



CONSERVATORY HANDBOOK

2024 – 2025

Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory for the Arts Conservatory Handbook

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No Excuses

Any excuse for non-performance, however valid, softens the character. It is a sedative against one's own conscience. When a man uses an excuse, he attempts to convince both himself and others that unsatisfactory performance is somehow acceptable. He is – perhaps unconsciously – attempting to divert attention from performance; the only thing that counts is his own want for sympathy. The user is dishonest with himself as well as with others. No matter how good or how valid, the excuse never changes performance.

The world measures success in terms of performance alone. No man is remembered in history for what he would have accomplished. History never asks how hard it was to do the job, nor considers the obstacles that had to be overcome. It never measures the handicaps. It only counts one thing – **PERFORMANCE**. No person ever performed a worthwhile task without consciously ignoring many plausible excuses.

To use an excuse is a habit. We cannot have both the performance habit and the excuse habit. We all have a supply of excuses. The more we use them the lower our standards become, the poorer our performance. The better we perform, the less plausible our excuses become. Next time you want to defend your sub-par performance, say instead (at least to yourself): **NO EXCUSES!!!**

Notice the startling effect this will have on your own self-respect. You will have recognized your failure. You will be honest with yourself. You will be one step closer to the performance habit. You will be a better person for it. “We will be a better organization!”

- Author unknown

“Through partnerships with families, school, alumni and the community, the mission of the Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory for the Arts is to develop each individual’s “Commitment to Excellence” for achieving success in every aspect of their life.”

TARPON SPRINGS

LEADERSHIP CONSERVATORY

For the Arts

Dear Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory for the Arts Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory for the Arts. The 2024 – 2025 school year gives us the opportunity to carry on the outstanding tradition of excellence that is the trademark of the Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory for the Arts. I want to congratulate you on your decision to be a part of one of the finest scholastic organizations in the country. The Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory for the Arts provides musical activities that encompass a wide scope of artistic and educational opportunities and allows everyone the chance to strive for the highest level of excellence.

Conservatory students will begin the fall season as a member of our Bands of America National Champion marching band. Our performances will include all home and one away football game as well as several competitions. These competitions will likely include the FBA Marching Band Performance Assessment, Seminole Sound Spectacular, the East Lake Invitational, and the Bands of America Regional in Orlando, Florida, and Bands of America Championships in Indianapolis, Indiana. We will also, be hosting our Annual Outdoor Music Festival where we come together and host 20+ bands from across the Southeastern United States.

The Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory for the Arts also features outstanding Wind, Jazz, and Percussion ensembles that have developed a reputation of musical excellence through National concert and festival evaluations. The ensembles will present several public concerts and participate in assessments at the District and State levels hosted by the Florida Bandmasters

Association. These ensembles may also appear, on occasion, at national concert band festivals in the spring. In addition to ensemble success, the members of the Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory for the Arts distinguish themselves through individual efforts in All-County, All-State, Solo and Ensemble Festival, and other honor band activities. It is our goal to be a well-rounded program that prepares our students for success academically, musically, and in life.

The Tarpon Springs Winter Guard program is a nationally recognized performance ensemble that offers activities to showcase the talents of our color guard members during the winter and spring months. The color guard competes and travels to local, regional, and national events and may be returning to Dayton, Ohio for the WGI world Championships next spring.

All magnet students are required to participate in their performance ensemble course every semester. Any student who wishes to qualify for the magnet seal and medal of distinction for graduation must take the following magnet courses: Freshman Leadership, Music Theory, and Music Techniques. Guard students will take Leadership and Dance courses. During their freshman year all students will take the Magnet Leadership Course. This course focuses on attitude development, self-motivation, responsibility assessment, communication skills, sensitivity in working with peers, and how to develop action plans to achieve group goals.

The Conservatory Handbook is intended for the use of students, parents, administrators, staff, and Directors as a convenient source of information regarding various aspects of the Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory for

the Arts program. We have tried to cover as thoroughly as possible every facet of the program. Students and parents are encouraged to read this handbook carefully. Any questions regarding the content of the Conservatory Handbook may be directed to me, or our instructional staff. Conservatory members will be expected to understand and abide by all rules and regulations set forth in the Conservatory Handbook. Remember, to have a great organization, we must all participate, work together, and maintain a strong commitment to excellence!

Sincerely,
Kevin M. Ford

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Together Everyone Achieves More

Mission Statement

Through partnerships with families, school, alumni and the community, the mission of the Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory for the Arts is to develop each individual's "Commitment to Excellence" for achieving success in every aspect of their life.

Purpose

Through the study of music and performance opportunities, the Conservatory allows individuals to develop:

- Musical and performance artistry;
- Poise;
- Confidence; and
- Self-discipline.

Individuals also develop an understanding and love for the art of music and the process for success in every aspect of their lives.

Membership in the Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory for the Arts will reflect the cultural and economic diversity of our community, brought together in a joyful, caring and supportive environment.

An Education in Music and Life

The Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory for the Arts is dedicated to providing:

- an outstanding musical experience.

- a comprehensive academic program.
- a leadership curriculum for all grade levels that develops each individual's ability for leadership.
- the opportunity to develop musical and visual artistry, poise, confidence, and self-discipline.
- an understanding and love for the art of music and the process for success in every aspect of the student's life.

Leadership Development "One Individual at a Time"

- All freshmen will take a Leadership Class based on "*The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens*", by Stephen Covey. This course also includes lectures by guest Leadership speakers.
- Every Conservatory student will take a 12-hour Leadership Class during after school hours as a prerequisite for Student Leadership positions.
- The Conservatory has elected student leaders, which include section leaders, captains, and officers.
- The Conservatory offers students the opportunity to mentor in local elementary and middle schools.
- All Conservatory students are required to participate in the annual FBA Solo and Ensemble Festival.
- Conservatory students will partner with community and civic leadership organizations.

I. The Conservatory Tradition and Philosophy

The Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory for the Arts has developed a proud tradition of excellence. By *becoming* a member of this organization, you assume the responsibility of continuing a proud tradition established by others through devotion and hard work. The Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory for the Arts is dedicated to providing educational opportunities and experiences in the performing arts for its students. All educational activities will take place in a professional environment that promotes social and artistic development through creative and innovative programs, each based upon high quality leadership and instruction. In addition, it is our belief that “the process is just as important as the product.” This places the emphasis on the development and growth of each individual student, not on specific performances.

Students who have a positive mental attitude, regardless of their individual skills, will always have a place in the Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory for the Arts. If your attitude is not positive and you are not doing your personal best to make the group successful, you should not be a part of this organization. In fact, students and parents who do not project an attitude that is positive and cooperative will be given the opportunity to either change their personal perspective or leave the organization.

Characteristics of a positive mental attitude include a generally cheerful outlook towards rehearsals and performances, cooperation in the preparation and maintenance of equipment and facilities, and an eagerness to do whatever is necessary to be successful. In short, the ideal band member is someone who will always give his or her best for the good of the organization.

“Success is a journey – not a destination.”

II. The Conservatory Ensembles

A. Marching Band

To participate as a member of the Tarpon Springs Marching Band, a student must be enrolled in the proper band classes. Each student must agree to attend all summer rehearsals whenever possible and is required to attend Band Camp. Exceptions will be made in advance by Director approval only. Each member must meet all financial obligations and must attend all rehearsals and performances (competitions and football games). The Band Boosters will arrange ample fundraisers to help meet financial obligations.

Students who have been designated with a “swing” status must meet all requirements of the marching band. A swing will rehearse and occasionally perform with the group. It is possible to earn a permanent spot when deemed appropriate by the Directors. Swings are considered full-fledged members of the marching band. Swings are expected to attend all rehearsals as per the rehearsal policy. Swings may be rotated on a per-performance basis in order to provide the opportunity for all students to perform. Swings travel on all trips with the marching band and are treated with equal status.

Participation in marching band is a requirement of all students enrolled in high school band courses in the Pinellas County School District. The following exemptions are available in the

following categories:

- Medical conditions that preclude the student’s ability to march or participate in a non-marching role (such as performing in the football stadium stands during a sporting event, or at a pep rally, performing in a wheelchair or sitting position in the “pit sideline ensemble”).
- Religious conflicts with calendar holidays, or participation in marching band or a marching event, that is a contradiction to the beliefs of the individual’s or family’s religion.
- Extraordinary circumstances that would prohibit the student from participation in marching band.

All exemption requests must be directed to the Band Director. All appeals, if necessary, will be directed to the Tarpon Springs High School Principal.

Marching Band Curriculum Objectives

Marching band is a significant part of the curriculum during the first semester. Although the Sunshine State Standards and National Standards are taught in all ensembles during the Fall (marching band, concert bands, jazz bands, orchestra, instrumental techniques, etc.), the marching band is the ensemble required to perform at all football games, pep rallies, community parades and events, and adjudicated or competitive performances. In addition, it is an expectation of the school administration and community that the marching band represent the school community at these highly visible events.

Band Courses in Pinellas County are co-curricular, not extracurricular, and the music being performed is rehearsed primarily during class time. Students are assessed based on their ability to perform the literature in a satisfactory manner. Department of Education State Course Descriptions include the following statement: “Special Note: This course generally requires students to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day”. In addition, Pinellas County School District Course Descriptions for High School Band I through VI state the following: “As a co- curricular performance-oriented activity, attendance is required for rehearsals and performances beyond regular school hours.”

The educational goals for every student in our marching band are listed below. Every student will:

- demonstrate an understanding of the components of an artistic performance.
- understand the elements of music, such as melody, rhythm, harmony, and pitch as they are used in musical composition, analysis, and performance.
- demonstrate an understanding of how to properly perform on an instrument with proper technique, tone quality, and intonation.
- utilize musical knowledge and skills in career and/or avocations after graduation.

The marching band curriculum will also develop every student in the following areas:

Attitude Development
Positive Role Modeling
Understanding in Self-Motivation
Self-Accountability
Leadership
Develop Attributes of a Leader
Integrity

Communication Skills
Personal Responsibility
Sensitivity in Working with Peers
Action Plans to Achieve Group Goals
Teamwork
Commitment to Excellence
Work Ethic

1. Technique – The students will correctly demonstrate the following fundamentals by playing and by verbal description:
 - tone production and breath support;
 - embouchure;
 - fingerings and positions or rudiments;
 - instrument maintenance;
 - articulations; and
 - individual and group intonation.
2. Musicianship – The students will correctly demonstrate the following by playing and verbal description:
 - balance and ensemble intonation;
 - ensemble blend and sonority;
 - comparison of various styles; and
 - Theory – rhythm, meter, key signatures, basic harmonic and form structures, terms.
3. Performance– The students will publicly perform demonstrating the following:
 - logistic awareness;
 - performance preparation;
 - individual deportment – self-discipline and control; and

- ensemble department – teamwork.
4. Value Judgments – Goal Setting The students will participate in:
- contribution to goal setting and achievement.
 - review and evaluation of tests and performances.

“The Ten Core Values of Marching Band”

- 1) Our marching band will provide a “society” and “family” to which all band students can belong.
- 2) Our marching band will be a place where our students will learn values and standards, where they must learn to depend on one another in their pursuit of their excellence.
- 3) Our instructional staff is committed to teaching the students to be team players, how to fit into a community, and how to do their fair share.
- 4) Our marching band curriculum is committed to teaching the students to trust and respect themselves and appreciate the others that are participating with them.
- 5) Each performance is a special opportunity where students experience a sense of community and realize that the “sum of who they are, is far greater than any one individual.”
- 6) The instructors and students will be dedicated to the work ethic and professionalism necessary to achieve excellence.
- 7) Our marching band does NOT participate in competitions or evaluations to “win” a trophy. Rather, it provides our students the opportunity to perform to the best of their ability, the opportunity for critical evaluation for future improvement, and for an audience who is present specifically to appreciate their performance.
- 8) Our approach to our instruments, music, and performance will be the same in all aspects of our music education curriculum.
- 9) The students will accept responsibility for the quality of their performance. All criticism will be accepted and done in a constructive and positive manner that results in a successful scenario.
- 10) The members and instructors of our marching band realize that a well-rounded instrumental music education program consists of symphonic band, orchestra, jazz ensemble, concert percussion ensemble, winter guard, music theory, and marching band. Our marching band is viewed as just one of many important performance ensembles in our music education curriculum. Only when all aspects of our band program are committed to excellence can we truly achieve musical, personal and performance excellence.

Rehearsal Schedule: Is Subject to Change - Please see Cut Time calendar for all dates and updated information

- Band Camp is **MANDATORY** for all students and is held the week prior to school starting (~7days). The typical schedule is as follows:
 - Weekday's - 1:00 pm - 8:45 pm
 - Saturday - 10:00 am - 8:45 pm
 - Sunday – OFF
 - Day before school starts - OFF
- Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:45 - 8:45 pm
- Friday Football Games (or) Rehearsal if no home game
- Saturday rehearsals 10:00 am – 8:45 pm

Rehearsal and Performance Attendance

All rehearsals and performances are **MANDATORY!** Any request for an exception must be submitted in writing to Student Section Leaders and Director and must be approved by the Directors two weeks in advance of the conflicting date, except in emergencies. Work is not an acceptable excuse for missing any band event. Our schedule is always announced far enough in advance to avoid conflicts. Parents, please make every effort to schedule regular doctor's appointments around the band's schedule whenever possible. If a change of schedule is necessary, two weeks' notice will be given when possible. Students are responsible for arriving at each rehearsal and performance on time, and for being properly prepared (properly dressed, instrument and music ready). Parents are encouraged to help their child take this responsibility seriously.

A. Excusable Absences - Excusable absences include:

- illness that prevents a student from attending school;
- doctor's appointment (if this is a check-up, try to schedule around rehearsal);
- death in the family;
- important family engagement (wedding); or
- religious holiday.

B. Non-Excusable Absences - Absences that are not excused include:

- driving test;
- homework (you must learn to manage your time well);
- attending a rock concert or pro-sporting event;
- birthday;
- work;
- trips that aren't given two weeks' notice (for example, you know you are going to be at a wedding, and you don't tell us until the day before you leave);
- transportation issues (your section leader can help to find a carpool within the band).

Grading Policies

The Conservatory Directors reserve the right to assign swing status to anyone who is not performing to their capability. This expectation includes all academic classes. Each Semester is divided into two (2) nine-week grading periods.

- Daily Participation – 70%
This includes every after-school rehearsal, every performance and trip, and every class.
- Daily Progress – 30%
This includes individual practice, sight-reading, honor group auditions, and excerpt playing. Progress is shown through tone-quality, intonation, technique, phrasing, articulation, and music reading.

Conservatory Office

The Conservatory office at Tarpon Springs High School is the professional office of the Conservatory Directors. Students are not to be in the office without permission from the Directors. The telephone is off limits to students except in an emergency. All rehearsal times are published well in advance; parents should not need a phone call to verify that we have dismissed on time. On occasions when the band is arriving back at an unspecified time, the phone will be made available for student use.

If there are any questions regarding the band program, please do not hesitate to call the Conservatory office at 727-943-4900 ext. 2090 and leave a message on voicemail for any of the Directors. Your call will be returned as soon as possible. You may also email info@tarponspringsband.com.

General Band Policies and Standards

- Shoes and socks **MUST BE** worn at all rehearsals.
- Chewing gum is **NOT PERMITTED** during any rehearsal.
- **NO** food or drink is allowed inside the band room.
- Conservatory members must **RESPECT** his/her uniform at all times.
- There will be **NO HAZING** of rookies allowed.
- Be in your seat, warmed up, and ready to begin **ON TIME**.
- Insubordination **WILL NOT** be tolerated.
- **RESPECT** other people's property.
- Public display of affection **IS NOT** allowed while on "band time." Remember, this is a band function – not a date!
- A band member will wear no jewelry, fingernail polish, or excessive make- up while in uniform. Leave expensive jewelry at home.
- Hair color must be a natural color, no colors (e.g.: pink, blue, etc.)

- NEVER disrespect another band or its members, EVER!
- Remember to always CHEER for other bands.
- Show RESPECT to all Directors, administrators, teachers, band staff, and parents at all times.
- Keep your language CLEAN! You never know who might be listening.
- Remember you are a CLASS ACT. Do not do anything that would have to be explained. Always conduct yourselves as ladies and gentlemen.

Communication –

There are six (6) means of communication with Band Students and Band Families:

- Upcoming calendar events and information are discussed at the Parent Meetings.
- Students receive information in class.
- The “White Board” in the Band Room has daily/weekly updates for students.
- Student Leadership regularly communicates with the students in their section.
- Updates provided via the BAND App, Cut Time, and school announcements.
- Website: Public facing website www.tarponspringsband.com

Please note: There are many performances and rehearsals on the band calendar in Cut Time. As a family, please try to make the necessary arrangements to ensure that your child is able to attend all of these performances and rehearsals. We strongly urge you to read the attendance policy carefully and make note of how it can affect your child’s grade. Updates will be made in Cut Time and posted to the BAND App when appropriate. Operating a band program on this level takes extreme dedication from the students and their families. We can only reach our goals if each student is willing to make the commitment to the band. Absences are the #1 downfall of any group related activity.

Band Instructional Staff

We are very fortunate to have paid professionals, technical assistants, and guest artists as a vital part of our Conservatory program. Without their help the Leadership Conservatory for the Arts would not be able to achieve the standard of excellence we seek. The instructional staff must have the respect of all students and parents. Instructional Staff members are chosen by the Directors and report directly to them. Students should give these staff members the same respect they would give any member of the TSHS faculty. Any problem should be brought immediately to the Directors; do not confront an instructional staff member directly.

Classroom Procedures

All students will be inside the Band Room before the tardy bell sounds. At two minutes after the bell, each student is expected to be at their seat, with instrument, stand, music, and necessary materials, including a designated “band pencil”. There will be silence when the conductor steps onto the podium.

Warm-up is a crucial time in each rehearsal. This is the time that students focus on the fundamentals of playing so that they may improve as a group and as individuals.

Problems of an individual nature (music missing, instrument problems, etc.) should not take class time. These issues should be dealt with either before school, after school, or just before class as a last resort.

Talking during rehearsals should be kept to a minimum. Any necessary talking should be about the music being studied and should never be a distraction to the conductor or other students. When the conductor is on the podium, there is no talking. When the conductor steps off the podium, you may talk quietly if necessary.

Section Procedures

Brass players should have all necessary mutes and valve oil ready. Reed players should have at least one spare reed at their seat during rehearsal. Ideally, students should have four to five “good” reeds that they rotate from day to day. The reeds will last longer, and students will get better play from them if they do not use the same reed all the time.

Percussionists should each have a pair of concert Snare drumsticks, Xylophone/ Marimba mallets, and Timpani mallets during concert band class. During Marching Band or Percussion Ensemble, students should make sure they have all the required equipment needed to perform on their assigned instrument.

Cases should be placed inside or near each student’s locker. The cases are unnecessary obstructions in the rehearsal area. At the end of rehearsal, students should make sure they put all equipment away. Instruments should be put back into lockers until it is time to take them home for practice. All chairs and stands will be put away at the end of every day.

Percussion equipment should be put away at the conclusion of rehearsal unless another band class is to follow that uses the same equipment. At the end of the day, all percussion equipment will be put away in its proper storage area and/or properly covered.

Inspections

Uniform and instrument inspections will be held prior to each uniformed performance. The Drum Majors, Band Presidents, and Guard Captains, with assistance from section leaders, will be responsible for the inspections and will report directly to the Band Directors. All problems noted during inspection will be reported to the Directors, who will determine whether or not the student will be allowed to perform. All minor problems will be recorded. While these problems will affect the student’s grade for that performance, the student will have an opportunity to make-up that part of the grade at a later time. If a student is not allowed to perform, however, the student will receive no credit for that performance and make-up will not be permitted.

After inspection, students may sign out or purchase missing uniform items from the uniform room if they are available. These items must be promptly returned following the performance. Students must consult with a designated uniform parent before removing anything from the uniform room.

Football Game Procedures

- Our home football games will be played at the Tarpon Springs High School stadium.
- All games will begin at 7:30 (subject to change) with band report time posted for each game. Report time for students and chaperones is generally 4:45 PM.
- Students will check out their uniform from a uniform parent for each performance.
- Woodwind cases and ponchos will be taken into the stadium if there is a threat of rain.
- Plumes will be issued before a show and picked up after the performance.
- Percussionists, color guard members, and students who march tubas and other large equipment, need to be ready to load early for an away game.
- All band instruments and equipment must be sparkling and “ready to go” for inspection.
- No band member is permitted to leave in advance of group dismissal at any time, unless excused by the Directors. (A note from parents is needed.)
- While seated in the stands, only band members are allowed in the ranks. Alumni may return from time to time and are always welcome. However, they will not be allowed to sit in the ranks of the band while in the stands.
- While seated in the stands, the band will always sit in sections, according to the seating chart.
- Attention should be given to the Directors or Drum Majors when they are standing in front of the band.
- The band will play only as a group while in the stands. Solo performance is strictly forbidden unless performed as a written piece.
- No inappropriate cheers are allowed.
- Musicians should avoid jumping as the team scores a touchdown. We appreciate the enthusiasm, but instruments may become damaged in the stands.
- In order to move in an organized fashion, we must be able to give instructions in a rapid manner. Everyone will listen to the Band Directors, Band Staff, and Drum Majors when instructions are being given.
- Weekly details will be assigned on a rotating basis to help load for away games and help clean the band room after games.
- The band will march to the stadium and back from the stadium at all home games. Once we have returned to the band room, students will wait at attention for dismissal by the Band Directors.
- All performances are mandatory. If you are unable to attend a performance, you must provide a written excuse in advance. Personal illness, death in the family, weddings, and religious holidays are usually the only legitimate excuses for missing rehearsals and/or performances.

Band Travel Policies and Standards

- Possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or non- prescription drugs will NOT be tolerated. Any student who violates this policy will face administrative action and expulsion from school immediately.

- Smoking, vaping, chewing, or dipping of tobacco or any other substances will not be tolerated.
- Students are expected to behave at all times in hotels. Anyone deemed guilty of gross misbehavior will be dealt with by the Directors and may be sent home at the expense of their parents.
- Conservatory members are not permitted in any other rooms on overnight trips. No unauthorized persons will be allowed to visit. At no point in time should there ever be a student of the opposite gender in someone else's hotel room.
- Parents and students will be held responsible for any property damage and lost room keys.
- Shirts and shoes are to be worn at all times.
- Rooms are to be locked at all times.
- Courtesy is expected in any dining facility the group may use. Other groups use these facilities as well; do not forget common courtesy.
- No food, glasses, dishes, or signs are to be taken from the dining facility.
- Please refrain from playing instruments in the hotel rooms.
- All school rules must be strictly followed. The band department and school administration will deal with students who violate these rules.
- No one is allowed to leave the hotel premises without permission from the Directors. Any student found doing so will be dealt with severely.
- Profanity is not a part of the Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory for the Arts. Make sure that your language is never offensive while you are with our organization.
- Follow all instructions from the Directors, instructors, and chaperones at all times. If you do not understand, ask. **REMEMBER:** Young adults do not roughhouse or damage property. As Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory members, you reflect not only the values you learn at Tarpon Springs High School, but those of your community as well.

Conservatory members are expected to be at the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment--Ready To Go!!! The Directors reserve 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 the rest of the group.

Standards for Behavior on Buses

- Reread the Band Rules and Band Traveling rules sections.
- Chaperones should check each bus before anything is loaded and relay any problems or damage to the driver and Director.
- Chaperones should load before students and spread out through the buses.
- The front seats on both sides of the aisle are reserved for the Directors and staff.
- Students must ride the same bus in which they are assigned. **DO NOT** change buses!
- Students are not to put anything on or under a bus until instructed to do so.
- Buses will load by class; students may not save seats for students in other classes.

- Roll will be checked before the bus moves and every time the students leave the bus. This includes, but is not limited to, rest stops, lunch, and practices.
- The bus drivers must be treated with respect. Different drivers have different rules; whatever they say goes.
- Nothing is to ever protrude out of the bus windows (heads, arms, instruments, etc.) nor should any item ever be thrown or dropped out of a window.
- Normal conversation is appropriate; shouting or screaming is not. Singing may or may not be acceptable depending on the driver, content, and musicality. Good singing may be acceptable; bad singing never is.
- Chaperones may reassign seats if they deem it necessary. Students may also be assigned to a different bus at any time at the Directors' discretion.
- To avoid problems, school bus windows stay up as we enter or leave another school campus.
- Students are to keep the buses clean at all times. At the end of a trip, every student should check the area where he/she was sitting, including the floor and overhead storage. The Bus Captain will remain on the bus to ensure that it is left in proper condition or see that a condition is corrected.
- Public display of affection between students is not allowed on any bus at any time. Girls and boys will be separated on the buses during evening trips.
- Be courteous and thank the drivers and chaperones when we return.
- The Directors will ride different buses over the course of the year.
- Students are not permitted to change out of uniform unless instructed by the Band Directors. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- G and PG movies may be acceptable but must be approved!

Competitions and Festivals

Competitions, festivals, and other adjudicated activities are important features of the Tarpon Springs Conservatory Program. It is through these activities that we obtain valuable feedback about our progress as individuals and as a program. Although we never “live or die” by one judge’s or panel’s opinion of our performance, it is important that we learn the value of giving maximum effort and standing by the results as our best possible effort of the day. Competitive performances are packed with emotion. Because of the amount of time, work, and discipline required to produce award-winning performances, we develop great camaraderie within the organization. We share hardship, discomfort, fatigue, oppressive heat, cold, long bus rides, disappointment, tears, success, and joy. There is a high level of tension that goes along with these emotions. The tension often causes students to react immaturely. We learn to avoid these normal pitfalls and to channel our energy and attention toward the goal of performance excellence and the ultimate success that will follow.

Regardless of the outcome, the members of the Tarpon Springs Conservatory will stand with pride as scores are announced and accept the results graciously. We show our respect for others and appreciate their performance. We know “winning” is the state of every individual having endured the hardships, taken the chance of competing, and having done his or her personal best to demonstrate their “commitment to excellence.” The Conservatory’s image is based on each individual. Our public reputation is based upon our appearance, our actions, and our projection of pride. It is the responsibility of each band member to ensure that we present the best possible image at all times.

As an organization, it is very important that we are all on the same page when it comes to our philosophy on competition. We compete to strive for excellence. It is an opportunity for us as performers to do what we love to do and that is to perform in front of an audience. The competition is the challenge for us to be the best we can be in a performance environment! This experience will be something that will serve us well for the rest of our lives. When we participate in a competition, we absolutely want to do our very best. We would like to think that our work ethic and our absolute dedication to excellence would result in us having the opportunity to perform with the elite performance ensembles at any performance event. However, that has nothing to do with a placement or the other participants. Our focus is solely on our performance. At the conclusion of an awards ceremony, we should be proud of our accomplishments, but not because of what place we came in, but rather, because we performed our best with excellence, passion, and artistry.

Required Marching Season Apparel

- a) Marching shoes are required for all new students, and if needed for returning students. Marching shoes will be ordered at Band Camp. The cost is approximately \$45 dollars. Marching shoes belong to the students and can be worn throughout their tenure in marching band.
- b) Practice Wear includes standardized shirts, black shorts, and a Conservatory polo for every student. Practice Wear is purchased at Ice Breaker, at Parent Magnet Booster meetings, or online at www.tarponspringsband.com. All students should have their practice wear **BEFORE** Band Camp begins. Standardized shirts include the White Conservatory T- Shirt, the LEAD shirt, GUARD shirt, section shirts and the like. When required, students must also purchase a Conservatory jacket.
- c) All students should purchase a pair of black pants, a black belt, and black shoes to wear throughout the school year at various band events. These black pants will be worn at all times when wearing the Conservatory polo is necessary.
- d) In addition, the color guard members will purchase their own special type of:
**Please see your Guard Coordinator for details on the updated list below*
 - Shoes
 - Warm-up suit
 - Body Stocking
 - Undergarments
 - Gloves
 - Carry-on bag
 - Practice Wear

B. Symphonic Bands

The wind ensemble and wind symphony are symphonic bands that are concert organizations devoted to granting the composer and his audience the most faithful performances of his music. These ensembles call upon the strictest disciplines of musicianship possible. Auditions for these ensembles take place in November. Students are placed in ensembles based upon their ability and proficiency levels on their instruments.

To be a member of one of the symphonic bands, students must be enrolled in the proper band classes. Marching band is a prerequisite for membership in the symphonic bands. Students agree to attend all after-school rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. Exceptions will be granted with Director approval only. Members of the symphonic bands must be in good standing within the band program. Each student must comply with all rules and regulations of the ensemble.

There will be after school sectionals and rehearsals for symphonic bands (subject to change) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM (January – April Only)

1. Honor Bands

Auditions are held each year for the Florida All-State Bands and Orchestra. Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory for the Arts students are encouraged to audition each year. However, members of the wind ensemble are required to audition for All-County and All-State Band each year. Typically, these auditions are held in September or October and the All-State Festival is held in Tampa each January.

Honor band opportunities may be available to Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory students during the school year. These opportunities may be based on audition or application. The honor bands include the University of South Florida's Festival of Winds, Florida State University's Tri-State Band Festival, and the University of Miami's Honor Band Festival. Students will be notified of these events at the appropriate times.

2. Solo and Ensemble Festival – Mandatory for All Conservatory Students

The Florida Bandmasters Association Solo and Ensemble Festival is held in February each year. This event gives students an opportunity to excel individually or in small groups. Students may select their own music or Directors may assist in the selection process. There will be an entry fee assessed for each event entered. The fee is approximately \$15 per piece. Members of the wind ensemble are required to perform at least one solo at the District Solo and Ensemble Festival each year they are members of the Conservatory. Participation in this event carries a grade component as part of the student's curriculum and is not an optional event.

3. Jazz Ensemble

The jazz ensemble performs many styles of music ranging from big band, swing, bebop, funk, and rock. Students are exposed to music from 1900 to present time and learn basic improvisation skills. Entry into the Jazz ensemble is by audition only. Please contact Dr. Sexton for specifics regarding the timing and substance of the auditions.

Students must comply with all rules and regulations of the ensemble. Students agree to attend all after-school rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. Exceptions will be granted with Director approval only. Members must be in good standing within the band program.

There will be after school jazz sectionals and rehearsals (subject to change) Wednesdays from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM (January –April Only)

C. Percussion Ensemble

The Percussion Ensemble is a group open to all members of the band program interested in learning, exploring, and performing on percussion instruments. This class may include, but not be limited to, marching band, concert band percussion, concert, pop, and chamber percussion bands, and an indoor winter drum line performance unit (if applicable). The Concert Percussion Ensemble is comprised of percussionists and pianists. The members of this ensemble have the opportunity to explore numerous percussive instruments and various styles and techniques.

Each student must comply with all rules and regulations for the ensemble. Students agree to attend all after-school rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. Exceptions will be granted with Director approval only. Members must be in good standing within the band program.

The Percussion Director will announce the rehearsal schedule for the Percussion Ensemble.

D. Color Guard / Winter Guard

The Color Guard/Winter Guard is a select group with membership through audition only. This performance group is an integral part of the marching band. The color guard performs in the fall as part of the marching band. In the spring, in addition to various dance recitals, this group forms the winter guard. The winter guard performs in arenas in a presentation of pageantry theater incorporating a wide range of visual performance arts, and choreography. This course combines dance, drama, performance, and the manipulation of flags, sabers, and rifles. This is one of the most popular activities for students in the high school curriculum.

Color guard students must comply with all rules and regulations of the ensemble. Students agree to attend all after-school rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. Exceptions will be granted with Director approval only. Members must be in good standing within the band program.

There will be after school sectionals and rehearsals (subject to change). During the fall the Color Guard will follow the marching band rehearsal schedule. During the Winter Guard

season, art ensemble guard rehearsals will generally be Monday and Wednesdays from 5:15 PM – 9:00 PM. world ensemble guard rehearsals will generally be Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM.

E. Orchestra

Please check the high school website for information regarding this ensemble. (<http://www.pcsb.org/tarpon-hs>)

III. *Financial Responsibilities and Policies*

The Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory for the Arts strives to maintain a high quality, affordable program. However, to ensure our students receive the opportunities to perform and develop valuable skills such as teamwork, commitment, and leadership, the program requires adequate funding. The Pinellas County School District is unable to provide the complete financial support necessary to fully fund any school band programs. The responsibility for meeting the financial needs of our program falls squarely on the shoulders of the band boosters, parents, and students.

The Pinellas County School District provides the Conservatory with limited funding to help defray the operating expenses, cost for new music, and provides the Conservatory with one new instrument a year. This financial contribution only supports less than 5% of the Conservatory’s operating expenses for one year and does not cover any outside performance opportunities other than local FBA events.

The average cost of supporting each member of our program per year is over \$3,000, excluding travel costs. A portion of these costs must come from various student trip fees as discussed below. The rest comes from parent **AND** student fundraising throughout the year. It is important that students participate in each fundraising event in order to fund additional expenses not covered by trip fees (e.g. props, flags, instruments, etc.). The Directors work with the Tarpon Springs Band Booster’s Board of Directors (“Band Booster Board”) to create a budget each year that is an *estimation* of the necessary operating expenses needed for the following school year. Few of these expenses are covered through School Board contributions and it is necessary to charge each student to cover band camp, uniform rental and cleaning, band staff, band shirts, trips, and numerous other expenses.

Please see the following section for additional policies pertaining to a student’s financial obligations. Should you have any questions, please direct them to the Band Director, Band Booster Presidents, or Band Booster Treasurers.

A. Trip Fees

The Tarpon Springs performance ensembles travel frequently during the year, in county, out-of-county, and out-of-state. Trip fees defray the costs of transportation and lodging. Individual students will be responsible for providing funds for their own meals. Typically, the marching band will travel to one or two overnight destinations each year and two or three additional “day” trips.

Trip expenses are the responsibility of each student and their parent/guardians. A schedule outlining a student's financial obligations is provided prior to each school term. Those families who cannot meet the various financial obligations must contact the Band Director, Band Booster Presidents, or Band Booster Treasurers to make other arrangements. **No one will be denied participation because of extreme financial hardship; but everyone must participate in fundraising efforts.**

1. Concert Bands Spring Season Fees (Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Percussion Ensemble, and Jazz Ensemble):

Second semester participation in a concert organization may require an additional fee to help cover the expenses of guest artists, music, and equipment that must be paid according to the proposed fee schedule. If a Spring Trip is planned, all fees must be paid in advance of the trip.

2. Winter Guard Spring Season Fees:

Winter Guard trip fees will be determined each year based on the competition and travel schedule for the Winter Guard Season. Trip fees must be paid according to the proposed fee schedule and must be paid in advance of any travel.

B. Fundraising Opportunities

The Boosters will provide more than adequate fundraising activities to allow each family the opportunity to raise the necessary funds to cover trip fees. Funds either paid for the student or raised through fundraising efforts may be used to pay for band and guard trip fees, band and guard trips, or any other items deemed appropriate by the Boosters and Directors. All remaining credits associated with a student's name at the end of the school year will automatically roll over into the next school year. Credits associated with a student may be shared between siblings, upon written request to the Executive Committee of the Boosters. If any credits remain at the time the student graduates, or otherwise leaves the Conservatory, those credits will automatically transfer to the general fund to help reduce the costs for all students. Monies raised through Booster fundraising activities are generated for the specific use of the Tarpon Springs Band Boosters. Therefore, these credits are the sole property of the Boosters and are not subject to refund or assignment to a non-sibling student, program, or scholarship by the associated student or family.

In addition to fundraising for individual student band and trip fees, there is a need to fundraise for the Conservatory's general fund. The general fund helps maintain our daily operation of the program and covers expenses that student generated funds cannot cover. Several fundraisers will be made available for families to participate in that will help build up the "general fund". Parents and students should remember that having a weak general fund is like having a car with no engine. The car might look great, but it is not going anywhere without fuel.

The Band Boosters have several major fundraisers that help offset expenses and make performance opportunities possible for everyone. Participation is required for EVERY band and guard parent at these events:

- Outdoor Music Festival - Fall, October 19, 2024
- Social Network fundraising (SnapRaise) - ~September/October
- Parking & Concessions at Innisbrook for the PGA Valspar Tournament – March, date set by PGA
- Celebration of Excellence Gala and Auction - held in the spring off campus
- Additional fundraisers as determined by the Band Boosters.

In addition, family and friends who wish to make a donation to support the Band may do so at any time.

Fundraising Credits

Credits for the Raise Right Program will be posted each month for the family.

Credits for other fundraisers will be applied 30 days after the closing date for that fundraising event or within 30 days after receiving funds from the fundraising event, whichever occurs first.

C. Payments

Conservatory and Trip Fee payments are due the second Tuesday of every month or at the Magnet Booster Parent Meeting. Payments are to be made on or before the due dates. Payments may be in the form of cash, check, or credit card. If you would like to pay by credit card, please go to the band website www.tarponspringsband.com. All credit card payments are subject to a 3% processing fee, covered by the payee. Checks may be mailed to P.O. Box 642, Tarpon Springs, FL, 34688, or deposited in the Silver Box inside the band room library.

Payments more than 30 days late will receive a reminder email by the Booster Treasurers. If payments are more than 45 days late, a Booster Board member may make phone contact.

Checks returned for non-sufficient funds (NSF) will result in a \$35.00 fee to be added to the costs owed by the student.

More than one NSF check will require that all future payments be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check.

All trip fees must be paid in full prior to trip departure dates.

D. Refunds

All payments or deposits made toward trip fees are nonrefundable. In the event an entire trip is cancelled by the Directors or the District, refund requests for cash trip deposit or payments, not related to fundraising, must be made in writing to the Executive Committee of the Booster Board, within 30 days of the cancellation of the trip. All requests will be evaluated by the Executive Committee. No other payments are eligible to be refunded or assigned to any other student, program, or scholarship, for any reason. All payments not refunded will remain associated with the said student pursuant to the Fundraising statement above. **All funds raised through fundraising are generated for the specific use**

of the Tarpon Springs Band Boosters, and are the sole property of the Boosters and will not be refunded.

E. Criteria for Financial Assistance

The Tarpon Springs Band Booster’s Board of Directors strives to make all attempts to keep trip fees as low as possible for every student. Their goal is to provide the very best educational experience for all our students without jeopardizing the integrity of the program. A large percentage of each student’s trip fees primarily pay for each individual’s trip expenses (i.e., hotel, bus fare, competition and participation fees, etc.).

Knowing that there are a wide variety of socio-economic backgrounds that participate in our program, the Band Booster Board goes to great lengths to provide a variety of fundraising opportunities that can offset the entire cost of the program. At the conclusion of all attempts to fundraise, an individual who is still experiencing difficulties in paying their student’s trip fees, must contact the Booster Presidents and/or the Treasurers to either make a private payment plan or to arrange for financial assistance.

The criteria used for financial assistance for a student may include, but not be limited to:

1. The parent signs a statement stating they are financially unable to pay fees.
2. Student displays a positive attitude and attends all rehearsals.
3. Student/family participates in all general fund fundraising activities.

No Leadership Conservatory student has ever been denied or will ever be denied participation in the program due to financial hardship. However, it is the philosophy of the Tarpon Springs Leadership Conservatory for the Arts that in a performing arts curriculum, students receive “education through performance.” All the above criteria must be met in order for any student to receive financial assistance.

In order for us to provide positively life-changing experiences for our students, the expectation is that every student and family participate in conservatory fundraisers.

All financial assistance information and arrangements are kept confidential between the Directors, the Magnet Liaison, the executive board, and the Booster Treasurers.

All Booster financial information is audited every year. Copies of the year-end audits are submitted to the school bookkeeper and principal for review and Booster compliance.

If you have any questions, contact the Band Booster Presidents or Band Booster Treasurers for assistance (treasurer@tarponspringsband.com)

F. Rentals

a. Instruments/Equipment/Uniforms

If you are using school-owned instruments or equipment at any point during the school year the Pinellas County School District requires that you pay a minimal fee and sign a rental contract. School-owned equipment includes musical instruments, all percussion instruments, and Guard equipment. The

District Rental Fee Schedule is as follows:

Summer Rental Fee	Fall Rental Fee	Spring Rental Fee	Total Due Fall	Total Due Spring
Instrument \$35	Instrument \$35	Instrument \$35	Instrument and Uniform \$70	Instrument and Uniform \$70
Equipment (Guard) \$35	Equipment (Guard) \$35	Equipment (Guard) \$35	Guard Equipment and Uniform \$70	Guard Equipment and Uniform \$70
	Uniform (Band and Guard) \$35	Uniform (Band and Guard) \$35		

Fees begin in the summer and must be paid at Ice Breaker. Families who pay for semester 1 and semester 2 by the September Parent Magnet meeting will receive a \$10 discount for the rental fees.

Students who qualify for Free or Reduced lunch may have the rental fees waived with verification. However, the students and parents must still sign the rental contract.

If rental fees are paid on a semester basis, Semester 2 fees are due at the first Parent Magnet meeting of Semester 2.

Payments are to be made payable to **TSHS** **NOT** the Boosters.

Students who fail to pay rental fees will have their names turned into the school administration for collection.

If any rented instrument or equipment is damaged by the carelessness of the student, repair and/or replacement fees will apply.

Failure to return an instrument under contract will require replacement by the student and his/her family.

b. Instrument/Equipment/Uniform Care

School-owned instruments, equipment, and uniforms become the responsibility of the student to whom they are assigned. Any damage, other than normal wear and tear, will need to be repaired at the student's expense. Individual instruments must always be maintained in top playing condition. The Director, or his designee, must approve all instrument repairs before they occur. Remember, horseplay can cause damage to instruments, equipment, and uniforms. Students should use great care with their instruments and uniforms. Rental instruments should always be out of harm's way. Never play around with, or play on, anyone else's instrument.

IV. Band Boosters

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain love for one another.

Parents are an important part of the Tarpon Springs High School Leadership Conservatory for the Arts program and have a vital role to play. When students join the Conservatory, their parents become magnet parents and members of the Band Boosters. Without the assistance and cooperation of parents, there would be no chance to reach the level of success that we hope to achieve. All magnet parents should do the following things:

Attend mandatory monthly Parent Magnet Booster Meetings held the second Tuesday of each month in the school cafeteria. Parents must attend 9 out of 11 meetings between June and May each school year. Signing in at monthly parent meetings must be completed no later than 15 minutes after the designated start time. The sign-in cards will be removed at that time. Meetings last approximately 1 hour with additional time for committee meetings or to help with band projects. Arriving late, leaving early, or the failure of a parent/guardian to sign-in, will result in the meeting being counted as unattended.

If circumstances arise which make it impossible for a parent to attend a required meeting, a representative (18 years or older) may be sent to stand in. A Conservatory Parent may sign-in for the missing family, however, the Conservatory Parent may only sign-in for one additional family besides their own.

It is the parent's responsibility to make the representative aware of all obligations and the representative must make the parent/guardians aware of the information distributed at the meeting. We have no make-up policy. However, there will be minutes posted in Cut Time for your convenience.

Failure to regularly attend these important Conservatory Parent information sharing sessions may result in communications from the Booster Board to address these concerns.

All magnet parents should volunteer for any of the numerous opportunities to support the Band Boosters. There are many different tasks with which we need your assistance. Everyone can find a niche that suits his or her expertise. A few of the areas we can always use help with are chaperones, uniforms, transportation, equipment, sewing, meals, and publicity.

Be supportive of the Conservatory Program and your child's participation by:

- helping your student be prepared and punctual for every rehearsal and performance.
- notifying the Directors if your student will be absent or late for performances or rehearsals. This should be done in advance except in emergency situations.
- encouraging your student to practice at home and helping them find a quiet place to do so.
- showing your interest and support in your child's participation in the Conservatory by enthusiastically attending every performance possible.
- discussing with the Directors and staff anything that will help them understand and better serve your student.
- arranging private lessons for your student.

Your involvement in the Tarpon Springs Band Booster organization should be viewed as a partnership between you and your son or daughter. As children grow older, there are fewer opportunities for parents and students to participate in the same activities. The Conservatory program is one of those few activities that the entire family can experience together. Your family can share in the anticipation and preparation for an upcoming event and enjoy the experience together.

A performance provides an opportunity for parents to support their children through their applause. Parent support also sends the students, and the other members of the marching band, a message that their efforts matter and we respect and appreciate them.

Through active participation in the Tarpon Springs Band Booster Organization, some Conservatory parents will become "parents" to more than just their own children. An active parent can, and will, make a difference in the lives of all the students. The following are suggestions to help you make your experience and your participation more effective and enjoyable.

A. Opportunities to Volunteer

We rely heavily on our volunteer workforce. We cannot do it without you! Each parent is asked to give at least 24 hours of service each semester; most give much more. The best thing to do is get involved in the fundraisers! It is possible to have all of your trip fees paid for completely by fundraisers. It just takes some effort on your part.

- i. Everyone that volunteers in any way for the Band **MUST** be a registered and active Pinellas County Schools Volunteer. There are no exceptions. Any parent that wishes to chaperone an activity must also be Level 2 screened within the Pinellas County School System. You may contact the Tarpon Springs High School Volunteer Coordinator if you have any questions.
- ii. Committees: Each Board chairperson needs committee members.
- iii. Chaperoning: Every activity that the band participates in requires parents to chaperone. There will always be an experienced chaperone available to direct the activity.

CHAPERONE DO's and DON'Ts

Do's

Give POSITIVE support to the group, especially after a performance.

Provide CONSTRUCTIVE comments and be FAIR with the students you are chaperoning.

Be GENUINELY interested in the students as you interact with them.

Consider segregating yourself from your own student unless he or she asks for your assistance. Your child will know you are there if he/she needs you!

Be CONSISTENT with the rules and regulations of the group. If you are unsure of how to handle a situation, ASK!

Have a good time and ENJOY yourself, just remember that your first responsibility is always to the students.

Be a good EXAMPLE at all times. Students will mirror what they see from adults.

Help dispel RUMORS by investigating and not repeating the many rumors that seem to always start on a trip.

SUPPORT and ENCOURAGE your Directors and Staff. They are dedicated individuals who work hard to make events possible for the students.

Don'ts:

Do not complain in front of the students.

Do not put down other bands. They have worked just as hard as we have and deserve our respect.

Don't hesitate to volunteer your services when needed.

Don't chatter or small talk on the band radios, these are for necessary communication only. Don't grant special favors to the students.

Stay flexible and do not criticize or change policies that the directors have set forth on the trip.

Do not smoke, vape, drink alcohol, or use improper language or engage in any questionable behavior.

B. Specific Volunteer Needs – Include but are not limited to

- Tag Days / Fundraising events
- Band Camp First Aid
- Football Games
- Saturday Night Dinners
- Parades
- Competition Days
- Booster Board Committees

V. Student Leaders

The Band Leadership Council is a group of students that work with the Directors in an advisory capacity. All of these participants must have completed the Leadership Training Workshop. These students will also be called on for special presentations to accept awards, have pictures taken with political representatives, etc., on behalf of the band. The Band Leadership Council is made up of the Band Presidents, Vice-President, Secretary, Historian, and Drum Major(s). Band Leadership Council elections will be held at the end of each school year. To be eligible for an office, candidates must be full participants in the Band program, have exemplary attitudes, display loyalty and dedication, and be willing to give their personal time for the betterment of the Tarpon Springs High School Band.

A. Leadership Begins with Self-Leadership

1. Begin with who am I?
2. What are my values and core beliefs?
3. What kind of leader do I want to be?
4. What motivates me?
5. What do I value?

A. Student Leadership Habits

Adapted from The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey

Habit 1: Be Proactive - “Take Responsibility for your life”

Habit 2: Begin with The End in Mind - “Define your mission and your goals in life.”

Habit 3: Put First Things First - “Prioritize and do the most important things first.”

Habit 4: Think Win-Win - “Have an everyone-can-win attitude.”

Habit 5: Seek first to understand then to be understood - “Listen to people sincerely.”

Habit 6: Synergize - “Work together to achieve more.”

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw - “Renew yourself regularly.”

B. Section Leaders/Guard Captains/Percussion Captains

The Directors and staff select these leaders based on musical/marching ability, service, dedication, loyalty, and leadership qualities. All these participants must have completed the Leadership Training Workshop. The number of section leaders/captains will vary from section to section and year to year. All student leaders will carry out the policies of the band, Band Directors, school, and administration to the best of their abilities. *All disagreements regarding specific instructions from a student leader should be discussed with the Band President, Drum Major(s), or ultimately the Band Directors. Student leaders cannot give you permission to miss a rehearsal or performance, be tardy, or leave early.* Student leaders should be positive and work in the best interest of the Leadership Conservatory at all times.

VI. Specifically For Instrumental Students

A. Warm up

This part of your daily playing is the most important part. Therefore, use it with great care.

1. Don't play in the upper register at first.
2. Don't play too low at first.
3. Don't play too loud.
4. Don't play too soft.

Play in your middle register, mezzo forte, and gradually extend the register and dynamics as your lips and embouchure begin to respond with agility and flexibility.

B. Techniques

Strive to master all phases of your instrument; not just one part or the part that you already do well. Work for progress and results.

The four big "Do's" for focus during a practice session:

1. Work to increase breathing capacity and support.
2. Work to develop embouchure strength and flexibility.
3. Work to increase strength and speed of fingers.
4. Work to increase tonguing abilities.

Each day attempt to strengthen your breathing technique and gain better control, attempt to strengthen your lip muscles to gain endurance in your playing (long tones are best), attempt to strengthen your finger muscles for better dexterity and control (a metronome is a must), attempt to strengthen your tonguing muscles to gain control, evenness, and speed (in this order, never speed first).

5. Other Phases (to be covered as needed)

A. Range (especially brass)

B. Altissimo exercises (Clarinets, Saxes)

C. Scales and Arpeggios

D. Interval studies: 2nds, 3rds, 4ths, 5ths, 6ths, 7ths, Octaves, and beyond;
Major, Minor, Augmented, and Diminished

E. Lip Slurs (brass)

F. Chords (broken arpeggios)

- G.** Single/Double/Triple tonguing
- H.** Flexibility exercises
- I.** Long Tones (crescendo and decrescendo)
- J.** Sight reading skills

C. Private Lessons

Private lessons are the key to developing an outstanding musical organization. Students who privately study with a professional tend to show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As these students improve, their excitement towards practicing increases, and they become a stronger contributor to the overall success of the band. The Directors will assist you, if needed, in selecting a private instructor. Private lessons are the key to excellence on your instrument, so start as soon as possible.