

**THE BASSETT HIGH SCHOOL  
BAND PROGRAM**

---

---



***Band Handbook***

***2024-2025***

## Band Students and Parents:

Welcome to one of the most exciting experiences in which you can be a part of - 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 Area Band, All State Band, Concert Assessment, Solo and Ensemble, Winter Guard, Indoor Percussion (Bengal Thunder), and local concert performances for our Symphonic and Concert Bands.*

This handbook is designed to answer any questions you might have concerning the program. Please read all of 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 never waste the time of students and parents.
- To develop performance skills on all equipment for all performers.
- 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 composed of students with the performing ability necessary to play grade 5-6 literature. There will be after rehearsals that will be required for this performing ensemble.

## CONCERT BAND

The concert band is composed of students with the performing ability necessary to perform grade 3,4 and 5 music. The class meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. There may be minimal after school rehearsals for this group if need to put winds and percussion groups together to prepare for concerts.

## MARCHING BAND- “Band of Distinction”

This ensemble is labeled 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 1<sup>st</sup> semester each year. Winter Guard is after school only.

## INDOOR & PERCUSSION (Bengal Thunder)

The indoor theatre is open to all students in the band. The main focus is our percussion students, but we will allow wind players to participate as well. This group will practice 1-2 days a week after school with some weekend rehearsals as well. They will perform at Basketball games in January/February.

## 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 typically held in December. All State auditions are held in late February for those that are eligible from the All-District results. All Area eligibility is taken each year from the tryout results from All District Band. Students are selected and compared to Martinsville High School, Magna Vista High School, Patrick County High School, and Franklin County High School for seating results.

# GENERAL POLICIES

## Bus Policy

- Only band students, school personnel, and chaperones are allowed to ride the bus.
- Students will remain on the same bus throughout the trip.
- Bus seating will be gender/relationship appropriate **after dark** on all trips.
- HCPS policies will be followed on school/charter bus trips.
- Students' use of electronic devices must adhere to all HCPS rules and regulations.
- 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 at the bus.

## 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).
- Students should not run/jog 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.
- 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 is allowed in uniform.
- Clothes must be worn under the uniform at all performances.
- Cell phones are NOT a part of the uniform and are strictly prohibited.
- Colored hair is not permitted in the color guard (i.e., purple, green, orange, pink, etc.)

## Uniform Storage

- Uniforms will remain at Bassett High School throughout the season.
- Uniforms are to be hung properly in your uniform bag after each performance.
- 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 by a uniform parent/chaperone.
- No shoes can be kept in the uniform bag.
- Gloves, and socks may be kept in the back zipper pocket of the uniform bag.
- Shakos should be stored in the correct numbered slot after each performance.

## **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 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
- No colored nail polish for students without gloves.

## **Football Games**

- Students must wear the full uniform unless instructed otherwise.
- Students will be dismissed following announcements and uniform check in.
- Only band members and chaperones are allowed in the band section.
- Only band members and chaperones are allowed in the band room after the game.
- 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/drinking in the stands (except for water).
- Students will have the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter off and must stay in groups of 2 or more throughout.
- All members should be ready to react to instructions from the drum major/director.
- If a student leaves the band section, another student must accompany them and have permission from the director or a chaperone.

## **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
- No opposite sex students are allowed in your room unless accompanied by a chaperone.
- Please refrain from playing instruments in the room.
- 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.
- Students leaving the premises without permission will be handled by the BHS Administration.

## **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.

## **Interns**

Every great production has many moving parts. On the “stage”, behind the stage and beyond. Interns may do several different jobs throughout the season. These members must be enthusiastic and willing to learn new material at a rapid pace. Interns are critical to our success! The chances of an intern working his/her way into a spot are very good if they actively participate, work hard, learn the music/work, and do it with a good attitude and great attendance. Please have an open-mind and you will have a great experience! Interns may not necessarily play their normal instrument in this opportunity.

## **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. The right attitude must be present along with sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the basic foundations. Attitude commonly is the difference between a winning organization and a mediocre group.

## **The Importance of Discipline**

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must be at a high level each day. Band students and parents must believe in the ideals, principles, and philosophy of the organization. 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.

## **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. We hope that each parent will also choose to volunteer with the band booster organization. It takes a great booster program to produce a great band. We NEED YOU!

## **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 the booster club president. Below are a couple of helpful hints for our new parents!

- Show an interest in the musical study of your child
- Keep the instrument in good repair
- Get a metronome and tuner for your child (Tonal Energy app on phones is perfect)
- Obtain a water cooler for your child- this mandatory for all practices!
- 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 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.
- Participate in fundraising events.
- Be supportive of your child!

Whether students admit it or not, they DO want their parents/guardians to be a part of their band experience. Performing for someone that cares for them is special. We know that not everything we do in life ends in success and having you there in the “good and bad” times is important. Your presence is important to them in things like: booster activities, watching parades, football games, fundraisers, competitions, and concerts.



# Attendance Policy

Competing on a state and national level takes a great deal of coordination, communication, and most importantly participation. The band members and staff have worked together to construct an attendance policy that holds our core values and daily/weekly expectations throughout the band season.

Band Camp dates are mandatory for all members- published each year in January.

**June 17-21, 2024 (8:30-5:00 PM)**

**July 15-19, 2024 (8:30-8:30 PM)**

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 for an excused absence.

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 in person or through email to Mr. Harris or Mr. Allred and NOT the section leaders. Facebook or text messages are not allowed per HCPS policy.

## Excused absences

- Absent from school
- Leave school early (sick)
- Death in the family
- EARLY communication with the band director to discuss the situation.

## Unexcused absences

- Birthday parties (self or others)
- Road and Range (Sept.-Nov.)
- Homework
- Injured (stay to watch)
- Not having a ride to rehearsal/performance
- Outside community activities
- Work

During the season, an unexcused absence will result in the loss of a performance. An intern will fill the spot that week or we will march a hole if possible. The second unexcused absence will result in the loss of your spot, and an intern will take over full time. The third unexcused absence can result in the dismissal from the marching for that season.

**Interns-** All interns are expected to adhere to the same policy as the full-time members. Interns are our way of having performers “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.

# Student/Parent Agreement Form

## ***2024 BHS Marching Band***

It is very important to any band or team to have a high level of commitment to the program. The following is an agreement between the parent/student and the organization pertaining to the rules and regulations stated in the 2023-2024 Band Handbook as well as the commitment that the student is expected to uphold throughout the season with the Bassett High School Marching Band as stated on this page.

### **Rehearsals**

The attendance policy made by the students and staff will be in effect for the 2024 season. Please read carefully and sign the attendance policy.

### **Performances**

All performances are MANDATORY! These include but are not limited to: Football Games (includes playoff games), Competitions, Christmas Parade(s), and any other local event, chosen by the director to represent our school and community.

### **Band Payments**

All students are expected to pay their share of the marching band payment on time. We do realize that there may be some circumstances that are out of your control as the season progresses. If this occurs, the director, president of the boosters or the treasurer must be notified as soon as possible and we will set up a payment plan to help that individual.

### **Class Requirements**

All wind/percussion players are ***required*** to take 2<sup>nd</sup> semester band. Marching Band will NOT meet 1<sup>st</sup> semester as a class except for the color guard. Color Guard members will take the Visual Ensemble class 1st semester. All freshmen will take band 2 semesters.

***By signing below, I understand the commitments and requirements of the BHS Band program. In addition, I have read and agreed to all of the rules and requirements of the Bassett High School Band Handbook.***

---

*(Cut along line and return to the Band Office)*

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## 2024 Band of Distinction Dues

### **2024 Member Dues- \$550**

#### Option A- Monthly payments beginning in June

##### **Uniform Deposit- May 21=\$50**

June 21- \$125

July 15- \$125

Aug. 6- \$125

Sept. 3- \$125

**Option B-** (Early Bird) \$550 between May 21-June 21 – Member receives a free hoodie.

**Option C-** Devise a plan with Mr. Harris or the Booster President that will work for your family.

#### What does my dues pay for during the season?

Transportation, hotel, digital uniforms, clinicians for band camp and the season, show design (music/drill), props, competition fees, 2024 Band T-shirt, 1 pair of uniform socks & gloves.

Our marching band budget for the 2024 season is \$100,000. It is very important that each student pays in a timely manner. If you are going to have an issue with on-time payment, please let us know. We are always willing to work with families.

Communication is the key!

#### Student Information

Please put your student's name on the Memo line when writing a check. We also have a chip square for debit/credit card payments and are also working on availability for online payments.

#### \*\*\*REFUNDS\*\*\*

Students that quit the group during the season may be able for a partial refund. The booster board will evaluate the money spent on that student (clinicians, uniform, etc) and then determine the amount of refund that is appropriate. A full refund is highly unlikely in most cases due to money already spent on the student.

# **BASSETT HIGH SCHOOL BAND**

## *EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT FORM 2024-2025*

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Father Name \_\_\_\_\_ Father Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Father Cell # \_\_\_\_\_ Father Work # \_\_\_\_\_

Mother Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mother Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Mother Cell # \_\_\_\_\_ Mother Work # \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest Relative (list relationship) \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest Relative Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Past Illnesses \_\_\_\_\_

Booster chaperones have permission to administer over the counter medicine if needed. YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

Allergies (please be specific) \_\_\_\_\_

Routine Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Health Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Important Medical History \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Bassett High School Band

## Parent Data Form 2024-2025

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 24-25 Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Having a great band requires not only hard work from the students, but a great deal of support from the parents. Your children and the Booster Club ask that you PLEASE help us as much as possible to help raise the level of success/support for our band program. It is realized that some can help a lot and some can help a little, but please do help as often as you can. Please indicated below the activities that you are willing to assist with to help the program. We promise that it will be a rewarding experience for you and will be a great help to our students and our program. THANK YOU for help our kids!

**Please check the activities that you are willing to assist with to help our program.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Football Concessions (we have a rotation- not required for all games)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Props, Equipment and Pit Crew
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assist with painting of props
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chaperone Trips – *must have HCPS background check*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Help with Fall/Spring Craft Shows
- \_\_\_\_\_ Help with our band competition that we host (we need a LOT here- Oct 19)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Video performances/practices (still video or drone)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nurse– *must have HCPS background check*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Help write and secure grants to support the band program
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assist Food Chairperson – *feed the kids at band functions & trips*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pull small trailer to band competitions (September-November)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pull large semi-trailer to band competitions (*needs CDL*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pull small trailer to winter guard competitions (January-March)