

# 2023 - 2024

# Tinora Ram Band

# Handbook



Mr. David Middleton, Director  
Ms. Hallie Hamilton, Assistant  
Mrs. Dori Robertson, Majorettes  
Ms. Megan Wiles, Colorguard

## **Group Mission Statement**

The Tinora High School Band family strives for growth and excellence through our music. Constructive rehearsals allow us to play loud and proud for our community's enjoyment. The recognition and respect we gain from our community and each other helps us come together as one.

## **Google Calendar**

Students and parents should check the band calendar in this handbook and our Google Calendar to avoid any problems with family and work schedules. If you do not have the calendar shared with you, please let Mr. Middleton know. The camp schedule will be given out in January. Please see the attendance policy for acceptable forms of absence.

## **BAND App**

BAND will be primarily used for things that need to be communicated promptly. The calendar feature is kept up to date and the best way to see upcoming events. Students may also message directors to communicate in the case of an emergency. Students must join our class on BAND in order to receive the most up to date information. High school band parents are welcome to join as well.

There are two ways to join. You can download the BAND app, search Tinora Ram Band, and join. If you are unable to download the app, Mr. Middleton can set you up to receive SMS notifications.

## **Tinora Music Boosters**

The Tinora Music Boosters is a parent organization who support all of Tinora's music programs. Your child will receive many benefits from the Boosters' support and if you are not already a member, we highly encourage you to become involved. Without this organization, your child would not have as many opportunities. Meetings are the second Monday of every month from August to April (excluding December) at 6pm in the band room. Meeting dates are on the District Calendar, Google Calendar, BAND calendar, and Handbook Calendar.

## **Attendance Policy**

**Attendance is required for ALL band rehearsals and performances, marching and concert band.**

If a student is going to miss any (non-school day) rehearsal or performance, an absence form must be filled out *a week prior to the noted absence*. If a student misses an event/rehearsal with no prior notification, they must first email or send a message to Mr. Middleton on the BAND app notifying of the absence, and then provide a doctor's note and/or parent note explaining the absence upon returning. Any absence that is not handled in this manner OR not turned in by the required date will count as a zero for the (non-school day) rehearsal or performance.

**The absence form can be found on Google Classroom under Resources.**

Conflicts with school sponsored sports, clubs, or other school organization will be worked out between the directors and coaches. The general rule of thumb is that a rehearsal can be missed for a game and a practice can be missed for a performance. Any time missed as a result of the agreement with the coach will be considered excused, but please still provide written documentation.

Missed performances (excused) can be made up to 90% of the grade through a playing test within 2 days of the student's return. The test will use music from the performance the student missed. *Unexcused absences from performances will result in a zero.*

Excused absences: Family emergencies, weddings, funerals, illness or injury, time missed as a result of agreement with coach/advisor.

Unexcused absences: Work\*, vacation\*, not feeling like coming.

\*If the performance/rehearsal is scheduled with short notice, this will be relaxed.

Summer Camp Exceptions: Students may miss up to a week of Tuesday/Thursday rehearsals due to family vacation or educational camp and be considered excused.

### Pep Band

Attendance in pep band is on a volunteer basis.

*Exceptions to the attendance policy can be made at the discretion of the band staff.*

## **Marching Band**

The Marching Band performs at all football games, county fairs, and parades. Marching Band begins with a five day camp where they will learn the fundamental skills needed for the season, as well as having time to learn music and drill work. Each student enrolled in band is required to be in both the marching band and the concert band. There are **NO exceptions**. The goal of the marching band is to develop musicianship skills and community that will continue through the concert season.

### Required Materials

All students are responsible for having:

Black Dinkles (marching shoes), long black socks, an instrument in good working order, a flip folder and lyre with sheet protectors, all music that has been handed out by the band staff, and a pencil.

Students are responsible for having a pair of tennis shoes every day for outside rehearsal. Please do not wear jeans, boots, flip flops, or sandals.

**Percussionists** are responsible for having:

A roll of white electrical tape for wrapping sticks, two pairs of appropriate drumsticks, and ear protection.

**Wind players** are responsible for having:

Any reeds/oil/grease/mouthpieces/etc. that are required to maintain their instrument.

**Woodwinds** are to have at least 3 working, quality reeds at all times.

**Brass** are to have their valves oiled BEFORE rehearsal.

### Band Camp

Band camp is where the band learns their first show of the season. It is a place for focused work and learning as much as possible in five days. Band camp is required and students who cannot attend will be dealt with on a case by case basis. **Vacations are NOT excused absences from band camp.** Calendars for all camps are passed out in early January so that schedule conflicts will be avoided.

### Tuesday/Thursday Rehearsals

After band camp, we have rehearsals every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 - 1:00pm until school starts. **These are required.** Students may miss one week of these rehearsals due to a family vacation or educational camp but must have an absence form turned in *at least one week* beforehand.

### In-Stands and Third Quarter Policies and Privileges

1. Members of the band MUST sit in designated section of the stands during games.
2. Members MUST sit with members of their sections during the game so that balance of the band remains intact.
3. Non-members of the marching band are NOT allowed to sit with the band during any portion of the game.
4. All school code of conduct rules are in effect while in the stands. Good behavior is expected. Students not acting in appropriate ways will be disciplined at the discretion of the director and the marching band staff.
5. Members may have beverages brought to them but all trash must be disposed of properly upon completion of the game. The band stands will be left as clean or cleaner than we found them. There is to be no food in the stands with the exception of third quarter.
6. Students MUST be in their seats and ready to play BEFORE the clock reaches 2:00 of the third quarter. Students who are not in their spots at this designated time will lose third quarter privileges at the next game and possibly extra disciplinary actions.
7. Students must be attentive during the game. In order to allow the students as much playing time as possible, they need to be prepared and listening to directions in case any new information is given by the band staff.
8. Following all home games, the band and choir clean the stadium. This is an agreement for our use of the concessions. Cleaning is voluntary and signups will be posted the Monday before the game.

### Memorization and Music Checks

Students in marching band are required to memorize all music as designated by the band director. This includes, but is not limited to pregame and halftime music.

Music checks are a separate band grade and will be treated as quizzes.

### Uniforms

Band members will pay a fee for cleaning and maintenance of the uniforms. Should a uniform be damaged beyond repair, the family of the student will be responsible for replacement of the uniform. Uniforms are cleaned once per year and are the property of the school. Twirlers keep their uniforms dry-cleaned and in good condition. Uniform fittings and alterations are the responsibility of the student before the beginning of the marching band performances. Students must have all uniform parts ready for marching band performances and contact the directors in a timely manner should a uniform issue arise. In addition, students must NOT wear jeans underneath their uniform pants, as it results in excessive wear of the pants. **Uniforms must be treated carefully and hung up in the proper manner as designated by the uniform volunteers and band staff. Your uniform will be inspected by leadership before you may leave any event.** Any misuse or damage of uniform parts will be dealt with at the discretion of the directors. Students must wear a PLAIN OR TINORA white, grey, or black tshirt under their uniform. Failure to do so will result in the student not being able to remove their jacket.

### Summer Band Uniform

The summer band uniform consists of a green polo, light khaki shorts, white or “no show” socks, and tennis shoes. The green polo is provided by the Boosters while all other pieces are the student’s responsibility. Polo must be tucked into shorts.

### Shoes and Socks

Black Dinkles are available for purchase at Rettig Music in Defiance. Shoes must be ready for the first marching band performance of the season. Students must keep their shoes clean (this works best when shoes are cleaned after each performance). Mr. Clean’s Magic Eraser works wonders! Permanent marks can be treated with black shoe polish. Long black socks must also be worn at all times in full uniforms. Short socks are permissible when in summer uniforms. The absence of appropriate socks or shoes will result in reduction of participation points for that day/performance.

### Hair and Face

Students must keep a neat and groomed appearance throughout the marching band season. Loose hair/ponytails for males and females is not acceptable in uniform. All hair, including bangs, must be tucked inside the shako. In summer uniform, hair needs to be up and out of the face. Unnatural colored makeup or hair is not to be worn during football season. Dyes can stain the interior of the shakos or uniform.

### Flag Corps and Majorettes

These groups are open to anyone by audition. Auditions are held in the spring of each year. All flag corps and majorette members are to follow the rules in the handbook, regardless of whether they participate in concert band or not.

## **Concert Band**

Concert band begins after the last regularly scheduled football game. Public concerts and Ohio Music Education Association Contests are part of the expected performance calendar and are part of the student’s grade.

### Required Materials

**All students** are responsible for having:

Black dress socks/tights, black dress shoes, tux shirt (men only, see Concert Uniform section), an instrument in working order, notebook, and pencil.

In addition, **percussionists** are responsible for having:

A pair of Vic Firth SD1 snare drumsticks, Vic Firth M133 Bell Mallets, and a pair of medium-hard yarn mallets. Vic Firth M114, M163, or M3s are acceptable.

In addition, **wind players** are responsible for having:

Any reeds/oil/grease/mouthpieces/etc. that are required to maintain their instrument.

**Woodwinds** are to have at least 3 working, quality reeds at all times. Preferred brands are Vandoren and Mitchell Lurie.

**Brass** are to have their valves oiled BEFORE rehearsal.

### Concert Uniform

Men: Tux shirt, jacket, pants, cummerbund, bowtie, black dress socks, and black dress shoes. The tux jacket and pants will be available for rent or purchase through the band. Tux shirts must be purchased through the band and are not available for rent. Bowties and cummerbunds are kept at the school and are included in the price of purchase, but do not need to be rented.

Women: Black concert dress, black tights/dress socks, and black dress shoes.

The concert dress will be available for rent or purchase through the band. Dresses should be hemmed so that the hem is a half inch to an inch off the floor.

Alterations are the responsibility of the student. **RENTED UNIFORMS ARE NOT TO HAVE ANY MATERIAL CUT OFF OF THEM.** Failure to follow this policy will result in the student being charged for the full cost of the uniform.

Concert uniforms are to be stored at home. **Rented uniforms are not to be worn to any non band events (ex. prom, wedding, etc.)**

Rented uniforms will be dry cleaned at the end of the year. Dry cleaning of purchased uniforms will be at the discretion of the student.

### Pep Band

Pep band plays at home basketball games. Membership is voluntary and no class credit is earned, but your service will be rewarded at the end of the season.

### Grading

#### Marching Band/Concert Band

Students will be graded according to performances, daily participation/attendance, playing tests, exams, and any other assignments the directors deem necessary. If a student misses a performance, they will earn a zero if the absence is unexcused. See the attendance policy for makeup procedures for excused absences. The directors reserve the right to lower a student's daily participation grade for any inappropriate

behavior.

Participation Points may be deducted for any of the following:

- Gum chewing
- Absence of instrument, music, drill chart, pencil, or any other item that is included in the "Required Materials" sections of this document during rehearsal.
- Not participating in rehearsal
- Disruptions to classroom

## **General Policies**

### **Marching Trip General Rules**

1. You must be enrolled in band for the trip year in order to go.
2. All school rules apply.
3. All band handbook rules apply.
4. The trip is not a required or graded event.

### **Smoking, Alcohol, and Drug Policy**

Students are not to smoke, possess, or show evidence of use of tobacco at any time while with the band. Any students having drugs, alcohol, or other illegal substances in their possession, using any of these, or showing evidence of use while with the band will be dismissed immediately, parents and administration notified, and an "F" will be recorded for the grade. If students attend a band function while intoxicated, under the influence, or showing evidence of use, they will assume the same discipline as if they had possession. Students associated with anyone breaking this rule will also be disciplined but not necessarily dismissed from band. High School Handbook rules apply to these situations and the school administration will be immediately informed of any incidents.

### **Bus Conduct**

When students are riding school buses – all school rules will apply. Students are expected to behave in a proper manner that will not interfere with the driving of the bus. Students will be silent at all railroad crossings. Individual music is allowed, as long as headphones are used. Personal items of high value are discouraged – anything brought on the bus is the responsibility of the student. Family members and friends are not to accompany band members, unless parents are acting as previously approved chaperones. Students must ride the bus to and from all band events unless given permission otherwise. Any students that are NOT riding the bus to or from a performance must give a note or email to Mr. Middleton from their parent or legal guardian **AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE**. Any student that misses this deadline must have a parent or legal guardian personally go to Mr. Middleton with written permission to not ride the bus. **Students must be seen by Mr. Middleton with their parents/guardians before they are permitted to leave.**

### **Performance Conduct**

Students are representatives of the band, school, and district at all times and should behave in a responsible and professional manner anytime they are in uniform or participating in a band event. Any behavior that reflects badly on the band program will be disciplined as the directors see fit. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of explicit/inappropriate language while at a band function, using cell phones at/during performances of the Tinora Band or other group (except during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of football games), and public displays of affection while in uniform. If you respect the uniform, you respect the band and earn the respect of others.

### Digital Citizenship

Students are expected to represent themselves, their peers, their school, and their band community with dignity, pride and respect in all online interactions. Never say anything online that you wouldn't or shouldn't say to someone in person. Remember that all online interactions, no matter how private you intend them to be, can very easily and often do become public.

Students who engage in inappropriate social media activities concerning the band program will receive disciplinary action at the discretion of the director and school administration.

### School Instruments

Any students using a school instrument will be expected to take care of the instrument better than they would if it were their own. Regular maintenance (oiling, purchasing reeds) will be the responsibility of the students. **Damage done to any instrument will be repaired at the student's expense.**

### Private Lessons

Private lessons are not a requirement to be in band, but are highly encouraged for players of all levels! Here are some recommended teachers:

Clarinet/Saxophone: Frank D'Ambrosia: [fdambrosia1951@gmail.com](mailto:fdambrosia1951@gmail.com)

French Horn: Lynn Leatherman: [lleatherman@toledochristian.com](mailto:lleatherman@toledochristian.com)

Percussion: Eric Cooper: [ecooper@hilltopcadets.org](mailto:ecooper@hilltopcadets.org)

Defiance College also has options for high school students wanting lessons. Contact Cassidy Nalepa at [cnalepa@defiance.edu](mailto:cnalepa@defiance.edu).

### Fundraiser

We will have one major fundraiser that will take place annually in August - September. 100% of the money brought in will go directly to the band program. Any help in promoting this event as we get it established is greatly appreciated. This is the mair



we fund new instruments, music, and uniforms. This is a required event for students.

### **Band Leadership Team (BLT)**

This team is composed of members of the band who exhibit exceptional leadership, marching, playing skills, and a constructive attitude. Officers are elected by the ensemble before the end of the previous year. Drum Majors and Section Leaders are selected by the directors through an interview/audition process. The directors reserve the right to revoke members of BLT status who are promoting poor behavior/attitude toward the band and its members.

#### **President**

- Lead BLT meetings
- Serve as the band's spokesperson
- Help substitute teachers when Mr. Middleton is not present
- Assist the directors

#### **Secretary**

- Take minutes during meetings and post them onto the Team Drive
- Takes attendance before band
- Responsible for public correspondence
- Assist the directors

#### **Treasurer**

- Keep track of all financial records for the band under supervision of the director
- Will be present on any leadership fundraiser committees
- Assist the directors

#### **Historian(s)**

- In charge of the BLT bulletin board
- Create a scrapbook to document the year
- Help promote events that will be happening in band throughout the school
- Assist the directors

#### **Freshman and Sophomore Representatives**

- Be a voice of their classes
- Assist the directors

**Any student, parent, or guardian consciously acting against this agreement will receive consequences and/or will be removed from this organization at the discretion of the band director & administration. The director has the right to refuse student participation in any band event.**

- Schedule of Events -  
2023 - 2024 School Year  
(updated 6/14/23)

\*Times for Parades & Football Games are **Call Time**

**11, 6pm** TFAB Meeting  
**12, 6pm** Music Booster Meeting  
**15, 5:15pm** (A) Antwerp  
**22, 6pm** (H) Wayne Trace (JH Night)  
**29, 5:30pm** (A) Ayersville

**October**

**6, 6pm** (H) Paulding (HC)  
**9, 6pm** TFAB Meeting  
**13, 5:15pm** (A) Edgerton  
**20, 6pm** (H) Hicksville (Senior Night)  
**27, Playoffs**  
**28, 5:30pm** Defiance Halloween Parade

**November**

**13, 6pm** TFAB Meeting  
Potential playoff games Fri/Sat

**December**

**12, 6pm** 5/6 Band Concert  
**7pm** 7/8 Band and Choir Conc

**June**

**19 & 21, 10am - noon** Drum Major Camp

**July**

**14, 10am - 1pm** BLT Camp  
**1 - 2pm** Senior Meeting  
**24 - 28, 9am - 4pm** Band Camp  
**8 - 9am** Drumline Camp  
**29, 9:30am** Wauseon Parade

**August**

*Beginning Aug. 1 until 22nd, we will have rehearsals from 11am - 1pm Tuesdays & Thursdays. Final summer rehearsal will be Friday, Aug. 25 2pm - 4pm before Otsego game.*

**13, 4:30pm** Henry Co. Parade  
**14, 6pm** Tinora Fine Arts Booster Meeting  
**18, 6pm** (H) Liberty Center  
**21, 5:30pm** Defiance Co. Fair  
**25, 5pm** (A) Otsego

**September**

**1, 6pm** (H) Archbold (Alumni Night)  
**8, 5:30pm** (A) Fairview

**14, 7pm** Holiday Arts Festival (HS)

**January**

**8, 6pm** TFAB Meeting

**14,** District Honor Festival

**20,** HS Solo and Ensemble

**February**

**12, 6pm** TFAB Meeting

**17, 6:30pm** Love of the Arts

**23, 5pm** Band Lock-in

**March**

**11, 6:30pm** Jewell Grain Banquet

**6pm** TFAB Meeting

**14-17,** Musical

**15-16,** HS Large Group Contest

**April**

**6,** JH Solo & Ensemble

**8, 6pm** TFAB Meeting

**26-27,** State Large Group Contest

**29, 6:00pm** Spring Band Concert

**May**

**3,** JH Large Group Contest

**17, 6:30pm** Jazz 'n Coffee Night

**21, 6:30pm** HS Band Awards Banquet

**27, 8am** Memorial Day Ceremonies

**29, 10am** 8th Grade Graduation

**June**

**2, 2:00pm** Graduation

**Please be aware some events may be added or tentative. Please check the Google or BAND App Calendar for the most up to date information.**

**Band Handbook Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being a student in the Tinora High School Band, have read the contents of the Tinora High School Band Handbook, and agree to comply with the guidelines, rules, and grading policies discussed therein. In addition, my parents have also read the Tinora High School Band Handbook, recognize my responsibilities to the organization as well as understand the grading and attendance policies of the Tinora High School Band. The signatures at the conclusion of this agreement signify our agreement to comply with the guidelines, rules, and grading policies stated in the Tinora High School Band Handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (printed)

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date

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**Parent/Guardian Email:** Please give us your up-to-date email so that we can stay connected!

Please return by **Wednesday, July 26, 2023.**  
We look forward to a great year ahead!

David Middleton, Hallie Hamilton, Dori Robertson, Megan Wiles