



Bearden High School Band

8352 Kingston Pike • Knoxville, TN 37921

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Congratulations again on being accepted as a member of the 2009-2010 Bearden High School Marching Band. We are very excited about having such a talented group and we are looking forward to an exciting year. During this season, we will be performing in pre-game, halftime shows, competitions, and parades. We hope that you will be making friends within this organization to last your high school years. We look forward to instructing and getting to know all of you.

This handbook contains a great deal of very important information for the students and parents in regards to participation in the various programs offered through the Bearden High School Instrumental Music Department. All items in this handbook should be read carefully and signed where appropriate. Some of the policies and procedures contained herein have been in effect for some time, while others are new. Parents and students should become familiar with each of the policies and procedures listed.

This handbook outlines student responsibilities, attempts to give an overview of the Instrumental Music Department, and hopefully will answer many of your questions concerning the band. It cannot, however, detail every possible situation. Dealing with extraordinary circumstances will be left to the discretion of the directors and appropriate school administration.

Mrs. Christian

Mr. Wilson

Bearden High School Band Directors

General Information

The **Bearden High School Band** has gained an enviable reputation through the years as an outstanding band in Concert, Marching, and Jazz programs, receiving consistent superior ratings in each of these idioms. The band is recognized for its superior performances throughout the United States and Europe. The community of Bearden takes great pride in the bands' accomplishments and continually acknowledges its members as ambassadors of the community.

Traditionally, the BHS Band attends football games, parades, marching competitions, concert competitions, and various public concerts with all entities of the program. The band also serves and represents Bearden High School in a variety of community and civic functions.

During the Fall Semester, students have the opportunity to participate in the Bearden High School Marching Band and the Bearden High School Jazz Band. The marching band consists of approximately 150 students serving as members of the wind section, color guard, drum line, or front ensemble. The Bearden High Jazz Bands performs various concerts at different locations.

In the Spring Semester, the Bearden Band offers students the opportunity to participate in one of our two concert bands and jazz bands. The Symphonic Band consists of Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors, and the Concert Band is composed of Freshmen. Both groups will play Winter and Spring concerts as well as a concert for the State Concert Band Festival in mid-March or early April.

Students of the band are encouraged to individually compete and participate in the State Solo and Ensemble competitions and to audition for the many clinic opportunities provided throughout the Tennessee region, including the Knox County Honor Band, East Tennessee Band and Orchestra Association's All State East Junior and Senior Clinics, and the Tennessee Music Educators Association's All State.

How does band work?

Marching Season: July-October

Marching Season starts in July on the first day of Band Camp. All students enrolled in band classes during the fall are combined to form The Bearden High School Bulldog Marching Band. Throughout the marching season students will rehearse the Marching Band Show, Pep Tunes, and Parade Music. In addition to class rehearsals the marching band also rehearses after school twice a week. After school rehearsals are on Tuesday 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm and Thursday 3:30 to 5:30 pm. The percussion and/or color guard have additional practices after Tuesday and Thursday rehearsals or on Mondays. These rehearsals are announced in advance. After school rehearsals are needed to prepare for every performance because woodwinds and brass/percussion meet separately during the school day. These rehearsals are announced in advance and are **mandatory for all students**.

The marching band performs at all home and most away football games (including play-off games), marching band competitions, marching exhibitions, and parades. In June, the dates

for these events are available on the band calendar on our website. All performances are **mandatory for all students.**

Concert Season: November-May

Concert Season starts immediately after Marching Season has ended. All students enrolled in band classes participate in the concert season. During the fall semester both band classes are combined to form the Fall Concert Band. This group prepares and performs for concerts and parades. During the spring semester 3rd period band forms the Spring Concert Band and 1st period band forms the Spring Symphonic Band.

Concert Band is the spring performance ensemble for all freshmen band members. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors are welcome to take concert band; however, all freshmen who enroll in band for the second semester must take concert band. This ensemble performs a winter concert, ETSB&OA concert band festival, a spring concert, and at the graduation ceremony for Bearden High School. All performances are **mandatory for all students**. This ensemble is a vital stepping stone for those who wish to be in the symphonic band as upper classmen.

Symphonic Band is designed for the most advanced players in our program. This ensemble consists of sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Every student is expected to perform on an extremely high level each day. This ensemble performs some of the most difficult band literature written and enjoys a rich, respected reputation with band professionals from all over the country. This ensemble is consistently rated superior in both performance and sight-reading festivals. The Symphonic band has been selected to play at the Tennessee Music Educators State Convention several times over the years, as well as, the Tennessee State Concert Band Festival. All performances are **mandatory for all students**.

After school rehearsals are sometimes needed. These rehearsals are announced in advance. All after school rehearsals are **mandatory for all students**.

Philosophy

- Every student will learn to enjoy the beauty of music.
- Every student will be able to produce a characteristic sound on his or her instrument by the end of the first semester of study with this program.
- Every student will have a full understanding of his/her embouchure and demonstrate good breathing techniques.
- Every student should be held accountable for their performance responsibilities.
- The directors will introduce, motivate, and train the information base, schedule events, and lead discussions over the course of the semester.
- The directors will guide the musical direction of these ensembles to ensure that all students are performing music at a high level.

Expectations

- Students are expected to participate on an Advanced level every day. Students who are sick will be expected to check out of school. If you are in class you are expected to participate.
- Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will bring credit to themselves, their family, community, and school.
- Students are expected to attend class every day with the expectation of learning the art of performing music at an extremely high level.

- Students are expected to have all of the necessary supplies for daily class instruction.
- Students are expected to have an instrument in excellent playing condition every day
- Students are expected to be physically and mentally prepared for class each day.
- Students and parents are expected to attend all performances of these ensembles.
- Students are expected to enjoy making beautiful music through the following lifelong guidelines: Trustworthiness, Truthfulness, No Put-Downs, Active Listening, and Personal Best.
- Students are expected to conduct themselves professionally during all rehearsals and performances. Failure to do so will result in the immediate dismissal from performances and participating as a member of any Bearden High School Band Ensemble.
- Participation in regional and state band events will be encouraged.
- Private instruction will be strongly encouraged.

Any Student not performing up to the expected standards will be removed from the performing ensemble.

Band Camp

The purpose of band camp is to prepare the marching band show for the fall season. Band camp is **mandatory for all members** of the Bearden High School Marching Bulldog Band.

Percussion and Color Guard Camp, July 20-24, 2009

8:00 am-Noon and 1:30-5:00 pm

Percussion/Color Guard Camp gives percussionists and color guard students time to prepare for Full Band Camp. Percussion students are expected to learn and memorize music from the show, in addition to learning the fundamental skills of marching and moving equipment. Percussion camp is **mandatory for all percussion band members**. Color guard students are expected to learn the fundamental skills of marching, spinning and tossing, and the color guard work for the show.

Freshman Camp, July 23-24, 2009

8:00 am-Noon and 1:30-5:00 pm

The purpose of freshman camp is to introduce freshman band members to marching band. At freshman camp students are taught how to march, play, march and play at the same time, and to learn about different guidelines and traditions of the Bearden High School Band program. Freshman Band camp is **mandatory for all freshman band members and leadership band members**.

Full Band Camp, July 27-August 1, 2009

8:00 am-Noon, 1:30-4:30 pm, and 6:00-8:30 pm

Full Band Camp is when all sections of the band come together with each of their individual talents to learn and prepare the marching band show. It is during this time and this time alone that students will have the opportunity and the time to learn the marching band show. Everyone plays an important part and must be at band camp to make our program successful. Full band camp is **mandatory for all band members**.

Band Camp Guidelines

Band Camp is a physical activity and requires preparation. The beginning of the summer is a great time to begin developing responsibility for the physical condition of your own body.

YOU must stay healthy. We need YOU, and YOU are no good to us sick or hurt! With the proper diet, rest, and fundamental techniques (that you'll learn at camp), no one should be sick or hurt.

For lunch and dinner breaks, students may bring their own food and stay on campus, or travel off-campus to eat at home or at an area fast food restaurant. ***Make sure you are back on time!*** Policies regarding tardiness to rehearsals are discussed later in the handbook.

Below is a checklist of items that helps every band member prepare themselves for camp.

- Be Prepared!
 - Spend some time outdoors. Prepare for the fact that you are going to be outside; sunburn is not an excuse for missing any rehearsals!!
 - Play Around: Take some time to re-familiarize yourself with your instrument.
 - An audio file of the show is available on the website
 - Check out our website www.discoveret.org/bhsband and stay informed.
 - Come get fitted for a uniform and check out an instrument
 - Uniform Fittings are July 23-24 12:00-1:30PM and July 27-August 1 12-1:30PM and 4:30-6:00PM. All students (9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th) need to try on a uniform.
 - Instrument Checkout is July 23-24 12:00-1:30PM.
- Important Gear
 - Get your own personal hand towel and a water container for hydration! Water breaks will be given during rehearsal and students are required to bring their own personal water bottle. Water bottles are not to be shared!
 - All things instrumental: Remember that everyone is responsible for his/her mouthpiece, reed, oil, etc. THE FOLLOWING SIZES AND BRANDS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE FIRST DAY OF CAMP, EVEN THOSE WHO PLAY SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS!
 - Trumpet and Mellophone: Bach 5C or Blessing 5C or Yamaha 14C4
 - Trombone: Yamaha or Schilke 51D
 - Baritone: Small Shank Yamaha or Schilke 51D
 - Tuba: Conn 7 Regular
 - All reed instruments must play ONLY VanDoren reeds. NO RICOS!
 - Every wind player (brass & woodwinds) must buy their own flip folder and lyre. This will be yours for the entire marching season. You are expected to have your folder at every rehearsal. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
 - Marching Attire: Remember that proper marching attire consists of a light colored shirt, shorts, hat, and lace-up tennis shoes. NO BARE FEET OR SANDALS! THIS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.
ALL OF THESE MUSIC ITEMS CAN BE PURCHASED AT ANY LOCAL MUSIC STORE. YOU ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE THESE ITEMS AT THE FIRST REHEARSAL!!!!
- On the first day of camp bring the following:
 - Mandatory Band Camp Fee \$85 (Please make checks payable to “The Bearden High School Band”)
 - Completed Medical Forms:
 - Bearden High School Band Medical Forms (2 pages)
 - Knox County Medical Forms (Must be notarized)

- These can be printed from our website
www.discoveret.org/bhsband
- Things to help you stay COOL! Your personal water container, hand towel, sunscreen, light colored shirt, shorts, and lace-up tennis shoes.
- Your mouthpiece, instrument, reeds, oil, etc. Your Flip Folder and Lyre.
- Food and Drinks for the Football Games and Car Wash
- and most importantly...**A GOOD ATTITUDE! HARD WORK + A POSITIVE MIND-SET + FUN = SUCCESS!**

EVERYONE WHO EXPECTS TO PERFORM IN THE BAND IS EXPECTED TO BE AT CAMP, NO EXCEPTIONS!

Equipment

As mentioned above all students involved in any portion of the Bearden High School Band Program are required to have an instrument in proper working condition.

Wind players should have the following:

- Trumpet and Mellophone: Bach 5C or Blessing 5C or Yamaha 14C4
- Trombone: Yamaha or Schilke 51D
- Baritone: Yamaha or Schilke 51D
- Tuba: Conn 7 Regular
- All reed instruments must play ONLY VanDoren reeds. NO RICOS!

Percussionists should have the following:

- Stick bag
- Metronome
- Medium hard xylophone/bell mallets (IP904)
- Basic concert snare drum sticks (Vic Firth SD1)
- Yarn mallets (IP300)
- Basic timpani mallets (Vic Firth T3)
- Gum rubber snare drum pad with two surfaces
- Chromatic pitch pipe
- Consider purchasing snare drum

Every member of the band is responsible for their mouthpiece and their reeds.

Marching Band students are expected to buy their own flip folder and lyre. This will be yours for the entire marching season. You are expected to have your folder at every rehearsal. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

All trumpet and trombone players are expected to purchase their own straight mute before the beginning of concert season in November.

Remember that privately owned instruments are private property. **Please respect each other and do not touch or damage another individual's private property.** School owned instruments are to be treated as if they were your private instrument. These instruments will be issued in a good state of repair. Any damage that occurs to these instruments is the responsibility of the student and the parent while in the student's charge.

All instruments are to be stored in the cabinets or shelving located in the band room. Not on the floor!

Only percussionists are allowed to play on percussion instruments. Only guard students are allowed to use guard equipment. Please respect other people's equipment.

Uniforms and Appearance

General Appearance: Appearance is extremely important as we perform in front of hundreds of people every week. It is important that you always look your best not only for performances, but also when wearing any BHS Band attire. Visible tattoos or body piercings are prohibited.

Uniforms:

During band camp all students are to come in to be sized and assigned their uniform. (The times for uniform fittings are listed under the band camp guidelines.) Each student will be assigned pants, a shirt, and a sweater vest. Each student is responsible for returning the uniform properly on its hanger in the uniform cabinets. **No student is to take their uniform home at any time.** All uniforms are to stay in the assigned cabinet areas. Each student is to wear their band t-shirt and black athletic shorts underneath their uniform. (A plain white t-shirt is to be worn underneath your uniform during Friday night football games, when there is a band competition the following Saturday.) Each individual student is responsible for purchasing the uniform accessories listed below.

- Black marching band shoes
- Black socks
- Long thermal underwear for cold weather performances. Jeans or long pants are not allowed to be worn underneath the uniform.

Every student will receive a band t-shirt. This t-shirt will act as an undershirt to the band uniform during performances and as part of the band uniform during warmer weather football games. (A plain white t-shirt is to be worn underneath your uniform during Friday night football games, when there is a band competition the following Saturday.) During warm weather games you are to wear your band t-shirt, tan/khaki shorts, white socks and a pair of clean tennis shoes with laces.

All uniforms must be clean for every performance. Do not spray hair spray while wearing any uniform as hair spray chemicals can show on uniforms.

Jewelry: NO jewelry is allowed for any performance unless it is part of the uniform.

Uniform and Dress Code Policy: Remember you are performing in front of hundreds of people every week. You are not only representing yourself, but also every member of the band program, and every student at Bearden High School. When students are to be dressed in uniform they are to be dressed in full uniform. **Do not appear in public in partial uniform.** Our uniforms are more than something that just visually unifies us as a unit; it is also something that represents us.

The Bearden High School Dress Code is in effect at all times you are and are not wearing your uniform. Pants are to be worn at the waist. Clothing should not look ragged or torn. Shirts,

blouses, and dresses must completely cover the abdomen, back, shoulders, and upper chest. Footwear is required. Skirts, dresses and shorts must be beyond fingertip length (4 inches from the middle of the knee). Sleep wear items are prohibited. **During rehearsals and/or performance events you are expected to follow the above mentioned rules.**

Transportation Policy

All students are expected to follow the Knox County policies regarding transportation. All students must ride school provided transportation to an event. Due to circumstances that are excused by the director, students traveling with a parent or guardian to or from the event must meet the following criteria in written form: (1) Name and date of the event from which the student is leaving, (2) Name of parent/guardian the student is leaving with, (3) Phone number where the parent can be reached if verification is needed, (4) Signature of the parent and (5) Arrangements made by the student to have their uniform and instrument unloaded and properly stored in the band room. This form **MUST** be given to a chaperone on that student's bus when the child originally boards the bus to leave Bearden High.

Every effort will be made to follow the planned itinerary for travel. In the event that it appears that the band will be more than 45 minutes late returning from an event, the staff and chaperones will ask students to communicate this information to their parents via cell phone.

Student Behavior Guidelines

1. Non-band members may not sit with the band in the stands.
2. Students must remain seated on the buses and may not sit backwards in the bus seats or lean over the backs of the seats.
3. Excessive noise is not permitted on the bus.
4. Undressing is not allowed.
5. Foul language is prohibited.
6. Inappropriate physical contact is not allowed.
7. Inappropriate conversation topics will not be allowed.
8. Students must listen to the bus driver for any other safety instructions.
9. Students will be addressed by the band directors or chaperones before leaving the buses in order to receive instructions concerning where to go, what to bring, what to do, what to wear, and /or when to return to the buses. Students must listen carefully to these instructions.
10. Students must respect the adult volunteers who are helping with the band activities.
11. Students not returning on the bus from any band event **ARE REQUIRED** to bring a permission slip from a parent with the following information: (1) Name and date of the event from which the student is leaving, (2) Name of parent/guardian the student is leaving with, (3) Phone number where the parent can be reached if verification is needed, (4) Signature of the parent and (5) Arrangements made by the student to have their uniform and instrument unloaded and properly stored in the band room. This form **MUST** be given to a chaperone on that student's bus when the child originally boards the bus to leave Bearden High.

Attendance & Grading Policies

Attendance: The Bearden High School band considers all practices and performances mandatory, and an absence can affect a student's band grade. During marching season the full band rehearses Tuesdays 4:00-5:30 pm and Thursdays 3:30 to 5:30 pm. In addition, percussion rehearses Monday 4:00-6:00 pm and color guard Tuesdays 4:00-6:30 pm and Thursdays 3:30-6:30 pm. If there is a need for additional rehearsals for the full band, they will be announced ahead of time. For concert season, sectionals or full band rehearsals may be required in preparation of our concert festival performance in March/April. Rehearsals are mandatory, they are not optional. One of the band directors should be contacted ahead of time and be provided with a signed note from a parent if a conflict exists. Students are not to be absent from any rehearsal or performance because of a hair cut or a doctor's/dentist appointment. (If those appointments are absolutely unavoidable we would rather a student miss a sectional rehearsal than a full band rehearsal.) If a student needs to make-up work or attend tutoring, that student should make every effort to schedule around practice. **If a rehearsal is missed the directors reserve the right to withhold performance privileges.** Any student missing any rehearsal or a performance for any reason will have a make-up assignment. Students must make a written request and complete make-up assignments within one week of his/her absence.

YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN ALL REQUIRED PERFORMANCE AND REHEARSAL DATES IN THIS HANDBOOK. THERE IS AMPLE TIME TO AVOID A SCHEDULING "CONFLICT." IF A PREVIOUS COMMITMENT HAS BEEN MADE, THE DIRECTOR MUST BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING. IF THE BAND COMMITS TO A PERFORMANCE, ALL MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND. There may be a parade or other type of function at which our band will be asked to perform. If we accept one of these invitations, you will be informed in plenty of time to arrange your schedules accordingly.

Grading: Because band is a group as well as an individual effort, it is very important that we have the entire group in attendance at rehearsals and performances. Each student can make a positive contribution to the overall program and is instrumental to the success of the band as a whole. For this reason, the following policies are in place:

Evaluations

- Students will be evaluated on a daily basis through specific assignments.
- Students will be evaluated on his/her performance of the selected music.
- Students will be responsible for major scales and arpeggios, fluency, technique, etudes, sight-reading, various articulation requirements, and rudiments.
- Video and Audio recordings of individuals will be a method of evaluation.
- Directors and other contracted persons will pull students out to help when they are experiencing difficulties.
- An unexcused absence from a rehearsal will automatically be recorded as a 0; please see the attendance policy above.
- An unexcused absence from a performance will automatically be recorded as a 0; please see the attendance policy above.
- Each student is responsible to have his/her instrument, pencil, music, and any other equipment needed for class at every rehearsal.

- Tardies to class will be handled according to school policy.
- Each student will be graded on participation, effort, and improvement based on the following breakdown:

Marching Band & Marching Band Guard (Fall)

- 60% Performances (Games, Parades, Concerts, Playing Tests and Mini-Camp)**
- 25% Daily Attendance and Participation**
- 15% Final**

Symphonic Band (Spring)

- 60% Performances (Concerts, Playing Tests, Parades, and Event related rehearsals)**
- 25% Participation**
- 15% Final**

Band Fees

Band Camp Fee (Due July 27) \$85
 Make checks payable to "Bearden High School"

Fall Band Fee (Due August 17) \$150
 Make checks payable to "Bearden High School"

Band Booster Fee (Due August 22) \$165
 Fundraiser

Have all donors make checks payable to "The Bearden High School Band Boosters"

Spring Band Fee (Due January 5) \$50
 Make checks payable to "Bearden High School"

Spring Band Booster Fee (Due January 5) \$40
 Make checks payable to "The Bearden High School Band Boosters"

Special Trip Fee

If there is a trip fee it will be announced previous to the event. All trip fees will be due on a specific date prior to the event.

Please let us know your financial needs. We do not want any student to not be in band because of lack of funds, but prior arrangements need to be made with the director. **DON'T LET MONEY BE A PROBLEM! WE CAN HELP YOU WORK IT OUT!**

BAND CAMP FEE (\$85) The band camp fee covers the cost of instructor fees (excluding directors), equipment, and show shirts.

FALL BAND FEE (\$150) This fee covers the cost of transportation to marching competitions, parades, and football games. It also covers maintenance and general upkeep costs for all band equipment. This fee pays for the purchase of new music

for marching and concert bands, and it covers the cost of paying additional staff for marching band. This money also provides the general operating budget for the band.

SPRING BAND FEE (\$50) The spring fee is spent in largely the same way as the fall fee is spent. The cost difference is due to the lack of all the marching band expenses.

BAND BOOSTER FEES This fee covers the cost of budgeted expenses of the band program. It also covers maintenance and general upkeep costs for all band equipment. This fee pays for the purchase of new music and drill for marching band and music for concert bands. This money also provides the general operating budget for the band.

All fundraisers are to help lower the cost of all band fees.

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

Students will conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen at all times as befits any quality representative of Bearden High School, the Bearden Community, and Knox County Schools. The disciplinary rules and regulations of the Bearden High School Band are consistent with those of Bearden High School and the Knox County Board of Education. Students found violating any rules or regulations will be dealt with in a very severe manner which may jeopardize the student's existence within our organization as well as lead to penalties for the rest of the group. Rules concerning the use or possession of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco are always in force. Rumors of the use of these items will only damage the reputation of the band program in the eyes of the community, student body, school administration, and the public in general.

The Bearden High School Band has a reputation of being one of the finest organizations in the area, both in performance and in public. Remember you are now a member of the Bearden Band, and anything you do, either good or bad, will reflect directly upon our organization. Let us work hard to make the Bearden High School Band one of the most respected, admired, and finest organizations anywhere to be found.

One of the opportunities available to BHS band students is traveling throughout the United States in order to promote the high degree of excellence shown by our high school, community, and state. In order for a student to participate in these opportunities, he/she must be a member in good standing of the instrumental music program, be in good academic standing with BHS, and have paid all financial obligations with the band up to date. The discretion of the directors and/or BHS administration shall prevail if a student is in question.

Noncompliance with the rules and policies of the instrumental music department may result in notification of parents, being sent home from an activity, suspension, removal from the band program, or restriction from participation in certain school and band activities.

Handbook Compliance / Confirmation

I have read the information contained in this handbook, and by signing below I am acknowledging that I understand and agree with all the rules and policies stated within it. I understand that failure to comply with the policies stated above may result in appropriate consequences determined by the director.

I release the band directors, Bearden High School administration, and Knox County Schools of any liability connected with transportation.

Band Member Name: (please print) _____

Band Member Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: (please print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

***Please detach this compliance form from the handbook and turn it into the band office before August 21, 2009.