

**Fayette County High School
Band Program Handbook**



2023 - 2024 Academic Year

FAYETTE COUNTY BANDS STAFF

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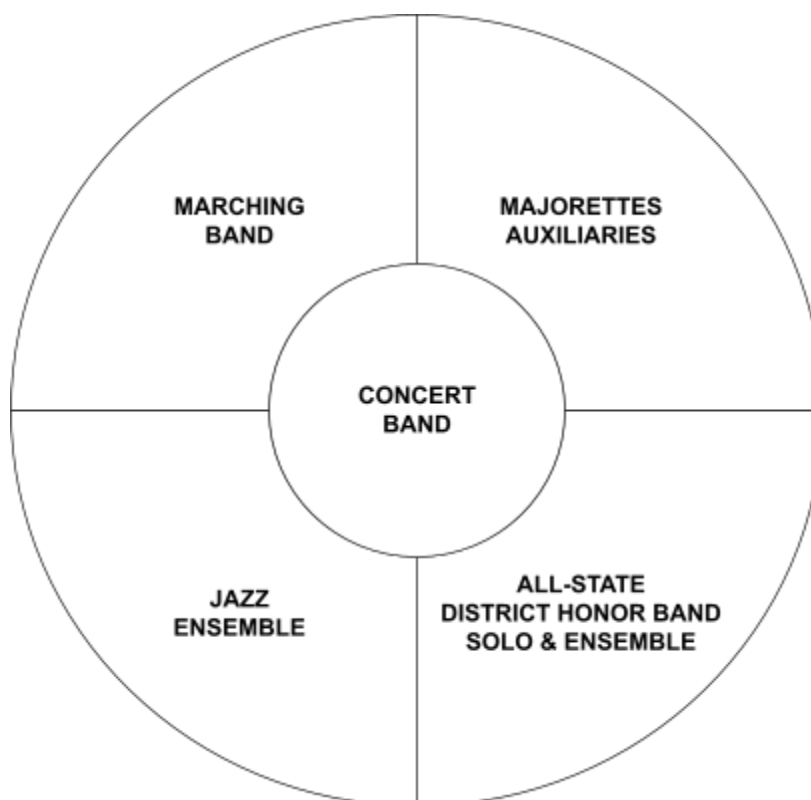
Director of Bands
 Majorette Coordinator, FCHS
 FMS Band Director
 Majorette Coordinator, FMS

BAND HANDBOOK POLICY

Both returning and new members are expected to read this information carefully before signing and committing to its contents. Both signed handbook forms are required for **ALL** members to participate in the Fayette County Bands program. A copy of this can be found on the band website.

THE TOTAL BAND PROGRAM

It is the philosophy of Fayette County Bands to have a balanced, total band program with the concert band as the heart and foundation. The marching band is a very important part of the total band program and enhances the overall experience of members in the Fayette County Bands program. Below is a graphic representation of the total band program. The graphic does not consider any one component of the band program to be more important than another; rather it is to show how the concert band is our source of fundamental knowledge for good musical growth that is required for the rest of the total band program to flourish as desired and expected.



ENSEMBLES

Symphonic Band

Symphonic Band is the premier wind instrument ensemble at Fayette County High School. We will participate in concerts throughout the year, Alabama Music Educators Association's Music Performance Assessment (MPA), and community events. Music performed is at the highest caliber and quality capable. Members are strongly encouraged to participate in area honor bands and festivals, including the Alabama All-State Festival/District Honor Band.

Chair placements are determined by audition. These auditions take place during fall semester, usually in November. Information for these will be provided closer to the audition dates. Principal instrumentalists (first-chair) are required to audition for the Alabama All-State Festival/District Honor Band in late January.

The "Pride of the Tigers" Marching Band

The "Pride of the Tigers" Marching Band is a competitive style marching band whose primary responsibility is to serve as a musical representative of Fayette County High School. We will perform at all Fayette County High School football games (regular season and postseason), community events (such as parades), and area contests/festivals.

Majorettes and Drum Majors in the "Pride of the Tigers" Marching Band will also be required to abide by the contents of the "2023-2024 Majorette & Drum Major Audition Registration Packet."

Auditions and interviews for leadership positions, drumline, drum majors, and auxiliaries will be held in the spring semester, usually in late March or April. Information for these will be provided closer to the audition and interview dates. All those selected for a leadership position are required to audition for the Alabama All-State Festival/District Honor Band in late January.

Jazz Ensemble

Jazz Band is a high-standards ensemble that embraces the improvisational spirit, syncopated rhythms, and expressive, full band melodies that define jazz as a unique and influential genre. Members of the Jazz Ensemble are expected to perform independently at a high level. Students will explore the rich history and stylistic elements as jazz instrumentalists through jazz standards, improvisation, and fundamentals of jazz theory.

In order to maintain the integrity and balance of the Jazz Ensemble, a limited number of musicians are approved. This ensures each instrumentalist's role is adequately represented and the ensemble can achieve a cohesive and balanced sound. Students in the Fayette County High School band program interested in participating in Jazz Ensemble must have the approval of the Director of Bands before registering for the course.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

In order to be a member of the Fayette County Band Program, students must meet the following requirements for participation:

1. Must be registered for appropriate band class(es)
 - a. All Fayette County Band Program members **MUST** be enrolled in 1-B Band
2. Must be in good financial standing with both Fayette County High School and the Fayette County Band Program; this includes all band fees, equipment fees, and other charges incurred during membership (such as avoidable repairs)
3. Must complete **ALL** required forms
4. Must maintain a minimum of a "C" average in **ALL** classes
5. Must participate in **ALL** required activities the band program is a part of
6. Must demonstrate appropriate behavior, maintain the expectations of a member of the Fayette County Band Program, and adhere to all Fayette County Schools policies

REMOVAL FROM BAND PROGRAM

Membership in the Fayette County Band Program has a high standard of excellence that all of its members must adhere to. Failure to do so may result in removal from the band program. If at any point the Director of Bands or Principal of Fayette County High School determines that a student does not meet the band program's expectations laid out in this handbook or in the Student Code of Conduct, said student may be removed from the band program.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is one of the most important factors in the success of the Fayette County Band Program. All members are required to attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances. This includes play-off football games, parades, contests/festivals, and rehearsals outside of the normal school day. Band is classified as a co-curricular class, meaning that assignments and activities are graded outside of the ordinary school day. Failure to adhere to our attendance policy will result in a lowered grade for the course, and ultimately may result in removal of the Fayette County Band Program.

A tentative schedule for the year is provided on the band website. Additional rehearsals or events may be scheduled as they come up throughout the year. This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the Director of Bands. Typically, we will have full band evening rehearsals during football season and prior to Music Performance Assessment (M.P.A.) on Thursdays 6:00p - 8:30p. Majorettes and percussion may have additional rehearsals in the fall on Tuesdays from 3:00p - 5:00p. Failure to attend full band rehearsals may likely result in not being able to participate in pregame, halftime, or concert performances.

The only excusable absences are prearranged school event conflicts and those that would be excused by the school for regular attendance records (e.g. illness, family emergency, religious holiday, etc.). Individual needs will be addressed as they occur and ruled on by the Director of Bands. **Simply informing of an absence does not constitute being considered excused.**

For **all excused** absences, the following procedures must be followed:

1. The director must be notified via email in advance.
2. A band absence form (available on the band website) must be completed.
3. A parent note or doctor's excuse must be submitted if applicable.
4. Follow-up is the sole responsibility of the student.

Per school policy, members that are absent from school (including suspensions) are **not** allowed to participate in any activity that occurs outside of the ordinary school day that day. The absence will be considered either unexcused or excused based on the school's official record.

Being tardy is not a standard we want to have as a band program. Please be on time. Times indicated on itineraries and schedules are the **START** times...not the arrival times. Unexcused tardiness will result in a deduction of that rehearsal/performance grade.

GRADING

As mentioned before, grades are assigned in class and during co-curricular activities outside of the ordinary school day. Per school policy, grades will be assessed using points rather than percentages. Below are the categories used as well as the points per grade. The examples listed are not exhaustive and there may be other activities that belong in each category.

<p>Performances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football games Concerts Pep rallies 	<p>100 points</p>
<p>Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playing tests Self-assessments Written exams 	<p>100 points</p>
<p>Rehearsals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marching rehearsals Sectionals M.P.A. rehearsals 	<p>50 points</p>
<p>Class Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparedness for class Active participation Remaining on task 	<p>50 points weekly</p>

Grades for semester exams ("X1" & "X2") are completed using a predetermined performance determined by the Director of Bands. Unexcused absences from said performances will result in a failing grade for said semester exam.

BAND FEES

All members of the Fayette County Band Program are assessed band fees used to offset the overall operation cost of the program. They include all routine band activities for the entire school year including transportation, uniforms, music, band shoes, gloves, auxiliary props, etc.

Fees for all members is **\$200.00** (auxiliary members may have other fees associated). Those that are NOT in need of a new pair of band shoes will receive a \$20.00 discount on their fees.

While we prefer band fees paid-in-full up-front, band fees may be in \$20.00 installments due the last school day of each month (except for May). The installment plan schedule is provided on the next page. Those receiving a \$20.00 discount will have the May installment waived. Fundraisers will be available to help offset band fees; however, the minimum balance of the installments are still to be due by the last school day of each month. Checks should be made to FCHS. To view your balance, please check your Charms account. If you have any questions, please contact the Director of Bands.

Band Fee Installment Schedule

Installment Number	Due Date	Fee	Total Paid
Installment 1	August 31, 2023	\$20.00	\$20.00
Installment 2	September 29, 2023	\$20.00	\$40.00
Installment 3	October 31, 2023	\$20.00	\$60.00
Installment 4	November 30, 2023	\$20.00	\$80.00
Installment 5	December 15, 2023	\$20.00	\$100.00
Installment 6	January 31, 2024	\$20.00	\$120.00
Installment 7	February 29, 2024	\$20.00	\$140.00
Installment 8	March 29, 2024	\$20.00	\$160.00
Installment 9	April 30, 2024	\$20.00	\$180.00
Installment 10	*May 10, 2024*	*\$20.00*	\$200.00

OUTSTANDING DEBTS

All outstanding debts incurred while a member of the Fayette County Band Program will be charged to the Fayette County High School account. Debts on said account will hold students from graduating, receiving report cards, withdrawing, registering, etc. These debts include, but are not limited to: outstanding band fees, missing uniforms, missing supplies, and instrument repairs.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms are property of the Fayette County School District. While wearing any logo or branding of Fayette County Band Program, members are actively serving as representatives of Fayette County Band Program, Fayette County High School, Fayette County School District, and the City of Fayette. It is imperative that members conduct themselves with appropriate decorum and understand that their actions are a reflection of those they represent. Any damages incurred will be the financial responsibility of the member to compensate. Charges will appear on the member's account and should be paid in full along with the band fees.

Symphonic Band

- Option A
 - Tuxedo Jacket
 - Tuxedo Shirt (*a white undershirt is highly recommended*)
 - Tuxedo Pants
 - Black Bowtie - **not provided**
 - LONG, PLAIN, BLACK socks - **not provided**
 - Band Shoes - **only provided if full \$200 band fee is paid**
- Option B
 - Black Dress
 - Closed-toed Black Pumps (up to two inches) or Flats - **not provided**
 - Jewelry: only modest stud earrings and sets of pearls may be worn

The "Pride of the Tigers" - Winds & Percussion Full Uniform

- Jacket
- Black "Pride of the Tigers" T-Shirt
- Bibbers (*thin, dress code length athletic shorts should be worn under bibbers*)
- Shako (*all hair should be pulled up and into the shako*)
- Plume
- Band Shoes - **only provided if full \$200 band fee is paid**
- Uniform Bag
- Frosted Poncho (*provided during rain*)
- LONG, PLAIN, BLACK socks - **not provided**

The "Pride of the Tigers" - Winds & Percussion Hot Uniform

- 2023 "Pride of the Tigers" Polo (*a white undershirt is highly recommended*)
- Khaki chino-style PANTS - **not provided**
- Brown or Black Belt - **not provided**
- Simple, Modest Tennis Shoes - **not provided**
- Frosted Poncho (*provided during rain*)
- Simple White, Black, or Grey Socks - **not provided**

Jazz Ensemble uniform is the same as **The "Pride of the Tigers" - Winds & Percussion Hot Uniform.**

Majorette uniforms for games, pep rallies, etc. will be determined on by the Majorette Coordinator. **Drum Majors** will have the same uniforms as wind and percussion players with the addition of a cape (full uniform only), white gloves, and a black, Fox-40 Classic CMG whistle. Please consult the “2023-2024 Majorette & Drum Major Audition Registration Packet” for more information.

Members are not to make alterations to any part of the uniform that is provided to them. If alterations are needed, please contact the Director of Bands.

While in uniform, members are not to eat anything that may stain their uniform (e.g. a cheeseburger with ketchup and mustard). Members should only drink clear liquids (e.g. water, sprite) while in uniform to avoid staining the uniform. If a member should stain their uniform, please notify the Director of Bands. Please do not attempt to clean the uniforms yourself as this may damage the uniform. **NO ONE SHOULD MACHINE WASH THEIR UNIFORM!**

Members will be expected to wear their uniform in the same capacity as other members (excluding medical and religious exceptions). The full band will appear “uniform” at all times. Jackets, hats, plumes, etc. will be worn or removed together as a full band as dictated by the Director of Bands. Plumes are never to be touched and should only be handled by approved staff and volunteers. Said staff and volunteers **MUST** be wearing gloves while handling plumes.

No hats, bandannas, or non-approved headwear should be worn while in uniform. Per school policy, no facial jewelry or body art of any type may be worn/visible while in uniform. Modest styles of sunglasses will be permitted at the discretion of the Director of Bands.

BORROWED INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

Members of the Fayette County Band Program are required to appropriately use and care for equipment, including instruments, that are provided by the school and the Fayette Band Foundation. This ensures the longevity and functionality of these valuable resources, and promotes a sense of responsibility and respect for shared resources among students. Doing so assists the overall maintenance and upkeep of the program.

Failing to take care of these resources can result in damage or loss, which not only affects the individual student but also impacts the entire band program. It is crucial for members to understand that they are responsible for the proper handling, storage, and maintenance of school-provided instruments and equipment. This includes following specific guidelines, such as keeping instruments in their designated cases, cleaning them regularly, and avoiding actions that may cause damage or wear. Failure to take care of school/foundation provided instruments and equipment will result in being held **FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE** for any necessary repairs or replacements.

By fostering a culture of care and responsibility, members can develop a deeper appreciation for the instruments and equipment they use, ensuring their continued availability and optimal performance for present and future generations of musicians. Those using school provided instruments **MUST** sign and complete the “Fayette County Band Program Instrument Check-Out Form.”

REQUIRED SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

Below is a listing of required supplies for the Fayette County High School Band Program. If you are considering purchasing a brand/model other than our recommendations, please contact us. Most of these items are available from a variety of local and internet vendors in a variety of reputable brands.

All Members

- Required: PENCILS, Tuner/metronome app, fully functioning instrument cases
- Recommended: Physical tuner/metronome (Korg TM-60), portable music stand

Flute & Piccolo

- Brands: Gemeinhardt, Pearl, Yamaha, Armstrong
- Required: Swab (pull-through), cleaning/tuning rod, key oil
- Recommended: Hercules flute stand, piccolo

Oboe

- Brands: Selmer, Yamaha
- Required: Swab (pull-through), reed case, a minimum of 2 functional reeds (custom or Jones Artist Series), small container for water, cork grease, key oil
- Recommended: Hercules oboe stand

Bassoon

- Brands: Fox (Bassoons are school provided)
- Required: Swab (two piece pull-through as well as bocal swab), reed case, a minimum of 2 functional reeds (custom or Jones Artist Series), small container for water, cork grease, key oil, seat strap
- Recommended: Hercules bassoon stand

Clarinet & Bass Clarinet

- Brands: Yamaha, Buffet, Selmer (Bass clarinets are school provided)
- Required: Swab (pull-through), reed guard or case, a minimum of 4 functional reeds (Vandoren or D'addario Reserve, strength 3.0+), mouthpiece cap, cork grease, key oil, mouthpiece (Yamaha 4C), ligature (Bb - Rovner 1R, Eb - Rovner 1E, Bass - Rovner 3RL)
- Recommended: Hercules clarinet stand

Saxophone

- Brands: Yamaha, Jupiter (alto only)
- Required: Swab (pull-through), reed guard or case, a minimum of 4 functional reeds (Vandoren or D'addario Reserve, strength 3.0+), mouthpiece cap, key oil, cork grease, mouthpiece (Yamaha 4C), ligature (Alto - Rovner 1RL, Tenor - Rovner 2R, Bari - Rovner 3R), neck strap (NeoTech)
- Recommended: Hercules saxophone stand, secondary horn (tenor, soprano, etc.)

Trumpet

- Brands: Yamaha, Bach, King, Conn
- Required: Mouthpiece (Bach 3C...step to 5C if still on a 7C), mouthpiece brush, snake, valve oil (**NO** Blue Juice), slide grease (**NO** red, Bach tuning slide grease)
- Recommended: Dennis Wick straight and cup mutes, small black towel for mutes, three-leg trumpet stand, polishing cloth

Horn

- Brands: Conn, Yamaha (Horns are school provided)
- Required: Mouthpiece (Holton Farkas MDC), mouthpiece brush, snake, rotor oil, valve oil (**NO** Blue Juice), slide grease (**NO** red, Bach tuning slide grease)
- Recommended: polishing cloth, Hercules horn stand or Soft Stand, horn hand guard with strap

Trombone

- Brands: (F attachment is strongly encouraged) Yamaha, Conn, Eastman, Bach, King
- Required: Mouthpiece (Schilke 51D or Bach 6½ AL), mouthpiece brush, snake, slide cream (Trombotine or Slide-o-mix), small water spray bottle, slide grease (**NO** red, Bach tuning slide grease), rotor oil (for horns w/trigger)
- Recommended: Dennis Wick straight and cup mutes, small black towel for mutes, three-leg trombone stand, polishing cloth

Euphonium

- Brands: Yamaha, Besson (Euphoniums are school provided)
- Required: Mouthpiece (Schilke 51D or Bach 6½ AL), mouthpiece brush, snake, valve oil (**NO** Blue Juice), slide grease (**NO** red, Bach tuning slide grease)
- Recommended: polishing cloth

Tuba

- Brands: Conn, King, Yamaha, St. Petersburg (Tubas are school provided)
- Required: Mouthpiece (Conn Helleberg 120), mouthpiece brush, snake, valve oil (**NO** Blue Juice), slide grease (**NO** red, Bach tuning slide grease)
- Recommended: polishing cloth

Percussion

- Percussion instruments are school provided. A small bell set or keyboard at home is helpful.
- Required: Vic Firth SD1 concert snare sticks
- Recommended: practice pad (Evans RealFeel), stick bag, hard yarn mallets (IP400), medium yarn mallets (IP240), soft yarn mallets (IP100), rubber mallets (Vic Firth M5), hard rattan mallets (Vic Firth M139)

EXPECTATIONS OF BAND MEMBERS

- Adhere to the "Attendance" section above by being on time to all rehearsals and performances - the time listed is the start time, not the arrival time.
- Know and understand the policies outlined in this handbook
- Exhibit good rehearsal etiquette.
- Have all of your materials ready before we begin rehearsals and performances - this includes, but is not limited to, your instrument, music, reeds, mouthpiece, batons, etc.
- Come to rehearsals and performances with a positive attitude.
- When a director or leadership member asks for attention, grant that attention so we can work together expeditiously.
- Maintain a high standard of discipline on and off the field.
- There should be no excess playing out-of-turn (i.e. noodling).
- Make a real effort to improve your craft on a daily basis.
- Spend the necessary practice time required to maintain a high-quality musical contribution to the ensemble in which you are participating.
- Read and play music with thoughtful musicianship.
- Have respect for others, in words and actions.
- Have respect for the property of all participants, instructors, volunteers, and directors as well as the property of Fayette County High School and any school we travel to during the year.
- Have respect for yourself.

EXPECTATIONS OF BAND PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Help make sure your child is on time for band rehearsals and performances.
- Know and understand the policies outlined in this handbook.
- Support and show an active interest in your child's musical studies.
- Direct any questions you have about the band program to the Director of Bands.
- Notify the Director of Bands if a member is to be absent ahead of time.
- Help encourage your child to practice outside of school.
- Help your child participate in private lessons from qualified professionals.
- Make sure your child has a quality, working instrument.
- Ensure band fees are paid on time.
- Support the Director of Band's vision for the program and not act in direct contradiction or opposition to said vision.

How Parents/Guardians Can Help:

- Join the Fayette County Band Foundation and help in a way meaningful to you.
- Volunteer your time and/or chaperone.
- Make faithful attendance to all band meetings and performances.
- Visit rehearsals occasionally.
- Participate in fundraisers.
- Purchase an ad for the football program or banner supporting your child.
- Donate to the Fayette County Band Program.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

A student who believes that he or she has been or is being subjected to any form of sexual harassment shall immediately report either verbally or in writing the matter to a teacher, the school counselor, assistant principal, or principal (COMPLAINT OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT FORM – located in the Appendix of Student Code of Conduct). Any student who suspects that another student is being sexually harassed shall immediately report the information to a teacher, school counselor, assistant principal, or principal. A student's request to make his or her report to someone of the same sex will be granted. When an individual believes their complaint cannot be effectively communicated at the local school level, they may report it directly to the Superintendent. *Code of Alabama (1975) 26-14-3*

HAZING

The Fayette County Band Program is committed to encouraging and promoting good sportsmanship and citizenship; we feel a responsibility in promoting a positive, educational atmosphere within the program. We believe all members have a place in the band program, granted they understand and act out the expectations of a member of the Fayette County Band Program, many of which are laid out in this handbook. However, hazing of its members will not be tolerated. Hazing can be defined as any act or ceremony, which can create the risk of harm to a student as a form of initiation into a particular club or activity. Hazing includes activities that involve the risk of physical harm (e.g. whipping, branding, ingesting vile substances, sleep deprivation, extreme overexposure to heat or cold, restraint, nudity, or kidnapping). Hazing is wrong and will not be tolerated from any member of the Fayette County Band Program. Anyone who witnesses or hears about a form of hazing should report it.

BULLYING & CYBERBULLYING

No student shall engage in nor should any be subjected to bullying, violence, threats of violence, or intimidation by any other student that is based on any of the specific characteristics set forth in the Student Code of Conduct. Students who violate this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary sanctions as specified in the Student Code of Conduct, subject to the investigating school administrator's authority and decision (BULLYING COMPLAINT FORM – located in the Appendix of Student Code of Conduct).

DISTRICT & SCHOOL POLICY

This handbook is to serve as the rules, regulations, procedures, and expectations for members of the Fayette County Band Program. This handbook in no way supersedes any policies set forth by the Principal of Fayette County High School or the Fayette County Board of Education. Members of the Fayette County Band Program are expected to adhere to all board policies.

Fayette County Bands Handbook Agreement

GUARDIAN: I have received a current copy of the Fayette County High School Bands Handbook. I affirm that I have read and understood the contents. In doing so, I have explained the contents of this handbook to my child. I acknowledge and agree to the rules, regulations, procedures, and expectations contained herein, and will require my child to comply with the contents of this handbook.

I also realize that during my child's time in the Fayette County Band Program, I may be informed, formally or informally, of various changes in these policies. I understand Fayette County High School reserves the right to change policies at any time with or without advance notice. I understand that the Principal of Fayette County High School and Director of Bands reserves the right to remove my child from the Fayette County Band Program for failure to adhere to the expectations herein.

Guardian printed name

Guardian signature

Date

STUDENT: I have received a current copy of the Fayette County High School Bands Handbook. I affirm that I have read and understood the contents. I acknowledge and agree to the rules, regulations, procedures, and expectations contained herein, and will be required to comply with the contents of this handbook. I understand that the Principal of Fayette County High School and Director of Bands reserves the right to remove myself from the Fayette County Band Program for failure to adhere to the expectations herein.

Student printed name

Student signature

Date

Fayette County Bands Talent Release Form

Student's Name _____

I hereby irrevocably give Fayette County High School and its representatives the right and permission to publish, reproduce, or otherwise distribute my child's name, image and likeness, photographs, motion pictures, and audio/video recordings about my child for educational and promotional purposes in any lawful manner.

I understand that neither my child nor I am to receive direct compensation for these appearances. I also understand I waive any current or future claims to copyright of said photographs and video/audio recordings.

Your permission would grant the following:

- Photographs of my child participating in the Fayette County Band Program may be taken.
- Video/Audio recordings of my child participating in the Fayette County Band Program may be taken.
- Copies of these photographs or video/audio recordings may be copied to film, videotape, magnetic tape, digitally, or otherwise.
- Use of my child's photographs or video/audio recordings may be used for educational purposes and promotion of Fayette County Schools via news media outlets (both print and broadcast) and social media.

Consent from Legal Guardian: By signing this form, I acknowledge that I have completely read and fully understand the above release and agree to be bound thereby.

Guardian printed name

Guardian signature

Date