

Mills E. Godwin High School
Marching Eagles
2026 - 2027



Marching Band Families,

Welcome to the Godwin High School Marching Band! In this handbook you will find information and expectations needed to be a productive and successful member of the Godwin Marching Eagles. This marching band provides the opportunity for all members to develop their musical and visual skills, self-discipline, self-confidence, interpersonal skills, and leadership abilities. The band students will be challenged to be their best and to be proud of their accomplishments. I look forward to continuing the successes of the Marching Eagles and further developing a rich band tradition here at Godwin High School.

Derek Ramsey
Godwin High School
Director of Bands
(804) 750-2600

dbramsey@henrico.k12.va.us

I. Overview

- A. Spirit Organization
 - Football Games
 - Pep Rallies
- B. Competitive Band
 - Participate in local and state-wide marching competitions
 - Participate in VBODA State Marching Assessment
 - Necessary component of Virginia Honor Band
- C. Volunteer Organization
- D. Academic course with credit recognition (1/2 credit)

II. Eligibility

- A. Band members who receive "ISS" or "OSS" during the school year will follow the same penalties as student athletes
- B. Students must take at least five (5) classes with five (5) passing grades
- C. Conduct deemed detrimental to the band morale and/or cohesion is grounds for disciplinary action. Disciplinary action will be determined by the director and may vary in severity from a verbal warning to dismissal from the group. The director also has the right and responsibility to forward any issue to the Godwin HS Administrative for further consideration.

III. Attendance/Grading Policy

- A. Marching Band is an academic course, offered for credit, and graded accordingly
 - Marching band activities take priority over non-academic Godwin HS activities
 - Grades are determined by:
 - Being on time and prepared for rehearsals
 - Being on time and prepared for events
- B. Attendance
 - Rehearsals, camps, football games, competitions, and parades are mandatory
 - absences affect the success of the entire ensemble
- C. Punctuality
 - Students are to arrive ten (10) minutes prior to each rehearsal / event call time, to allow for setup
 - An unexcused tardy will result in a letter drop in grading
- D. Absences
 - Extreme circumstances of illness, family emergency, or religious conflict are considered excused absences.
 - Excused absences require a written, signed note or email from a parent/guardian. Excused absences will not be counted against a student's grade.
 - Unexcused absences will result in an "F" for that specific rehearsal/performance.
 - More than three unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the marching band at the discretion of the band director.

IV. Performances

A. Football Games

- All home games
- Away games (discretion of the Marching Band Director/Activities Director)
- All playoff and championship games

B. Competitions

- Occur on Saturdays during September and October
- Students are provided transportation from Godwin High School
- Behavior Codes set forth by HCPS Code of Conduct apply at all band events

C. VBODA Assessment

- Culminating evaluation event for the marching band
- Typically occurs on one of the last weekends of October

D. Competition Etiquette

- Students are not to talk, yell, or make inappropriate gestures during performances
- Students are to remain seated during performances
- Students are to be seated with fellow Godwin band members during events

E. Football Game Etiquette

- Students are always to sit with their sections while in the stands
- Band members cannot converse with friends outside the band while in the stands
- No food, drinks (excludes water) or gum are permitted in the stands
- Talking or texting on cell phones is not permitted during football games
- Students are expected to stay attentive to the game and drum major to be ready to play promptly throughout the game
- Once the Show Music, National Anthem, and Fight Song are memorized, students will be given third quarter off for a break. Members must be back with their sections by the end of third quarter. Failure to return on time will result in the loss of third quarter privilege for the next game.

V. Transportation

- Provided for students to away games and competitions from Godwin HS
- Only parents/guardians can take a child directly from an event (advance notice is required)
- Students are to be picked up within 15 minutes of the conclusion of rehearsal or an arrival back to Godwin High School from an event.

VI. Uniform

A. Band Uniforms

- The band uniform remains property of Godwin High School. Band Uniform fees help cover the rental for 1 school year
- Jacket, pants, and shako are included in band fees
- Replacement gloves can be purchased from the Band Boosters for \$5/pair
- Cleaning and/or replacement of negligent wear or damage to a uniform will be the financial responsibility of the student

B. Color Guard Uniforms are included in Band Uniform fees

C. Marching shoes will be fitted and ordered during band camp (\$30)

D. Students supply their own black, crew length socks

E. Events (football games and competitions)

- Students must have hair "up," off the neck, and under the shako (hat)

- No jewelry is visible during a performance (exception: medical alert bracelet)
- Part of the grading for events (since marching band is a 1/2 credit course) is based on students having all components of their performance attire (socks, shoes, etc...) for each specific event.
- Following competition:
 - Students can wear their Show Shirt along with blue jeans, if time for changing permits

VII. Band Fees

- A. Marching Band Fees (click this [link](#) for details) can be paid online or by check
- Checks made payable to Godwin High School -Fee covers: drill/show design, staffing, transportation, competition costs, uniform (rental for one school year, cleaning, maintenance, and replacement), band T-shirt, band equipment, materials and supplies,
 - All band members and color guard must also purchase proper band shoes and gloves (students are fitted during band camp in August). New shoes are only necessary for the first-time marchers or for members who have out-used/out grown their pair.
 - Color Guard members may have other uniform expenses each year as requested by the Color Guard Director and approved by the board.
 - We want all interested students to participate in Marching Band - we do not want anyone to not participate because of financial reasons. If there are specific financial concerns, parents are encouraged to contact the Band Director directly so that alternate arrangements can be made. Students who have not paid their Marching Band Fee or have not made other financial arrangements will not be allowed to march with the band.
- B. Band Booster Fees are \$110 (can be paid via check)
- Checks made payable to Godwin Band Boosters -Fee covers: Game Day meals and booster membership.
 - Color Guard members may have other uniform expenses each year as requested by the Color Guard Director and approved by the board.

VIII. Fundraising

A. Overview

- A crucial part in keeping the band program thriving
- Parent participation is highly encouraged

IX. Parent Involvement

A. Godwin High School Band Boosters Executive Board

- President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Band Director
- Elections held annually

B. Chaperones

- Football games, competitions, parades, car washes, Band Camp, and large trips
- Help with supervising students, and keeping order
- More guidelines under the chaperone duties

C. Equipment

- Move equipment to and from event locations
- Move equipment on and off the field for football games and competitions
- Fix and maintain equipment throughout the marching season

D. Uniform Committee

- Size students for their marching band uniform
- Sew and make other basic repairs to the marching band uniforms
- Distribution before games, competitions', and parades
- Keeping the uniforms in order and ready for next event

E. Photography/Tribute Book

- Providing still photos and videos of band members at various events
- Updating and keeping the website up to date

F. Hospitality

- Responsible for organizing band social events
- Setup donation of items, set up and clean up after events during the year, and to provide food for judges/directors at special events

G. Special Committees (may include but are not limited to)

- Godwin Marching Invitational
- Tim Sullivan Scholarship Fund
- Game Day Meals
- Color Guard Chair
- Concessions Chair
- Membership Committee
- Audit Committee
- Ways and Means Committee