

THE BASSETT HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM



Band Handbook
2019-2020

Band Students and Parents:

Welcome to one of the most exciting experiences in which you can be a part- the band! Now, more than ever, we have information to justify why we participate in this demanding, yet rewarding, activity. Experts have concluded that the study of music helps with spatial reasoning, test taking, and overall quality of life! Factor in social skills, emotional development, leadership training, group interaction, aesthetic perception, music-making, and the discipline of being in a band program, and I don't know why anyone would not want to be involved in a successful band program like the one at Bassett High School. The ultimate goal is lifelong understanding and appreciation for high-quality music education!

Everyone should read the information in the handbook, even veterans. Some of the information has changed, so make sure you're informed. Most questions can be answered by consulting *the handbook*, and policies will be adjusted from year to year as the need arises to clarify issues within the program. It is my hope that the information contained in this handbook will both inform and inspire! The "Parent Page" is designed to give guidance to parents; read it carefully to gain important insights. Students need to know we think that what they do is important. You will quickly find that band is truly a family in and of itself.

This past year was full of successes by our students. In all areas of the program, we saw growth and indications that the program is only going to continue to prosper. As of this writing, we are looking ahead to some wonderful opportunities for the coming year.

Football Games, Competitions, Parades, All District Band, All State Band, All Area Band, All-American Marching Band, Concert Assessment, Solo and Ensemble, Winter Guard, Indoor Percussion, Indoor Musical Showcase, and local concert performances.

This handbook is designed to answer any questions you might have concerning the program. Please read all the information and sign the commitment agreement form. I am honored to be your band director and am looking forward to a great year! It is an activity that takes a lot of extra effort but is extremely rewarding.

Trey Harris
Band Director



Make Results, Not Excuses!

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Band Policy

In order to assist band members and parents in understanding areas of responsibility, a statement of band policy is herein set forth. Becoming familiar with this policy will enable each individual to make the most of this great opportunity to be a member of the high school band program, becoming a better person and a better musician.

We firmly believe each student should improve through regular practice. When the student has lost the will to improve him- or herself or to make a better contribution to the band, he or she is wasting the time and effort of fellow members and the community by continuing in the program. The happiest student is one who improves through regular habits of practice and daily progress. He or she must not only know right from wrong but must be able to stand for principles and develop a high sense of purpose toward which he or she is willing to work. Responsibility is the focus behind any level of achievement within this program. We intend to conduct ourselves in a manner that will facilitate the learning of all students.

Objectives of the Band Program

- To keep all students SAFE at all times.
- To teach music by its actual performance.
- To develop performance skills on the various wind and percussion instruments as well as color guard equipment.
- To provide for the musical needs of the school and community.
- To acquaint the students with music theory/history and how history and musical composition relate to students' lives and musical experiences.
- To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self-expression, and a healthy social experience.
- To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of a group, enhance interaction, and develop *esprit de corps*.
- To foster leadership skills within each student.
- To teach LIFE skills to all students so that they are ready to achieve at a high level in any educational or professional field upon graduation.

Band Curriculum

SYMPHONIC BAND

The symphonic band is the primary performing organization in the instrumental music department during winter and spring. Membership is by audition only. The symphonic band will be comprised of students with the performing ability necessary to play grade 5-6 literature.

CONCERT BAND

The concert band is comprised of students with the performing ability necessary to perform grade 4 and 5 music. The class meets 1st and 2nd semester.

MARCHING BAND- “Band of Distinction”

This ensemble is label as the “competitive” ensemble for the fall. This ensemble requires strenuous physical exercise and the ability to play the difficult literature encountered in the activity. This band practices 3-4 days a week and performs at local, regional, state, and national competitions throughout the fall as well as Friday night performances.

COLOR GUARD/WINTER GUARD

Students who are interested in dance, choreography, and movement may choose to audition for our marching auxiliary unit. The color guard is an extension of the winter guard program. The auditions for color guard typically are held in May. Auditions for winter guard are held in late November. The color guard is required to take a class in 1st semester each year. Winter Guard is after school only.

INDOOR PERCUSSION

The indoor percussion is open to all percussion students and musicians in the band. This group will compete in Circuit competitions as well as WGI Regional and National Events. Auditions will be held in late November each year. Percussionist will be taken first in this group and then we will take other musicians to help fill the ensemble.

ALL DISTRICT, ALL STATE, ALL AREA BAND

Members of the band program are eligible and are encouraged to audition for these ensembles. District auditions are held in December. All State auditions are held in late February. All Area tryouts are usually held in February at a local site.

2019 Attendance Policy

Competing on a state and national level obviously takes a great deal of coordination, communication, and most importantly participation. The band members and staff have worked together to resolve an age old problem of consistent attendance throughout the band season. Below is the new attendance policy for the 2018 Bassett High School band program.

Band Camp dates are mandatory for all members- June 17-21, July 15-19 (as seen on calendar)

Other summer dates, students are expected to be at rehearsal if they are in town. If you have vacation, church trips, 4-H trips, etc., we only expect the students to communicate with their section leader BEFORE the day of the practice.

Once school begins, we are officially “in season.” Students will be expected to be at all scheduled rehearsals unless they have an excused absence. Excused absences should be communicated through email to Mr. Harris or Mr. Allred and NOT the section leaders. Facebook or text messages are not the form of communication that we are allowed to use per HCPS policy. Please refrain from this method of communication.

Excused absences- 1. Absent from school 2. Leave school early 3. Death in the family 4. EARLY communication with the band director to discuss the situation.

Unexcused absences- 1. Birthday parties (self or others), 2. Road and Range (Sept-Nov 15) 3. Homework 4. Injured (stay to watch) 5. Not having a ride to rehearsal/performance 6. Outside community activities 7. Work

During the season, an unexcused absence will result in the loss of a performance. A shadow will fill the spot that week or we will march a hole. The second unexcused absence will result in the loss of your spot, and a shadow will take over full time.

Shadows- All shadows are expected to adhere to the same policy as the full time members. Shadows are our way of having people “ready” to fill in when needed. It isn’t fair for these members to miss practice, and then fill a spot of a member that missed practice.

By signing below, I signify that I have read the 2019 BHS Band Attendance policy and understand all of the requirements for participation throughout the season.

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name: _____ Date: _____

GENERAL POLICIES

Bus Policy

- Only band students, school personnel, and chaperones are allowed to ride the bus.
- Students will return on the same bus throughout the trip.
- Students may return home with a parent if they have arranged to do so. A parental note is required, and needs to be given to his/her chaperone.
- Bus seating will be gender appropriate **after dark** on all trips.
- There is to be no smoking, drugs, alcohol, or weapons of any kind on band trips. This is HCPS Policy and violators will be turned over to the school administration.
- Students use of electronic devices must adhere to all HCPS rules and regulations.
- Always be courteous!!!!

Procedures in Uniform

- At no time will a student appear in public in partial uniform (unless instructed).
- No other hats are to be worn with the uniform (unless instructed).
- Never run in uniform unless written in the show.
- No visible piercings- all must be removed or covered completely.
- You are financially responsible for lost or damaged parts. (socks, gloves, gauntlets)
- Jewelry is not to be worn with the uniform.
- No nail polish unless it is nude.
- Make-up is not allowed in uniform. (It rubs off on the collar)
- Shoes are to be kept in good shape both clean and color responsibilities.
- Always travel in a group of 2 or more- never alone in uniform.
- Long hair is to be put up in the shako.
- Shakos are to be carried in the left hand with thumb under and 3 fingers showing.
- No chewing gum.
- Shorts must be worn under the pants since it is sometimes necessary to change on the buses.
- Cell phones are NOT a part of the uniform and are strictly prohibited unless announced by the directors or staff.
- Colored hair is not permitted in uniform (i.e. purple, green, orange, pink, etc.)

Uniform Storage

- Uniforms will remain at Bassett High School on uniform racks.
- Uniforms are to be hung properly in your uniform bag. Your bag is to be hung on the appropriate rack (they are color coded by sections).
- Uniforms must be inspected prior to hanging on the rack every time it is worn by a uniform parent/chaperone.
- No shoes can be kept in the uniform bag! The weight will cause the bags to tear and runs the risk of getting the uniform dirty.
- Gloves, gauntlets, and socks may be kept in the back zipper pocket of the uniform bag.

Inspection

Prior to a few performances of the band, all band members will stand inspection. Any member who does not pass inspection will not participate in the given performance. Band members will be checked for the following:

- Cleaned, pressed uniforms
- Cleaned, polished/painted shoes
- Hair correctly worn- all hair will be off of the collar at all performances (no color)
- No Jewelry and piercings visible.
- Clean instruments/equipment

Football Games

- We will always practice after school before home games. Dinner will be served from the concession stands to students for \$5.
- Students must wear the full uniform unless instructed otherwise.
- Students will be dismissed following announcements and uniform check in.
- When you march to and from the stadium, the band will remain at attention.
- When you have class it shows- when you don't, it SHOUTS!
- Only uniformed band members are allowed in the band section.
- All members are required to stay the entire length of the game.
- All members are to remain in their section during the game.
- There will be no eating or drinking in the stands (except for water). The band will have the 3rd quarter off and must be back in their seats for the downbeat of the fight song when the clock hits 0:00
- All members should be alert as to what is going on down front. Be ready to react immediately to instructions given by the drum major or director.
- If a student leaves the band section, another student must accompany him or her and both must have permission from the director.

Hotel Rules- Band of Distinction

- Parents and students will be responsible for paying for any incurred charges.
- Rooms are to be locked at all times
- There will be no one of the opposite sex in your room unless accompanied by a chaperone.
- Please refrain from playing instruments in the room.
- No one is to leave the hotel alone. Any student found leaving the premises without permission will be dealt with by the BHS Administration.
- Profanity is not a part of our organization! Make sure your language is not offensive.
- Band members are expected to be at the right place, at the right time (early), ready to go.
- Chaperones will come to your room each evening to give you information about the next day and check for all members of the room to be present.

Competitions

Competitions are special events in which we get to perform for a sophisticated audience and very competent judges. We are there to do our best, not to win. If we do our best, everything will take care of itself. Specific information is given prior to competitions as to directions, departure, and anticipated return time. All parents are encouraged to attend competitions and support the band.

Alternates/Shadow

Some of the most important members of the marching band are the shadows. Due to absences of others and the inability of some to work on their parts, it is necessary to fill these spots with shadows. The members must be enthusiastic and willing to learn new material at a rapid pace. Shadows are critical to our success! The chances of a shadow working his or her way into a spot are very good if that alternate participates, works hard, learns the music/work, and does it with a good attitude and stellar attendance.

The Importance of Attitude

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is **attitude**. The kind of person you are is an individual choice, and how you feel about something is one of the few actual independent choices you have in life. It takes intense dedication to reach goals. Students should learn to discipline themselves to practice fundamentals daily. The right attitude must be present along with sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the basic foundations. Such as attitude makes an artistic performance inevitable and is the difference between a winning organization and a mediocre group. The band can do much for you. Make the most of it in every rehearsal and performance.

The Importance of Discipline

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must be strict! Band students and parents must believe in the ideals, principles, and philosophy of the organization. Each member must always be aware of good behavior and think for him- or herself. Any misconduct casts a bad light on the school, community, and band program. Any member who discredits the organization by his or her conduct or actions in band, in another class, or on a trip shall be subject to dismissal from the band program or may lose a privilege within the program. This decision will be at the director's discretion.

Marching Band Camp

Camp is required of all students in the band. Approximately four weeks of normal rehearsal time is condensed into each week, so attendance is required. Parent volunteers will be in attendance to help out with whatever needs may arise. One meal per day is provided by our state meal program for all students. Students are not allowed to leave the school for any reason during meal times. This is for the protection and safety of all students.

Classroom Procedures

- You must be in the band room when the bell rings: a downbeat will be given 2 minutes after the bell. During the 2 minutes beforehand you should move to your seat; obtain music, a music stand, and a pencil; and begin warming up for the day's rehearsal. Make sure you have extra reeds. Percussionists should set up all equipment and music during the warm-up. Announcements will be made at the beginning or end of class.
- Talking will not be tolerated during a rehearsal
- The purpose of rehearsal is for you to learn the parts of others and how they relate to yours, not to learn your individual music!
- If you must leave your seat for any reason, please ask. Restroom breaks should be taken between classes.
- In your individual warm-up, it is important to practice long tones, lip slurs, scales, and that day's assignment on a daily basis:

Materials Needed for Class

Each student should have the following items in class every day:

- a sharpened pencil, music, and a Habits of a Successful Musician book
- instrument (sticks, mallets)
- tuner- can be an app on their phone or an actual tuner
- at least 3 reeds (clarinets and saxophones)
- at least 2 reeds (oboe and bassoons) and water canisters for soaking

School-Owned Instrumental Rental

Each student who uses a school-owned instrument is completely responsible for the care of the instrument. If an instrument is damaged due to negligence, the student is responsible for the entire cost. An instrumental check-out form must be filled out and on file with the director.

Use of the Band Facility

Band Room

The use of the band facilities before, after, and during school is a privilege. Students who abuse the facility will be disciplined accordingly. Any abuse or damage will be considered vandalism. **No outside students are permitted in the band room** except for business with the director. There will be no horseplay, e.g., throwing things in or around the band room. All percussion and guard equipment is off limits to anyone not specifically designated to use them.

Band Office

The band office is a place of business and should be treated that way. If the door is shut, knock first. Many times we have meetings with staff, parents, and students that need to be kept confidential for personal and professional reasons.

Parents' Responsibility to the Band

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in the handbook are followed and that the form in the back is signed and returned. This states that you understand the policies set within and that any questions are to be directed to the band director by making an appointment. Each parent is responsible for the attendance of his or her child at all band functions. It is the responsibility of each parent to see that the child practices his or her instrument daily. The hands of the directors are tied without the help of parents.

How Parents Can Help

When a band question arises, it is important that you get factual information before discussing it with others. We do more harm to ourselves, the band family, when we talk about things that contain one or more falsehoods presented as facts. If questions arise, it is important to remember this axiom: If it is a performance issue or anything dealing with the band proper, contact the band director. If it is a fund-raising question or anything dealing with parent issues, talk with booster club president.

- Show an interest in the musical study of your child
- Keep the instrument in good repair
- Get a metronome and tuner for your child
- Be extra careful with school-owned instruments. Repair costs are high!
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time to each rehearsal.
- Provide private instruction if possible.
- Make faithful attendance at all band activities important.
- Keep the handbook in a safe place and refer to it often.
- Notify the teacher if the student is to be absent for rehearsals.
- Visit rehearsals occasionally.
- Attend booster meetings, concerts, games, and contests.
- Turn in fund-raising money on time
- Be supportive of your child!