

A Few Full Band Rehearsal Guidelines

Now that we are beginning to rehearse with the entire band, there are a few easy guidelines that we can follow to make rehearsal run very smoothly. In any large rehearsal, the #1 rule to follow is:

**The needs of the group must always come before the needs of the individual;
the individual must always help the group.**

This is a great general rule for any large group activity. There are a few specific guidelines for our rehearsal that you, the individual, must apply on your own. Many of these are ideas we have been working on all year in preparation for this rehearsal and for next year when you have daily full band rehearsals.

- **Always add** to the rehearsal atmosphere through cooperation and attentiveness.
- Never be a distraction to the rehearsal in any way (i.e. – talking, unnecessary sounds or movement, etc.)
- Follow all of the positions (Ready, Relaxed & Playing) and **try to be the first one to move to each position, all of the time.**
- Always pay attention with your eyes, ears and brain. You should always be thinking about what the group is doing and what the next logical step would be.
- Limit questions. When asking a question, you should put this sentence in front of your question:

“Every person in this room should stop what they are doing because I must ask this question.”
- ***Listen, Listen, Listen.*** When playing with a full band, it is vital that everyone work together to correct every aspect of playing (tempo, rhythm, tone, pitch, etc.)
- Always be involved in the rehearsal, even when another section is being worked with. ***How are you without the ball or puck?***
- It is important that you truly attempt to make any changes that are asked of you. If the band has to rehearse a section 3 or 4 times to make the same correction, this causes the rehearsal to bog down.
- Stamina. In other words, you must do all of these things through the entire rehearsal. Never let up.
- Realize that there is always another level to reach, so realize that corrections will happen, and then more information will be given.
- Always keep a very positive attitude. Your enjoyment should come from rehearsing well and helping the band improve quickly.

Work together with your fellow band students to help the rehearsal go smoothly. Have a great time!! ☺