

**TOWNS COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL
INDIAN RAIDER BAND**

*Marching Band Handbook
2026-2027*

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WHY BAND?

While most classes give students an opportunity of growth in that particular subject, band offers a wide variety of opportunities for each student in many different aspects of life that go beyond just the classroom! Band is one of the few classes where excellence is not only expected, but also essential to the success of the entire group. Imagine if an English teacher graded everyone in the class to the level of the weakest student! If one person were to make a 75% on a piece of music, that means 25% of the notes were played incorrectly. Probably not something you'd want to hear! This teaches each student how to be intrinsically motivated to achieve tasks in life to the best of their ability - big or small!

In addition to teaching performance skills, band teaches the student to be an active, thinking person. Every single note played requires numerous considerations and instantaneous decisions to make. How loud or soft? How fast or slow? How does the note start and end? Who else plays this part? Am I in tune? Nowhere else on campus has the demand for this much critical thinking all at once.

Band also teaches life skills. Communication is the main component of music. The rehearsal and performance schedule of the band demands planning and time management - skills that will be valuable all throughout life. Goal setting, problem solving, peer interaction - all of these develop quickly as a part of the band experience. We pursue excellence in every rehearsal, every performance, and every interaction because...

EXCELLENCE IS A HABIT WORTH BUILDING

GENERAL INFORMATION

Is there a prerequisite or audition for Marching Band?

All wind and percussion students must be enrolled and be members in good standing in a band class to be eligible to be in the Marching Band. There is no audition to participate, but percussion students must attend marching percussion audition clinics and auditions in the spring to be assigned their instrument. No students are "cut" at this audition, they are simply assigned an instrument for the marching season. Non-instrumentalist guard members do not need to be in a band class.

When are all of the rehearsals for the marching band?

The calendar for the marching season can be found on our website, www.townscountybands.org under the calendar tab. It is critical for your student to attend all rehearsals and events. After school begins, rehearsals are after school on Mondays and Thursdays, and football games on Friday nights. There are also weekend events that the student must attend (marching band competitions, parades).

What is the attendance policy?

Please see page 12 for the Marching Band Attendance Policy.

What is Cut Time?

Cut Time is an office management software that serves as our communication hub (formally known as Charms). You will be given access after you return your registration forms and the database is updated.

The Towns County Band Booster Organization

Parents of TCHS band members (past and present) are encouraged to become active members of the Band Boosters. A list of officers of the organization, as well as their contact information can be found on the band's website. Meetings of the Band Boosters are held throughout the school year. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed. Please contact the band booster president through our website for information on volunteering for the group.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Winds / Percussion

What are Marching Fees and what do they cover?

Marching Band is classified as an extracurricular subject and as such is not directly funded through the Towns County Board of Education. Therefore, fundraising and membership fees become the financial engine of the marching band.

Marching fees cover the cost of:

- Music for the show and stands
- Custom Drill (and software)
- Individual and group instruction during and after band camp
- Special events/activities throughout the season
- Medical supplies
- Specialized instruction for Color Guard
- Marching Competition Fees
- Cost of prop construction and movement to locations
- Maintenance and repair of school owned instruments and equipment
- Purchase / maintenance of uniforms and equipment

How much are Marching Band Fees?

Marching Band fees for all Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, and Drum Majors is \$200 per season. In addition to this fee, all students must purchase uniform parts / equipment needed for each season.

Color Guard

How much are Auxiliary Band Fees?

Guard Band Fees are \$100 per season. In addition to this fee, all students must purchase uniform parts/equipment needed for each season.

While the uniform prices can be on the expensive side, please note that they are custom fitted for each student and they will keep all purchased uniform parts.

What are my fundraising opportunities to offset the cost of the Marching Band Fees?

During Band Camp, you will be given a “calendar fundraiser” to help you get donations to help you pay for your marching fees. A “fully completed” calendar will cover more than the total fees owed. Money collected during THIS fundraiser can go directly toward your band fees. **Please note that there can be no refunds of any money put onto an individual’s band account. The boosters cannot issue checks for any unused money in a student account at the end of the season.*

We will also offer other fundraisers throughout the school year that will go into the general operating fund. All students benefit from money in the general fund. On average, it costs \$650 per student to run the marching band program. We are only charging you \$200 (or \$100 for Color Guard). In order to keep this fee low, we ask that every member actively participate in any fundraiser that we offer throughout the year.

Securing Your Position

A student will officially be considered a member of the TCHS Indian Raider Marching Band only after they have read and signed the Handbook and required Acknowledgement forms and made the initial deposit payment or after their family has created an active financial plan through the TCHS Booster Treasurer and President.

Payment Plans

Meetings with the TCHS Booster Treasurer and President can be made by contacting them directly or setting up a meeting via Mr. Henderson.

Financial Policy

Funds to support the TCHS Marching Band generally come from two major sources: payments from the marching members and fundraisers. Gifts and funds from other sources and/or sponsorships are always welcomed. Many large and small companies will give matching donations to groups like ours.

We understand that families may experience a period of financial hardship and may have difficulty making payments in accordance with the payment schedule. A family in this situation should contact the TCHS Booster Treasurer and President to discuss this in confidence. The Treasurer will work with the family to restructure the payment schedule in order to help the student march. These arrangements must be made before the first payment is due or as soon as the hardship arises.

Students who are not in good financial standing due to an existing balance are not eligible to participate in any other extracurricular activities with the band, including attending optional spring trips until all previous balances have been paid in full. Reminder emails and statements will be sent to parents/guardians periodically throughout the season. Any unpaid balances at the end of the school year will be turned in to the Towns County High School administration for collection.

Students must have their “band membership fees” paid in full by the first day of school, unless they are on an approved payment plan with the TCHS Band Boosters.

Students transferring into the TCHS Marching Band after school begins will be given extended deadlines for paying their band fees.

Fundraisers

Fundraising is an important part of keeping the marching band fees low. All students will receive a “calendar” fundraiser during marching band sign up night in order to help raise money to pay for their fees and uniform parts. All money raised in THIS fundraiser will go directly to the student’s band account.

All other fundraisers done by the TCHS Band Program will go into the general operating fund (unless otherwise discussed). These fundraisers help to offset the money that each student has to pay upfront to be a member of the band. We strongly encourage every student to participate in all fundraisers. Low participation may result in a price increase of the marching band fees in the future.

Other Costs

Sometimes there are costs associated with marching band that band fees do not cover. In preparation for your yearly budget, the following costs may be required by your student in addition to the marching band fee. These include, but are not limited to:

- Instrument/ Instrument Repair
- Extra Gloves
- Long black socks
- Money for concession stand at games and competitions
- Reeds, valve oil, etc...

Refunds

Money cannot be refunded to a student or parent once it has been paid to the band boosters. If a student signs up to march and then changes their mind, that student is still responsible for paying off all uniform parts that were ordered for them and no fees will be refunded. If a student is removed from the marching band due to attendance or discipline issues, there will be no refunds.

Payments

Payments are expected on or before the established schedule dates. Money can be paid digitally to the band boosters using one of several platforms as well as putting money in a sealed envelope in the “money box” attached to the wall outside of Mr. Henderson’s office door. Please make sure that your student’s name, amount, and what it is for is on the envelope. Receipts will be written by the Band Booster treasurer once they have collected and recorded the money and will be given to the students.

Delinquent fees will be deducted from a student’s account to fulfill outstanding organization fee obligations. Delinquent fees are any monies owed to the organization from past expenses included but not limited to, previous year’s band fees, uniform parts, and trip fees. *There will be a \$25 return check fee charged to the student’s account for each check returned due to insufficient funds.

Band Trip

If the band is going on a spring trip, the student must be fully paid up for the marching season before any money can be applied to the trip. Any money paid for the trip will first go towards any band fees previously owed.

WIND PLAYERS

Any instrumentalist enrolled in the TCHS band program is welcome to join the marching band*. All wind players should plan on marching their primary instrument during marching season UNLESS you have prior approval from the band director. Marching Band is not a time to “try a new instrument”. The exception would be french horn players moving to mellophone as we do not march french horns.

Wind players are the backbone of the marching band and the band director reserves the right to move people to different instruments in order to create an equal instrumentation on the field.

**Exceptions would be any member who was removed from or quit the marching band the previous year before the end of the season.*

PERCUSSION

All percussion students must be enrolled in a band class at TCHS in order to participate in marching band. All percussionists can join marching band but an audition will determine what instrument each student will play during the marching season. All percussion students should be prepared to play battery instruments, mallet instruments, and auxiliary.

All percussion students in marching band will be required to purchase their own sticks and/or mallets as specified by the band director / percussion instructor. In addition to Monday and Thursday practices, percussion may have called rehearsals as needed on Tuesdays after school. As a member of the percussion section, you are expected to be at every rehearsal and performance throughout the marching season. This includes parades and pep rallies.

COLOR GUARD

The Color Guard is a competitive performance group whose purpose is to provide visual enhancement to the marching band program. The Color Guard performs at all football games, parades, and competitions. Membership in the Color Guard is by audition only. Non-instrumentalists do not have to be in a band class to be a member of the Color Guard. Additional costs are associated with this group.

All members of the color guard are required to attend all Monday and Thursday full band practices, all games, competitions, and parades. In addition, color guard members may have called rehearsals on Tuesdays after school as needed.

Members of the color guard must purchase their own uniforms since they are custom fitted for each person. Failure to purchase your uniform and/or equipment on time will result in the dismissal from the team.

All members of the color guard are expected to positively represent the school and the band program at all times. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

PERCUSSION AND COLOR GUARD CRITICAL DATES

All percussionists and color guard members are required to attend guard and percussion camp the week before full band camp begins. If this is not possible, that student does not need to march.

TCHS BAND SPRING TRAINING

Spring training takes place just before the end of the school year and gives the full marching band a chance to be together before summer break begins. The new members have the opportunity to work with our student leadership, meet all the members, and learn some of the basic skills of marching and playing right away! This is great for team bonding as well.

BAND CAMP

What is Band Camp?

Band camp is the culmination of the creative process for the marching band show. Marching band camp is held on the campus of Towns County High School and is mandatory for all marching band students. Students will learn how to march, play while marching, play in the outdoor environment, and the importance of team membership to create a musical experience. Students will receive instruction from exceptional staff members in marching and playing, in both an individual and ensemble setting. Many bonds are formed in the marching band camp. Aside from marching and playing, ideals of trust, responsibility, teamwork, goal setting and achievement, and character are all components of the camp experience.

Band Camp traditionally takes place three weeks before school starts. **ALL REHEARSALS ARE MANDATORY!** Please plan summer vacations and doctor visits around the dates of band camp. Students who are employed should submit these dates as soon as possible to ensure time off.

Is Band Camp mandatory if I plan on being in the marching band?

YES! I cannot stress this enough! We will cover the equivalent of nearly six weeks of regular band rehearsal hours in the two weeks of camp. The process of learning the marching drill is dependent on the “dots” in the drill being filled. Without the charted marcher in attendance at any given time, it becomes a hardship to those around him/her to successfully march their drill. Likewise, promptness to all rehearsals is required, so we may all begin at the same time. When the rehearsal time is posted, please plan to arrive 15-20 minutes prior to be ready to begin at the scheduled time. We also ask, unless already cleared in writing, that all doctor appointments, unless an emergency, be scheduled outside of band camp. Attendance and promptness will be documented at each rehearsal, per handbook policies.

Lunches during Band Camp?

All students should plan on eating a light breakfast before arriving so that you have energy throughout the day. Students should plan to bring snacks and a lunch each day unless a lunch is being provided by other organizations. Students will NOT be allowed to leave campus during the lunch break.

What do I need to bring to camp each day?

- You need to bring your well-maintained instrument. The instrument must be in good playing condition for band camp. You will spend a lot of time playing and poor conditions will not aid in your progress during camp. Have valve oil and extra reeds as well. If you will be using a school-owned instrument you will be issued an instrument during spring training.
- You MUST bring a gallon-size water jug full of ice water at the beginning of each rehearsal. Fill it up BEFORE you come to school! Everyone is expected to bring their own water jug. Do not plan on sharing! Water and sports drinks are recommended. Caffeine and dairy should be avoided when participating in outdoor activities. PRE-HYDRATION is a must and should start 24 hours before the first day of band camp. Remember that 8 glasses of water a day is for “normal” exertion. Students should increase water intake three days prior to band camp and should replace fluids every night during camp. Your name should be clearly marked on your water cooler, and EVERYTHING else that you bring to camp.
- All musicians are required to have a binder with sheet protectors and a pencil for their music.
- A fanny pack or light drawstring backpack would be beneficial to keep up with your supplies throughout the day.
- LABEL EVERYTHING!

What should I wear to Band Camp?

Appropriate attire for all rehearsals:

- T-shirt (light colored)
- Shorts
- Tennis shoes WITH socks
 - Your feet are very crucial to your success as a marching member; therefore you must wear athletic shoes with socks that will be comfortable and allow you flexibility to move easily. Flip-flops, swimming shoes, crocs, chacos, birkenstocks, Hey Dudes, or any form of sandal are not allowed for any marching rehearsal. Students must wear shoes at all times while at camp and inside of the school.

Other items needed for all outdoor rehearsals:

- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Bug Spray
- Baseball Cap
- Deodorant
- WATER JUG!

Attire must be appropriate. Bare midriffs, cut-off t-shirts, bathing suits and t-shirts containing suggestive material or advertising/advocating drugs or alcohol will not be allowed. You will be asked to return home to change and it will count as an unexcused tardy/absence.

What should my child eat during Band Camp?

Make sure your child eats a good breakfast each morning (no dairy). They will start the day running and will use a lot of physical energy during the morning rehearsal block. Many students who typically do not eat breakfast find this a difficult block and can become ill due to the lack of nutrition. We strongly encourage your students to eat all meals during the day and avoid caffeine to help prevent dehydration.

MARCHING BAND SEASON DETAILS

Marching Band Sectionals

During the marching season, many section leaders will call sectionals as needed. These sectionals may be as often as once per week or simply called as needed to resolve issues of the performance. Section leaders and/or directors may also communicate this information through the band website, group texts, or CutTime. Most wind sectionals will happen between 3:00-4:00 on Tuesdays. Percussion and Guard may have additional called practices on Tuesdays after school.

Regular Rehearsal Schedule

Regularly scheduled rehearsals occur on Mondays and Thursdays from 3-6pm once the school year begins.

Additional Rehearsals

There may be additional rehearsals scheduled if we encounter a lot of rain or other circumstances that cause us to lose rehearsal time. We will notify you of these as soon as possible.

Parent Involvement

We need all the support we can get and we love when families get involved! We have many opportunities for parental involvement throughout the season from Pit Crew, Chaperoning, Hospitality, and Spirit Wear. Please reach out to a member of the TCHS Band Booster Executives for more information. Contact information is on our website.

Marching Band Competitions

Our marching band will compete in 2-3 marching band competitions. All marching band members are **REQUIRED** to attend these competitions. Dates for these will be announced as soon as we know them. These competitions are **ALL DAY EVENTS**. Please do not schedule anything else on these crucial dates.

VOLUNTEER OBLIGATIONS

All families of the members of the marching band are expected to support, through their volunteer efforts, the activities of the band. The following volunteer jobs are needed throughout the season:

- Band Chaperone (Home Games, Away Games, Competitions, and Parades)
- Uniform Cleaning / Fitting
- Band Camp Help
- Prop Builders / Movers
- Pit Percussion Movers (Pit Crew)
- Sound System Help
- Marching Band Sign-Up Night Help
- Food Servers

This is just a start! There is **ALWAYS** a way for you to be involved! Please keep an eye out whenever we are asking for volunteers. We thank you in advance.

POLICIES

Attendance Policy

Absences affect performances and the success of group performance-oriented activities, such as band, depends upon FULL participation. Each student's participation affects the group outcome, and each student plays a vital role in this process. Attendance is related to both self-discipline and learning. If a student is not in rehearsal, they have missed that participatory portion of their educational experience and that experience cannot be made-up. A calendar of events is published well in advance for your planning. Students and their families are requested to plan appropriately when scheduling appointments, etc so that rehearsals and performances are not missed. The following attendance policy applies to both the band class rehearsals and the extra-curricular rehearsals of the marching band, drumline, and color guard.

Football Games

Each member of the TCHS Marching Band is expected to attend all football games - including playoff games.

Excused Absences

Excused absences will only be granted for certain unforeseen conflicts. Excused absences include illness, death in the family, an important religious observance, and potentially some other circumstances. Personal conflicts such as jobs, homework, babysitting, etc. are not excused.

Absence Submission Process

If a student wishes to receive an excused absence, the student must fill out the Absentee Form PRIOR to the absence. Failure to do so will automatically result in the student's absence being unexcused. Submission of a request does not guarantee approval. In the event that a student must be absent due to an unforeseen emergency such as personal illness, the student is required to speak with the directors immediately upon their return to school to inform them of the absence. If a student is well enough to attend class during the school day, the student is expected to attend rehearsal and will not be granted an "excused" status for missing the rehearsal without advance permission from a director.

Students who are removed from or quit marching band before the completion of the entire season will forfeit their right to join the marching band the following school year.

Promptness

The most important part of any band rehearsal occurs in the first five to ten minutes. It is during that time that, in addition to warming up physically, the student will focus their mind into the group rehearsal process. Students must be present at least 15 minutes before the start of every rehearsal to prepare to participate in group stretching or warm up. Tardies also follow the same guidelines and excuse procedures listed above. 3 tardies (excused or unexcused) will equal 1 absence. Students who are tardy to rehearsal or leave early must make up that time following the same guidelines as listed for excused absences. Students with chronic tardiness will meet with the directors about their status in the marching band.

MARCHING BAND ATTENDANCE POLICY

Revised: Jul 19, 2025

In order for our marching band to succeed, we must implement a strict attendance policy. Marching Band is an extracurricular activity, meaning that it occurs outside of the normal school day and it is a group that each student must CHOOSE to participate in. Band class is not extra-curricular, as it meets every day as a class during the school day and is open to all students who play a band instrument.

We cannot teach students when they are not here. Since the marching band is one of the most public “faces” of the school, it is important that it functions at an extremely high level.

All absences MUST be filled out in the google form **PRIOR** to the start of rehearsal using the Absentee Form located on our band website: townscountybands.org

An absence on Thursday before a performance may result in that student not performing at the next performance.

Students who have excessive absences (as determined by the director) will be removed from the marching band with no refund of marching band fees.

ANY unexcused absence from a performance (games, parades, competitions) may result in removal from the marching band with no refund of marching band fees. 2 unexcused tardies = 1 unexcused absence

Excused absences / tardies include:

- Death in the immediate family (note from parent)
- Sickness (note from doctor / parent)
- Covid (note from doctor / parent)
- Another school sponsored event (advanced notice required)
- Unavoidable / Emergency doctor appointments (note from doctor)

Unexcused absences / tardies include (but not limited to):

- Birthdays
- Not feeling well (without note from doctor / parent)
- Vacations (band schedule was given out in early May)
- Family functions (band schedule was given out in early May)
- Work (band schedule was given out in early May)
- Babysitting siblings (band schedule was given out in early May)

Again, this is not to be looked at as a punishment. It should be viewed as a commitment to being a member of the TCHS Marching Band. In order to be the best, we MUST practice together...with EVERYONE! Please make sure that you have adjusted your schedule to include all marching band functions. Plan your doctor appointments AROUND marching band practices and performances. Again, marching band practices are MONDAYS and THURSDAYS from 3:00-6:00pm.

TOWNS BAND SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

The Towns County High School Band Department recognizes and supports the student band members' rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. In this context, however, each student band member must remember that playing and competing for the Indian Raider Band is a privilege. As a student band member, you represent TCHS and the community of Towns County. You are expected to portray yourself, your band, and the Towns County School District in a positive manner at all times.

- Everything you post is public information – any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online – even if you limit access to your site. Information (including pictures, videos, and comments) may be accessible even after you remove it. Once you post a photo or comment on a social networking site, that photo or comment becomes the property of the site and may be searchable even after you remove it.
- What you post may affect your future. Many employers and college admissions officers review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you BEFORE you give them a chance to misinterpret your information (including pictures, videos, comments, and posters).
- Similar to comments made in person, the TCHS Band Department will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, such as:
 - Derogatory language or remarks that may harm my teammates or directors, other student members, teachers, or coaches as well as student-athletes, and representatives of other schools, including comments that may disrespect my opponents.
 - Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence, hazing, sexual harassment, full or partial nudity, inappropriate gestures, vandalism, stalking, underage drinking, selling, possessing or using controlled substances, or any other inappropriate behaviors.
 - Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
 - Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation – regardless if the violation was unintentional or intentional. In short, do not have a false sense of security about your right to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. Online social networking sites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions. The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image of which you can be proud for years to come.

We ask parents/guardians to refrain from posting disparaging comments about students and employees as well.

Any disagreements will be handled by following the Towns County School Board Policy.

MARCHING BAND UNIFORMS

Each student is responsible for taking care of their uniform while it is issued to them. Lost or damaged uniform parts must be replaced at your expense. Uniforms for instrumentalists include:

This year you Own:

- Long Black Socks
- Black Gloves (purchased from band, 1st pair is included in band fees)
- Shorts to wear under bibbers to avoid seeing clothing lines through uniform

This year you are ISSUED:

- Band Jacket
- Bibbers
- Gauntlets
- Shako (hat)
- Plume
- Garment Bag
- Shoes

Much of this section will change as we update our uniform process in 2027.

The marching band uniform must be worn in its entirety in public at all times unless you are instructed to change by a band director or drum major. You may not unzip your coat, lower your bibbers, or take off your gauntlets unless instructed.

You must wear your entire uniform to perform. Prior to each performance, the student leaders will perform a dress inspection. Neatness and correctness of appearance will be assessed. This will include the proper uniform shirt under the jacket, appropriate shorts under the bibbers, long black socks, cleanliness of gloves, shoes, hair and instruments. Students who do not pass inspection must correct all violations - possibly including the purchase of missing or soiled items - in order to perform.

Uniform Care

Hanging

It is absolutely essential that the uniform jackets be hung correctly to ensure that they remain in pristine condition. Please keep track of your uniform hanger and garment bag as it is made to maintain the uniform's shape. **DO NOT USE A PLAIN HANGER** to hang up your jacket. Use the curved hanger that is provided. Once you have hung your uniform correctly in your garment bag, place it on the proper rack facing the same way as the others.

Garment Bag

The jacket should be hung inside of the garment bag. We will let you know if we want you to zip the bags or leave them open to air out after a performance.

Gauntlets should be in the zippered pocket of the garment bag.

Cleaning

The TCHS Band Boosters will get the uniform jackets cleaned as needed throughout the season. Gloves, uniform shirts, and bibbers are all machine washable and should be washed after each performance.

Shakos

All shako hats must be stored in their boxes when not being worn. Nothing besides the shako should be put in the shako box. Please be mindful of your shako in the stands and when setting them down as they are covered in fabric and can rip if put on rough surfaces. Any damage is your responsibility.

Plumes

All plumes should be returned to the plume baskets immediately after use. Please avoid touching the feathers with your hands and be careful when placing the metal part into the shako.

UNIFORMS FOR COLOR GUARD

These uniforms are purchased and owned by the individual members. You should follow the cleaning instructions provided by the manufacturer and clean them regularly. If your uniform becomes discolored or torn due to you not following these instructions, you will not be allowed to continue with the program until a replacement is purchased. Please be mindful that these custom uniforms can take up to 3 months to manufacture.

Auxiliary members should wear all uniform parts as required by their coach. Any missing item will result in that member not performing until the issue is resolved. All make-up, hair, and jewelry items should be worn to the coach's specifications.

Details on how to order uniform parts and equipment will be discussed at the Marching Band Sign Up meeting in the Spring. Please keep in mind that all measurement and payment dates have "hard deadlines" that cannot be extended. If you do not order or pay for your items by the required deadline, that item will NOT be ordered for you.

BAND MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

In the Band Room

1. Students must be prompt and prepare for rehearsals in a positive manner
2. Both TCHS and TCMS students use the band room each day, so please keep it clean and orderly.
3. Food and drinks should not be in the band room (water is fine)
4. Trash cans are provided for your use.
5. All chairs and stands should be racked and stacked at the end of every rehearsal.
6. All percussion instruments should be put away at the end of every rehearsal.
7. If you have to move something for rehearsal, put it back after rehearsal.
8. No students are allowed in the office, uniform room, or storage rooms unless told otherwise by the director.
9. Only guard members are allowed in the guard room, only wind members in the wind room, and only percussionists in the percussion room. These are not “hang out rooms” and the use of these rooms is a privilege, not a right.
10. Instruments and music folders are to be kept only in the instrument storage rooms.
11. Do not leave old food and/or clothes in your space.
12. If staying after school for band practice, you **MUST** stay in the band room until practice begins. You cannot wander the hallways.
13. The band room is our home away from home. Take care of it!

On the Bus

1. The bus driver’s rules are always correct. Never argue with the bus driver.
2. Remain silent when someone is addressing the bus.
3. Music cannot be heard by anyone but you - use headphones.
4. Keep the bus clean - in words and in actions...
5. Do not change seats or stand up while the bus is in motion.
6. You must sit on your rear in the seats, not your knees leaning over the seat.
7. Keep body parts inside of the windows.
8. All students will ride the bus to the event. Students may ride home with a parent **ONLY** if a written note from a parent is given to the chaperone as you are getting on the bus. We are responsible for you and must know your whereabouts at all times. Students that do go home with their parents must return their uniforms to school with a friend and cannot be taken home.

In the Stands

1. All students are expected to actively participate at all times during a game.
2. Students should be off of their phones and be alert for when to play and cheer.
3. No student should play their instrument unless we are playing as a group.
4. No profanity.
5. Any vocal cheers should be cleared by the directors in advance.
6. All students should support the team, players, and coaches at all times.
7. Uniform parts should stay on until the Drum Major/Directors tell you otherwise.

Personal Appearance

All marching band members must be in the correct uniform at all times. In addition to wearing the correct uniform items, members are also required to follow the following guidelines. A main goal of the marching band is to look uniform at all times. It is not a place for individual expression.

1. All long hair must be tied in a bun on top of the head and must fit inside of the shako hat (Winds, Percussion, and Drum Majors).
2. All uniform parts must be worn properly at all times. This includes during 3rd quarter breaks.
3. All uniform parts MUST be hung up properly before leaving.
4. All uniform parts MUST be clean and wrinkle free in order for that student to participate.
5. All bibber pants must be the correct length which is the top of the shoe.
6. All students must have a natural hair color*.

**This means that colors such as blue, bright red, green, etc are not allowed*

7. Fingernails can only have clear nail polish.
8. Only stud earrings are allowed in the ears. No hoops or dangling earrings.
9. No lip or nose rings are allowed while in uniform. A clear “retainer” is acceptable.
10. Students wearing the band uniform MUST have LONG, PLAIN BLACK SOCKS.
11. Guard must be able to style hair in a uniform fashion as dictated by the coaches. Excessively long extensions are not permitted as it poses a safety issue when spinning equipment. The hair color rule (#6) also applies to auxiliary members.
12. Any student not in full uniform will not be allowed to attend/perform with the band until the issue is resolved.

Behavior Expectations

Students are expected to demonstrate positive and cooperative behavior when associated with the Towns County High School Band. When you are wearing a TCHS band uniform, you are representing your school and your community. Inappropriate or offensive behavior will not be tolerated. We represent ourselves, each other, and the school, and we strive to represent the best in high standards and traditions.

Specific Behavior Guidelines and the TCHS Indian Raider Band Code of Conduct:

1. All Towns County School disciplinary guidelines are in effect at all band functions.
2. No use of alcohol, tobacco, or illicit drugs. Possession or use of any of these will result in disciplinary actions in accordance with school policy. Additional disciplinary actions may be taken at the discretion of the directors.
3. No abuse of school facilities or equipment. This includes uniforms, instruments, music, or the physical structures. Students will be charged for any damage to the above.
4. No unauthorized use of school-owned instruments. A signed permission form must be on file for students to play school-owned instruments. This includes percussion instruments and guard equipment.
5. Absolutely no hazing, bullying, or harassment of students.
6. No profanity will be tolerated.
7. No disrespect of authority. This includes all student leadership, administrators, teachers, staff, chaperones, band parents, and anyone else connected with the program.
8. All students are expected to be where they are supposed to be when they are supposed to be there. Violators may be removed from the program. This statement includes loading buses on trips in a timely manner.
9. All students are expected to demonstrate good personal hygiene at all practices, performances, and trips.
10. No one is permitted to leave designated areas without permission. A director or chaperone must know where you are at all times.
11. All band students are expected to be the best students in the school. Students who are constantly in ISS may be removed from the marching band program.

Towns County High School provides students an extensive and diverse offering of co- and extracurricular programs such as clubs, performing arts, student government, and more. Each co- and extracurricular activity has its own code of conduct detailing the expectations of student behavior in addition to those set forth in the Towns County Schools student handbook. Higher standards of behavior are in place for students in these activities to promote good citizenship as these students represent Towns County High School through local, state, and national competitions, meetings, and performances. Failure to abide by these guidelines will result in disciplinary action. Repeated and/or severe violations may result in immediate dismissal from the program.