

THE
BOONEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BAND
HANDBOOK

Purpose

1. To educate interested students in music education.
2. To represent our school with pride and dignity.
3. To strive to achieve perfection in all we undertake.

Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a convenient reference for students, parents, administrators, and directors who have questions concerning any aspect of the band program at Booneville High School. We have made an honest effort to include and explain every possible facet of the program.

Philosophy

The Booneville Blue Devil Band is an organization devoted to the education of all the young people it touches. Members experience more than just marching and playing, they learn about life. They experience winning and losing, fatigue and exhilaration, as well as growing as an individual while being a part of a larger whole. They learn about teamwork, and striving for excellence, about working towards goals, and going beyond their own perceived limits. The members of the BLUE DEVIL BAND grow physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. The lessons and life skills they take with them continue to serve them and define their adult lives.

Administration

To the following people we are indebted for their continued cooperation and support.

- Mr. Todd English, Superintendent
- The Board of Trustees for Booneville School District
- Mr. Bo Sandlin, Principal – High School
- Mr. Terry King, Assistant Principal – High School
- Mr. Brad Mixon, Principal – Middle School
- Mr. Evan Pounds, Assistant Principal – Middle School

Performance Ensembles

The High School Band consists of all Band Students in grades 9-12 who have reached a certain level of musical maturation. The High School Band includes both the marching band and the concert band. Marching performances include football games, marching band contests, and parades. Concert performances include Veteran's Day, Christmas, Winter, and Spring Concerts, The Small Ensemble Concert and Graduation for the community. We perform at The MHSAA State Concert Evaluations, which is held in Oxford, Mississippi. When the band goes on a big trip, they perform for national audiences. We also have an Indoor Guard, Indoor Percussion, and Indoor Winds ensemble that will compete in the spring. Membership will be based on needs of the ensemble.

Rehearsals

1. Every student will have one block of each school day scheduled for band. Students who have off blocks may seek private instruction during that period provided the director's schedule allows it. After school rehearsals will include sectional rehearsals once a week during the competitive marching season. Also, those persons participating in indoor guard and percussion will have weekly practice starting immediately after the competitive marching season until the MIA (Mississippi Indoor Association) State Championships and/or SCGC (Southeastern Color Guard Circuit) Championships in the spring semester.
2. High School Band rehearsals begin with pre-school band camps **attendance of which is a requirement**. In addition to the regular school period, high school band students need to plan for after school rehearsals. Specific times for these rehearsals will be announced in plenty of time for the student and parent to make necessary arrangements. As a general rule, no student will have to stay after school for marching or concert band rehearsal more than twice in one week.
3. Unfortunately in this day and age, absenteeism is becoming more and more of an issue. With our efforts to work with and coordinate our activity with the numerous other important activities at this school, the necessity to be present at the regularly scheduled period is an absolute must. If the student is not here, we cannot teach them what is needed for us to be successful. What one single student has learned to do or not learned to do directly affects everyone else in the band. Therefore, absences that meet the requirements of Mississippi Code 37-13-91 will only be considered as excused absences. Appropriate documentation supporting this classification must be submitted to the band directors immediately following the absence. Checking out or missing school to shop, get a hair cut, get drivers license, **personal reasons**, etc. will not be accepted regardless of what it is counted as in the office.

Instrument Requirements

1. By the time a student reaches the ninth grade, it is to their benefit to own a recommended top or mid line instrument.
2. Certain brands of instruments are inferior and thus would be detrimental to the student and the band. Different brands make pitch compromises in different ways, again, making it necessary for matched brands.
3. Listed in the latter pages of this handbook are some of the instruments that are recommended for the Booneville Band Program.

Rules and Regulations

Students and parents should familiarize themselves with the following to avoid any possible misunderstandings:

1. Each band member is expected to attend: (a) all rehearsals during the school day. **(In order for you to do this you must come to school)**, (b) all after school rehearsals, (c) the annual band camps, and (d) the picture day and pre-school rehearsals, plus (e) **all performances**.
2. At all times students will be expected to act in such a way that would make their parents, our school, and themselves proud.
3. Absence from band rehearsals or performances are either excused or unexcused. Absence due to (a) personal illness, (b) death in the family, (c) personal involvement in another school function **with permission of the band director**, or (d) special permission of the principal and band director obtained **in advance** by the parent or guardian, shall be excused. Absence due to any other cause shall be **unexcused**. The student must show consistent responsibility in these areas.
4. If an absence from a rehearsal is **unexcused**: (a) it will be reflected in the student's grade, (b) Only two unexcused absences will be accepted. Upon being absent a third time from rehearsal without an accepted excuse, the student can be dismissed from the band.
5. A single unexcused absence from a performance may and can result in the immediate dismissal of the student from the band.
6. When a student becomes a member of the Booneville Band, he/she agrees to abide by all rules and regulations stated in this handbook. If he/she does not abide by these rules and causes himself/herself to be dismissed from the band, or if he/she drops band of his own accord, he/she immediately loses all rights and privileges thereof. More so, he/she cannot be readmitted into the band program at a later date.

7. It is the responsibility of the student to contact their director prior to a performance or a rehearsal if you are going to be late, or cannot attend.
8. It is the responsibility of the student for hearing and seeing all announcements. Do not rely on someone else. Failure to look and listen is not a reliable excuse. A time for meeting will be specified for all performances. This is a starting time, not an arrival time.
9. Students should arrange personal jobs and extra functions so as to not conflict with rehearsals and performances. Performances and rehearsals are announced well in advance so that these activities, as well as family trips, should not conflict.
10. All students travel to football games, contests, and outings on the band bus. If you wish to ride home with your parents, **your parent or guardian must come and personally sign the student release sheet at the bus.** The band directors of Booneville School District cannot release any child except to that child's parent or guardian. The band directors cannot release said band member until all equipment and materials are packed away. **YOU WILL STILL HAVE TO TURN IN YOUR UNIFORM AFTER THAT EVENT BACK AT THE BAND HALL AND UNLOAD YOUR INSTRUMENT IF IT IS ON THE TRUCK.**
11. Smoking/Vaping or any other use of tobacco, and the consumption of alcoholic beverages and the use of illegal substances will not be tolerated in the band. It is grounds for immediate dismissal.
12. The phone and the photocopier is for **BAND BUSINESS ONLY.** Always ask permission before using it.
13. Take pride in your band hall. If you use something, put it back when you are finished. Put garbage in the garbage cans and do not defacement school property.

Music, Equipment, Fees, and Band Credit

1. Each student is responsible for the welfare of any and all equipment, music, uniforms, etc. issued to him/her. Any music or equipment lost or damaged must be replaced or paid for by the student.
2. Each student is expected to have all proper equipment at all rehearsals. This includes instruments, sticks, music, pencils, etc.
3. Band Fees: The High School Band Fee is \$400.00 per year. This fee can be fundraised or paid outright. Payments are spread out throughout the year for your convenience. The Color Guard has additional fees on top of their \$400 band fee. Overages of fundraising money can not roll over from year to year.
4. On years when the band goes on a big trip an additional trip fee is to be paid by each student. The cost will be determined by the actual expense of the trip. Any fair share fundraisers will also provide opportunities for students to raise funds for their individual trip costs. **On trip years, any money turned in towards your trip fees will go towards any outstanding band fees which are presently due before being credited to any personal trip accounts.**

5. **Fair Share: The band program will hold various fundraisers each year in which every band student is expected to take an active role. It is believed that every band student and band parent should do his or her part, or in other words their "fair share" to help financially support the band program. The fundraiser "fair share" monies that will be raised by each student will be determined based on the budget for that school year. Some fundraisers do not require actual raising of money but need your active participation. In those events everyone is required to participate. Some examples of these would be working at company picnics etc.**

6. The preferred method of payment **is by check or debit/credit card**. Please make sure that the students name and purpose of payment is clearly labeled on that check so we can keep accurate records. If you pay by cash please seal it in an envelope and write the same information on the outside.

7. Students who have not paid all band fees and fair shares will not be allowed to participate in the annual band awards banquet nor will not be entitled to any medals or trophies etc. Any student who owes monies may not be enrolled in band the following year.

8. One unit of credit is given to each member of the band each school year after completing the year in good standing.

Uniforms

1. The band provides the uniform for all high school band members except for personal items such as shoes, gloves, etc.

2. A uniform will be issued to each band student prior to the beginning of school. The uniforms will remain in the band hall and will be checked out to each student prior to a performance. The student will check the uniform back in after each performance. The band department will take care of cleaning and any alterations to uniforms.

3. Each student who wears a standard uniform will be given a spirit pack (matching shirt and shorts used as a summer uniform and is worn under the band uniform.) Black crew socks and black band shoes \$47.00 (shoes orders taken during music camp) are to be worn as well. In most circumstances students are expected to wear their spirit pack. Students are not to wear blue jeans or shirts with a collar under their uniform. This applies to all students including guard and drum majors who will wear the standard uniform for concert season.

4. When you are in uniform, you are no longer an individual, but a **representative** of your band, school, and community.

5. **UNLESS SPECIFIED BY THE DIRECTOR, YOUR UNIFORM IS TO BE COMPLETE AT ALL TIMES.**

6. Always remember that before, during, and after a public performance you are in the public spotlight: because of the uniform you wear. The public makes their impression based on how you behave. Make that impression one of **praise, not ridicule**.

Grading System

The students in grades 9-12 will receive three grades averaged together: Daily Grade, Performance Grade, and Music Pass-Off/Playing Test Grade.

DAILY GRADE: **Consistent** attendance at rehearsals is a must to insure maximum rehearsal efficiency of the band and to maintain a high level of performance. Each student is given 20 points each day towards their accumulated daily grade for the week. Those 20 points are given for being on time, having all materials needed for rehearsal and for taking home instruments on the weekends. The student will receive an accumulated daily grade per week and then those will be averaged together to arrive at their daily grade for each grading period.

PERFORMANCE GRADE: A student's performance grade will be derived from attendance, punctuality, proper dress/equipment and citizenship (behavior). Unlike in the classroom, if a band member is absent from a performance, it affects the entire band. **If the absence is excused**, the student will make up that performance by playing/performing the music that was involved. Students will be graded on their ability to perform said music and that grade will be recorded and averaged in the grade book.

MUSIC PASS-OFF GRADE: This is derived from the student's performance and progress on his/her instrument for each nine-week period. Their progress will be assessed through a series of playing tests that will be assigned as needed each nine weeks.

Awards

The Booneville Blue Devil will hold an annual band awards banquet/ceremony. Its purpose is to recognize the hard work and achievements of the students for that school year. Below is a list of awards that are given each year.

1. 500 Point Award: (Medal) Earned by receiving at least 500 points during the school year.
2. 750 Point Award: (Medal) Earned by receiving at least 750 points during the school year.
3. 1000 Point Award: (Medal) Earned by receiving at least 1000 points during the school year.
4. Points Plus Award: (Medal) Earned by receiving at least 1500 points during the school year.

5. Third Class Bandsmen Award: (Trophy) Presented to any student who has completed all the requirements for Third Class Musician.
6. Second Class Bandsmen Award: (Trophy) Presented to any student who has completed all the requirements for Second Class Musician.
7. First Class Bandsmen Award: (Trophy) Presented to any student who has completed all the requirements for First Class Musician.
8. Advanced Bandsmen Award: (Trophy) Presented to any student who has completed the requirements for Advanced Musician.
9. Musical Achievement Awards: (Plaque) Presented to students who have strived to improve themselves on their instrument by auditioning for and making a regional or statewide honor band.
10. The Matt Thornton Memorial "Pride" Award: (Plaque) Presented to two senior band members who have demonstrated the "Blue Devil Spirit" throughout their years in band. These two names will also be placed on the permanent plaque, which is on display in the band hall.
11. Director's Award- This award is presented to senior band members who have strived to be good musicians as well as irreplaceable assets to the Booneville Band.
12. John Philip Sousa Award: This is the highest award that may be given to a Booneville Band Student. This award is presented to a senior band member(s) who has maintained at least a "B" average for the past four years, and who through their extra effort have exemplified the "ideal" band student. The recipient's name(s) will be placed on the John Philip Sousa plaque located in the Booneville Band Hall. The recipient will also receive a pin, trophy, and a certificate.

High School Achievement Points

Points earned by the student will measure achievement in the high school band. Most awards will be based on this point system. There are several ways a student may earn points. When the student has completed the achievement they are seeking, they will receive the number of points listed for that task.

Points for Achievement

1. Tryout for Lions Band	300
2. Make Call Backs for Lions Band	500
3. Make Lions Band	1000
4. Attend State Band Clinic	50
5. Tryout for NEMBDA Clinic	200
6. Make NEMBDA Clinic	400
7. Tryout for DSU Honor Band	200
8. Make DSU Honor Band	400
9. Participate in other Clinics	50
10. Audition for Guard or Drum Major	50
11. Make Guard or Drum Major	50
12. Total Points to receive Third Class	250
13. Total Points to receive Second Class	500
14. Total Points to receive First Class	750
15. Total Points to receive Advanced Musician	1000
16. Superior Rating in Concert	100
17. Superior Rating in Marching	100
18. Superior Rating in Sight Reading	100
19. All Superior Ratings	200
20. State Marching Championship	200
21. Class Championship	100
22. Caption Award	75
23. Participate in Jazz Band	100
24. Take private lessons from an approved instructor on a regular basis	150

25. Loading Crew (to function all year)	400
26. Work Crews	300
27. Band Captains	400
28. Attend an approved summer band camp other than ours	250
29. First Year Member	50
30. Second Year Member	100
31. Third Year Member	150
32. Fourth Year Member	200

Color Guard

Any band student in grades 9-12 may become a member of the BHS Color Guard by audition.

Requirements: Attend the "mini-camp" held after school prior to the formal audition date and be responsible upon selection for shoes, gloves, body suit, and any other uniform requirements decided by the director. **CANDIDATES MUST BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE BOONEVILLE BAND PROGRAM AND BE PROFICIENT ON THEIR INSTRUMENT. CANDIDATES MUST ALSO BE OF HIGH MORAL CHARACTER AND MUST NOT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH ANY DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR SUCH AS DETENTION OR SUSPENSION.** Once a band member achieves this position, she is expected to adhere to all rules and regulations of the BHS Band.

Guard Captains will have a separate audition requirement and may only audition at the Directors approval. Once selected, Captains will be responsible for preparation of equipment, and other duties deemed necessary by the Director.

Indoor Guard and Percussion Units

Will be open to all current members of the Color Guard and Percussion Section. In the case that positions will be open, arrangements will be made to acquire personnel to fill those positions with students from the band program. Students involved with these ensembles will rehearse once or twice a week beginning at the end of the competitive marching season and then in the spring until the MIA (Mississippi Indoor Association) Championships or the SCGC (Southeastern Colorguard Circuit) Championships. There will be a separate activity fee to participate in these competitive groups. The amount will be determined by the cost of the show(s) and contest fees. This money will pay for drill, music, and routines. Because the rehearsals are limited, attendance at all rehearsals is required.

Drum Major

The position of Drum Major is open to any high school band student in grades 10-12 who is in good standing with the BHS Band. Previous conduct, leadership abilities, etc. will be considered in approval to audition. A panel of independent judges will select the Drum Major based on a formal audition. Those interested must have marched in the BHS Band at least one year, and must have the Directors approval for tryout. **CANDIDATES MUST BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE BOONEVILLE BAND PROGRAM AND BE PROFICIENT ON THEIR INSTRUMENT. CANDIDATES MUST ALSO BE OF HIGH MORAL CHARACTER AND MUST NOT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH ANY DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR SUCH DETENTION OR SUSPENSION.** Upon selection the Drum major will be responsible for attending a "Director Approved" Drum Major Camp. The Drum Major is also responsible for the purchase of his/her uniform. The style and design is the director's choice. If at any time the Drum major fails in any of the above requirements, he/she may be removed from responsibilities and position.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE

2023 - 2024

We, the undersigned, have read and agree to adhere to the guidelines and policies set forth in the Booneville Band Student Handbook.

Parent Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Print student name here _____

Required Instrument Brand List

As a parent investing in your child's music education, it is very important to invest in a quality musical instrument. So called "bargain" instruments, available online or at discount stores, may seem tempting; however, experience has proven over and over again that these instruments are truly no "bargain" at all. Most often, the low price is the result of poor workmanship and lower quality materials. These instruments usually break more easily and are difficult, sometimes impossible, to repair. In many cases, they cannot be played in tune and the quality of the sound they produce is very poor. It is disheartening to see a child's enthusiasm for music destroyed by an instrument that does not allow them to reach their full potential. A poor quality instrument also affects the overall sound of the band, tarnishing the experience for all. It is with these concerns in mind that we provide you with this list of required band instrument brands. We have found over the years that these instruments are durable, easy to repair, and will give your child the best opportunity to succeed as a young musician. (The brands are not listed in any particular order.) If the instrument you are considering is not listed here, please consult with your child's band director before you rent or buy.

Flute - Yamaha, Trevor James, Gemeinhardt, Armstrong

Clarinet - Buffet, LeBlanc, Accent, Selmer, Yamaha, Backun

Saxophone - Yamaha, Selmer, Cannonball

Double Reeds - Fox, Yamaha, Buffet

Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, Mellophone - Jupiter, Bach, Conn, King, Blessing, Yamaha, Holton, Olds, Accent, Bengé

Percussion - Mapex, Ludwig, Pearl, Yamaha, Vic Firth