

# THE BASSETT HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

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*Band Handbook*  
*2025-2026*

## 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 returning members. 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 the 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, Concert Assessment, Solo & Ensemble, Winter Guard, Bengal Thunder, and local concert performances.***

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  
Director of Bands



***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, 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 LIFE skills to all students so that they are ready to achieve at a high level in any educational or professional field upon graduation.
- 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.

# **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.

## **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 will be one concert in the fall semester, and the band will perform 2 concerts in the spring semester including the State Concert Assessment in March.

## **MARCHING BAND- “Band of Distinction”**

This ensemble is labeled as the “competitive” ensemble. This ensemble requires strenuous physical exercise for 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.

## **BENGAL THUNDER**

The group is designed to help develop our percussion students both musically, visually, and performance skills. Non-percussionists can perform with the group, but it will be percussion centered for development.. The group will practice 2 days a week after school with some weekend rehearsals as well. They will perform at home basketball games at BHS. Auditions will be held in late November each year.

## **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/January. 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, Magna Vista, Patrick County, 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 not be allowed to change buses during the trip at any time..
- 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/relationship 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.
- Jewelry is not to be worn with the uniform.
- Nail polish and 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.
- 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.

## Uniform Storage

- Uniforms will remain at Bassett High School..
- 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 run the risk of getting the uniform dirty.
- Gloves 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, 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 to students for \$5.
- Students will be dismissed following announcements and uniform check in.
- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter off and must be back in their seats for the downbeat of the fight song when the clock hits 0:00
- 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.
- There will be NO playing instruments in the room.
- No one is to leave the hotel alone. Any student found leaving the premises without permission will be handled 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.

## **Interns**

Some of the most important members of the marching band are the interns. Due to absences or the inability of some to work on their parts, it is necessary to fill these spots with interns. 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 or her way into a spot are very good if they participate, work hard, and do 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. The right attitude must be present along with sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the basic foundations. Such an attitude makes an artistic performance inevitable and is the difference between a winning, or mediocre organization.

## **The Importance of Discipline**

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must be consistent throughout all of the groups. The 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.

# USE OF THE BAND/SCHOOL FACILITY

## Band Room/Fine Arts Wing

The use of the band facilities before, after, and during school is a privilege. Students who abuse the facility will be disciplined accordingly. **No outside students are permitted in the band room** except for business with the director.

## Band Office

The band office is a place of business. If the door is shut, please knock first. Many times we are conducting meetings that need to be kept confidential for personal and professional reasons.

## HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

When a band question arises, it is important to get factual information before discussing it with others. We do more harm to our band family, when we talk about things that contain falsehoods presented as facts. If questions arise, please remember this axiom: If it is a performance issue or anything dealing with the band proper, contact the band director. If it is dealing with parent issues, talk with the booster club president. Below are a couple of helpful hints for our new parents to help you be supportive of your student.

- Show an interest in the musical study of your child
- Keep the instrument in good repair
- Purchase a metronome and tuner for your child (phone app)
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time to each rehearsal.
- Provide private instruction if possible.
- Notify the director if the student is to be absent for rehearsals.
- Attend booster meetings, concerts, games, and contests.
- Participate in fundraising events. (concessions, craft show, sponsorships, etc.)
- Be on time to pick up your students (embarrassing for student to be the last one)

### **Join the following social media outlets to stay informed with band activities.**

Parent Square-(Join) BHS Marching Band Students and Families

Band Website- [www.BassettBand.org](http://www.BassettBand.org)

Band Booster Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BassettBandBoosters/>



# ATTENDANCE POLICY

Competing on a state and national level takes a great deal of coordination, participation, and most importantly communication. 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- **June 16-20, July 14-18**

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 BEFORE the day of the practice.

Once school begins, we are officially “in season.” Students will be expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals/performance unless they have an excused absence. Excused absences should be communicated through email to Mr. Harris or Mr. Allred and NOT the section leaders.

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. The second unexcused absence will result in the loss of your spot, and an intern will take over full time.

***Facebook or text messages are not the form of communication that we are allowed to use per HCPS policy. Parent Square and email will be the best way to contact the directors.***

## **Excused absences-**

1. Absent from school (sick/appointment)
2. Death in the family
3. EARLY communication with the band director to discuss the situation.

## **Unexcused absences-**

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

**\*\*COMMUNICATION** is the key to success with our attendance policy. Please communicate as early as possible when a student has an issue with attendance.

## 2025-2026 Student/Parent Data

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 25-26 Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Father's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mother's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### **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 (also need painters)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 18, 2025)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Video performances/practices (still video or drone)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nurse– ***must have HCPS background check***
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assist Food Chairperson – *help 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)

## **Student/Parent Agreement**

### *2025-2026 BHS Band Program*

By signing below, I understand the commitments and requirements of the BHS Band program. I have read and agree to all of the rules and requirements of the following:

1. Bassett High School Band Handbook
2. Commitment Form (attendance policy)
3. Dues commitment
4. Class Requirements (found in attendance policy)

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

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

# **BASSETT HIGH SCHOOL BAND**

## *EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT FORM 2025-2026*

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: \_\_\_\_\_

# **2025 Band of Distinction Dues**

## **All Members- \$550**

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

**Uniform Deposit- May 15=\$50 (nonrefundable)**

June 17- \$125

July 15- \$125

Aug. 5- \$125

Sept. 2- \$125

**Option B-** (Early Bird) \$550 between May 15-June 17 - 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, 2025 Band T-shirt, 1 pair of uniform socks & gloves.

Our marching band budget for the 2025 marching season is \$125,000. 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.