travel Policies

1. Possession/consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or any drugs not prescribed by a physician (over the counter medications will have a parent note and will be turned in to the director) will not be tolerated. Administrative action will occur in addition to notification of the proper authorities.
2. No tobacco products will be tolerated.
3. Students will behave in the hotel at all times. Any students that cannot behave and/or follow directions will be sent home at the parent's expense.
4. Band members are not permitted in any other rooms other than their assigned rooms after hours. At no time will students be allowed onto/into a floor/room of the opposite sex. No unauthorized persons will be allowed to visit.
5. Parents and students will be held responsible for any property damaged or lost (this includes room keys).
6. Proper dress code will be required at all times.
7. Refrain from playing instruments while in your room.
8. No students are allowed to leave the hotel unless given permission from the director.
9. Students will always travel in groups of at least four or more.
10. Follow all instructions of directors and chaperones at all times. If you do not understand, ask.

The director is ultimately responsible for the students' safety and well-being. Therefore, the director reserves the right to dismiss and send home any student who disobeys the rules and whose general conduct and attitude towards the trip and its participants is determined to be detrimental to that individual or to the rest of the group. In the event a student must be sent home, all travel expenses to send the student home will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

SOLO & ENSEMBLE

Solo and Ensemble is an opportunity for individual growth and development in music. Solo and Ensemble is an optional performance. Students prepare a solo on their instrument. There are piano accompaniments that go along with these solos. Students are responsible for learning their solo. Solos can be practiced with Smart Music at home. The accompaniment will follow you. This will give you an advantage over practicing without the piano part. For the actual performance at solo and ensemble, students can choose to play with a live accompanist or the Smart Music computer. There may be a fee for the piano accompaniment which students will be responsible for. Students perform for a judge from the Florida Bandmaster's Association, who will give the student feedback on what they are doing correctly, and provide feedback on what they could improve on. Students can also participate in ensembles, where they play with other students in a small group. The types of groups vary, and have all different numbers and mixes of instruments. Students may participate in up to three events at solo and ensemble. Students are responsible for the entry fee. It is around \$6.00 per student in each event. (Subject to change)

If a student receives a rating of a "superior" at district on a grade 5 piece of literature or higher, they may opt to participate in state-level solo and ensemble. This is typically held right before spring break each year at two different sites in the state. College professors serve as the judges, and student expectations are much more rigorous. Performing at state solo and ensemble is quite an honor, and students should be thoroughly prepared when facing an expert on their instrument. Students must be well prepared for this event. The director reserves the right to deny unprepared students from participating.

You must select a piece of music from the FBA Solo & Ensemble Music List. These pieces are divided by Grade Level (Ability Levels 1-7). Please see Mrs. Ross if you have a question of which Grade Level you should play. This music list will be posted on CutTime.

ALL-COUNTY HONOR BAND

The Hillsborough County All-County Band is a great individual honor for students, as well as for the Band Program here at Sumner. Students complete a live audition for judges behind a screen. Selected students then attend rehearsals in January for the All-County Honor Band, and perform a concert. Experienced Directors from other parts of the state and country are flown in to work with our students for three days. The director reserves the right to deny unprepared students from participating in the audition process.

ALL-STATE BAND

The All-State band is the highest honor in the Florida Bandmaster's Association. This is a VERY prestigious group, and it is no easy feat to be selected. Students must have their auditions recorded at a live site. Music requirements are posted on the Florida Bandmaster's Association website and given out by the band director at the beginning of the school year. Students selected participate in rehearsals at the annual Florida Music Educators' Association annual convention, here in Tampa. Prestigious conductors are flown in from around the globe to work with students for four days. Students selected are responsible for transportation to and from the convention center, convention registration fees, and must have a chaperone with them. Directors are required to be at the convention, and will check in on students in rehearsals periodically. The director reserves the right to deny unprepared students from auditioning.

HOW PARENTS/GUARDIANS CAN BE INVOLVED

Parental involvement is a vital aspect to band organizations. Following are some ways in which you may want to be involved. Remember many hands make light work, the more people that help out the less any one person has to do. A little goes a long way. The Sumner High School Band Boosters were established to provide assistance to the band director and band program in any way they can. Some of the ways the Band Boosters provide assistance are chaperoning events, helping to secure funds for instrument/equipment replacement and repair, uniform replacement and upkeep, and providing venues to award individual and group accomplishments.

**Please contact the Booster Board at sumnerhsmusic@gmail.com
if you would like to volunteer or if you have any volunteering questions:**

Sumner Band Booster Association, Inc.:

Officers:	Description of duty:
President: Katy Gonzalez sumnerhsmusic@gmail.com	Responsible for organizing booster activities and chaperones for the benefit of the Sumner Band Program. She will work closely with the Director, the Board and Committees.
Vice President: Iris Richardson	Responsible for supporting and assisting the president as well as presiding over fundraising activities.
Treasurer: Jessica Carlisle	Responsible for keeping clear records of all transactions or monies made through the booster organization and reporting them to parents/guardians.
Secretary: Sarah Sarlo	Responsible for documenting and reporting meeting information to parents.

Committees you can be involved in:

Committees:	Description:
Fundraising: fundraising.sumnerhsmusic@gmail.com	Organizing and executing several fundraising projects throughout the year.
Food: food.sumnerhsmusic@gmail.com	Requests meal donations from local restaurants and organizes food and supply pickup. Also arranges the setup and cleanup of meals prior to each football game.
Volunteer/Chaperone: volunteers.sumnerhsmusic@gmail.com	Responsible for having volunteers available at football games, rehearsals, concerts, trips, etc.
Transportation: transportation.sumnerhsmusic@gmail.com	Actively solicits volunteers to pull the trailer and monitor loading and unloading of equipment.
Parking: parking.sumnerhsmusic@gmail.com	Coordinates parking volunteers for selected games and provides them with the required equipment.
Uniform: uniforms.sumnerhsmusic@gmail.com	Coordinating fitting and distribution of uniforms as well as cleaning schedules.
Prop: props.sumnerhsmusic@gmail.com	Maintains an accurate inventory of equipment and works with the director to plan, design, and build show props.
Merchandise Sales: merchandise.sumnerhsmusic@gmail.com	Help organize, inventory and sell merchandise at football games and other events.
Website: webmaster.sumnerhsmusic@gmail.com	Updating and maintaining the band website.

ATHLETIC CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS

(Must be cleared by Assistant Principal of Administration)

BAND AUXILIARY (COLOR GUARD)

(Flags, Rifles, Sabers, Dance, Winter Guard)

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Signatures

- a. General Information (Medical Release)
- b. EL3 & EL2 (Physical) - Sports Physical form MUST be downloaded from the district's website to ensure you have the most recent form.
- c. Title IX and Inappropriate Sexual Behavior Document

2. Uploads

- a. FHSAA Concussion Video Certificate
- b. FHSAA Heat Illness Certificate
- c. FHSAA Sudden Cardiac Arrest Certificate
- d. Government Issued Photo ID - used for signature purposes only
- e. Most recent Utility Bill

MARCHING BAND

(Brass, Woodwinds, Percussion, Drum Majors)

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Signatures

- a. General Information
- b. General Information (Medical Release)
- c. Title IX and Inappropriate Sexual Behavior Document

2. Uploads

- a. FHSAA Concussion Video Certificate
- b. FHSAA Heat Illness Certificate
- c. FHSAA Sudden Cardiac Arrest Certificate
- d. Government Issued Photo ID - used for signature purposes only
- e. Most recent Utility Bill

Sumner High School Band Program

Parent/Student Handbook Agreement

The information contained in this handbook is to give parents/guardians and students information regarding the Sumner Stingray Band Program and to have one central location for all important policies and dates. Thank you for your time and commitment in creating a family atmosphere as well as a community symbol that is the Sumner Band.

My student and I have read the Sumner Stingray Band Handbook. We understand the policies outlined including:

- What is expected of students in the band program at Sumner High School both in and outside the classroom.
- The attendance policy and procedures
- Band is a co-curricular class, meaning students are expected to participate in all after-school rehearsals and performances throughout the school year.
- It is necessary for any Hillsborough County student to maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average in order to participate in any sport or co-curricular activity.
- All Sumner Band program communication and information can be found on CutTime. This is where information is posted throughout the year including calendars, news, forms, financial statements, music, volunteer sign-up, etc.
- The band director reserves the right to assign, modify, or remove individual part or chair assignments for any reason.
- That it is my, the parent/guardian, responsibility to make the director aware if I do not want my son/daughter individually pictured on the website or Instagram.
- The important dates will be listed on the CutTime calendar. We have seen the dates and understand that all performances/competitions are required.

The band director reserves the right to dismiss members from the Sumner High School band program for conduct detrimental to the program.

Print Student's Name _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this page to Mr. Quixtan by Friday, July 26, 2026

SUMNER 2026 MARCHING BAND CAMP SCHEDULE

Monday, June 15 – 18, 2026
Leadership Team Only

Gebhardt Leadership Camp

Monday, July 6, 2026
All members & parents
5:00pm – 8:00pm

Form Night - Glory Days

Monday - Wednesday, July 14 – 17, 2025
Color Guard & Percussion
9:00am - 5:00pm

Mini-Camp

Monday - Thursday, July 13 - July 16, 2026
Leadership
9:00am - 5:00pm

Mini -Camp

Thursday, July 16, 2026
All incoming 9th graders and transfer students
9:00am - 2:00pm

New Member Camp

Monday – Friday, July 20 – July 23, 2026
All band members
9:00am-5:00pm

Full Band Camp: Week One

Monday – Friday, July 27 – July 31, 2026
All band members
9:00am-5:00pm

Full Band Camp: Week Two

Friday, July 31, 2026
All students and parents! Invite friends and family!
Parent Meeting 5:00pm in the Auditorium
Showcase 6:00pm in the Stadium (weather permitting)

STINGRAY SHOWCASE!!

Color Guard Summer Practices
TBD - will be communicated once dates/times determined