

Slippery Rock High School Rocket Marching Band

Parent-Student Handbook

2023-2024 Edition

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Mission Statement

"With a tradition of excellence that expresses power and emotion through music, we, the Slippery Rock High School "ROCKET" Marching Band, are a strong team that unites to perform as one. We aspire to create a positive, disciplined environment through camaraderie, commitment, and respect. We strive to perform with pride and without limits."

From the Director – Mr. Les Fine

A contemporary marching band is a combination of visual and audio elements that create a highly sophisticated form of entertainment. The activity presents unparalleled opportunities to learn not only the specific skills required for such an undertaking but also the life experiences that foster responsible citizenship into adulthood. Concepts like teamwork and commitment are not just part of the marching band activity, they ARE the activity.

For the parents, a marching band provides a community of people united in a common goal. Without support from this community, the marching band can simply not exist. Bands across the country have armies of volunteers that work exceptionally hard for their children, their peers, and themselves. If you have never participated in an endeavor such as this, we invite you to become part of our family. The fusion of dance, visual art, music, and teamwork found in this activity is unlike any other. When all these ingredients are combined, the result has the potential to leave audiences, performers, and support staff truly exhilarated.

Purpose of this Handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to provide general information to marching band members and their families about the Slippery Rock High School "ROCKET" Marching Band program directly from the marching band staff.

Welcome to the Slippery Rock High School "Rocket" Marching Band Program

A marching band is a hard-working group of musicians and other performers. These members come together to make music, entertain audiences, have fun, and make friends. The marching band develops a sense of belonging, pride, discipline, and accomplishments not only for the members but also for their families.

The Slippery Rock High School "ROCKET" Marching Band has a long and rich history and tradition. The band first numbered over a hundred members under the direction of Dr. Ed Arnold, who recently retired as the band director at Grove City College. Soon after, the band was led by Mr. Michael Formeck and the band formed an outstanding reputation as a "show band." Mr. Formeck retired from a distinguished career at Slippery Rock Middle School. The next director was Mr. Jerry Maxwell.

From 2005-2014, the band experimented in the competitive arena. The purpose of this experimentation was to receive outside feedback to guide the band's progress in becoming a contemporary unit. In the past nine years, the band has gone from a group eager to receive outside affirmation to one of self-evaluation. This shows maturity, much like an artist forming their own style. Today, the band is in high demand as a parade unit and field show performer.

For a student who is new to high school, the marching band can give a great head start by meeting other high school students of all grades before the school year starts. For all members, the marching band is sure to provide wonderful times and happy memories. Participating in a marching band is an experience unlike any other. Despite the fact that it demands hard work and discipline, the thrill and excitement a member experiences after a great performance is a moment never forgotten.

Responsibility

The band program in the Slippery Rock School District forms a vital and highly visible role in school and community life. This group represents a large, highly-trained, hard-working, and well-disciplined segment of the student body. The responsibility associated with membership in this organization is broken down as follows:

Responsibility to Ourselves

We owe ourselves the responsibility of always demanding the best that each of us has inside. As individuals and members of the group, we must set personal and group goals and perceive each as a challenge to be achieved to the best of our potential.

Responsibility to Each Other

We owe each other the patience and understanding to respect the rights of each other and form respectful and caring relationships. Anti-social actions will simply hurt each individual and subvert the goals of the group. The phrase “a chain is only as strong as its weakest link” is especially applicable within the context of a band program. We owe each other the sense of responsibility to do our individual best so as not to limit the band to shallow individual limitations.

Responsibility to Our School and Community

We owe our classmates, parents, and fellow citizens a fair return on the investment of time, money, and interest that they give to us. We must all times strive for the best possible performances and the highest standards of conduct at all times, as our actions reflect not just on ourselves individually, but on the Slippery Rock Area School District, and the communities it serves.

Marching Band Staff

Director: Les Fine (19th Year)
 Assistant Director: Stella Bargeloh
 Percussion Instructor: Sam Bowman
 Percussion Instructor: Abby Comes
 Percussion Instructor: Diane Bowser
 Percussion Instructor: Dennis Malinski
 Rock 'N-Ette Director: Terri Fine
 Rock 'N-Ette Instructor: Tara Shamburg
 Rock 'N-Ette Instructor: Andi Atwood
 Additional Band Camp Staff To Be Announced

Marching Band Members

The marching band is composed of the following:

- Winds – brass & woodwinds
- Percussion – drumline (upper & lower battery) & pit (stationary percussion)
- Rock 'N-Ettes – Baton, Dancers & Silks
- Drum Majors
- Honor Guard (Banner & American Flag)

Membership in the school concert band is *required* for participation in the wind and percussion sections unless excused and is required for all section leaders. It is encouraged for Rock 'N-Ettes

*The Rockets are not a band,
 not a Rock 'N-Ette,
 not a drum line or pit,
 not a brass line or woodwind section.
 WE ARE A UNIT!
 WE ARE ONE!*

All information in this handbook, the schedule, and all rules APPLY TO ALL MEMBERS OF EVERY SECTION OF THE UNIT. When something is section-specific (color guard, drum line, etc.), it will be mentioned.

Leadership Opportunities

The **drum majors** are the ultimate student leaders of the marching band. They are positioned at the head of the band and are the figures that stand out in the public eye. The drum major is responsible for providing commands either verbally, or through hand gestures, to the ensemble regarding where to march, what to play, and what time to keep.

The drum major tryout is in the spring and follows a series of classes where candidates learn conducting, commands, and expectations. There are three considerations for this position: a conducting & command tryout voted on by the students of the band, an interview in front of present and past leaders of the band, and finally, a letter to Mr. Fine identifying the qualities that would make you a great drum major candidate. Items to include in the letter are a resume of experience, future goals, and any other items that prove your leadership qualities. The three votes will be weighed equally to determine the successful candidate and results are usually announced at the end-of-the-year picnic.

The Rock'N-Ette Captain is a vital role since many of the members of this section are not seen by the director during the regular school day. Their primary role is to keep communication open between the band director, their instructors, and the section. Selection of this position will mirror that of the drum major in that there will be three consideration factors: their overall score at tryouts, a section vote that will take place at tryouts based on previous participation, and a letter to Mr. Fine identifying the qualities that would make you a great captain. Items to include in the letter are a resume of experience, future goals, and any other items that prove your leadership qualities. The three votes will be weighed equally to determine the successful candidate and are usually posted approximately one week after tryouts along with individual section assignments

Drum Captain and Wind Captain are similar to the Rock 'N-Ette Captain except that they are selected by the director. Section leaders are found in most other sections and will be assigned by the band director. The following will be taken into consideration when assigning section leaders: seniority, grade, level of excellence, past leadership, and participation in curricular band classes. It is important that these leaders are a part of the in-school band class so that they attend daily rehearsals during the school day

Rock 'N-Ettes

The Rock 'N-Ettes are the visual representation of our band. They depict the emotion and color of music through dance, flags, and other equipment. Students that have extensive experience in baton or dance may have opportunities for these roles during pregame and parades.

Because the Rock 'N-Ettes are such a visual aspect of our band it is necessary to have tryouts to determine the members best able to fill this role. Every member will try out each year. The tryouts will take place in the Spring before the next marching season. There will be 2-3 required classes for students to learn the flag and dance basics and routines. The official tryouts are performed in small groups in front of a group of unbiased professional judges. The number of students accepted will be determined by a natural break in scores. The top dance scores will determine the members of the dance line.

There is no set number of members per squad. Each member will be judged based on his or her performance at tryouts. The judges' decision is final. Plain black shorts and a plain white top should be worn for tryouts. Those wishing to audition for a majorette position are required to prepare their own routine and perform individually following the group auditions.

Due to the specialized role that Rock 'N-Ettes carry within the band, they will be held to a higher standard than other sections regarding rehearsal attendance, participation, and performance. A Rock 'N-Ette that is not adequately prepared to perform is a danger to themselves as well as others. Solos & features are developed through the creative process of designing the performance and all assignments are solely given at the decision of the director. All decisions are final.

Rock 'N-Ette Equipment

Each piece of equipment will be assigned to a color guard member. It is the student's responsibility to keep it clean and accounted for. If a piece of equipment is lost or damaged due to negligence, it is the student's responsibility to provide payment for that item to be replaced. Rock 'N-Ette equipment should never be left unattended. The equipment room is for supplies and equipment and MUST be kept clean and orderly. No one will be permitted to leave a rehearsal or performance until everything is put away properly. You will be dismissed as a group.

Please do not fill the hallway between the practice rooms and the director's office with personal belongings. During performances, do not leave your personal belongings in the lower school hallway or in the bathroom. Do

not use performance flags, including pregame flags, for practice unless advised by an instructor. Do not allow non-squad members to use your equipment.

Rules and Regulations

THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLINE

Due to the nature of the organization, discipline must be strict. Students and parents must be willing to accept the ideals, principles, and rules of the organization. Each member must always be aware of the importance of good behavior. Any misconduct casts a direct reflection on the group and school and may undo the good work of many loyal students. Any student who casts discredit on the band by their conduct or actions, either at school or on a trip, shall be subject to dismissal.

BAND RULES

1. All students are expected to behave properly at all times. Anyone guilty of gross misconduct will be dismissed.
2. Absolutely no hazing or initiation in any form will be tolerated.
3. All school rules will be strictly enforced. The school authorities will deal with any infraction of these rules.
4. Unexcused absences from regularly scheduled rehearsals will not be tolerated and may result in the loss of your position.
5. Talking during rehearsal while instruction is being given by staff or student leadership will not be tolerated.
6. Insubordination will not be tolerated.
7. All students are required to attend all unit activities unless excused by the staff.
8. Students are required to remain with the unit after events and will be dismissed as a group.
9. Courtesy is expected at all times. When assigned to a particular group or bus you are expected to stay with that group until the directors, chaperones, or student leadership releases you.
10. Public displays of affection are inappropriate AT ANY TIME. This includes rehearsals, football games, bus rides, competitions, etc.
11. The reputation of Slippery Rock High School's "ROCKET" Marching Band program will be built on the quality of character and musicianship. We expect your best!

MISCELLANEOUS PROCEDURES

1. Uniforms are inspected before every performance. Please have everything clean and in good repair before you report.
2. Due to the nature of moving large groups, it is necessary that students remain with the unit until dismissal following events. Trips, football games, etc. require that the directors be responsible for each student until that event is over. The extracurricular policy requires all members to ride the bus to and from each event unless excused by the director.
3. All instruments and uniform parts must be CLEAN and in good condition. Instruments should be cleaned regularly to remove the excess dirt that accumulates when playing outdoors.
4. All members are expected to attend every function in which the unit participates. ***If you are unable to attend a performance, you must provide an emailed excuse to the director a minimum of two weeks in advance.*** The earlier the notice, the more accommodating he can be.
5. No unit member is permitted to leave in advance of the group dismissal at any time unless excused by the director.
6. In order to move from place to place in a rapid manner, we must be able to give instructions to the group in an organized manner. Everyone will give full attention to staff members, chaperones, or the Drum Majors when instructions are being given.

BUS RULES

1. No one gets on a bus until a chaperone gives you permission.
2. Bus rides should be fun, but not dangerous. THE BIG RULES ARE No excessively loud noise, no profanity, and no standing or moving while the bus is moving. This shows respect for yourself and others.
3. Small instruments and personal bags should go under seats and not in the aisle.
4. Music may be listened to, but only if the user wears headphones or earbuds.
5. Depending on conditions, we will announce our procedures for stadium entry, case storage, etc. when we arrive at our destination. Students should remain seated and quiet until given permission to unload.
6. Students must clean the bus and check for personal items before leaving the bus.
7. After dark, no boys and girls in adjoining seats

8. No one is to leave the band room until buses have been checked, all equipment has been taken care of and you are dismissed by the Director.
9. Once the bus lists are determined at band camp they will not change without the director's approval. We may have to use alternate lists depending on the transportation situation of each event.

Buses transport the band to and from events, with the exception of some local events. At camp, members can sign up to ride the same bus as their friends. These bus assignments are in effect for the entire season. While we highly encourage members to return from events on the buses, as the time on the buses builds a strong bond among the members, we understand there are occasions when, due to other commitments, parents must transport their child home. If this need arises, parents/guardians must personally see the head chaperone in order for their child to be released. You may meet your child and his or her chaperone for pick-up outside the band buses. No one may leave without checking out with a chaperone, or if necessary, the director.

Football Games

Entering the Stadium

1. Upon completion of warm-up procedures, the band will assemble in two single-file lines. Students will form ranks immediately upon hearing the drum major's command.
2. The drum major and section leaders will inspect the band before departure into the stadium.
3. Bags should not be carried into the stadium. It is preferable to leave purses in the band room.

Stadium Seating

1. Each student will file to his or her assigned seat.
2. Each student should remain standing until all band members arrive and the drum major or director gives the command for the band to be seated.
3. Hats may be removed and gloves placed inside upon the drum major's command.
4. Sections will stay together and remain orderly. Uniforms are to be worn properly at all times. Coats should never be removed except when instructed by the director or drum major.
5. Students should be ready to play the Fight Song at touchdowns and other scores.
6. Non-band members will not be allowed within the band section. Visiting band students or special guests are exceptions. No visits with friends are allowed except during the third quarter break.
7. Refreshments are not permitted in the stands except during the third-quarter break. Please do not have parents or friends buy soft drinks or food before the third quarter. No student will be allowed to have refreshments unless the entire band is allowed to have them.
8. Students are allowed to go to the restroom during the game. No more than two students from the same section should leave at the same time. At away games, students must be accompanied by chaperones.
9. Student conduct should be professional throughout the time spent in the stadium. Individual playing is not permitted.
10. Students should treat other bands courteously. If something good cannot be said, don't say anything!!!

Halftime and Post-Game

1. Band members should file from the stands in an orderly manner according to where they are seated. Running up and down stadium steps or seats is not allowed.
2. The band should move quickly to its appropriate warm-up areas. Upon completion of warm-up, the band will enter the field in single file to a point near the sidelines, forming a pre-set for the entrance to the field. The band will remain at attention until you are given the command to relax.
3. After the performance, students will march single file to their seats at the position of attention. The band will remain at attention until you are given the command to relax. At away games, we will stand and watch the home band performance at parade rest.
4. Band members **may** be given the third quarter "off." You may purchase refreshments at this time; however, prior to the break, all members must remove the band jacket. Members are expected to wear their band t-shirt (provided by the band boosters) under their uniforms. If one member does not have their t-shirt, the band will not be allowed to remove jackets. All members must be in their appropriate seats with 2:00 left in the third quarter. Anyone late may forfeit his or her break at the next game.
5. The band will march in single file to the band room or buses. Students may only be dismissed at this time. No one will be dismissed early from the game unless approved by the director.
6. Uniforms are to be checked back in before leaving the band room. Instruments, music, and equipment should be returned to their proper storage areas.

Special Events

From time to time, special events may arise in addition to school games, contests, parades, concerts, and other appearances. Participation in special events not previously scheduled will be at the discretion of the band director and school officials after conferring regarding the feasibility of the event. The unit is not able to accept all invitations for obvious reasons and is not able to do instant performances. It is the policy of the unit to cooperate as much as possible with special requests for performances.

Conflicts with the Unit

Conflicts between the unit and other activities or events are the responsibility of the student and must be discussed with the director. Rehearsal and performance schedules are given out in advance. Students should not become involved in activities that may directly conflict with group activities. It is the policy of the unit to assist students when conflicts occur within the scope of the unit. Students should not expect excused absences for conflicts automatically. Students are reminded that band is a very demanding activity and that involvement in outside activities should be limited to those that are compatible with the band. Work is not an excuse for missing any activity.

Athletic Policy

We desire to have a close working relationship with all athletic groups of Slippery Rock High School. As in any school of our size, the same students tend to be active in everything. Students interested in participating in a fall sport are expected to complete the appropriate form by July 15, or as soon as their schedule is available. This form will ask you to compare the entire schedule of the marching band and the entire schedule of the sport. All conflicts must be listed with an explanation of how they will be handled using the following guidelines: If you choose to attend the athletic practice over the band practice, the next time this conflict occurs you are expected to choose the band practice, and the reverse is true. Please take into consideration the more important events approaching. Performances should always take precedence over athletic practices and games should always take precedence over band practices. Once this form is completed, the student will turn it in to their coach for an approval signature. If your plan is not agreeable to both the coach and director, unfortunately, a choice will need to be made. The purpose of this policy is to better inform the coaches and director of any conflicts and resolve them ahead of time.

Votech Policy

The marching band has always had a small group of students that choose to take part in Votech. We understand and respect this route to your future career. This policy is not meant to be exclusionary but to minimize problems. Votech can cause difficulty in meeting your responsibilities to the marching band. It is your responsibility to inform the director by July 15 of your plan to attend vo tech. You will be expected to minimize the time missed from daily rehearsals as the bus returns to the high school halfway through. It is your responsibility to adequately communicate conflicts. Your failure to do so may affect future participation by yourself and other vo tech students.

Rehearsals

Attendance at all full band rehearsals is expected of all members. The single most important factor in the success of our organization is member attendance. The nature of the activity dictates that each and every member has an equally important responsibility. Due to this, it becomes impossible for us to improve when you are not here. This is NOT an exaggeration! Your presence at rehearsals is absolutely vital to our growth. To this end, we are aware that there may be extenuating circumstances in which you cannot attend a rehearsal.

For all members of the entire unit: If an emergency arises that requires you to miss or arrive late for a rehearsal, you must notify Mr. Fine as soon as possible before the rehearsal so that the staff can make appropriate adjustments to the rehearsal plan. Notification can be given via any of the following ways:

1. Email to Mr. Fine at les_fine@slipperyrock.k12.pa.us
2. A note handed to Mr. Fine personally, BY YOU, the student!
3. In addition to contacting Mr. Fine, you should also communicate your absence or lateness to your section leader and/or instructor.

Rehearsals are held regardless of weather conditions. Assume that all rehearsals will be held outdoors. Appropriate shoes MUST be worn at all rehearsals. Sandals are NOT acceptable and socks must be worn to prevent blistering. Common sense will dictate what to wear or bring: rain gear, sun protection such as hats and sunscreen, and clothes for hot or cold weather. Fall rehearsals necessitate warm clothing, such as coats, scarves, gloves, and hats. In cold weather, remember that layers work best. Not dressing appropriately can result in illness, which in turn may result in missing rehearsals in order to recover. We cannot afford for you to get sick during the season, so come prepared for the weather.

From time to time, student leaders, or instructors, may need to call a “sectional” rehearsal. A sectional is an additional rehearsal not normally found on the schedule. Student leaders may feel a need for additional work with their section and this opportunity offers them a chance to do so.

Summer Band Program

All practices are meant to help the band move to the next level of excellence. Anytime we are missing a person it slows down that progress. The June & July practices are important, but if you have a scheduled vacation, go on the vacation. If you are in town you are expected to be at practice. August practices are required. If you do not attend, there may not be a spot for you in the band. If a spot is left available it will be your responsibility to learn the music and drill on your own time by any means necessary.

Band Camp

Band camp is the most important two weeks of the year. It is an intensive camp held for two weeks in August, minus weekends, where the band learns the bulk of the skills needed to perform the drill for both pre-game and halftime. There is no way to recover any time lost during this camp. If you do not show up for band camp your position will be removed.

It will start at 8:00 AM and continue until 3:30 PM, with 45 min. for lunch. Lunch will be available to purchase or it may be brought. Students may not leave campus during lunch. The camp takes place on the Slippery Rock School Campus. If any band camp time is missed you may not be permitted to march with the band at Kennywood as this is a reward for your hard work at band camp.

Calendar

You'll fill with pride when you hear those drums and see the unit in their uniforms as the Slippery Rock High School “ROCKET” Marching Band takes the field! The marching band is a great source of pride for our school, community, and most importantly, our members. Please refer to the website calendar for the most up-to-date calendar: <http://srhsrocketband.weebly.com/>

Band Banquet

In the winter, usually late January or early February, an Awards Night for all marching band members and their families is held – an event not to be missed! This event is focused on thanking the seniors for their years of service but all awards are handed out at that time.

Awards

The award system is created to recognize the achievements of the members of the instrumental music department.

Varsity Letter

Students will automatically earn a yearly varsity letter when they fully participate in all performances and rehearsals from June to December.

Middle School – Junior Varsity Letter Certificate

High School Year One – SR Varsity Letter

High School Year Two – Two Year Letter Certificate

High School Year Three – Three Year Letter Plaque
 High School Year Four – Four Year Letter Plaque

Students with more than four years between middle school and high school can earn a Five Year Trophy or a Legacy Award for Six or more years.

Loss of yearly Varsity Letter Designation

Any Unexcused absence from Category A.
 Two Unexcused absences from Category B
 Three Unexcused absences from Category C

Unexcused absences may be canceled out by volunteering to complete a needed task with director approval. There are many opportunities early in the season. Few later in the season.

Participation Categories

Category A - Any performance where the marching band is performing a field show such as football games, festivals, and competitions. Any portion of camps.

Category B - Parades, Local non-marching performances. Playoff games due to their short notice. Weekly after-school rehearsals without prior notification.

Category C - Weekly after-school rehearsals with prior notification, sectionals, summer rehearsals without notification

Votech Members, Middle School Members, and other non-graded students – Due to limited participation, all unexcused absences will be considered Category A and will automatically lose the yearly varsity letter award.

Grading – All unexcused absences will receive a Zero grade. On the rare occasion of receiving an excused absence, there will be no points assigned but they will not be averaged with your grade.

Excused absences

1. Illness (After 3 Days of Written Parental Note, must have physician's Note)
2. Serious illness or death in the immediate family/Family Emergency
3. Emergency medical or dental attention
4. Absences approved in advance (Min. 2 Week Notice)
5. Authorized religious holiday observances (Min. 2 Week Notice)
6. Documented Court Appearances or Requirements (Min. 2 Week Notice)
7. Athletic conflicts as reported in the Athletic Agreement

Where possible, it is expected to notify the director with a minimum 2-week notice but more is appreciated and rewarded. Where not possible, email or other written notification is expected before the beginning of the rehearsal or performance.

Sources of Information

Mr. Fine

Address: 201 Kiester Rd. Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Office Phone: 724-794-2960 ext. 2020

Email: Les_Fine@slipperyrock.k12.pa.us

Band website: <http://srhsrocketband.weebly.com/>

Band Booster Association

Charms Music Office

Web Sites

We have our own website, <http://srhsrocketband.weebly.com/>. Be sure to consult it for the latest marching band news.

Ask a Veteran!

One of the best ways to find out about marching band is to ask a friend. Veteran band members, as well as their families, have a wealth of marching band information.

How Parents Can Help

Band Boosters Meetings

Slippery Rock Rocket Band Boosters is an organization open to all parents and guardians of children in any of the many bands at Slippery Rock Area Schools. Parents who have children in SRHS bands are automatically members. There is no membership fee. Please come to the meetings! They're a great way to find out what is happening not only with the marching band but the entire band department. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, except where otherwise noted on the calendar.

Support Your Child

By supporting your child and making sure they are at every rehearsal and event, you are helping the entire band. The band is not like sports where we bench students that do not perform at their highest. There is no bench in the band. If any person is missing, it makes rehearsals and performances more difficult. The exception would be in the Rock N' Ettes because this is a potentially dangerous section. If a student is not prepared, they will be pulled from a performance.

Volunteering Opportunities

There are numerous ways in which you can help – at home, at school, on the phone, or on the road. Pick the way(s) which suit your schedule and please sign up to help!

- Uniform Fittings - Assist with fitting and handing out uniforms
- Chaperone - Needed for both day and overnight trips. (Must have clearances on file)
- Pit Crew - Assist with getting pit equipment on and off the field at competitions.
- Repair Crew - Assist with the repair of instruments and equipment
- Uniform Repair - Provide help, as needed, in repairing uniforms
- Flag sewing - Provide help in sewing new flags or repairing old ones

You know you're a band parent when....

- *You make three more trips than expected to drop off your student with everything they needed and forgot.*
- *You carry spare gloves, socks, and duct tape in your purse, car, and fanny pack.*
- *You follow yellow buses around a LOT!*
- *You can't pick out your child anymore, because they all look alike!*
- *You no longer speak of your child as your daughter/son but as a "freshman trumpet"*
- *There's no such thing as a "prior commitment".*
- *Your car can make it to school on its own!*
- *The band calendar RULES your life!!*
- *You know you'll be wearing red every Friday night, and you're very proud to be wearing it!*
- *You find yourself humming the marching show while at work.*
- *You know what a sousaphone is.*

We're glad you're here!! Please feel free to ask any member questions. Remember there are no dumb questions. You're part of a very big family now, so please make yourself at home!!

Costs

Many schools charge substantial fees for marching band membership. At Slippery Rock, with the support of the Band Boosters and the school district, we are able to keep costs at a minimum for our members.

REQUIRED expenses you will incur are:

Uniform accessories (gloves, shoes)*

OPTIONAL expenses include:

Trips

Optional apparel such as T-shirts, sweatshirts, and hats.

Band pictures

Performance tickets - There is an admission fee for non-marching band members at performances; the fees vary and are usually around \$4-\$8 each. Check the weekly bulletins for more details and opportunities for advance purchase.

*Rock 'N-Ettes do have a significant number of expenses due to the nature of the uniform and the activity. Requirements will be shared at tryouts and attempts will be made to keep those to a minimum. Some expected requirements are specialized shoes, tights, leggings, make up, costume jewelry, hair piece, and warm ups. Makeup is a part of the uniform and is expected to be worn uniformly across the group.

Band Trips

Due to the dedication and service nature of the band, marching band members are offered an opportunity to attend a reward trip each year. Expenses are the responsibility of the individual student or family. The band boosters offer continuous opportunities to raise funds to pay for this trip. Prior trips include:

2025	Walt Disney World	2014	Pittsburgh Cirque Du Soleil
2024	To Be Determined	2013	Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade
2023	To Be Determined	2012	Gatlinburg, TN - Dollywood
2022	Pigeon Forge, TN - Dollywood	2011	Walt Disney World
2021	Walt Disney World	2010	New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade
2020	Cancelled due to COVID 19	2009	Cincinnati King's Island
2019	Cancelled due to COVID 19	2008	Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival, Washington DC
2018	Gatlinburg, TN - Dollywood	2007	Walt Disney World
2017	New York City	2006	Cedar Point & Rock & Roll Hall of Fame
2016	Cincinnati King's Island	2005	New York City
2015	Walt Disney World		

When choosing the trip for each year, a four-year cycle of Walt Disney World, small trip, medium trip, small trip will be considered.

Forms

There is a packet of forms passed out in the spring by the Activity Office. It includes a series of forms that must be filled out before band camp and returned with a copy of your health insurance card. If insurance is needed it can be acquired through the school inexpensively, and a completed physical, which can be completed through the school free of charge. This packet must be completed prior to participation. In addition to those forms, students will also need to complete the uniform contract and acceptance of this handbook to participate.

Uniforms

Uniform Inspection

The band director will conduct a formal inspection of all members at Light Up Night. He will point out problems that must be resolved before the first football game. After that, the drum major and section leaders will conduct an inspection prior to every performance. Band members are expected to wear uniforms properly at all times. When the uniform is worn, a member's personal appearance is to be impeccable. Follow these expectations:

HAT: Long hair is neatly arranged so that it fits up inside the hat. The hat is worn parallel to the ground touching the eyebrow.

UNIFORM COAT AND PANTS: It is the student's responsibility to get the pants altered. Do not cut material. **Pants will be altered so that they touch the top of the shoe but the crease does not break.**

The uniform should always be hung up properly after each performance. It is often a good practice to turn the uniform inside out and let it air out before you put it in the garment bag. When the uniform gets wet, hang it up to dry as soon as possible. Use the hanger provided or a plastic or wooden hanger. Metal will rust onto the uniform. Brush dirt from your uniform. You will have a sweat collar snapped inside the neck of the coat, this is machine washable. The neck collar is hooked shut. You will wear the BAND SHIRT under your coat. You will wear BAND SHORTS or other black shorts and long underwear (if necessary) under the uniform pants. NO JEANS. Uniform pants will be worn for all performances.

SHOES/GLOVES: Members are responsible for providing and caring for their own *black marching shoes*, black socks, and black marching gloves. The shoes and gloves may be purchased at the time of the shoe fitting from Fortissimo Band Supply during band camp. The shoe is specially made to accentuate the proper marching style and complete the uniform. Be sure they are clean before every performance. Gloves should be washed after every performance. It is a good idea to carry an extra set of gloves in your

garment bag or uniform coat. Students must provide PLAIN black socks to wear with the uniform. It is a good idea to keep an extra set of black socks in your garment bag.

RAINCOAT AND GARMENT BAG: Only performance-related items are permitted in the bag. These would include extra socks and black gloves, a hat, warm gloves, valve oil/cork grease/instrument care items, and music.

Checklists

Rehearsals

1. Instrument
2. Comfortable sneakers with socks; sandals are NOT acceptable, and neither are boots
3. DRESS FOR THE WEATHER! (hot or cold, rain or shine – assume all rehearsals will be held outdoors)
4. Coordinates
5. Pencil

Band Handbook Confirmation

I have received and accepted the policies, as presented in this handbook.

Student Name _____ Student Signature _____

Parent Name _____ Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Due Date: First day of band camp