



Celebrating Excellence

**2021-22
HANDBOOK**

The All-Star Brass Bands

2021-22 MEMBER HANDBOOK

Dr. Eric W. Aho, Founder/ Director
Dr. Eric W. Aho, Director, Varsity Band, All-Star Brass and Percussion
Amy Aho, Secretary/ Treasurer

Welcome to the All-Star Brass Bands organization. For those of you returning from the previous years, welcome back. We are looking to you to perform a leadership role as an example for the new members in the organization. To those of you who are new this year, we hope you will find your experience in the All-Star Brass Bands educational, challenging, and rewarding.

ORGANIZATION:

The All-Star Brass Bands are historically four bands: The Junior-Varsity All-Star Brass Band, The Varsity All-Star Brass Band, The All-Star Brass and Percussion, and The All-Star Staff Brass Band. The Junior-Varsity (J-V) and the Varsity All-Stars were founded in 1986 by Eric Aho. The All-Star Brass and Percussion was formed in 1994 in response to the increasing number of eligible students desiring membership in the organization. The Collegiate All-Star Brass Band was formed in 1997 to provide an opportunity for All-Star alumni and staff members to continue playing in a brass band, and re-named the All-Star Staff Band in 1999 to reflect the role of the players actually performing with this band.

The Bands are all ability-based, and loosely age separated: the J-V Band is made up of 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th graders. The Varsity Band is made up of 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th graders, and the All-Star Brass & Percussion is made up of 11th and 12th graders, with the possibility of a few 10th graders. The All-Star Staff Band's members are chosen by the director and invited to audition for a seat in the band. Most are All-Star Alumni, and serve as staff members for the other three bands.

Because of additional personal time constraints, we are currently offering only two of the four bands. The Junior-Varsity All-Star Brass Band will encompass all those students in the 7th, 8th, and 9th grade, and some 10th graders. More advanced 10th graders and all 11th and 12th graders will perform with the All-Star Brass and Percussion.

DECLARATION OF NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The All-Star Brass Bands Educational Fund Inc. does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its' activities or operations.

GOALS:

Our goals for this organization are to perform Brass and Percussion music at the highest level possible. As a member you will rise to this challenge, perform music at an artistic level, excel on your instrument, grow personally, and make great friends. Recently we have auditioned and been invited to perform at several prestigious venues including: the Ohio Music Educators Professional Conference in 2008, the renowned Carnegie Hall, NYC, in 2009, 2014 and 2018, The Great American Brass Band Festival in 2015, and the prestigious Mid-Europe International Music Festival in Vienna, Austria and Schladming, Switzerland. Life changing musical adventures await us.

ATTENDANCE/REHEARSALS:

Attendance at all rehearsals is expected. We use standard British Brass Band instrumentation, which has a very small number of players on each part. Missing even one person can seriously damage a rehearsal. For this reason, any member having more than **3 unexcused absences** will be dropped from the group without further notice, and without refund of membership dues or other paid fees. All school-related functions, family and church commitments are excusable only if the directors are notified in advance. Work schedules are **not** excusable absences.

Please call Julie Raccio (614-562-8633) **before 10:00 p.m. on Saturday evening** if you will not be at Sunday's rehearsal. There is voice mail; please leave a message. In case of inclement weather, email, texting, and the All-Star website, and Remind 101 will be used to notify members of the status of rehearsals.

Rehearsals for the Varsity All-Stars run Sunday afternoon from 1:00 to 3:15 p.m. All-Star Brass and Percussion will run on Sunday afternoon from 4:00 to 6:15 p.m. All members should be warmed up, in seats, ready to rehearse 15 minutes before the designated start time.

During rehearsals, **cell phones are not permitted**. Please remind your students that to get the most out of our weekly rehearsal, it is important that they limit their distractions. If students are seen with their cell phone during rehearsal by a staff member, they will be given a verbal warning. If seen again, the staff member will ask that they place their cell phone on the designated "cell phone table" to resist temptation until the end of rehearsal. If you need to get ahold of your student during rehearsal, please contact Julie Raccio (614-562-8633).

Information on events other than regular rehearsal evenings will be given at least two (2) weeks in advance so that all work schedules and other conflicts can be resolved.

Announcements will be made at a point in the rehearsal determined by the Director. Order fundraising items before rehearsal begins from one of the staff members- these items will be packaged for you during rehearsal and may be picked up at the end of each rehearsal.

MUSICAL EXPECTATIONS:

Members are expected to practice assigned music in preparation for each rehearsal. Rehearsal will be used for musicality and brass and percussion performance concepts. Some sections must be worked out during rehearsals. However, these sections may need repetition and memorization at home. All students are expected to have a pencil with them at all rehearsals.

CHALLENGES:

Any band member may challenge the student sitting next to them in their section. If the band member is challenging outside of their part (i.e., Second Cornet challenging Solo Cornet), the challenge must take place on the upper level part. The challenging student may borrow music from the Business Manager with **one week's notice** in order to practice the part. This music must be returned after the challenge takes place. Upon a successful challenge, the two students will trade music and seats.

Challenge forms are available from the Business Manager or in the back of this handbook. Both students involved in the challenge must sign this form and return it to the Business Manager. Challenges will take place two times during the season. Any challenger who fails to appear at the designated date and time without prior notice to the Business Manager will forfeit the challenge, and may not challenge again until the next challenge date. All challenges will take place during the first part of rehearsal on the scheduled date. If a tie occurs, major scales will be played to determine the winner of the challenge. The winner of a challenge may not be re-challenged until the next challenge date. Challenges are done in the blind fashion to promote fair and unbiased judging. The decision of the challenge judge is final.

INSTRUMENTS:

We are in possession of two matched sets of professional traditional British Brass Band instruments that will be used by members of The All-Star Brass Bands. Tenor trombone players will use their own instruments. Instruments are provided to members for a **\$45** non-refundable user fee that will go toward the cost of maintaining the instrument. The user is expected to pay for any damage to the instrument while it is in their possession. Percussionists are to provide their own sticks and mallets, and will pay the rental fee for the use of the provided percussion equipment.

All brass instruments owned by the All-star Brass Bands are to be protected under the family's homeowner or rental policies for the full replacement value. The replacement value is stated on the instrument rental contract that the student will receive at rehearsal.

Instruments will be protected and maintained in the following manner:

1. No coins, keys, or anything else shall be stored within the case except the instrument, oils, polishing cloths and anything else needed to maintain the instrument.
2. Always wear gloves while practicing the instrument, or polish after each practice session.
3. No jewelry is to be worn. This includes rings, necklaces, etc.
4. Never rest the instrument anywhere except in its case. None of the instruments are to be stood on their bells.
5. Always secure the mouthpiece in the case, preventing it from causing damage to the instrument.
6. Always keep the instrument in impeccable playing condition, including valves, tuning slides, and all valve slides.
7. Never play the instrument with dry valves.
8. Always play with proper hand position by pushing the valve from a vertical position.
9. The band member is responsible for any and all repair. Each instrument has been thoroughly inspected and cleaned. All scratches, dents, and/or anomalies have been recorded.
10. Any damage must be reported immediately. In the case of damage, Dr. Aho will instruct the student and/or parents as to the acceptable procedure to follow for repair. In no case is the parent or student to take the instrument for repair without first consulting Dr. Aho.
11. Failure to comply with the above rules will result in forfeiture of the instrument without return of instrument user fee.

UNIFORMS:

The All-Star Brass Band uniform consists of the following:

White oxford cloth embroidered shirt- included in fees.
Black dress slacks (No Dresses or Skirts Women)
Black socks and belt – no suspenders or nude stockings
Black dress shoes
 No black tennis shoes
 Can be loafer or oxford (Men)
 Pumps or Flats (Women)
Tie issued by ASBB (\$45 replacement fee if lost or ruined).

PERFORMANCES:

Concerts have been scheduled for the 2019-20 season. Refer to the provided schedule for dates, times, and locations. All band members are expected to participate in all performances. Anyone who must be excused must speak with the Director at least three weeks in advance of the performance date.

All students are expected to sell at least 4 tickets. In addition, each band member will receive 2 complementary tickets for use by their parents. The cost for each ticket to be sold is \$5. Any band member not selling all of his assigned tickets is expected to purchase them himself. The proceeds for these ticket sales go toward instrument lease payments and purchase of additional instruments. Tickets will be handed out to each student approximately two weeks before each concert. In the cases where more than one student in a family is involved in the organization, only one set of tickets per family is expected to be sold. **It is not meant that parents purchase these tickets from their children.** The idea is that the students actually sell the tickets to their friends, relatives, neighbors, etc., to gather an audience for our concerts. Our students have done a great job promoting our concerts. It has been meaningful to perform for a full house.

RETREATS:

Weekend retreats are scheduled for each band, which **every student must attend**. See provided schedule for dates. Maps and further information regarding what to bring, schedule, etc. will be handed out at a later date. Each retreat will run from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, when a short performance will be given for parents. Band members should expect to practice their instruments 13-15 hours during this weekend.

TRAVEL AND TOURS:

Often, the All-Stars travel on a performance or competition tour. These trips are a valuable educational and performance opportunity. Usually we participate in college visitations and faculty clinics on our way to our performance destinations. These serve as college visitations, excusing all from school and preserving attendance records. We travel by chartered bus and stay in hotels as needed.

In the past, the All-Stars have visited Ashville (North Carolina), Pittsburgh, Cedar Falls (Iowa), Chicago, Raleigh/Durham, Toronto (Ontario, Canada), Red Wing (Minnesota), Lexington (Kentucky), Washington, D.C., Louisville (Kentucky), Indianapolis, and Cincinnati. Colleges and universities that have hosted us either in clinics, performances or visitations include Carnegie-Mellon University, Duquesne University, Indiana University, Miami University, Ohio University, Otterbein College, Capitol University, Michigan State University, Duke University, Butler University, Indiana State University, University of Louisville, Indiana University, Wright State University, Moorhead State University, North Carolina State Universities at Greensboro and Chapel Hill, University of Kentucky, University of Minnesota, Western Ontario University (London, Ontario, Canada), George Mason University, Northwestern University, Kent State University, Penn State Erie (Behrend Campus, Erie Pa.)

In addition, the All-Stars have participated in the Mardis Gras in New Orleans, the Grand Celebration of Brass Bands in Cedar Falls, Iowa, The Great American Brass Band Festival in Danville, Kentucky, the Arts and Brass Festival at Indiana University in Indiana, Pennsylvania, the Brass Band Festival in Ashland, Kentucky, and were invited to perform on the Today Show.

Notable clinicians who have worked with the Bands have been Torgney Hanson, James Curnow, Geoffrey Brand, Jack Stamp, William Himes, John Whitwell, Bob Grachesky, James Olcott, Jack Lyles, Paul Droste, Jim Hile, James Swearingen, Gary Tirey, John Gray, Ronald Holz, David Shaffer, Brahm Gregson, Jon Woods, Frederick Speck and Gary Viebranz.

RULES & REGULATIONS:

The organization has very few rules, but these **MUST** be followed at all times.

1. We leave everything better than we found it. This includes rehearsal areas, retreat facilities, concert facilities, buses, and most of all, each other.
2. All-Star Brass Band members are respectful at all times.
3. No alcohol, tobacco, drugs or other illegal substances will be tolerated at any time.

4. No one will leave a rehearsal, tour, concert, or other activity before its conclusion without the director's approval. A note from the parent or guardian of the student is required before permission will be granted. If a question arises about anything being done or to be done, **ASK A DIRECTOR FIRST!** As a member of the All-Star Brass Bands, you represent yourself, your family, your community, school, and The All-Star Brass Bands. Please conduct yourself accordingly.
5. The above rules apply to rehearsal discipline, travel etiquette, social functions, personal hygiene and habits, and each other.

Any student not adhering to these rules will be immediately released from All-Star membership, without return of any paid fees.

FUNDRAISERS:

Numerous fundraisers are offered throughout the All-Star season to assist families in paying the expenses of membership in the organization. Many students have earned all of their membership obligations by using these fundraisers. Students being considered for scholarships will be expected to do their fair share in working fundraising activities. Other students have asked their Band Booster organization, parents' service clubs, or other organizations for sponsorship. We have also found that many parents' workplaces are willing to offer matching grants or donations in exchange for volunteer time to the organization. Check with your employer for more information.

Each fundraiser is strictly optional. We recognize that many of the schools are also participating in some of the same fundraisers, and so we offer a variety of fundraisers in the hopes that each student will find a fundraiser in which to participate that will benefit him/her. Many students raise all their needed cash through our fundraisers.

A handout describing the fundraiser will be available at the time each sale starts to help answer any questions that may arise.

SPECIAL NOTE: *Dr. Aho is a published author of historical documents and recognized expert on Brass Bands, The Ohio State University Marching Band, and Instrumental Music Education. He has served as an entertaining keynote speaker at many service organization meetings and events. If you are member of Kiwanis, Sertoma, Lions Club, Rotary Club, etc., Dr. Aho is able and willing to speak. Since each speaking engagement can be used to raise scholarship money for the students from your area, parents are urged to contact their local community service organizations for financial support and sponsorship.*

SUMMARY OF TUITION/FEES:

Tuition is \$495 (for new members) for the regular season. This fee covers the following expenses.

Instrument Rental Fee**	Sheet Music
Membership Dues	Guest Clinicians
Uniform Fee	Photocopying
Retreat	Postage
Rehearsal Facility Rental	

Our more local tours cost approx. \$450. Final pricing depends on transportation costs, location, and length of stay. This fee is **not** included in the tuition/fees for the regular season since we do not tour every year. **Tour fees are non-refundable.** On the occasion that we do a more extensive tour, like "Carnegie Hall", those trips are priced accordingly. **Fundraising helps defray much of the cost of trips and tours.**

****For those students using All-Star Brass Bands – supplied instruments. Tenor Trombone players subtract \$45.**

Scholarships, based on financial need, are available for those members who apply. Applications must be made by **December 5, 2021**, by writing a letter asking for scholarship help. The letter should be directed to Dr. Aho, and all information contained is confidential. Scholarships will be awarded by **January 30, 2022**. In the meantime, monthly payments toward tuition should be made. Full scholarships are not available. ***The final scholarship amount is based upon the amount of fundraising effort the student makes on their own behalf, and the number of scholarships applications received.*** Scholarship recipients are assigned a student staff position as a part of their scholarship responsibilities. **Recruiting scholarships are also available if and when openings occur or have not been filled through the audition process. These scholarship opportunities are announced during the first rehearsal and through email to parents.**

Season Fees:	\$495.00 cash/check	(for new members)
	\$450.00 cash/check	(for new Tenor Trombone Players)
	\$455.00 cash/check	(for returning members who already have a shirt)
	\$425.00 cash/check	(for returning Tenor Trombone Players)

Total Tuition is due at the 1st rehearsal. Payments can be made with cash, check, or credit card (convenience fee will be added) made payable to All-Star Brass Bands. If other arrangements need to be made for payment please see Dr. Aho to discuss. **All tuition and fees are non-refundable.**

COMMUNICATIONS:

A roster will be published for each band with all street and email addresses, phone numbers, and parent names. We will do most of our communicating via our website, email and text. With new technology and website capabilities we will use the website for public information and recruitment. For members and parents we will use a private email, and texting system, where important announcements and news will be posted and transmitted. However, we must pass out some items at rehearsal, i.e. receipts. We encourage parents to check their child's music folder to find important material knowing that the students will forget to give them to you. A working email address is vital to the success of our communications. Students and parents must commit to checking their email, the website, and texts often. (The website is always being improved.)

STAFF:

The All-Star Staff is made up of All-Star Alumni and interested collegiate music students and music educators. The staff members' duties are to conduct sectional rehearsals, listen to student challenges, assist in the business of the bands, and to assist in the rehearsal room. Other staff duties are assigned by the Director or the Business Manager.

All questions, financial or otherwise, should be directed to a Staff Member or Business Manager to allow the Directors to conduct rehearsals. Notes regarding excused absences, etc. may also be given to the Business Manager. They will make sure the Director is aware of all information.

THANK YOU

We truly appreciate you as a member of our organization. We will do our best to make sure your learning experience is both meaningful and worthwhile.

If you have any questions about the organization or this handbook, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to a great season!

CHALLENGE FORM

_____ issues a challenge to
(Challenger)

(Challengee)

Date and Time of Challenge: _____

Director's Signature

Music to be used for Challenge

#1: _____

#2: _____

#3: _____

Scales will be used as tie breakers. Scales will be chosen by Challenge judge.

CHALLENGE FORM

_____ issues a challenge to
(Challenger)

(Challengee)

Date and Time of Challenge: _____

Director's Signature

Music to be used for Challenge

#1: _____

#2: _____

#3: _____

Scales will be used as tie breakers. Scales will be chosen by Challenge judge.

WAIVER/RELEASE FOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASES INCLUDING COVID-19

ASSUMPTION OF RISK / WAIVER OF LIABILITY AGREEMENT In consideration of being allowed to participate in lessons, competitions, performances and other activities in conjunction with the All-Star Brass Bands Educational Fund, Inc. DBA The All-Star Brass Bands, the undersigned acknowledges, appreciates, and agrees that:

1. Travel to and from and participation in rehearsals, performances, and other related events and activities pose a risk of possible exposure to and illness from infectious diseases including, but not limited to, MRSA, influenza, and COVID-19. While rules, precautions and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious illness and death does exist; and,
2. I agree, represent and warrant that neither the undersigned, nor any registered participant child(ren) shall visit or participate in the activities of The All-Star Brass Bands within 10 days after (1) returning from outside the United States, (2) exposure to any person returning from outside the United States, or (3) exposure to any person who has a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19; OR if he or she (1) experiences symptoms of COVID-19, including without limitation, fever, cough or shortness of breath, or (2) has a suspected or diagnosed/confirmed case of COVID-19. The undersigned agrees to notify Eric Aho immediately if any of the foregoing access/use restrictions may apply; and,
3. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation; and,
4. I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation as regards protection against infectious diseases. If, however, I observe and any unusual or significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the nearest official immediately; and,
5. I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS The All-Star Brass Bands Educational Fund, Inc., DBA The All-Star Brass Bands, its officers, officials, agents, and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event ("RELEASEES"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL ILLNESS, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE, to the fullest extent permitted by law. I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IF FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT. This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian, with legal responsibility for this participant, have read and explained the provisions in this waiver/release to my child/ward including the risks of presence and participation and his/her personal responsibilities for adhering to the rules and regulations for protection against communicable diseases. Furthermore, my child/ward understands and accepts these risks and responsibilities. I for myself, my spouse, and child/ward do consent and agree to his/her release provided above for all the Releasees and myself, my spouse, and child/ward do release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees for any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's/ward's presence or participation in these activities as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THEIR NEGLIGENCE, to the fullest extent provided by law.

EXCUSED ABSENCE REQUEST FORM

Name _____ Band _____

Date of Requested Absence _____

Reason for Absence _____

Student Signature

Parent Signature

EXCUSED ABSENCE REQUEST FORM

Name _____ Band _____

Date of Requested Absence _____

Reason for Absence _____

Student Signature

Parent Signature

EXCUSED ABSENCE REQUEST FORM

Name _____ Band _____

Date of Requested Absence _____

Reason for Absence _____

Student Signature

Parent Signature

2021-22 ALL-STAR BRASS BANDS HANDBOOK

As a member of The All-Star Brass Bands, I have read and understand my responsibilities and agree to follow them as stated in this handbook.

Print Member Name

Member Signature

As a parent of this member of The All-Star Brass Bands, I have read and understand my son/daughter's responsibilities to this organization.

Parent's Signature

Date

_____ I received a copy of this agreement for my records.

All-Star Member Photography Release

We request permission for your child: _____, to have his/her picture taken or to be videotaped by the All-Star Staff, Parents, or local news organizations during the 2021-2022 season. If permission is granted, your child's photograph may be used in publications and promotional pieces for print and electronic media.

_____ Yes, I give my permission.

_____ No, I do not give my permission.

Retain this copy for your records.

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As a member of The All-Star Brass Bands, I have read and understand my responsibilities and agree to follow them as stated in this handbook.

Print Member Name

Member Signature

As a parent of this member of The All-Star Brass Bands, I have read and understand my son/daughter's responsibilities to this organization.

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Return this copy to Business Manager by Dec. 5, 2021