

ABILENE HIGH SCHOOL COWBOY BANDS HANDBOOK 2005 - 2006



AHS Band Handbook
Aaron Tompkins, Director of Bands
Abilene High School Band Calendar for 2005-06

(updated 8/18/2005)

<u>August</u>	2		Rehearsal for CKFF parade (Perc. 3pm, Full Band 4pm)
	4	5pm	Central Kansas Free Fair Parade (4pm call at Frontier Estates, 7th & Buckeye)
	8-9	10am-12pm	Percussion Camp
	10-11	10am-12pm	Band Camp (Percussion come both days at 9am)
	20	10am	Enterprise Parade (Busses will leave at 9:15-load necessary equipment at 9am)
	24	3pm	Uniform Fitting for Returning Band Members
	25	3pm	Uniform Fitting for Freshman & New Band Members
<u>September</u>	9	3:30-4:30pm	Rehearsal at Stadium for 1st Home Game vs. TMP
		5:45pm	1st Home FB game - Meet at AHS Band Room-march to stadium at 6:20 in uniform
	10	TBA	KU Band Day @ Lawrence (all day)
	14	TBA	Kansas State Fair @ Hutchinson (leave early and return before 3pm)
	23	3:30-4:30pm	Rehearsal at Stadium for 2nd Home Game vs. Wamego
		6:00pm	Meet at AHS Band Room, get into uniform, march to stadium at 6:20
<u>October</u>	30	3:30-4:30pm	Rehearsal at Stadium for Homecoming vs. Marysville
		6:00pm	Meet at AHS Band Room, get into uniform, march to stadium at 6:20
	14	TBA	AHS/CHS Band Exchange FB game-Leave after school for Chapman, they will feed us
	19	10am-2pm	Marysville Marching Festival (leave in morning, return approx. 4-5pm)
	21	3:30-4:30pm	Rehearsal at Stadium for 4th home game vs. Council Grove (Senior Recognition Night)
	6pm		Meet at AHS Band Room, get into uniform, march to stadium at 6:20
<u>November</u>	27		AHS/AMS Dist Band Day combined halftime show (FB vs. Smoky Valley)
	5	TBA	AHS auditions for KMEA District Honor Band @ Junction City HS
	18	8pm	Raise the Roof - 7pm Call - Pep Band in AHS Gym
<u>December</u>	19	11am	Christmas Parade downtown Abilene - 10am Meet in Band Room to put on uniforms
	2	8am-3pm	AHS Tour of Schools JB & Singers
	3	TBA	AHS NC Dist Honor Band Concert @ Manhattan HS
	5-6, 9-10	TBA	Dickinson County Classic BB Tourney (we play for our team-more info to come)
	16	6:45pm	Pep Band - V G&B BB games, 1st home game vs. Concordia, Wear Pep Band Shirt!
<u>January</u>	18	5pm	Vespers - Band & Choir in AHS Auditorium, 4pm call
	3	6:15	Pep Band - V G&B BB vs. Chapman (Play for full games call 6:00pm)
	6	6:45	Pep Band - V G&B BB vs. Marysville
	7	TBA	AHS Band KMEA State Live Auditions
	20	TBA	John Philip Sousa Honor Band (for those that auditioned and made it)
	20-22	TBA	AHS KSU Concert Band Clinic (for those that apply and are accepted by KSU)
<u>February</u>	1	9am	AHS NCKL Honor Band @ Clay Center HS (Leave early, return approx. 4pm)
	10	6:45	Pep Band - V G&B BB vs. Wamego
	17	6:45	Pep Band - V G&B BB vs. Clay Center
	20	7pm	AHS Winter Band Concert - *THIS DATE WILL PROBABLY CHANGE*
	21	6:15	Pep Band - V G&B BB vs. Chapman (play full games - 6pm call) - Senior Night
	23-25		KMEA (State Honor Band/Jazz Band Concerts)
<u>March</u>	TBA		Abilene Big Band Jazz Dinner Dance (AMS/AHS JB's)
	TBA		Reg. & State BB championships (not on District Calendar... more info to come)
<u>April</u>	3	7pm	AHS Solo & Ensemble Concert/Dieter Hall GPTF (for students taking a solo/ensemble)
	8	TBA	Eisenhower Marathon Pep Band/Water Station (early morning till approx. 1pm)
	12	TBA	AHS State Large Ensemble Festival - Lindsborg, Bethany College
	23	TBA	Community Mingle - Jazz Band
	29	TBA	State Solo & Ensemble Festival
<u>May</u>	9	TBA	Achievement Banquet (for select seniors to perform their solo/ensemble music)
	16	7pm	AHS/AMS Concert in the Park
	18	5pm	FFA BBQ at Sterl Hall - Jazz Band
	20	2pm	Graduation Band (Call 12:45) We perform from 1-2pm and during ceremony
<u>August 2006</u>	1	3pm	Percussion rehearsal for CKFF Parade
		4-6pm	Full Band (and percussion) rehearsal for CKFF Parade
	3	5pm	Central Kansas Free Fair Parade - Meet at 7th & Buckeye (Frontier Estates) at 4:30pm

Mr. Aaron Tompkins
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E-mail: atompkins@usd435.k12.ks.us
<http://www.usd435.k12.ks.us/band>

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Dr. Michael Ford, Principal
Mr. Will Burton, Asst. Principal, AD

ABILENE HIGH SCHOOL COWBOY BANDS HANDBOOK

Abilene Bands Philosophy

It is the philosophy of the Abilene High School Band to provide a quality and well-rounded music education for any student who is interested in being a part of the program. Music is as basic to your high school education as any other course that you will take. It has long been a part of the essential education of young students since the days of the early Roman Empire and was included in the Quadrivium of Boethius in medieval times. Each student is different and has special needs and abilities; therefore, every effort will be made to instruct students both on a group and an individual level. The instructor will do his very best to reach each student and to help them gain in the fullest understanding of music possible. Every student plays an important part of each group, and no single person is more important than another. The students, however, also have a responsibility to the program and its instructor. A person must want to learn in order to be taught. Therefore, the students will be expected to be mature, disciplined and dedicated to the improvement of their own musical skills, as well as the quality of the ensemble they are in. Being a member of a musical group is a team effort and each person must do their part, to the best of their ability, in order to achieve the level of excellence that will be expected of all ensembles. The Abilene High School Cowboy Band reputation is based on excellence. Through hard work, cooperation, and team spirit, this program will educate its students in musical understanding, and will represent its community, school, instructors, and members in the most positive way.

Attendance Policy

Each performance a group gives is equivalent to a major exam for that given period of preparation. Therefore, your attendance is mandatory. Excused absences from a performance will be granted for the following reasons only:

- 1) family emergency
- 2) if the student becomes ill, in which case a doctor's excuse will be required
- 3) religious holiday observation

ATTENDANCE AT ALL PERFORMANCES IS MANDATORY! Any unexcused absence will automatically lower your grade to a "D". A second miss lowers it to an "F". If you must miss, contact the band office (263-1260 ext 120) **BEFORE** the performance as soon as possible with your valid excuse.

Grading Policy

The grades for each class will be based on many criteria. Playing tests, memorization tests for marching band, written tests, attendance, daily preparation, class participation, promptness, attitude, effort and behavior, are all examples of what will be included in assigning grades. Playing tests and memorization tests will be done fairly and consistently and will represent the student's output as closely as possible. Not having an instrument is the same as not having homework and will result in loss of points from the student's daily grade.

Unexcused Absences

If a student is unexcused or "skips" a class or rehearsal, including early morning or evening scheduled rehearsals, the student's grade will be dropped half of a letter grade (A to A-, B+ to B etc.). If your absence is excused bring your "excused slip" from the office to class the next band period. **ATTENDANCE AT ALL PERFORMANCES IS MANDATORY! Any unexcused absence will automatically lower your grade to a "D". A second miss lowers it to an "F".** It is preferable that you bring a signed parent note with reason for missing as far in advance as possible. When it is not possible and If you must miss contact the band office (263-1260 ext 120) **BEFORE** the performance as soon as possible with your valid excuse.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

This policy is very clear cut and will be strictly enforced. See AHS Student Handbook. If this policy is violated at a school-sponsored function, the student will be turned over to the administration, who will call the parents to come pick up the student and take them home. The policy is the same for the use of all tobacco products.

Uniform

The wearing of the uniform is a very important area of concern. It is to be exactly that: uniform! Therefore, when wearing the uniform, it must be worn in its entirety, unless otherwise designated by the director. The complete uniform consists of:

Marching Band Uniform:

black marching band shoes
black socks
band shirt
band uniform pants
band uniform coat
band uniform overlay/ cape
band hat
white Gloves

Concert Uniform:

Men: black pants
white shirt with tie
black shoes and black socks
Women: long black dress or
long black skirt/pants with
white blouse/shirt
black shoes and black socks

Band shirts will be ordered at the beginning of the year and will be used throughout the year. In inclement weather a white long sleeved shirt can be worn underneath. It will often be hot at parades and festivals. You may be allowed to open or take your coat off. **This will be done when the director designates.** You must have your band shirt under your coat so that we will still be in uniform. Appropriate clothing should be worn under the uniform pants according to the weather. Spandex or shorts should be worn at all times.

Long-johns may be substituted in cold weather. Absolutely no jeans or other types of denim will be allowed, as they tear down the fabric of the pants. No distracting jewelry should be worn. Dangling ear rings are not permitted. All students must have their hair pulled up so it is not over the collar. No make-up should be worn on the neck, as this stains the uniform collar. The band office will store and take care of all cleaning and maintenance of the uniforms. Please do not take them yourself to be cleaned. Uniforms will be passed out and turned back in the exact way they were given: hung neatly on the hanger. If you perspire while wearing the uniform, please leave the bag unzipped half way so that it does not mold before the next performance. The reasoning behind these procedures is that uniforms are very expensive, costing approximately \$300 each. They are designed to last 10-15 years with correct usage. Please take care of the uniform and treat it with respect. A band's appearance is an extremely important factor in its success and makes the first impression on audience and judges.

Extra Costs

There are a few items that students will be asked to purchase. The band shirt will be the standard uniform for pep band performances and to wear underneath the uniform as mentioned earlier. Each new student that has not marched before will be asked to buy band shoes. These are ordered at the beginning of the marching season and can be worn through the end of the student's high school career. If the shoes are in good condition after graduating, the shoes may be sold to an incoming band member. The shoes are synthetic leather that will be a comfortable shoe to wear for long periods of time, and no special care like waxing or buffing is needed. The shoes cost approximately \$25.00. If a student needs lyres and/or flip folders, they may be ordered by the band director from Midwest music and purchased for about \$5.00 each, slightly higher for some instruments. Percussionists will be asked to buy their own sticks. If drum heads or

mallets are broken, the students will be required to pay for new heads for the drum or mallets. This includes all marching and concert percussion. Any damage due to misuse of percussion equipment will result in the student replacing the instrument. Reed and double reed instruments are required to purchase their own reeds. If students do not have their reeds, it will be considered not having an instrument and appropriate actions will result as stated earlier.

Instrument Rentals

Some instruments are available for student rental from the AHS Band Department for \$35.00. Once the student signs the Rental Contract, it is the student's responsibility to care for the instrument. Damage caused by misuse, as well as reed replacement, will be at the student's expense.

Solo and Ensemble Participation

Performing as a soloist or as a member of a small ensemble is one of the most rewarding and challenging aspects of your musical training. Each player has their own part to contribute and there is no one else on your part to cover you. Therefore, you must play your part, as well as possible with the goal of attaining a truly fine performance. Students are encouraged to participate at solo contest time. Help sessions and rehearsals can be arranged before and after school as well as seminar times. Please take advantage of this opportunity to develop and refine your playing skills.

Fundraising

All students will be asked to participate in fundraising activities. The district grants a fixed amount of money to operate on; however this is not enough to do the things to make this a well-rounded program. The purpose of fundraising is to provide a means to help the department to cover expenses and to buy needed equipment. Fees for large ensemble contests, marching contest, band letters and numerous other miscellaneous expenses are paid for through this account. Student's fundraising earnings will be kept track of separately, so that the money they raise will be saved to go towards trips and other expenses they are expected to pay for as decided on by the director. Any money in the student's account upon graduation will be put into the general band fundraising account or (upon request) can go into a younger sibling's account at the discretion of the director.



Trips

Trips are an important part to having a well-rounded band program and help with recruitment and retention of band students. In order to go on a “large” trip, a student must have been in band the previous year. This keeps students from dropping out of band for 3 years then coming back during their senior year so that they can go on a large trip with the band. We want you to be able to represent the band well with good playing ability which is difficult to do when you have been out of band and out of practice. Trips will be paid for through the student’s individual fundraising account (see previous section) or can be paid for by the student. Students must pay their portion of the expense in advance in order to be eligible to go.

BAND CURRICULUM

Cowboy Marching Band

This Cowboy Band course is available to all band students in all grades. This is a group with high visibility and may very well be the signature group of the program. The group will perform at all home football games, and at selected away games. Other performances include the Central Kansas Free Fair Parade in Abilene, AHS homecoming parade, KU or KSU Band Day, State Fair parade in Hutchinson and other scheduled performances on a year-to-year basis. Punctuality will be imperative and tardiness will affect the semester grade. The Cowboy Marching Band is a very important aspect of not only the Band program, but the entire school environment. One of the main purposes of the Cowboy Marching Band is to represent Abilene High School at school and community functions. It is also a major spirit group for athletic events and adds a great deal to the climate of the contest.

Football game nights start at the band room approximately one hour before kickoff. Attendance will be taken in the band room. We will march to the stadium as a group and prepare for pregame. The band will play during time outs, at half-time and after the game. The band will stay throughout the entire game. During the third quarter of the game students will be allowed to go to the restroom and to get food and drinks, but must be back in their seats with two minutes remaining in the third quarter. We will march back to the high school in parade line up after the game.

Grades are based on:

- 1) Attendance and Punctuality
- 2) Attitude
- 3) Marching and Playing Abilities/Effort
- 4) Memorization tests

Cheerleader/band members will march with the band as long as the cheerleaders are not performing at the same time the band is performing. They will not be expected to sit with the band during the game.

The key to a smoothly run organization is a structured chain of command in which everyone knows their duties and are competent to fulfill their job responsibilities. The following is a chart describing the chain. Please look it over and find your position in the system.

Band Director
Student Teacher or Adult Specialist Assistants
Drum Majors
Section Leaders
Section Members

Cowboy Symphonic Band

This group meets for the last quarter in the first semester and the entire second semester. All marching band students are enrolled in this band. A certain amount of technical development will be undertaken; however, most rehearsals will be to prepare the ensemble for performance. Composers, musical styles, historical aspects of music and music theory will also be covered during these semesters. The group will perform one concert in the fall and two concerts in the spring, play for graduation and participate in the state music contest. Grades will be based on playing and written tests as well as daily preparation and participation.

Pep Band

The Pep Band will perform at all home basketball games and selected other sporting events. All members will be required to play with the pep band. Depending upon instrumentation, there may be a possibility of splitting the band into two bands (Orange and Brown), cutting the required number of performances in half.

If the bands are split, preference will be given to those who have attended the most games in play-off situations. Failure to attend the required number of events will make you ineligible to letter in band and lowers your semester grade by a half grade for each missed game. Extra credit will be given for attendance of extra performances. A schedule will be given to the student at the beginning of the year. The band will play before the game, during time outs, at half-time and after the game. The band will stay throughout the entire game. During the third quarter of the game, students will be allowed to go to the restroom and to get food and drinks, but must be back in their seats with two minutes remaining in the third quarter. The band plays a major role in the support of the basketball teams, so it is important to have as much spirit and enthusiasm as possible.

Abilene High School Jazz Ensemble

The AHS Jazz Ensemble auditions towards the end of the final nine week period. This elite ensemble meets as a class during the last period on the non band block day. Time will be devoted to teaching jazz style, improvisation and jazz theory. This ensemble will play at several concerts and will perform in a festival situation and likely a jazz dinner dance fundraiser. The goal of this class is to achieve a high level of playing ability and understanding of jazz style and improvisation.



Abilene High School Band Letter Requirements

(Save this sheet to be turned in once requirements are met!!!)

Name _____ Grade _____

Any student grades 9-12 wishing to earn a letter for their participation in the band program must satisfy certain criteria. Categories I & II, are both REQUIRED criteria for any student. Category III is an automatic letter for any student who meets the designated criteria.

The band letter may be earned all four years. The first time the letter is earned is the actual "letter patch" and "BAND" pin. Each following earning will be a band bar medal. Lettering in band is an honor to strive for and if earned should be worn with the utmost Cowboy pride!

Please fill in the blanks for each criteria met and return to Mr. Tompkins.

I. (Required) 100% attendance for all assigned performances, which include marching, concert, pep band and all parade performances (must be enrolled for full year). Only director approved school conflicts, severe illness or a family emergency constitute an excused absence. Family vacations and work will not be accepted as excuses for absence.

II. Students must earn **1000 points** from the below lists in addition to category I.

Solo Ensemble		Other	
Took solo to contest	250	Marysville Marching Festival I rating	100
Participated in Ensemble at contest	200	Central Kansas Free Fair Parade Rehearsal	150
District		Central Kansas Free Fair Parade	150
Solo "I" Rating	200	AHS Percussion Camp Day 1	50
Solo "II" Rating	100	AHS Percussion Camp Day 2	50
Ensemble "I" rating	150	AHS Band Camp Day 1	50
Ensemble "II" rating	50	AHS Band Camp Day 2	50
State		Eisenhower Marathon Pep Band	150
Solo "I" rating	250	Lions Band	100
Solo "II" rating	150	Other Clinic Bands(KSU honor band, etc.)	100
Solo "III" rating	50	Summer Band Camp (write in camp name)	100
Ensemble "I" rating	200	AHS Jazz Band	100
Ensemble "II" rating	100	Pit Orchestra in Musical	100
Ensemble "III" rating	50	Drum Major	100
Band (large Ensemble) "I" rating	100	Section Leader	50
Band (large Ensemble) "II" rating	50	Abilene Municipal Band Member	50
Honor Bands		Consistant Private Lessons(need instructor's note)	50
District Honor Band - tried out	250	Attending two Concerts outside of AHS	50
District Honor Band - if selected (or alternate)	200	Music Dept - Attach Programs	
District Honor Band - If you are principal chair	50	Other:	
John Philip Sousa Honor Band (tried out)	50	Turned in Band info sheet on time	25
John Philip Sousa Honor Band	200		
All State Band - tried out	250		
All State Band - Selected (Automatic Letter)	1000		

TOTAL POINTS EARNED:
(Must have 1000 to letter)

III. Senior that has marched all four years, has been active in the Abilene High School Band Program, and is in good standing with the Abilene High School Band Program.

This signature verifies that I have met all of the above criteria and have earned a Band Letter for the 2005-2006 school year.

Student Signature:

Band Info Sheet & Student/Parent Contract

Please Return to Mr. Tompkins by Tuesday 8-23-2005 (worth 25 lettering points!) (Please print neatly)

Name _____ Grade _____ Instrument _____

Mailing Address _____

Street Address (if different) _____

City, State Zip _____

Home Phone _____

e-mail address _____

Birthday (Month/Day/Year) ____ / ____ / ____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____ E-Mail: _____

Need Band Shoes? **YES** **NO**

If so, what size? Men's _____ Women's _____

Need Band Gloves? **YES** **NO**

If so, what size? Small Medium Large X-Large

Borrowing school instrument?(Circle one) **YES** **NO**

If you own **your own** instrument, please provide the following information in case of loss, etc.:
(Please be sure your name appears clearly on the outside of your case)

Instrument Make (Brand)_____

Model _____

Serial Number _____

Parent/Student Band Contract

Band Student: I have read and understand this Band Handbook and agree to abide by all that is contained within. I agree to give my all and understand I am an important part of the AHS Band. I am serious about my music and will work hard to improve my abilities.

Band Parent: I give my permission for my child to attend all band related activities and trips and to receive emergency medical attention in the event that it's needed. I understand that AHS discipline policies are in effect during field trips and that If my student violates these policies, I will be responsible for picking them up. I promise to encourage my student to work hard and better himself/herself on his/her instrument and to support his/her interest in music to the best of my abilities.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

(Please complete reverse side)

AHS MEDICAL CONSENT FORM

STUDENT: _____

In the event of illness or injury during participation in a band related field trip, event or practice session, or incurred in transit to or from above mentioned activity, permission is hereby granted to the attending physician to proceed with any medical or minor surgical treatment, x-ray examinations or emergency medical treatment of any nature for the above-named student. In the event of serious illness; the need for major surgery; or significant accidental injury, I understand that an attempt will be made by the attending physician to contact me in the most expeditious way possible. If said physician is not able to communicate with me, the treatment necessary for the best interest of the above-named student may be given.

In the event that an emergency arises during a practice session, an effort will be made to contact the parents or guardians as soon as possible. Permission is also granted to AHS faculty/staff to provide needed emergency treatment to the student prior to his/her admission to the medical facilities.

The Undersigned holds U.S.D. #435 harmless from any liability arising out of any attempts to secure medical treatment or for any resulting medical treatment or procedure of any nature whatsoever.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

PLEASE PROVIDE ALL OF THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW:

Phone Numbers Where Parent/Guardian(s) Can Be Reached

Work: _____ Home: _____ Other: _____
(Please specify which parent/guardian for work number)

Name of Alternate Contact: _____ Alternate's Phone #: _____

Name of Family Physician: _____ Physician's Phone #: _____

Any Allergic Reactions? **YES** **NO** (if yes please explain:) _____

Insurance Company: _____ Policy Number: _____