

SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY

Department of Music



RAM BAND

RAM BAND

Syllabus & Handbook

RAM BAND Staff

Dr. Scott Hippensteel, Director of Instrumental Studies

Frank Arts Center (CA) 110 (304) 876-5129

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Frank Mahoney, Music Arranger

Dan Kalantarian, Drill Writer

RAM BAND LEADERSHIP 2018

Director: Dr. Scott Hippensteel

Field Commanders: Shania Isenberg & Paul Hann

Band Manager: Leanna Showe

Captains-

Woodwind: Samantha Vaughn

Brass: Kevin Mitchell

Section Leaders-

Flute: Tara Foster

Clarinet: Josh Smith

Saxophone: Jordan Shifflett & Kyle Colliflower

Trumpet: Faith Kirschling & Christopher Goodridge

Mellophone: Anna Waston

Trombone/Baritone: Kevin Grega

Tuba: Jonathan Prematta

Front Ensemble: Anthony Gabourel

Drumline: Griffin Haines

Colorguard: Alyssa Lewis

Course Information

RAM BAND (Marching Band) MUEN 160 & 360 (1 credit)

Class: MTWR (3:15 – 4:30 pm) Frank Arts Center (CA) 166 & Intramural Practice Field

Website: <http://www.shepherd.edu/music/marching-band/>

The Shepherd University RAM BAND (marching band) is a unique show band comprised of color guard, frontline and battery percussion, and winds. The Ram Band is in great demand throughout the Mid-Atlantic region as they represent Shepherd excellence to tens of thousands each year. All Shepherd students are eligible to participate in RAM BAND.

Course Requirements

Shepherd University Ensemble Attendance Policy

- Full participation in ensemble dress rehearsals and performances, including tour performances, is required. The only exceptions to this policy would be documented medical emergencies or a death in the immediate family.
- Ensemble members are expected to attend all rehearsals. Any absence from class must have written documentation. If you must be absent please call 304-876-5129 or email shippens@shepherd.edu PRIOR to the start of the rehearsal. Failure to be in attendance at rehearsals and performances will lower your grade.
- Absences due to professional engagements outside of Shepherd University are not excused. While we do not want to discourage students from pursuing professional opportunities, they cannot conflict with established ensemble rehearsals and performances.
- Rehearsals will begin on time, so please be early and be prepared. Members should arrive early (no later than 5 minutes prior to rehearsal) and should be set up and ready to rehearse at the designated rehearsal time. Rehearsal locations may be adjusted due to weather conditions. Please check social media or text messages for updates. Students who arrive late to rehearsal (unexcused) may be asked to run a lap. Students who make a habit of arriving late, being unprepared, or fail to perform in a satisfactory manner may be removed from performances by the band director.
- As a Shepherd University student, you **MUST** attend class regularly and engage in the requirements for each rehearsal; otherwise, your financial aid may be revoked either partially or in full. This would result in an amount due by you to the University immediately. Please refer to <http://shepherd.edu/faoweb> for more details.

2. RAM BAND Course Expectations:

- Students are expected to have music and drill memorized by the first performance.
- Students are responsible for their Uniform, Music, Instrument, Pencil, Flip Folder (stand tunes), Equipment, Gloves, Positive Attitude & Appropriate Behavior. It is unacceptable to be unprepared.
- Members are expected to practice their music on a regular basis and be prepared PRIOR to all rehearsals. Take challenging parts to your applied lesson. Any member of the ensemble that is unprepared to perform at a musically acceptable level may have their grade lowered or be removed from the ensemble at the discretion of the director. Be committed to excellence by being prepared, on time, and engaged as a vital member of the ensemble. It is unacceptable to be unprepared.
- Members should maintain a folder with all music and the measures must be numbered in all parts.
- BRING A PENCIL TO ALL REHEARSALS!
- Members are responsible for their music, instrument, pencil, attitude & behavior.

- Cell phone use DURING rehearsal is strictly prohibited. Anyone using a phone during rehearsal will have their phone confiscated until the end of rehearsal.

3. RAM BAND Stand Etiquette:

Members of the RAM BAND must continually strive to conduct themselves in a positive manner that shows respect to the band and Shepherd University. Always greet fellow band members with respect and friendship. Please be sure to cooperate with staff, field commanders, band manager, and section leaders to ensure a successful program. Students should remain in their assigned areas at games and should not leave without permission from band leadership. Non-band personnel are not to be seated in the band block, nor are they allowed to pass through the block. Every member must have a pencil, music, and drill charts at rehearsal until the show is memorized. Take pride in presenting sportsmanlike conduct toward visiting teams and bands. Be committed to excellence by being prepared, being on time, and working as part of the team.

4. Alcohol and Drug Policy:

Smoking, use of any tobacco products, or consumption of alcohol while in uniform is prohibited. Failure to comply adversely reflects upon the individual, the band, and the university. Any member of the Ram Band who is intoxicated or hung over at any time during a rehearsal, game, or trip will be removed from the band and will receive a failing grade. No alcoholic beverages of any kind will be permitted at any rehearsal, game, or trip with the marching band.

5. Health & Wellness Policy:

Members of the RAM BAND must continually strive to take good care of themselves during rehearsals and performances by eating healthy foods, bringing water to every rehearsal, wearing appropriate clothing for weather conditions. Any health condition must be documented in writing with the band director. Hearing health is crucial to the success of all musicians. Please wear the earplugs provided during band camp for all indoor practices. Any student who is not feeling well should inform the band staff immediately and get prompt, appropriate medical attention. Students should take time to stretch out PRIOR to rehearsals and performances daily. Health forms must be completed and return to band staff.

6. Grading Procedures:

Rehearsals and performance will be graded on a rubric using the following criteria:

- **Progress: (15%)** Evidence of significant progress during each week and throughout the semester in marching and maneuvering, mastery of musical style and performance. It is expected that students will make specific improvements as discussed each week.
- **Preparation: (15%)** Quality and consistency of preparation, including accuracy of notes and rhythms, attention to dynamics, phrasing, and drill. Students should be prepared for each sectional, rehearsal, and performance.
- **Attitude: (15%)** Responding to instruction in a flexible, compliant & respectful manner.

- **Comprehension: (15%)** The student must display the ability to comprehend and apply what is being taught into his or her own performance. Mastery of marching and playing required for various styles and tempi.
- **Proficiency Evaluations: (15%)** Each student will be required to complete a proficiency evaluation during the semester. These evaluations will include performing prepared selections of the marching band show for section leaders or staff.
- **Attendance: (25%)** This includes sectionals, rehearsals and performances.

The final course grade is based on work of the full semester and not just one performance. As this is an ensemble course, all absences from practice after the first will result in a ½ letter grade drop. Any unexcused absence from a performance results in a two-letter grade drop.

Grading Scale: A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = below 59

Academic Integrity:

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Shepherd University Academic Integrity Procedures found in the **Shepherd University Student Handbook** (<http://www.shepherd.edu/students/studenthandbook.pdf>).

Disability Support Services:

The Office of Disability Support Services at Shepherd University believes that, "the first step to success is access." Disability Support Services is committed to working closely with individuals with exceptionalities to meet their academic and housing needs. Students requesting any disability related accommodation should contact the Office of Disability Support Services at 304-876-5122. This includes, but is not limited to students with visual or hearing impairments, students with diagnosed disabilities that affect their learning and in need of academic accommodations, and students requesting specific housing accommodations for health-related reasons. Students must be registered with the Office of Disability Support Services and present their certified accommodation letter to each of their instructors as early in the semester as possible prior to using any granted academic accommodation. For more information, please visit <http://www.shepherd.edu/disability>

Students are encouraged to sign up for "RAVE alerts" (<http://www.shepherd.edu/university/rave/>) in order to be informed of campus closures. Also, students are encouraged to check the Shepherd website for additional information (<http://www.shepherd.edu/>).

SAKAI:

Each student in this course is expected to check the SAKAI website from the Shepherd homepage for assignments, course updates, media resources,

DROPBOX

Students will be able to download music and media from a dedicated Dropbox link.

RAM BAND Performance Schedule

(Times are subject to change)

Friday, September 14	Pep Rally @ D-Hall (Show Shirts & shorts)	5 - 6 pm
Saturday, September 15	SHEPHERD FOOTBALL vs. Glenville State	12 pm
Saturday, September 22	RAM BAND LOCAL TOUR Exhibitions @ Spring Mills HS in Martinsburg, WV & Woodgrove HS in Purcellville, VA	2-11 pm
Friday, September 28	Founder's Day Parade	3 pm
Saturday, September 29	SHEPHERD FOOTBALL vs. Concord (Homecoming Parade and Game) RAM BAND REUNION	12 pm
Sunday, September 30	COLLEGIATE MB Festival – Allentown, PA	All Day
Saturday, October 13	SHEPHERD FOOTBALL vs. Fairmont Host Jefferson High School Band Exhibition @ Musselman HS, WV	12 pm Evening
Monday, October 15	Frederick County MB Festival – Middletown HS	Evening
Saturday, October 27	SHEPHERD FOOTBALL vs. WV Wesleyan	12 pm
Saturday, November 10	SHEPHERD FOOTBALL vs. UVA-Wise	12 pm
November 17 & 24	<i>Possible Football Playoffs (Saturdays)</i>	TBA
Saturday, December 1	Shepherdstown Christmas Parade	10 am
December 1, 8, 15	<i>Possible Football Playoffs (Saturdays)</i>	TBA

Communication in Ram Band

Effective communication is vital to the success of any organization and RAM Band is no exception to this rule. In order to maintain beneficial and smart communication this season, a group chat system is being set in place. Established by each section leader, all sections of the band will have some form of communication between RAM Band members and leadership. Each member of the band will also receive the cell phone number of their section leader so individual communication can be established if needed. The form of communication suggested is the app "GroupMe" which allows users to communicate in an effective way regardless of the type of cell phone the user may have. The RAM Band leadership team is using a "GroupMe" to discuss information pertaining to them. If not everyone in the section can use the app, a simple text message group chat will suffice. The "GroupMe" or group chat will be used to alert section leaders when you arrive to the bus for exhibition and distance performances as well as communicating important information as directed by Dr. Hippensteel.

If you are going to be absent or late for any RAM Band rehearsal or performance there are two people you must alert: your section leader and Dr. Hippensteel. It is not the responsibility of your section leader or another Band member to tell leadership about your absence. When contacting Dr. Hippensteel about an absence or tardiness email him at shippens@shepherd.edu saying when you will be absent along with proof of the absence. Any undocumented absence will be deemed unexcused.

School Instruments

For tubas, mellophones, baritones, bari/tenor saxophones, or any student who needs to use a school instrument for Ram Band must fill out a form provided by Dr. Hippensteel. Your section leader will provide you with an instrument and you must find your instruments serial number, make/model, condition, etc. and fill it out on the form. You will sign and date the form and return it to Dr. Hippensteel. This form is a contract that states you will not take or break the instrument and you are held responsible for its well-being. Take care of school owned instruments as if they were your own. This involves cleaning and reporting any maintenance issues as necessary. Abuse of band equipment may result in a monetary fine or grade penalty. All instruments will be returned in good condition following the last performance of the season. All instruments should be cleaned and polished for performances. Please notify the director immediately of any damage or significant change in the performance of school instruments. Your section leader and Dr. Hippensteel will be happy to assist you with whatever problems arise!

Uniforms

Each band member will be fitted and issued a band uniform for the marching season. It is your responsibility to keep your uniform safe, clean, and neat. Black marching shoes must be clean and free of stains or marks. Black crew socks should be worn with the band uniform. Uniform pants and jacket should be hung carefully between performances. Hat must be clean. Please do not wear jewelry or watches while in uniform. Visible piercings must be removed while in uniform. Hair should not touch the uniform collar. Longer hair should be worn up at all times while in uniform. The complete uniform should be worn in the manner intended unless otherwise instructed. The official Ram Band T-shirt must be worn at all times under the marching band uniform. Band staff and leaders will conduct uniform inspections prior to performances.

Uniform Care

***NEVER PUT YOUR UNIFORM IN A WASHING MACHINE OR DRYER!
They are DRY CLEAN ONLY!***

JACKET

Jackets zip in the back. Please ask someone to help you make sure the jacket is zipped completely. There are no collar guards on these jackets. If your collar becomes stained or soiled you may use Febreze and/or a damp cloth to gently clean the color. Please do not use soap or detergent and DO NOT MACHINE WASH. Jackets must be kept on a hanger when not in use.

PANTS

Pants must be kept folded and on a hanger when not in use. In the case of wrinkles, carefully iron or use anti-wrinkle spray (recommended: Downy). Take extra care in maintaining the snap adjustments on the sides of each leg to make sure they are even and keep the pants at the correct height so the backs of the pants are not coming loose and being marched on.

PLUMES & HATS

Treat the plumes with care as they are fragile and feathers will easily fall out. Plumes will be distributed at each performance as weather permits. Shakos are to be worn with the bill two-fingers above the nose with chin straps. Shakos must travel in the plastic hat boxes provided. Use a damp cloth on Clorox wipe on the inside of the hats to clean. Please allow hats to dry completely before placing them in the hat boxes after performances in wet conditions. RAM BAND baseball caps and show t-shirts are considered part of the uniform and must be worn at all designated performances.

GAUNTLETS & GLOVES

Gauntlets are worn on each wrist with the gold button on the outside (R or L). White cotton gloves should be clean and free of stains and should be worn at all performances. See your section leaders for proper adjustments for individual playing concerns (woodwinds). Extra gloves may be purchased from the Band Manager.

GARMENT BAG

Each uniform will be issued in a RAM BAND garment bag. Take care to keep all parts of your band uniform together and in the garment bag for travel.

RAINGEAR

On games occurring during inclement weather conditions, students will be issued a raincoat. These coats are numbered and lined. The hood will fit over the shako when zipped. A damp cloth may be used to remove minor dirt and stains. Please allow the raincoat to dry completely after any damp performances.

AFTER BEING OUT IN THE RAIN

Ram Band Uniforms are absolutely not allowed to be stored in damp environments. In the case of a performance in the rain or snow, each part of the uniform must be hung up in a dry environment immediately following the performance. Pants, jackets, hats, and raincoats must be hung separately. Plumes must be removed from the hat and hung upside down to dry. After every performance your uniform should be allowed to dry completely (Febreze is acceptable).

If you stain your uniform in any way, it must be dry cleaned before returning at the end of the semester. If not, you will be charged for the dry cleaning of your uniform.

Responsibilities of Ram Band Member

Every Ram Band member is responsible for attending every rehearsal and performance that takes place. If you are not able to attend, the proper steps should be taken to excuse the absence. Members also need to arrive on time for rehearsals so that the rehearsals can start on time. The popular saying is, "To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is unacceptable." Every member is also responsible for being prepared for all rehearsals and performances throughout the season. For rehearsals you should have your instrument, music (this includes sidelines in your flip folder), charts, water, and appropriate clothing for outside rehearsals. For games and festivals you should be prepared with all parts of your uniform which includes: jacket, pants, black socks, black marching shoes, hat, gloves, and gauntlets. Ram Band members are also responsible for learning and memorizing music and charts at a reasonable pace. Finally, members are responsible for creating a fun learning experience and helping Ram Band achieve excellence, pride, and commitment.

RAM BAND in the Stands

What We Do: Represent ourselves, the band, Music Department, and University by displaying;

EXCELLENCE, PRIDE, AND COMMITMENT

- Stand as a RAM Band
- Sit as a RAM Band
- Wear our uniforms as a RAM Band
- Pay attention and be ready to play at all times as a RAM Band
- Politely ask our friends to meet with us after the game
- Politely ask people to not walk through the band
- Have a bottle of water and help pass them to band members
- Refrain from eating while in uniform
- Cheer for the team in a positive and encouraging way
- Stay engaged in the game and support Shepherd
- Inform your section leader before being excused
- Assist the Band Manager without being asked
- Keep our Ram Band section clean and neat
- Handle issues by going through the appropriate steps:
 - 1) Personal Integrity
 - 2) Section Leaders
 - 3) Field Commanders
 - 4) Dr. Hippensteel/ Staff

We are a family, we are friends, we are musicians, we keep our DIRT in house. We show respect and we use good manners. Take a moment to stop and think before you speak or act.

Field Commander Responsibilities

- Coordinating/collaborating with Section Leaders and Dr. Hippensteel
- Conducting/music (full show)
- Helping run portions of all rehearsals
- Assisting in the pre-planning of rehearsals
- Motivator, leader, help everyone know their importance
- Be vocal/be supportive of the other FC
- Work with Captains on basics
- Help set specific goals for rehearsals

Section Leader Responsibilities

- Principal student leadership position for each section of Ram Band.
- Works closely with Field Commanders, Captains, and Director to coordinate instruction and performance of their section.
- Records daily attendance at rehearsals.
- Conducting sectional rehearsals.
- Coordinates and oversees activities and communication of their section.
- Conducts uniform inspections for performances and reports to the Director.
- Serves as a motivational force to the members of their section.
- Sets the highest standard of performance, citizenship and professionalism on and off the field.

Brass/WW Captain Responsibilities

- Act as a median between section leaders and field commanders
- Responsible for correcting visual issues in the band
- Responsible for taking reference videos of rehearsal performances
- Responsible for running visual technique exercises
- Responsible for establishing a uniform technique to marching
- Responsible for relaying to section leaders what to work on visually with their sections
- Responsible to assist in devising daily basic drill exercises and visual enhancement

Band Manager Responsibilities

Field setup and tear down

1. They will make sure the field is lined for rehearsals.
2. They will make sure all of the pit and sound equipment and the podium are setup and torn down for every rehearsal.
3. They will organize a schedule for every band member to help set up or tear down all of the equipment during the season.
4. They will train and instruct members for the jobs that need done.
5. They will hold all members accountable for the jobs they sign up for. They will make sure the members are showing up and helping get equipment set up or put away properly.
6. The band manager will communicate with section leaders, field commanders, or Dr. Hippensteel about any problems with people committing to the jobs they signed up for.
7. They will help with prepping and handing out music and drill for rehearsals.
8. They will help with prepping, handing out, and collecting drill dots for rehearsals.
9. They will maintain a binder of daily attendance as reported by section leaders.
10. They will assist the band and Dr. Hippensteel with anything that needs to be done for rehearsals.

Travel

1. They will pick up the truck with Dr. Hippensteel.
2. They will make sure the truck is packed properly with the help of the pit and traveling crew.
3. They will ride or drive the truck to the locations where the band travels with the pit & traveling crew.
4. They will help with unloading the equipment once the band gets to the location with the pit and traveling crew.
5. They will help with loading back up the equipment to return to school. They will also help put everything away with the pit and traveling crew once returning to Shepherd University.
6. They will return the truck with Dr. Hippensteel.

Stadium Rehearsals

1. They will drive the truck and park at designated area in stadium.
2. They will oversee set up and tear down of all field equipment.
3. They will organize a system for getting all sound, staging, and frontline equipment on the field in a timely manner.
4. They will make sure all equipment is protected from weather damage and secured.
5. They will assist the band and Dr. Hippensteel with anything that needs to be done for rehearsals.

Game days

1. They will pick up the truck with Dr. Hippensteel.
2. They will do all of the same steps as traveling to get the truck to the stadium for the games and returning all of the equipment to the shed.
3. They will oversee set-up and tear-down of drum-major podium and drum stands.
4. They will help with making sure things run smoothly in the stands.

Shows

1. They will help get equipment on and off the field with the pit and traveling crew.
2. They will control the sound equipment during the show.
3. They will help troubleshoot any problems that may arise during the show.

RAM BAND CAMP

Band Camp 2018 will begin on **Saturday, August 18th** with our opening session at Noon in the Frank Center for the Arts. Students will need to move into their residence halls between 10 am and noon on Saturday (details will be sent in a later mailing). Students should expect to be outside much of the week and wear appropriate clothing. Sunscreen and water bottles are required. All students must wear sneakers during band camp. Absolutely no flip flips or sandals allowed.

The Band Camp Fee is just **\$60** this year and will include: RAM BAND baseball cap, show t-shirt, hoodie, and toque (beanie). Please bring payment with you to Band Camp as cash or check made out to Shepherd University.

Band Camp concludes with an exhibition performance in RAM Stadium on **Thursday, August 23rd at 7:00 pm**. Admission is FREE and everyone is welcome to attend!

Please take a few moments to prepare for RAM BAND Camp.

- ✓ Register for RAM BAND on RAIL (MUEN 360 for Upperclassmen & MUEN 160 for Freshmen) (Freshmen & Transfer students will do this at Advisement & Registration in June while on campus)
- ✓ Secure black marching shoes - Dinkle Vanguards)
- ✓ Purchase Flip Folder (8 – 10 pages) & lyre
- ✓ Listen to the originals of each piece in the show!
- ✓ Check Shepherd email regularly for updates
- ✓ Expect information about music downloads, printable parts, and Band Camp details in early August.

Ram Band Camp Shopping List

- 1 gallon water cooler
- Sunscreen (at least 30 spf)
- Aloe Vera (if you decide to ignore the previous item)
- Bug spray
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Backpack
- Binder w/ sheet protectors (for music)
- Pencils
- Highlighters
- Fanny pack (for drill book)
- Snacks

-**Proper footwear (tennis shoes or running shoes, ABSOLUTELY NO flip flops, crocs, boots, sandals)**

-Multiple pairs of socks (rain happens)

-Band-aids (blisters happen)

-Carabiner clips (excellent for clipping your water cooler to your bag)

-**Black marching shoes (Dinkles is the brand that we use)**

-**Flip folder and lyre for stand tunes (found at Music and Arts)**

-Valve oil (brass)

-Cork grease (woodwinds)

-\$ for extra gloves

-Chapstick w/ vitamin E

***Items in bold font are required**

I am trusting everyone to take care of these items BEFORE Band Camp –Dr. H

“COMMITMENT is what transforms a promise into reality. It is the words that speak boldly of your intentions. And the actions which speak louder than the words. It is making the time when there is none. Coming through time after time after time, year after year after year. Commitment is the stuff character is made of; the power to change the face of things. It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism.” ~ Abraham Lincoln



EXCELLENCE • PRIDE • COMMITMENT