**OHS**

**Spirit of the South**

**Parent/Student Information Guide**

**2022-2023**

**Band Directors**

Mr. Will Waggoner

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Opelika High School

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Opelika Middle/High School

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**Note from Mr. Waggoner**

## Will Waggoner​Director of Bands-Opelika High School

What an honor it is to serve as your new Band Director and carry on the rich traditions that the Opelika Band Program has established in the state of Alabama and beyond. I want to promise you that your decision to join our band program will be life changing and give you memories, skills, experiences and friends that you will carry on to whatever your future may hold. I look forward to working with and getting to know each and every one of our band members, staff and parents. Remember, it is your work ethic, determination, and perseverance and intelligence that is going to determine your future. We are a band family and will go through a lot together. Our goal is to be better, smarter, and stronger than we were the day before. We are-OPELIKA! We are-THE SPIRIT OF THE SOUTH!

GO BAND!

**Note from Mr. McGlynn**

I would personally like to welcome each and every one of you to the Opelika High School “Spirit of the South” band. I assure you that being part of this organization will be a life changing experience that will bring many wonderful memories for you to cherish. I will work hard to maintain and build upon the tradition that has been started here in our Opelika Bands, but it is you that makes the band what it is. Hard work and dedication is what will make the “Spirit of the South” the best organization. Always remember to work hard, practice, and HAVE FUN!!! I look forward to meeting and working with each and every one of you this year.

Mike McGlynn, Associate Band Director, Opelika Middle/High School

**Note from Mrs. Comer**

I am humbled and excited to have an opportunity to work with the students and parents of the Opelika Middle School Bands. The OMS Bands have a longstanding tradition of excellence and I am dedicated to the band continuing as such. Band has had a very special place in my life throughout school, and I am committed to help provide the best band experience that it can be for you. We will work hard, but we will have a great time along the way. I am so glad that you decided to join band and look forward to working with each of you!

Bre-A’nna Comer, Band Director, Opelika Middle School

Basic Expectations

1. All members are expected to be at all rehearsals and performances
2. All members are expected to be early to be on time
3. All members are expected to not allow phones and other devices to be a distraction
4. All members are expected to respect all directors, staff, instructors, student leaders and Chaperones.
5. All members are expected to take proper care of ALL instruments and uniforms. Students are financially responsible for damage to items that belong to the band.
6. All members are expected to adhere to the NO USE POLICY of drugs, alcohol, or illegal substances. **Illicit use of illegal substances will result in the removal from the band program.**
7. All members are expected to follow all rules and guidelines governing students in the OHS Student Handbook. This includes dress codes, attendance, grades, etc.
8. All members are expected to remember that BAND IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT!

“BE WHERE YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE, WHEN YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE, DOING WHAT YOU SHOULD BE DOING, THE WAY IT SHOULD BE DONE.”

Spirit of the South Guidelines and Regulations

1. Directors and instructors reserve the right to restrict performance opportunities for the following reasons:
	* Excessive tardies or missed rehearsals
	* Refusal to follow instructions of directors, staff, drum majors, or section leaders (disrespect will not be tolerated)
	* ISS or OSS (band or non-band infractions)
	* Low grades
	* Uniform or equipment damage
	* Any reason not identified above that hinders the reputation of the “Spirit of the South” Band Program or the safety of the students involved.
2. Every band member must be prepared. You must be on time and attend every rehearsal. If you are not on time or miss practice, an alternate may perform in your place. Appointments should be scheduled on days that do not conflict with band practice or performances. Jobs are never an excuse to miss practice or performances. Unexcused or excessive absences will result in removal from the band program. Directors and staff reserve the right to restrict performance opportunities based on missed rehearsals for any reason.
3. Your class grade is based on your performance every day as well as concerts and contests. A student’s grade can be lowered for lack of preparation, weak or below standard performance or practice etiquette, poor attitude and disrespect.
4. You must be involved with ALL “Spirit of the South” performances including games, parades, pep rallies, competitions and contests. Performances are required! Missed performances will result in lower grades or possible failure, loss of performance opportunities, and possible removal from the band program.
5. You are responsible for all uniforms and equipment. You are responsible for mistreatment, accidental damage to uniforms and instruments in you care.
6. As a band member, you are in a leadership position. Superior behavior is expected in all of your classes and throughout the community. You are expected to follow the Opelika City Schools code of conduct and the applicable dress codes at all times. If you have behavior issues, you cannot be considered a member in good standing of the band program.
7. If you receive In School Suspension (ISS) or Out of School Suspension (OSS) from Opelika High School or Opelika Middle School you will be subject to having performance opportunities restricted/removed from the band at the Director’s discretion.

The above guidelines must be adhered to in order to remain a member in good standing in the band program. Although encompassing, these guidelines do not cover all situations that occur over the course of a season. **Therefore, membership and performance of each student is at the discretion of the directors of the OHS “Spirit of the South.”** If you choose to exhibit behavior unbecoming of a member of the “Spirit of the South” Band Program, you may receive demerits, lose performance opportunities, or be removed from the program. Remember, being in band is a privilege!

**The Band Program**

**Spirit of the South Marching Band**

 All members of the Opelika High School Band Program are members of the Spirit of the South Marching Band. This band will perform at every home football game as well as perform at all playoff games both home and away, pep rallies, Homecoming events, and other performances as requested. SOTS members will be permitted to travel with and to perform in the stands at away games. Members are often referred to as winds, percussion, or visual ensemble members. Each segment has its own responsibilities but combine to complete the largest ensemble in the school. The Spirit of the South rehearses after school.

**OHS Contest Marching Band**

This is the 2nd year for this ensemble for the 2022 school year. Membership in the OHS Contest Band will be by audition only. The contest band will perform halftime at away games and will compete at marching contest. After the last competition of the season, the Contest band will dissolve and the Spirit of the South will perform at ALL games home and away at that point. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory to remain a member of this performing ensemble. Only personal illness, medical emergencies/death of family members will be excused without question. Medical emergencies and personal illness must be documented by note or proof from a physician. Final decisions on whether an absence is warranted or not is at the discretion of the Directors/Staff.

**Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band and Concert Band**

 All wind instrumentalists are placed into an appropriate level class based on musicianship. Wind Ensemble members are placed by audition and are often upperclassmen and perform at the highest level. Symphonic Band members are placed by audition and are often upperclassmen or experienced musicians. Concert Band members are less experienced and sometimes beginning musicians. Band classes meet every other day all year. Both bands give scheduled performances that include Christmas, Music Performance Assessment as well as other requested performances as needed.

**Jazz Band**

The OHS Jazz Band is a group of auditioned musicians who perform regularly scheduled and special community performances. The class meets every other day all year. Students in the Jazz Band must also be in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band or Concert Band.

**Percussion Class *(Concert Percussion and Indoor Percussion Ensemble)***

All Percussion students are enrolled in Percussion Class. This class meets every other day and involves preparation for the Spirit of the South Marching Band as well as Concert Percussion and Indoor Percussion programs. Each student is also assigned to Concert or Symphonic Band for performances with each group. The class meets every other day all year.

**Visual Ensemble**

The Visual Ensemble is a supplemental group to the Spirit of the South Marching Band. The group is comprised of the ***“Showstoppers” Dance Line, the Color Guard, and the Majorettes***. Each individual is auditioned and placed into the appropriate class during first term only. Auditions occur each spring and new members are selected each year. **The Winter Guard** is an auditioned group comprised of auditioned visual ensemble members and rehearses/performs during the winter and spring months.

**All Band Members**  are eligible for band activities that are designed to maximize their musical careers. Students may choose to be involved in **All-State Band, University Honor Bands, Solo and Ensemble Festivals, as well as other performance settings that are promoted by our District and State.** Classes that enable the students to participate in private lessons and preparation for these events are **Band Techniques**  and  **Solo and Ensemble Class** (these classes meet in the spring semester every other day).

**Performances**

**Band-O-Rama**

Band-O-Rama is scheduled to be held at Opelika HS on Thursday AUGUST 25th at 6:30 pm. Attire is khaki shorts, band shoes and band t-shirt.

**Football Games**

All Football events are required performances. The SOTS will play all home and playoff games (home and away) as well as several pep rallies (before and after school). Jamboree and Playoff games may be necessary, so be sure to monitor the calendar throughout the entire football season. The Contest band will perform at away games and contests.

**Christmas Parade** (December 3rd Tentative)

The **Christmas Parade** is scheduled on the first Saturday after Thanksgiving in downtown Opelika. The attire for the parade is their marching uniform (weather permitting).

# Other Performance Ensembles

Band members also have the opportunity to participate in several other performance ensembles such as **Jazz Band, Concert and, Improv (show choir), Winter Guard** and the **Theatre** **Orchestra,** which performs for the Opelika Theatre Society’s Spring musical. Some events are additional costs, so please see Mr. Waggoner if you are interested in these ensembles.

**Wind Ensemble Symphonic Band and Concert Band REHEARSALS!**

Before symphonic and concert band performances, it will be necessary for winds and percussionists to rehearse together. These rehearsals are in addition to Marching Band Rehearsals and are scheduled before the Christmas Concert (December), MPA Concerts (February), and Spring Concert (April/May). Students who have activities (sports or club meetings) must notify Mr. Waggoner at least 2 weeks in advance of the rehearsal or performance so that preparations can be made. As a rule, students who participate in spring sports are excused for games only. Students are expected to meet with coaches and discuss rehearsal and practice times.

**Band Fees**

**Band Fees**

Unfortunately, band is not free! In order to maintain the quality programs we enjoy, we must ask for your financial help. Students are required to pay dues in the proper time allotted or make arrangements with Mr. Waggoner. Please do not make a decision not to participate in band due to finances. We have many fundraising opportunities for students to raise funds for their band fees and trips. The Band Fees are primarily used to clean uniforms, replace instruments, instrument repair, additional instruction, music and pay for transportation costs.

**All band fees by band registration July 15th, 2022 unless enrolled in our payment plan which consists of 3 payments.** Students will be held from performances until payment is received or arrangements have been made with the Band Director.

* Band Fees for ALL MARCHING MEMBERS $150

**New marching members** (and returning members that need new shoes) **are required to buy the marching shoe provided by the band**. Shoe orders will start TBA. **The cost is $30.00 check or money order only please. All wind and percussion members are also responsible for purchasing their uniform bibbers through the band (this is new). The cost for the bibbers will be $50.00**

**Visual Ensemble Fees**

Members of the Visual Ensemble are required to cover some additional costs. Fees and dues are detailed in the Visual Ensemble Handbook available on the website or from Mr. Waggoner. Visual Ensemble fees are estimated to be $400-$500 annually. The estimated total includes band fees, but not Spring Trip costs.

# Percussion Fees

All percussion students will be responsible for the costs and expenses of the percussion ensemble. Although all of the instruments are provided, many “expendables” are needed to maintain and properly perform. It is the responsibility of the student to be prepared with the proper equipment at each rehearsal. Students will be given detailed information as to which equipment they will be responsible for. Sticks, mallets, and other needed items will be made available in the following manner:

Snares and Tenors – will purchase sticks and mallets through the band office. Sticks are $12 a pair. Other implements will be determined on a need to purchase basis.

Bass Drums – One set of practice mallets will be provided. Students will contribute $25 to the bass drum mallet fund in order to purchase performance mallets. Misuse will result in student replacement of damaged implements.

Front Ensemble – Due to the use of multiple implements, the band will provide all mallets and implements to be used throughout the season. All front ensemble members will contribute $25 to the mallet fund in order to maintain and replace mallets. Misuse will result in student replacement of damaged implements (estimated cost is $50-$100 a pair)

Fees are not refundable. Everything that the fees cover have to be paid up front for the band program (transportation, instrument supplies and repairs, etc.) Students who are released from the band program either by themselves or from the band directors shall not receive a refund. Students found misusing, abusing, or damaging instruments, drumheads, sticks, mallets, or other items will be held financially responsible and may be dismissed from band.

**Fund Raising**

Fundraisers are a necessary part of the success of the “Spirit of the South.” Fundraisers provide additional funds for band expenses, allow us to meet and have fun working together, and provide an easy opportunity for the community to provide assistance to the band program. All fundraisers provide students and/or their parents with an opportunity to raise money to assist with the cost of participating in the band program. WE NEED EVERYONE TO HELP! Your efforts to assist with these events are greatly appreciated. Below is a list of some of the fundraisers that are being planned. We are always open to new ideas.

**Summer Swing** - The band boosters cook and serve sack suppers at the Summer Swing Concerts sponsored by the Opelika Parks and Recreation Department in the Municipal Park. Volunteers are needed to work during the concerts to cook and/or sell the suppers.

**Fish Fry or BBQ** - Each student will be asked to sell tickets for both events. Each student selling tickets will have a percentage of each ticket sold deposited into their individual account. Volunteers are needed to work the day of the event to cook and serve the food.

**Pecan Sales** - Students will have the opportunity to sell bags of pecans (plain, chocolate covered, etc.). This has become a very popular fundraiser each year before the holidays. A percentage of each bag sold will be deposited into the student’s individual account.

**Doughnut Sales** - Opelika Middle School students have the opportunity to sell Golden Doughnuts. The profit from the sale goes into each student’s account to help with the expense of spring trips and to prepare for band fees when moving up to the marching band.

**Football Concessions** - We are proud to also maintain the concession stands at all Opelika home football games. For a portion of the proceeds, the Lions Club of Opelika generously provides the labor for each event. From time to time, the OHS Band Boosters may be asked to assist.

***ALL FUNDRAISERS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE***

**Uniforms**

**Marching Band Uniforms**

A “Spirit of the South” marching uniform consists of the following**: jacket, bibbers, hat/plume, white marching shoes, black gloves, black socks and a band t-shirt/shorts**. You will be provided the jacket, hat/plume and a band t-shirt. You are responsible for providing your black bibbers, socks (no-shows and ankle socks are not acceptable), gloves, and shoes. **Gloves** can be purchased in the uniform room. The first order of gloves will be sold at a cost of 2 pair for $5.00. Replacement gloves will be sold at $5.00 each pair. Shoes will be ordered during summer practice. You should be sure you have your shoes, socks, hat, garment bag and gloves in your uniform bag each week. Garment bags are used for many of the away games, and you will need to hang your uniform in the garment bag before it can be loaded on the bus. Please be sure to put your name on the nametag for your hat box and garment bag. Be sure to keep up with your items because we do not have extras to loan out. If you lose, misplace or forget to bring an item, you will have to buy a replacement. We cannot “charge” items, so you have to pay with cash or check at the time you receive the replacement item. Failure to have all parts of the uniform will result in a lower grade/possible loss of performance.

# Wearing of Uniforms (Winds and percussion)

Wind and Percussion students must be fully dressed at all times during games/performances unless otherwise dictated by the Band Staff. Band jackets may not be worn with the front open. Bibbers must be done up. Correct socks must be worn. Both Male and Female students must have their hair up and under the shako. Hair style choice must be considered by the student/family. You have to be able to get your hair up under the shako/helmet for both bands. If a shako can not be worn, the student will not be permitted to perform. We are judged by uniformity. With the Spirit of the South, studs/small earings/nose rings will be permitted. No bracelets allowed on the wrists. With the contest band, Only studs will be allowed. No other jewelry/bracelets/watches etc are permitted. For clarinets and are flute who perform with the fingers cut out of their gloves, only red or black nail polish will be permitted (preferably black if needed).

# General Uniform Care

We ask that you please wear your uniform with pride and make a special effort to take care of them so they will remain in good condition for future “Spirit of the South” members to wear. This includes not letting your pants drag the ground, not stuffing your jacket in your hat, not dropping it on the floor, no eating or chewing gum while in uniform, etc. Your band fees cover the cost of cleaning your uniform but damages due to neglect are not covered. You will be responsible for replacing any items that are lost or damaged. Replacement costs are as follows:

Jacket $250 Hat Box $25 Ponchos $10

Shako/Helmet/Hat $75 Garment Bag $20

Students will pick up their uniforms from the uniform room for each event. You should turn in your uniform immediately after each game. Be sure to have it hung neatly on the original hanger, jacket zipped with the back to the curved edge of the hanger. Be sure to have your uniform ready before you get in line. For away games, you should hang it neatly before placing it in your garment bag, and then remove it from the garment bag when you turn it in.

**8th Grade Students**

During the marching season, auditioned 8th grade band students are considered as much a part of the band as the high school students. Regular buses will bring OMS students to OHS for practice and performances. The parents will be notified of the bus number used to transport the students. For away games or competitions, the alternates are assigned their own bus.

**Band Booster Meetings**

Opelika Band Booster meetings are scheduled quarterly at 7:00 p.m. in the band room at Opelika High School. The meetings are very informative and the band directors will be available for questions/comments. The band booster officers will present the latest information on fund raising, trips, events, financial information, and will address questions/comments. OMS and OHS Parents are strongly encouraged to attend.

**Band Booster Fees are $10.00 per family per year.**

**“Spirit of the South” Chaperones**

Selection of chaperones for Major Trips with the “Spirit of the South” will be based on a combined criterion of the student’s seniority and the parent’s level of participation in band fundraisers and other band events. *Since students are not allowed to eat or drink while in uniform, chaperones are not allowed to eat and drink in front of the students while the students are in uniform. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed during any band event and there is no smoking while on duty or around the students.*