

Alcott Band

Survival Guide

General

- Check the band website for important information regularly. www.nhsband.net
- We are playing music that requires individual practice. You are responsible for knowing your parts on any music that is in the binder. If you are confused about anything on your part, ask a director before rehearsal begins or after school.
- Expect to start class on time everyday. Remember school tardy policies.
- Pencil use is absolutely necessary. Don't make me ask or hold up the rehearsal.
- Schedule dentist / doctor appointments around band rehearsal. Your absence affects the entire group.
- Strive for shape and expression in everything you play. Sometimes it is not written in your music. Make an effort; the director will let you know if you are over doing it.
- Make sure your name is on all materials including; case, binder, book(s), sticks, etc.
- Keep your cubby clean and neat.

Woodwinds

- Always have at least 3 back-up reeds that have already been broken in.
- Play in tune. Check the tuner before class. If you have your own tuner bring it and use it every day. Know your pitch tendencies. (Check the fingering chart)
- Check your instrument often for loose screws, etc. If you are having a horn problem that you cannot solve, bring it to a director before class or after school.

Brass

- All slides should be greased and easy to move (esp. the 3rd valve slide). Take care of slides and valves at home so we don't have issues in rehearsal.
- Play in tune. Check the tuner before class. If you have your own tuner, bring it and use it every day. Know your pitch tendencies. (Check the fingering chart)
- Horns – make sure both sides of your horn are in tune. If you are not sure how to do this, ask a director.
- Be sure you have all the necessary mutes for rehearsal every day if music calls for it.

Percussion

- Start setting up before rehearsal begins. Be picky about logistical details. Set up all equipment so that instrument changes minimal movement.
- Don't wait for equipment problems to be "discovered" by Mr. McKinney. Report them to him before rehearsal.
- Always play keyboards in the warm – up without being asked.
- If you play on a piece that we are rehearsing sit in a **nearby** chair. If the full band is playing, stand at your post even if you have many rests to count.
- Make every note you play look and sound vitally important.
- Be sure to put all equipment away at the end of the rehearsal in its proper place.

