

The Funk Band Specifics

- Each member of the funk band is required to have a 3-ring binder for keeping track of written music, handouts and notes, along with some clear plastic sleeves for protecting your music. In addition, this binder should include some blank music staff paper and some notebook paper for writing music notation and taking notes. You are expected to bring all your music, handouts and notes along with a pencil to every rehearsal (no exceptions). **Note: If you fail to bring your organized music and a pencil to rehearsal (including handouts and notes,) you will not be allowed to rehearse. If this begins to become a habit, you will be asked to leave the program.** Sharing a bandmate's music is not an acceptable alternative – you must have your own music in order to rehearse.
- Music along with band news, program and other relevant information will be posted regularly on the band's web pages at <http://www.ulsfunk.com/>. Each student is responsible for the music and information posted on these web pages. If possible, you should download the music, but if you cannot, you can click on the links and just listen. Music will also be distributed via portable thumb drives (flash drives). Students are expected to know how to access this music and download it into their regular music player. If you anticipate problems with this, you should see me immediately for help.
- Rehearsal times for the entire group and/or various sectionals are subject to others' use of the school facilities. As such, flexibility is a must when considering our regular weekly rehearsals. Variations in the schedule will be kept to a minimum if possible, but it is a reality our program needs to remain aware of at all times. In general, however, our rehearsal times are Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:45 - 8:45 pm and on Sunday afternoons from 3 - 6 pm (sometimes later). Each spring (generally late February or early March), the group comes together for an intensive week-end music retreat ("mini-chilla"), during which time we focus entirely on our music for the week-end, set-up a recording studio and learn studio recording skills. The dates for the retreat will be announced well in advance and students are expected to be in attendance for the duration of the retreat.
- Learning to working together in a small group for the benefit of others takes very specific commitments and skills. Each student is expected to practice their instrument each day in order to develop their talents as a musician and to work on the group's repertoire in order to help the band progress and ultimately perform with a high degree of competence. In addition, each student is expected to contribute to an uplifted and helpful rehearsal environment by being prepared, by offering their own insights and skills and by encouraging their band mates to excel and reach their highest potential. Students who are unable to make these sort of commitments to the group will be asked to leave the program.
- Finally, the ensemble strives not only to create high quality music, but to place ourselves and our music into the greater picture of our community and world. As such, the group actively promotes and participates in projects around the school and community that reflect our growing awareness of the bigger picture and our place in it. For example, last year, the funk band hosted and contributed to a number of recycling events at the school.

Eight Expectations of the Funk Band:

1. *That our time together as an ensemble is "special".*
2. *That the sounds we make are "beautiful".*
3. *That each member contributes positively toward every other member's development as a musician and as a person.*
4. *That we are community and "team-oriented" and develop our skills in an atmosphere built upon mutual respect and friendliness.*
5. *That we are "goal oriented" in terms of musical achievement and performance.*
6. *That we are committed to the highest music/visual/technical standards of a contemporary performing ensemble.*
7. *That individuals learn to prepare "independently" away from the rehearsal (woods)ed).*
8. *That we work to integrate music, ourselves and our own point of view into the greater perspective of the world.*