



Panther Band Handbook 2021 - 2022

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Director of Bands***

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Ensembles

Beginning Band is open to all 6th and 7th grade students who are interested in learning to play a musical instrument. Previous musical training is helpful; however, it is not necessary. Beginning Band performs at the Winter and Spring Concerts.

Concert Band is open to 7th and 8th grade band students at an advanced level of development based on auditions. Concert Band performs at the Winter & Spring Concerts. If musical development and discipline improve dramatically, students may be eligible to move up to Symphonic Band during the school year!

Symphonic Band is open to 7th and 8th grade band students at the highest level of development based on auditions and discipline. The Symphonic Band performs at the Winter and Spring Concerts, school performances, elementary school recruitment concerts, Alabama Bandmasters Association Music Performance Assessment, Solo and Ensemble, All-State Auditions, All-District Honor Band, etc.

Percussion Ensemble is open to 7th and 8th grade percussionists, as well as 7th and 8th grade band students by director approval. Percussion Ensemble performs at Winter & Spring Concerts, and Solo & Ensemble Festival.

Daily Rules and Procedures

General Rules

1. Absolutely no gum, food, or drinks in the band room
2. No cell phones without permission
3. No running or horseplay
4. Do not handle any equipment that does not belong to you

Rehearsal Procedures

The following is the procedure for all rehearsals. These guidelines should be considered rules. The student who violates the rules is responsible for reducing the amount of time for rehearsal and consequently is hurting the entire band.

1. Enter the band room in a quietly & calmly
2. Store backpack neatly under seat
3. Get your instrument & binder and take your seat
4. A student will be considered tardy if they are:
 - a. not in the room when the bell rings or
 - b. not in their seat ready to rehearse three minutes after the bell.
5. Check the board & screen for daily agenda and/or announcements
6. Begin individual warm-up routine and check problem areas in music
7. After rehearsal, straighten chairs and stands, clean your area, and throw away trash
8. Take instrument completely apart, carefully put in case, and return it to the assigned area

Use of Band Facilities

The use of band facilities before, during, and after school is a privilege. Therefore, students should treat the band room and everything in the band room with respect.

The **Rehearsal Room** is the primary area. Students in the rehearsal room must keep the room neat and orderly. Also, any director or adult that enters the rehearsal room deserves the utmost respect.

Practice Rooms are to be used for practice or private lessons only. Students must sign in and out when entering and leaving a practice room. All equipment must be returned to its original location after the use of the practice rooms. Unless given special permission, only one student is allowed in a practice room at a time. Finally, practice rooms are not lounges or places for social conversations.

The **Storage Room** is off limits to students unless you have permission from Mr. Bowen.

The **Band Office** is private and should not be entered unless you have permission and Mr. Bowen is present. Students must keep in mind that this office is a place of business. Students are welcomed, but only with Mr. Bowen present.

Discipline

All band members are expected to abide by both school and band rules. However, if a student chooses to not practice these rules, the following process will occur:

1. Verbal warning
2. 5-minute timeout (put instrument away and receive written assignment)
3. Phone call to parent/guardian
4. Administrative referral
5. Removal from band (excessive bad behavior, two or more fights, does not participate in class, etc.)

Grading Policy

Written and Playing Tests – 25%

Playing tests will cover current band music, major scales, sight-reading, etc. (sometimes these will also be chair tests). Written tests will cover notes, musical notation, major scales, vocabulary, etc.

Passoff's – 25%

In order for a student to “passoff” on an exercise, they must play it with a characteristic tone, correct notes & rhythms, correct articulations, good posture, and proper breathing.

Daily Participation & Performances – 50%

Students who are prepared daily and participate in class will receive 10 points each day. In order to receive these points, students must:

- ✓ Be ready to play when class begins
- ✓ Have all supplies
- ✓ Demonstrate appropriate playing techniques, such as proper posture, correct hand position, etc.
- ✓ **Be cooperative and attentive in rehearsals**

All band students must have the following supplies every day for rehearsal:

1. Instrument with mouthpiece
2. Instrument Supplies (reeds, cork grease, valve oil, slide cream, etc.)
3. Band binder
4. Pencil

Band is a performance-based class. Therefore, attendance for all rehearsals and performances is mandatory. An unexcused absence from rehearsals or performances will result in a grade of zero for their participation. Excused absences are defined as: personal illness, death in the family, or any circumstance that the director excuses prior to the concert (**APPOINTMENTS ARE NOT EXCUSABLE; CHECK YOUR BAND CALENDAR AND PLAN IN ADVANCE**).

If you qualify for an excused absence, you must have a parent note in to Mr. Bowen at least **TWO WEEKS** prior to the rehearsal or performance you will miss (for emergency cases, when you return to school).

Uniform

Beginning Band

Band t-shirt
Blue jeans (no holes)
Tennis shoes

Concert Band

Band polo shirt
Black dress pants
Black socks
Black dress shoes

Symphonic Band

*School-provided
Ladies: Formal black dress
Gentlemen: Tuxedo
Black dress shoes

Calendar of Events

DUE TO COVID-19, ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE/CANCELLATION.

A full, updated calendar can always be found on the Band website. *This list is only the events known of at the beginning of the school year. Other events will be added throughout the school year (recruitment concerts, school performances, etc.).* Students will be informed, and notices will be posted in the classroom and on the website as soon as Mr. Bowen becomes aware of any additional performances.

October

5 Fall Concert (Concert & Symphonic ONLY), 6:30 pm @ BMS Gymnasium

December

7 Winter Concert, 6:30 pm @ Moody Music Building

January

SYMPHONIC BAND MPA REHEARSALS EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY 3:30-5:00 PM

29 All-State / District Honor Band Auditions @ Brookwood High School

February

SYMPHONIC BAND MPA REHEARSALS EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY 3:30-5:00 PM

18 - 19 District Honor Band @ Moody Music Building

March

9 - 11 MPA (Concert & Symphonic ONLY) @ Moody Music Building

April

1 - 2 TCSS All-County Band @ Moody Music Building

6 - 9 All-State Conference @ Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center, Mobile, AL

23 Solo & Ensemble @ TCHS

May

17 Spring Concert, 6:30 @ Moody Music Building

21 End-of-year field trip (Six Flags)

Awards

All-State Band – Students selected to the Alabama All-State Band will receive a medal.

District Honor Band – Students selected to the District Honor Band will receive a medal.

ABA Solo and Ensemble – Students who earn a “Superior” rating will receive a medal.

ABA Music Performance Assessment – Each band that receives a “Superior” rating at MPA will receive a medal.

Most Outstanding Woodwind – This plaque is given to one 6th, 7th, and 8th woodwind band member who has distinguished him/herself as an outstanding band member through musicianship, attitude, discipline, solo and ensemble participation, honor band, all-state, etc.

Most Outstanding Brass – This plaque is given to one 6th, 7th, and 8th brass band member who has distinguished him/herself as an outstanding band member through musicianship, attitude, discipline, solo and ensemble participation, honor band, all-state, etc.

Most Outstanding Percussion – This plaque is given to one 6th, 7th, and 8th percussion band member who has distinguished him/herself as an outstanding band member through musicianship, attitude, discipline, solo and ensemble participation, honor band, all-state, etc.

The Director's Award – This plaque is given to one 8th grade band member who has made the most valuable contribution to the band in every aspect possible. The Director’s Award is the most distinguished award given at the middle school level.

Handbook Agreement

After reading the Band Handbook,
please return this form *filled out completely* and *signed at the bottom*
no later than **FRIDAY, AUGUST 20.**

Student's Full Name: _____

Father's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Parent e-mail address (write clearly!): _____

Parent e-mail address (2nd): _____

We, the undersigned, have read, understand and agree to abide by and support all the rules, policies, and procedures of the BMS Band Program, Brookwood Middle School, and the Tuscaloosa County School District as outlined in this Handbook. We acknowledge receiving the Handbook and having read its contents entirely. We understand that participation in all after-school events approved by the School Administration and Mr. Bowen will be reflected in the student's grade. I understand that it is my responsibility to stay informed about all events on the calendar and to bring date conflicts to Mr. Bowen's attention as soon as possible.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date