



BAND HANDBOOK

2026 – 2027

SOUTH DOYLE HIGH SCHOOL

2020 Tipton Station Road • Knoxville, TN 37920

Band Director — Chandler DeArmond

southdoyleband.org

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WELCOME TO THE BAND

Welcome to the South Doyle High School Band! Whether you are joining us for the first time or returning for another exciting year, we are thrilled to welcome you to our band.

The South Doyle Band is more than just a music program. It is a community built on commitment, teamwork, integrity, and excellence. Through music, students develop confidence, leadership, responsibility, discipline, and friendships that often last a lifetime.

Our program is committed to providing every student with opportunities to grow as musicians, leaders, and individuals. We strive to create an environment where students are challenged to achieve their personal best while learning the value of hard work, perseverance, and serving something greater than themselves.

Success in band is built on preparation, accountability, and supporting one another. Every rehearsal, performance, and event is important because every member plays a vital role in the success of the ensemble.

This handbook has been created to help students and families understand the expectations, policies, and opportunities that are part of the South Doyle High School Band Program. While it cannot answer every question, it serves as a guide to help ensure a successful and rewarding experience for every member.

We are excited to begin another year of making music, creating memories, and continuing the traditions that make the South Doyle Band a special place.

Welcome to the South Doyle Band Family. We are glad you're here!

To Our Students

You just joined one of the most exciting programs at South Doyle — welcome to the Band Family! This won't always be easy. Marching in the Tennessee heat, learning a full show, balancing school and rehearsal — it's a lot. But it's worth it, and you won't do it alone. You've new friends and a whole staff in your corner.

To Our Band Parents

Welcome to one of the best-kept secrets in high school activities. The band program offers real performance opportunities, real life-long friendships, and a real shot at your student finding their people. Our members include valedictorians, varsity athletes, AP scholars, and leaders across every club at South Doyle — because who your student surrounds themselves with matters, and we're proud of who's in this room.

A Quick Word on How This Works

This handbook lays out the policies, rules, and expectations of the South Doyle Band Program. It's a living document — it will evolve as the band, school, and community do. Both a student and a parent/guardian signature on the Band Membership Contract (Section VII) are required for membership, confirming you've read, understood, and agreed to these terms.

Knox County Schools policy always applies alongside band policy and always takes priority if the two ever conflict. Band directors retain the authority to amend or suspend any band policy when it's in the best interest of the program.

SECTION I — BAND CLASSES & ENSEMBLES

Concert Band is the cornerstone of the South Doyle Band Program. It's not always the most visible part of what we do, but it's where the bulk of real musical training happens — every spring semester, and every ounce of that growth carries straight into the success of our competitive marching season.

Classroom Procedures

Band Classes

- Be in your seat within 3 minutes of the bell, with your instrument, music, and all required equipment (mutes, mouthpieces, reeds, sticks, mallets, pencil, tuner, etc.)
- No talking while directors are talking, or at other inappropriate times
- Participate positively in all rehearsal protocol and procedures
- No cell phones (except as a tuner)
- Neatly store all equipment when class ends

Guard Classes

- Dress out every day as directed by the Guard Coordinator
- Be ready to begin rehearsal at the time given by the Guard Coordinator
- Participate to the best of your ability — if you can't, tell your instructors in advance
- Always show respect to instructors and peers

Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior

- Parent notification
- Performance suspension (cannot perform)
- Removal from class / band program

Grading

Grades are posted regularly to ASPEN and are made up of attendance, live and recorded playing assignments, daily classroom performance grades, and concert performance grades.

Supplemental Ensembles

Winter Guard

Once marching band wraps up, students can audition for Winter Guard, placed into either our High School or Middle School program by age. These groups rehearse throughout the week and compete in the East Tennessee color guard circuit (ETPAA) and Winter Guard International.

Chamber Groups

Brass quintets, wind quintets, clarinet quartets, saxophone quartets, and more are highly encouraged. Coaching is arranged with a band director on a group-by-group basis.

SECTION II — MARCHING BAND PROGRAM

The South Doyle Marching Band competes, performs, and rehearses at the highest level available to a high school band. The Marching Band performs at every football game, plus community performances and competitions throughout the fall.

Membership

Students earn membership in the Marching Band by:

- Agreeing to and complying with the terms of this handbook
- Completing and submitting a Band Contract
- Completing and submitting a Medical & Travel Permission Form

Marching Band membership is required of all band students unless:

- 1. They're an active member of a South Doyle fall sport that directly conflicts with band. (Almost all conflicts can be worked out between the Band Director and Coach — we'll work with you!)
- 2. A religious obligation prevents participation
- 3. A medical condition prevents participation
- 4. Band Directors approve another special condition

Performance positions may be adjusted throughout the season based on each member's commitment to ensemble expectations.

Percussion Membership

Percussion splits into two groups: Drum Line (Snare, Tenor, Bass, and optional Tom Drums) and Front Ensemble / "Front Line" (stationary percussion such as mallets, bass drum, cymbals, guitar, and electronics). Sections are selected at Audition Camp (April/May); exact instrumentation varies year to year based on show design.

Color Guard / Majorette Membership

- Open to all South Doyle students by audition — a non-musical section adding visual performance elements
- Members enroll in the Color Guard class for the fall semester, unless exempted by the Band Director
- Auditions for Fall Color Guard and Majorettes happen in the spring semester (April/May)

Expectations

Attendance

A competitive marching band is the ultimate team sport — members depend on each other to know exactly where to be. Consistency matters, because one missing spot affects everyone around it. Excused absences (with advance notice) are granted only for personal illness, family emergency, or special pre-approved request. Advance notice means a parent email to the Band Director before the absence. Please schedule medical and dental appointments around the band calendar whenever possible.

Missed Commitment	Grade Deduction
In-School Rehearsal	2 points
After-School Rehearsal	4 points
Mini-Camps	6 points
Performances	20 points

Dress Appropriately

Dress for the weather in shoes that let you move freely — no flip-flops, sandals, open-toed shoes, blue jeans, or restrictive clothing at rehearsal. Hot-weather performance attire is your Band Jersey, khaki shorts, black socks, and tennis shoes. No jewelry during performance; hair pulled back and off the face with a black hair tie.

Behavior, Attitude & Work Ethic

Large ensembles can't rehearse at a high level if members are late, unprepared, or unwilling to commit to the process. Our best seasons come from students who are hungry for excellence and bring a great attitude every single day.

Financial Commitment

Competitive marching band is a cash-intensive activity. We rely on every family meeting their obligations on time so we can fund equipment, staff, and travel — see the full fee breakdown later in this section.

Physical Conditioning & Nutrition

Marching band is a genuinely demanding physical activity — full-speed drill while moving huge amounts of air through an instrument takes real conditioning. Students hurt in band or another activity may be placed on Alternate Status if they can't safely perform or rehearse. Hydrate, eat breakfast, and take care of yourself so you can perform your best.

Camps

- May Mini-Camp — date announced before the end of fall semester. Introduces fundamentals and expectations for the year ahead; required gear (flip folders, lyres, marching shoes, apparel) is available for purchase.
- Horn Line Summer Days — optional sessions throughout the summer
- Percussion Camp — date TBA, required for all percussion members
- Color Guard / Majorette Camp — date TBA, required for all auxiliary members
- Full Band Camp — July 13–17 and July 20–24, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Mandatory — plan vacations accordingly. This is our most concentrated rehearsal block of the year: show music, drill, uniform distribution, stand tunes, and camp fee collection all happen here. Bring comfortable shoes, light clothing, a hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, and a large water jug.
- August Mini-Camps — 2 Saturdays in August, for review and continued show learning
- Weekday Rehearsals — every Thursday, 4:00–7:00 p.m.

A full rehearsal calendar is distributed each spring and posted at southdoyleband.org/calendar.

Performances

Varsity Football Games

Fridays move fast in the fall — uniform inspection happens before marching to the stadium (home) or loading the buses (away). Occasional Thursday or Saturday games will be posted on the band calendar.

Away Games

Buses leave as soon as possible after the game. If picking up a rider, wait in the gated lot in front of the band room — please don't park or wait directly in front of the building, since we need that space to unload the trailer and equipment.

Band Competitions

Beginning in mid-September, the band travels to competitions that are the payoff for months of rehearsal. Attendance is critical — an absent member has a direct, negative impact on the whole group.

Special Events

Beyond regular games, contests, and concerts, special events occasionally come up. Participation is at the discretion of the Band Director and school officials, in consultation with the band about feasibility — we can't accept every invitation or perform on zero notice, but we try to say yes whenever we reasonably can. Past special events include the Knox County Marching Band Exhibition, the Knoxville Veterans Day Parade, the Gatlinburg Christmas Parade, UT Band Day at Neyland Stadium, and participation in an NCAA Bowl Game.

Band Banquet

Our annual awards and senior banquet each spring celebrates the year's accomplishments, honors special achievements, and sends off our graduating seniors. Student-voted superlatives are presented too. All band members, families, and friends are welcome — ask an upperclassman about attire if you're not sure. A ticket (around \$25) covers dinner.

Attendance, Defined

Band camp, all scheduled after-school rehearsals, camp days, and performances are required of every marching band member. All absences are subject to the guidelines below.

Excused Absences

All absences must be communicated to the director beforehand.

- Serious illness, with a signed doctor's note
- Special, recognized religious holidays, communicated to directors in advance
- Extreme family emergencies: death in the family, fire/flood damage to the home, life-threatening emergencies, or court-required legal proceedings
- A true once-in-a-lifetime educational opportunity that can't be duplicated after marching season (e.g., military basic training, a Drum Corps International ensemble, national scouting events) — significant advance notice and proof of attendance required

Even an excused absence can mean a temporary hold on performances — if a student misses the rehearsal where drill or choreography is set, they may need to catch up to the group's level before performing again. This is a safety issue, not a punishment.

Unexcused Absences

Everything else counts as unexcused: lack of transportation, family trips or reunions, lack of supervision due to a parent traveling, work scheduling, non-emergency doctor's appointments, and similar.

Consequences follow the grade-deduction table above, plus a conference with the directors.

Behavior, Attitude, Work Ethic & Self-Discipline

- Be on time (at least 15 minutes early)
- Don't talk while directors are talking, or at other inappropriate times
- Have all correct equipment and materials
- Respect all instructors, parents, student leadership, and fellow members
- Participate fully in rehearsal protocol and procedures
- Exemplify a positive attitude
- No cell phones

Consequences for inappropriate behavior may include grade reduction, suspension from performances or trips, or removal from Marching Band.

Financial Commitment

Item	Cost
Annual Band Fee	\$300
Class Fee	\$50/year
Instrument Rental (school-owned)	\$50 / year
Marching Uniform Rental	\$50 / year
Marching Shoes (one-time, via Rush's Music)	\$50
Guard / Majorette Items (one-time, varies by year)	Announced annually

A Note on Cost

We never want a student to sit out because of an inability to pay. If cost is a concern, please reach out to Mr. DeArmond at chandler.dearmond@knoxschools.org to discuss a payment plan — no judgment, just a conversation.

Payments can be made by cash or check, placed in the “BlackBox” in the band office and clearly labeled with student name and purpose (e.g., “Chandler DeArmond – Band Fee \$300”). Checks for camp fees should be made out to South Doyle High School. Card payments are also accepted online via Givebacks. Instrument repairs beyond normal wear and tear are billed to the student.

Uniform Information

- Marching band members are issued a uniform. You're financially responsible for the exact numbered item you receive
- Pants should have a neat, crisp crease with the hemline skimming the top of the shoe
- Black socks are worn underneath the uniform
- Long hair is contained fully inside the hat, in a natural color
- No earrings or visible jewelry at performances; no face makeup, to keep the white fabric clean
- Don't unhook collars, unzip coats, or remove hats while in uniform unless the whole organization is instructed
- No unapproved hats, garments, jewelry, or accessories in uniform
- Never wear the uniform anywhere except director-designated events — always the full uniform, no jewelry, no makeup
- Uniforms are inspected before every performance and must be clean and in good repair

If Something Gets Lost or Damaged

Notify the Band Director immediately. Replacement costs are charged to the student's band account. Please don't wash or dry-clean your uniform without checking with the directors or uniform parents first — proper care now saves a repair bill later.

SECTION III — GENERAL CONDUCT & FACILITY POLICIES

These policies apply across the whole program — concert band, marching band, guard, and beyond — any time a member is involved in a band-sponsored activity, on or off campus.

Observance of Policies

- Band members are expected to always behave properly — misbehavior reflects on the band, school, and community
- Students are responsible for knowing the policies of Knox County Schools, South Doyle High School, and the Band Program — “I didn't know” isn't an excuse
- Directors and chaperones may add to or adjust policies as situations require, whether written or delivered verbally — a verbal instruction carries the same weight as a written one

Consequences for policy violations vary with severity and may include band room service duty, suspension from performances, grade reduction, removal from the band program, or school/administrator-assigned consequences.

Band Room Privileges & Usage

- Band rooms, practice facilities, and rehearsals are limited to current band members unless a director authorizes otherwise
- No food or drink in band rooms or practice facilities unless a director authorizes it
- Each member is assigned a specific storage locker — use only your assigned locker, and keep it clear of anything besides instruments, music, and musical accessories
- Knox County Schools and the Band Program aren't responsible for personal items left in the band room or elsewhere on campus
- Members may practice in band facilities after school with a director's permission; practice rooms are for personal or ensemble practice and study only

Appearance

The South Doyle Band maintains a conservative personal appearance standard, with reasonable limits on grooming and attire while in uniform.

- Hair of collar length or longer must fit neatly inside the shako (hat)
- Gentlemen maintain a modest haircut, kept consistent throughout the season
- No visible jewelry in uniform, other than a single small stud earring; no facial or tongue jewelry
- No visible fingernail polish in uniform, unless it's part of that season's costuming
- No sunglasses while in uniform

Internet & Social Media Etiquette

Band forums, group chats, and social media are a great way to connect with the marching arts community — but posts meant to be casual can reflect poorly on you and the whole organization. The policy is simple:

Our Policy

Don't post negative comments about our program, staff, students, or any other school's program on band-related sites, group chats, or social media — this applies to members and parents alike. When in doubt, don't post.

Misbehavior & General Conduct

Dismissal from the program, dismissal from the activity with no credit, and/or suspension from performances follow the South Doyle Student and Faculty Handbook. Additional band-specific penalties, at the directors' discretion, can apply to:

Alcohol, Drugs & Tobacco

- Alcohol, illegal drugs, smoking, vaping, chewing tobacco, and dipping are never permitted at band activities
- A violation may result in immediate dismissal from the program
- A violation during overnight travel may mean being sent home before the event ends — at the member's/family's expense, including transportation for the student and a chaperone

Property Damage

- Any clear attempt to damage or destroy property — personal, school, or private — is never acceptable
- Members and/or parents are financially responsible for restoring or replacing damaged property
- Serious cases may be reported to school administration, Knox County Schools, and/or law enforcement

Other Conduct Violations

- Profanity directed at directors, parents, or other students
- Conduct detrimental to the organization
- Willful disobedience

Care of School Property

Members must properly care for school-owned instruments and equipment and may be financially responsible for repair or replacement if property isn't cared for properly. If school-owned equipment needs repair, notify a director before attempting or arranging repair yourself. A per-semester user fee may apply to school-owned instruments, including percussion.

Travel Rules & Procedures

- All Knox County Schools bus rules apply while traveling with the band
- Follow all bus driver and chaperone instructions
- Ride only your assigned bus
- No playing instruments on the bus
- Answer roll call for yourself only
- Couples may sit together but must behave respectfully — reported misconduct can mean a bus change and parent notification
- No trash left on the bus
- Students travel back to school with the band unless a parent/guardian (or a designee communicated to directors in advance) signs them out in person after speaking with chaperones or directors
- Don't bring valuables you can't secure
- Transport your own equipment and uniform back to the band room after every event
- Always travel in pairs or larger groups
- Be punctual for every call time on a trip (15 minutes early)
- KCS dress code applies on all trips; modest attire in and around pool areas
- Mixed-company hotel rooms are prohibited — being in anyone's room but your own is not permitted
- Stay reasonably quiet in hotel facilities; curfews are strictly enforced. Any need to leave your room after curfew must be arranged in advance with a chaperone or director
- Knox County Schools has specific policies on student medication during travel — check with the Band Director or school nurse for current guidance

SECTION IV — INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITIES & PRIVATE LESSONS

Reaching the highest levels of ensemble achievement starts with individual growth. Every opportunity below is a chance to push your own playing further.

Spring Trip

Typically taken over Spring Break and open to all members in good financial standing (no outstanding dues). Cost and itinerary vary by destination; a payment schedule is announced once the trip is finalized, usually in October. As with all South Doyle Band trips, adult supervision is thorough and conduct rules are strictly enforced — students not complying will be sent home at their family's expense. Full details (cost, locations, times, contacts) go out before departure.

All-East Honor Band & Jazz Band (ETSBOA)

There are two All-East Honor Bands — grades 9–10 and grades 11–12 — open to all instruments by audition, with a \$15-per-instrument audition fee (subject to change; multiple instruments allowed). Auditions are competitive, and private lessons make a real difference. Auditions typically happen in late November/December; music, scale sheets, dates, and results are posted at www.etsboa.org.

One Audition, Three Shots

This single audition also determines placement for All-State Honor Bands — students only audition once and are considered for all three honor band levels.

Audition requirements:

- A prepared piece, available from Band Directors via the ETSBOA website
- All 12 major scales plus the chromatic scale, full range
- Sight reading — Sight Reading Factory Level 3 → 4 → 5 for grades 9–10, Level 4 → 5 → 6 for grades 11–12 (practice at sightreadingfactory.com)

Knox County Honors Band

Students are selected by Mr. DeArmond to audition for the Knox County Honors Band each November; seating is determined by audition.

All-State Band (TMEA)

All-State seating is decided by ETSBOA All-East Honor Band audition results. All-State is held each May at the TMEA conference at the Opryland Hotel. Recent costs: around \$55 registration plus roughly \$200 for a 3-night hotel stay (both subject to change).

Private Lessons

Private lessons let a student progress at an accelerated pace with instruction tailored to their specific needs — improvement shows up fast, without the ability to “hide” behind stronger section-mates. Our instructors are professional players approved by Knox County Schools, and students who take lessons consistently rise to the top of the program.

SECTION V — SOUTH DOYLE BAND BOOSTERS

The South Doyle High School Band Boosters is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to helping the band and directors deliver a high-quality musical experience for every student in the program. The Boosters raise funds through parent- and student-run fundraising events, and provide financial support for equipment, instruction, and whatever else the band directors need to keep the program running at its best.

Booster meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the band room — all band parents are automatically members and warmly encouraged to get involved, whether that's chaperoning, hospitality, fundraising, or working with the "Pit Crew."

SECTION VI — YEARLY SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

A quick-glance overview of the band year — see the full online calendar at southdoyleband.org/calendar for exact dates and times.

July	● Full Band Camp: July 13–17 and July 20–24
August	● Band camp wraps up around month's end ● After-school practices begin the Thursday after school starts (4:00–7:00 p.m.) ● 1–2 Saturday camp days ● Football games begin
September	● After-school practices & football games continue ● First 1–2 competitions at month's end
October	● Competitions on select Saturdays ● Fall Break — no band ● Football games continue ● Spring trip announcement
November	● Marching season wraps up ● Last after-school practices and contests ● Knox County Marching Band Exhibition ● Knoxville Veterans Day Parade ● Winter Guard auditions
December	● Christmas Parade ● Christmas Concert ● Winter Guard rehearsals begin
January	● All-East Jazz & Honor Band clinics
February	● All-East Concert ● Mid-Winter Concert ● Winter Guard competitions

March	● Potential Spring Trip (location & dates announced in advance)
April	● All-State Band Clinic ● Spring Concert ● Drumline / Front Ensemble auditions for next season
May	● Band Banquet ● Graduation ● Marching Band Mini-Camp

SECTION VII — BAND MEMBERSHIP CONTRACT

2026–2027

Financial

Parent/guardian understands their responsibility to pay the contributions below, agrees to communicate with the Booster treasurer about any payment delay, and acknowledges that the first deposit is required for a student to be assigned a spot in the marching show, and that all contributions are non-refundable. Fees may be paid in advance or in installments. Direct any questions to Mr. DeArmond at chandler.dearmond@knoxschools.org.

- Band Fee: \$300 — due August 10th, 2026

Attendance

Parent/Guardian has received the calendar and agrees to the following:

- 1. Attendance at all scheduled rehearsals and performances is required
- 2. One or more unexcused absences may reduce the student's class grade
- 3. Absences may only be excused for: serious personal illness (parent email required in advance), a family emergency, or special permission granted at least 24 hours in advance by a band director

Travel

Parent/Guardian grants their student permission to travel with the band to all performances and functions, and agrees to the travel rules and procedures outlined in Section III of this handbook.

Handbook & Registration

Parent/Guardian confirms that the full handbook is available online at southdoyleband.org and agrees to all conditions set forth in the Member Handbook.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____