

Bath County High School

Band Handbook

2019-2020



Welcome Letter
Philosophy of Music
General Information
Transportation Policy
Attendance Policy
Tardy Policy
Hall Pass Policy
Grading Policy
Discipline Policy
Handbook Contract

Mr. Robert D. Rawlings

Band Director

Bath County High School Band

Robert Rawlings

Band Director

August 14, 2019

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s) and Student:

Greetings! I trust you had an enjoyable summer and are looking forward to the upcoming school year. I take this opportunity say hello and invite you to join our Band Booster organization.

In our handbook you will find policies, procedures, and other important information regarding the Bath County High School Band Program. Please take the time to read this material, as the success of our band depends upon each individual working toward the same goals. Sign the acknowledgement form and have your child return it to me by Monday, August 19, 2019.

If you have questions, feel free to contact me at school.

Sincerely,

Robert Rawlings
Band Director

Melanie Erwin
Principal

Philosophy of Music

Every aspect of music is important and will be emphasized at various stages in a student's development. The core of the instrumental music program is the symphonic concert band. From this ensemble, groups such as the pep band, jazz band, and various chamber groups are derived. The Bath County Music Department stresses the advancement of the student's abilities to function in both the large group and small ensemble setting. Music offers a unique opportunity to challenge each student cognitively, affectively, and physically. It provides for emotional expression, intrinsic worth, and has a positive impact on individuals, families, communities, and cultures.

General Information

The Bath County High School Band is organized into the following ensembles: Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, Pep Band, and other small ensembles.

Symphonic Band: Symphonic Band is open to all band members in grades 9-12. The band rehearses 6th/7th block (1:20pm to 3:15pm) daily (the school's 20 minute break is in the middle of this block). Specific concert dates are listed on the attached music calendar.

Pep Band: All band members participate in pep band which will perform at all home football and basketball games as assigned. The football performance schedule will be distributed at the beginning of the school year and the basketball performance schedule will be distributed in October.

Jazz Ensemble: Membership is open to all high school students who qualify by interview/audition. Auditions/interviews are held in late November and rehearsals are then held during certain Study Zone Days and afterschool on assigned days from 4:00pm until 5:15pm. The jazz ensemble performs at least two formal concerts and may participate in district and state festivals/clinics/assessments.

Uniforms: The school will provide band uniforms with the exception of band shoes. Each student is responsible for having their own SOLID BLACK shoes and BLACK SOCKS (no ankle socks). Shoes should be flat (no heels). Shoes should be conducive to walking/marching as needed. No flip flops, sandals, boots, or other inappropriate footwear.

Sectionals / Lessons: All band members receive one instructional group lesson bi-weekly. Schedules will be posted in the band-room during the second week of school.

Auditions: Auditions for chair placements are held at least twice each year (usually September and January). Specific requirements and procedures will be posted in the band room and outlined during class.

Equipment Needs: Each learner must bring to class everyday: a sharpened pencil, a notebook of paper, their instruments and equipment in good working condition, assigned music, and a good attitude.

Transportation Policy: It is the policy of the Bath County School System that all band members ride school transportation to away events. Students may ride home with parents or a relative providing they have submitted the transportation release form **prior** to leaving for the event. This form is available from the school. The parent or guardian must notify the director in person when taking the child from the performance site with the appropriate forms having been filled out.

Attendance

All members of the band will be assigned places in the rehearsal set-up (seating). Attendance will be taken from these formations. All rehearsals and other meetings will begin exactly at the time set. Members who are not in their places at the prescribed time with their instruments and proper equipment will be marked absent, or tardy, as the case may be.

Members must attend all rehearsals and engagements of the band. *No form of activity may take preference over the regular schedule of rehearsals and appearances.* There is a series of concerts, and other performances throughout the year for the Symphonic Band. The Pep Band performs at all home football games, parades, and ceremonies throughout the year. Attendance at these performances is required. Members of the Pep Band must play also for a portion of the other athletic events during the year where the band is needed.

The excuse for any absence *not covered by the school office for an excused absence from school* must be presented to the director within three days after such absence to receive consideration. After an unexcused absence any member is subject to suspension or removal at the discretion of the director. Grades are also based largely on performance assessments. It is the students' responsibility to properly notify the school/director of excused absences. Whenever possible, secure approval of an absence in advance, keeping in mind that excuses can be granted **ONLY** in cases that are excusable as laid forth by the school policy (sickness, death in the family, etc.). *Work is not a valid excuse for missing band.*

Band is a major activity, and members should arrange their individual programs to make possible complete participation. No other activity in the school takes precedent over our musical, academic endeavors.

The most important thing to remember regarding attendance is that every member of the band is dependent on each other and everyone is expected to be committed to the group. An absence from a rehearsal or performance has a direct effect on everyone else in the band.

Tardy Policy

For the purposes of the Band Class, a student must be in their assigned seat in the band set-up, with instrument and all necessary equipment and supplies, when the tardy bell rings to be considered on time (not tardy). Students are to have instruments fully assembled and individual warm-up underway by the time one (2) minutes have elapsed past the tardy bell. On the rare occasion that there is no playing in band class, a bell-ringer activity will be utilized for the first minutes of class instead of the assembly and individual warm-up.

Students who are late to class must sign the tardy log. Bath County High School has a school-wide tardy policy that is strictly enforced by the administration and the faculty. The tardy policy for each quarter is as follows:

First Unexcused Tardy	One (1) Break Detention (minimum of ten minutes)
Second Unexcused Tardy	Three (3) Break Detentions (minimum of ten minutes each)
Additional Unexcused Tardies	One (1) Day ACP for each & Parent Notification

At the beginning of each quarter, students get a clean slate. Break Detentions will be held every day during break in the gymnasium. Students who fail to show up for their assigned Break Detention(s) will receive double assignment of days. Students who fail to serve double assigned Break Detentions will be assigned one (1) full day of ACP. After a student accumulates two (2) unexcused tardies, each subsequent tardy will result in automatic assignment of one (1) full day of ACP per tardy.

Hall Passes

All students must sign-out of class in a Hall Pass Log and then sign-in in the same log when they return to class. Students must obtain the official hall pass before they will be allowed to leave class.

Note: Students who have medical reasons for frequent bathroom visits must provide medical documentation to the school nurse. The nurse will in turn notify the teachers of that student about the condition and need for extra hall passes

Grading Policy

Band students will receive grades based upon the following learning targets.

Band Learning Targets

Tone:

1. I can play with a resonant tone
2. I can control and maintain my tone with air
3. I can play a clear tone
4. I can play with a focused sound
5. I can consistently play with a good tone
6. I can play with a warm tone

Intonation:

1. I can play each note within my range in tune.
2. I can play in tune within an ensemble.

Rhythm:

1. I can play with rhythmic accuracy.
2. I can play each note and rest for its full value (duration)
3. I can maintain a proper pulse and steadiness within the written meter.

Balance/Blend:

1. I can blend my sound into the qualities of the ensemble.
2. I can develop an understanding and awareness of the ensemble and the different parts being played.
3. I can determine whether I am playing melody, counter-melody, or accompaniment.

Technique:

1. I can attack and release each note together with the ensemble.
2. I can control the sound within the full range of my instrument.
3. I can play my instrument with proper musical and mechanical skill.

Interpretation/Musicianship:

1. I can develop an understanding of style within each piece of music

2. I can play and breathe with proper phrasing
3. I can maintain and change tempo when required by the music.
4. I can follow and play properly all dynamic markings
5. I can follow and play properly all articulation markings
6. I can involve emotion into my playing.

Other:

1. I can maintain my uniform and appearance to meet high standards for performance.
 2. I can be professional during rehearsals and performances.
 3. I can play my instrument with proper posture.
 4. I can play my music memorized when required.
 5. I can play my part at a mastery level alone or in a group.
 6. I can develop good practice habits to achieve mastery of all above learning targets.
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Weighting

Formative Assessments	20%
Summative Assessments	60%
EOC	10%
Participation	10%

Grading Scale

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

Discipline Policy

In order to maintain an orderly educational environment, the following discipline policy will be implemented.

Rules

In addition to the following classroom rules, all rules and regulations set forth in the Bath County Student and Parent Handbook are in effect.

1. No talking while rehearsal is in progress
2. Raise your hand and be recognized by the teacher before speaking
3. Have appropriate materials in class
4. No food or drink in the band room (only bottled water in clear container is allowed)
5. Keep your hands and feet to yourself
6. No cell phones allowed in band without teacher permission (students may be required to place cell phones in safe location away from the band set-up)

Consequences

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1st offense | Verbal Warning |
| 2nd offense | In-class disciplinary action (break detention, time-up, time-out, etc.) |
| 3rd offense | Three (3) Break Detentions |
| 4th offense | Referral to Principal(s) for ACP |

Positive consequences will vary each semester

Severe Discipline Clause

In the event a student blatantly and/or maliciously causes a serious classroom disruption, the severe disciplinary clause will take effect and the student will immediately be taken to the principal's office.

This discipline policy has been approved by the School Administration.

Procedures for Class Rehearsal

- 1) During the class change time before band USE THE RESTROOM and come directly to band class. Bathroom passes are limited and will be monitored very closely this year.
- 2) First, all students should check the SmartBoard or other location where instructions are posted. Following the procedures, make sure to have all equipment, supplies and music needed for the rehearsal.
- 3) Brass and Percussion obtain music folders, and set-up chairs and stands first; Woodwinds set up instruments first. Then brass and percussion set up instruments while woodwinds set up chairs and stands and obtain music folders. This order of procedure is essential for a better flow during set up.
- 4) Enter the instrument storage room through the left-hand door (if applicable), assemble your instrument and place your case back in its storage location. Leave your personal items (Backpacks, etc.) in the appropriate location in the storage areas assigned by Mr. Rawlings. You will exit the instrument storage room through the other door. DO NOT EXIT THROUGH THE ENTRANCE, OR ENTER THROUGH THE EXIT. Leave no personal items out in the band room area. Don't leave anything in the band room that's not band-related.
- 5) All music folders have places that they "live." Students are required to keep the symphonic band folders in the folder cabinet, NOT in the instrument storage area. Folders are numbered and are to be stored in the appropriately labeled location in the folder cabinet. It is the students' responsibility to have their music, supplies, equipment at every rehearsal.
- 6) When band director is on the podium, all students are to become silent and be attentive. Do NOT talk while director is speaking or otherwise engaging the band.

Bath County Band

Handbook Contract

We, the undersigned, do certify that we have read and understand the policies and requirements set forth in the Bath County Band Handbook. We agree to abide by these policies and we understand that failure to meet these commitments can result in dismissal from the band program.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Date

Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Date

Student

Date

This form is due Monday, August 19, 2019