

# Glenvar Marching Handbook



The 2016 Edition of the

# Marching Highlanders

Mr. Zac Sweeney, Director

# The Glenvar Band Program

The Glenvar Bands are a source of pride for the Glenvar community. We are a part of the school, neighborhood, county, and state; and we do not take this responsibility lightly. We are dedicated to growing, inspiring, and achieving more and more each day. It is our hope that participation in this program will foster a better understanding and appreciation of music, while developing within students the knowledge, skills, and attitudes which will help to make them stronger students, more able musicians, and more complete members of our society.

Roanoke County is known for its excellence in the area of music education. The district has been recognized multiple times by the MENC: The National Association for Music Education, in their listing of the Best 100 Communities for Music Education.

While individual musical growth of the students is our primary goal, it is the commitment of all band students to each other that leads to success.

## Vision

The *Vision* of the Glenvar Band Program is to be an example of excellence in instrumental music education through performance and musical understanding.

## Mission Statement

The Glenvar Bands desire to have the highest musical achievement possible through the efforts of each band member to support each other and the program and to be a symbol of pride for our community.

## A Note From Mr. Sweeney

"I believe that Band is not only an activity in which students learn how to march and play, but also how to function in society as a whole. We learn lessons about teamwork and leadership that are hard to learn anywhere else. Band is not about the notes we play but about the lessons we learn and the friends we make. It is my goal to provide all students with opportunities to grow as human beings as well as musicians."

# The Glenvar Principles of Success

Band is not simply about playing well. It is about developing a sound intellect of all musical understanding and a cooperative spirit. We take pride in our accomplishments, the work of others, and the collective whole. How we conduct ourselves on a daily basis - whether it is on stage or on the football field, in the classroom or throughout the community - is more important than any concert we will give or rating we receive. Solid fundamentals are at the core of our musical understanding as well as how we approach and reach our own goals.

**Attitude** - Every situation is what you make of it. If everyone has a positive attitude toward the activity, we will all be more successful because of it. Attitude is the basis for how we approach everything.

**Commitment** - This is your band! We are here for you to strengthen your learning and provide a wonderful musical experience. What you put in *is* what you get out. Give to the program and it will give back to you - perhaps, more than you expected! Take an invested interest in the program to make it as strong as it can be. If everyone does this, possibilities are endless!

**Respect** - Pride begins with respect. We respect ourselves, our equipment, each other, other schools, other bands, and our leaders. The entire Glenvar Bands program is a hard working enterprise - but before we can acquire the respect of others, we must first show respect. Everyone within this distinguished organization is here because we share a common goal; to be a symbol of pride within our community. We must work together to obtain this goal.

**Trust** - An organization such as this requires trust among all its members. Joining the band means taking risks. You will be asked to take on new challenges and start new adventures, like marching or improvising in a jazz concert! Do not fear - we are here for each other and you will always be shown the way. Take a risk; trust each other, and the director! You will quickly realize the benefits of those risks and develop into your maximum potential because of it. It is also important to be a trustworthy person - a person others can trust. And trust doesn't develop without communication. Communication is crucial for your success and the success of the band. And, the best route of communication is an honest one. The philosophy of this program is driven by respectful proactive two-way communication among you, the other band members, the leaders, and the director, that builds trust at the core level.

# Attendance Policies

Attendance is **required** at all marching band practices, football games, competitions, parades, and other official marching band activities. Use Mondays to schedule appointments. If this is not possible, please contact Mr. Sweeney right away. *All absences must be excused PRIOR TO THE ABSENCE!* In the event that ANY student misses a rehearsal, it is the *student's* responsibility to make arrangements to determine what was missed during their absence and what additional work will be required for the student to re-enter at the same level as the remainder of the group. Mr. Sweeney reserves the right to add or cancel rehearsals as necessary.

## **SAT/ACT Tests – (Anticipated)**

SAT:

October 1  
November 5  
December 3  
January 21  
May 6  
June 3

ACT:

September 9  
October 22  
December 10  
February 11  
April 8  
June 10

# Dress Policies

## Rehearsal dress policy (Including Band Camps)

1. Tennis shoes are to be worn at all marching band practices. No sandals permitted at rehearsals at any time. Students will not be permitted to participate and it will be counted as an unexcused absence. The wearing of unapproved shoes will result in disciplinary action.
2. Any other dress codes will be enacted and enforced by the instructor.

## Performance Dress Policy

1. All uniforms should be treated with respect. Uniforms should never go home unless directed to do so by the director. After each performance, uniforms are to be correctly placed on assigned hangers and returned to the uniform room.
2. Each student will be assigned a uniform and accessories. You must use your assigned equipment, which will be checked-in at the end of the season. You will be charged for damaged or misplaced materials.
3. Garment bags are for coats, pants, and cape only. Use gym bags for your shoes, etc.
4. All members will be responsible for purchasing and maintaining clean gloves, black marching shoes, black socks, an underarmour uniform shirt and any other performance attire set by the director. Section leaders will inspect your uniform before each performance.
5. The underarmour uniform shirt should be worn each time the uniform is used unless otherwise directed by Mr. Sweeney. Shorts must be worn with the uniform.
6. We are either in uniform or out of uniform. When the uniform is on, it is totally on unless otherwise directed by Mr. Sweeney (no unbuttoned buttons while wearing jacket, for example).
7. Do not eat or drink when in uniform (except for water) unless given permission by Mr. Sweeney.
8. Away game attire will consist of jeans or khaki shorts, the green away band t-shirt and your band jacket.

## Performance Policies and Expectations

### Wind and Percussion

1. Band members are expected to have their marching band show music memorized by the end of camp. Each member may be tested to make sure the requirement is met. Memorizing music is not hard! You'll be surprised at how easy it is just playing it and practicing during band camp!
2. Each member is expected to know his or her drill by memory. Each band member will be assigned drill charts and / or coordinate sheets at the beginning of the marching season and will be responsible for them for the entire year. You **MUST** have them for **EVERY** practice!

## Color Guard

1. All color guard members are expected to know the majority of their flag routine for the marching show before the beginning of the school year. This may require extra guard practices at the discretion of the director or guard instructor. You are expected to attend. Instructional practicing for the guard is determined by the instructor.
2. Each color guard member may be tested routinely to ensure all routines are consistently practiced and improvement is being made.
3. Failure of a guard member to know the routine may result in the member being prevented to perform until the routine is known.
4. Each guard member is expected to know his or her drill by memory. Each guard member will be assigned drill charts and / or coordinate sheets at the beginning of the marching season and will be responsible for them for the entire year. You MUST have them for EVERY practice!

## Student Leadership

Student leadership assists in developing this band to operate at its maximum potential. We rely on strong student leaders to likewise play a role in making our band strong. Leadership within the Glenvar High School band is a privilege bestowed upon those students whose demonstration of individual actions and behaviors, possession of high standards of discipline and maturity, and an overall dedication and commitment to the band program enhance the success of the band. The student leaders are to assist the band director as requested and are expected to lead by example throughout the year. Student leaders may be removed from their position at the discretion of the Band Director if their behavior on and off the field does not live up to the expectations of the Band Director. The student leaders are encouraged to be present at as many yearly band functions as possible.

## BAND COUNCIL

The Band Council is the student governing body of the bands. The council is comprised of the drum majors, section leaders, quarter masters, and any other leadership roles appointed by the director. Student leaders are models of the Glenvar Principles of Success.

## Marching Band Evaluation and Grading Policy

Grading in marching band is based primarily on participation. This does not imply that being at rehearsals is enough. Each rehearsal will count as a

daily grade. Points are deducted from the daily grade if a student is absent unexcused, late unexcused, without marching band shoes, without music (if applicable), without drill chart/coordinate sheet. Points can also be deducted if a student has not memorized the required music selected by a memorization/performance quiz date. The daily grades are added up and divided by the total number of possible points (depending on number of rehearsals) to determine the final grade for marching band. If a student is clearly working hard, constantly developing, present at rehearsals, ready at scheduled times, has practiced the music – and if discipline has not been an issue – there is no reason the student will not receive an A.

## School-Issued instruments/Equipment

1. Roanoke County Schools does NOT provide insurance for individually owned instruments. Once a student signs the equipment contract, that instrument/equipment is the responsibility of the student and in the student's care. Instruments owned by the school are the student's responsibility during the contract period. Again, students will be held responsible for school owned instruments issued to them.
2. Students and parents must sign an instrument checkout contract before the student can use the instrument.
3. Students will need to maintain their issued instruments to assure proper working order. Instruments must be returned in the same condition as they were issued.
4. All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.

## Program Expectations

1. Students are responsible for all equipment. Students will be issued and are expected to return the equipment in the same condition.
2. All policies in the student handbook and Roanoke County Public Schools Conduct Code handbook apply at all times.
3. Chewing gum, eating, and drinking are not allowed in the band room or during rehearsal at any time.
4. The use of Cell Phones during any rehearsal is not allowed. Cell phones are to remain in your instrument case or band bag during rehearsal.
5. Pride is reflected in the environment in which we maintain. The band room will be clean and neat at the end of each use.
6. Students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. You are representing not only your band but your school!

7. Marching band is a physical activity. Students should be in acceptable physical condition to participate and may do physical activities to maintain safe physical condition.
8. All members must in good standing with Glenvar Schools.
9. Major disciplinary infractions will result in removal from the marching program.

## Travel

The band will travel throughout the course of the year. Most of these trips will be short trips. They include away football games, competitions, marching assessment, and parades. On these bus trips the students are seated with same sex students only. No boy/girl in the seats together. Same Sex Couples are also not permitted to sit with one another. The director may refuse the right of any student to travel with the band to any location due to disciplinary actions or behaviors that occur.

Student conduct and expectations during all band sponsored events are the same as in school or for any other school-related gathering. Discipline will follow the school's policy regarding violations of the school's policies or the rules of the visited location.

Students must travel to events and return from events on the band bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with his or her parent or guardian must notify the director in writing prior to the event and the director will approve or deny the request accordingly.

Students must have all necessary forms completed and returned to travel on any trip with the band.

## Fundraising

Fundraising is necessary to develop the band program AND each child of the program to their maximum potential. Throughout the year there will be several opportunities for individual participation to support the band through fundraising. Examples include the Celtic Classic, the concession stand, and the Jazz Café. Fundraising is vital to the success of our band program. This year, each family will be asked to volunteer at a minimum of three different occasions during the band year. It is crucial that we have your support

during these fundraising efforts which in turn provide support for your band child! Please see a member of the Volunteer Committee to sign up early to volunteer for the events that are sponsored by our band. Celtic Classic, Glenvar's hosted band competition, is a required volunteer event.

## Discipline

Failure to adhere to the expectations set forth in this handbook can result in disciplinary action. You may lose third quarter off or you may be benched for one or more performances. This disciplinary action can be up to and including dismissal from the group. Any disciplinary issues of a legal nature (drugs, alcohol, etc...) will be immediately referred to school administration.

# Rehearsals

## *Marching Highlanders* Band Camp Schedule Summer 2016

### Music Camps (all winds and percussion)-

**JULY- 12, 14, 19, 21 - 4-8PM**

**JULY 27-28 - 1-5PM (tied in with rookie camp)**

**July 6-10            Optional Leadership Camp**

**August 1            DCI Show (required by all members) Time TBD**

**July 25            Rookie Camp (all rookies and leadership) 9AM-12PM**

**July 26-28        Rookie Camp (all rookies and leadership) 9AM-5PM  
(Bring Lunch)**

**July 29-30        Pre Camp (all members) 9AM-5PM**

**July 29            MANDATORY BAND CAMP MEETING 6PM**

**August 5-9        Band Camp AWAY at Sweet Briar College**

- Arrive at School by 9AM

- Depart by 10AM

- 7th Performance at Sweet Briar College at 9:30 AM

- Return to GHS between 12 and 3 PM

**August 9-13       Post Camp**

**2PM - 8PM Each Day - Bring a snack**

**August 13        7PM Post Camp Performance / Booster Meeting**

**August 24        First Day Of School**

## 2016 Varsity Football Schedule

The band attends all football games. Attendance required by all members!

Mr. Sweeney will set all call times for game dates

| Date  | Opponent       | Home or Away | Starting Hour | *See Note     |
|-------|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 8-26  | Galax          | Away         | 7pm           |               |
| 9-2   | James River    | Home         | 7pm           |               |
| 9-9   | Cave Spring    | Away         | 7pm           |               |
| 9-16  | Grayson County | Home         | 7:30pm        | *Rec Night    |
| 9-23  | Covington      | Home         | 7pm           |               |
| 9-30  | Open           |              |               |               |
| 10-7  | Giles          | Away         | 7pm           |               |
| 10-14 | Auburn         | Home         | 7pm           | *Homecoming   |
| 10-21 | East Mont      | Away         | 7pm           |               |
| 10-28 | Radford        | Home         | 7pm           | *Senior Night |
| 11-4  | Floyd          | Away         | 7pm           |               |

# COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Mr. Sweeney reserves the right to add or cancel competitions as necessary.  
Attendance required by all band members!

All Call Times will be set by Mr. Sweeney

**September 17** William Byrd  
**September 24** CELTIC CLASSIC (Mandatory Volunteer Event)  
**October 8** Salem  
**October 22** Bassett  
**November 5** Liberty University

To a fabulous band year!

---

Zac Sweeney  
Glenvar Band Director

The Glenvar Band Boosters 2016 – 2017:

|                                    |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Lenora Downing</b>              | President         |
| <b>Beverly Anderson</b>            | Past President    |
| <b>Ivonne Corekin/Lori Whitlow</b> | VP – Volunteers   |
| <b>Donna Sink</b>                  | VP-Ways and Means |
| <b>Ashley Church</b>               | Treasurer         |
| <b>Tracy Bandy</b>                 | Secretary         |