

Horseshoe Bend Band Handbook

2025-2026

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PREFACE

This handbook has been written to help students gain the most from their band experience, as well as to provide **guidance to the practical everyday experiences of the band program.**

The success of the band program centers on **pride, commitment to task, and the willingness to work hard to achieve a common goal.** We do not expect every student in the band program to become a virtuoso musician. **We do expect every student to establish both short and long range goals for improvement on their instrument, to exhibit mature, responsible attitudes and actions at all times, and to be willing to contribute hard work for the benefit of all.**

The band program exists to provide an **excellent music education for the students.** This is achieved through individual study and varied performances in many venues, both marching and concert, and supporting a curriculum that places an emphasis on musicianship and participation. **Performance opportunities** include large ensembles, chamber ensembles, and solos. The skills that band students acquire in these activities are **directly related to skills necessary for auditions, presentations, and interviews in other career fields.**

The band program will also develop a student's **social skills.** Participation in band enables the students to form **close friendships** within the school through their collaborative efforts. It also provides the opportunity to work with their peers as part of a **team.** As a member of the Horseshoe Bend High School Band, students make long-lasting friendships and develop a sense of **camaraderie** that is unique to our organization. There will be many opportunities for musical fellowship and fun through participation in band. **Organizational goals are clearly established,** and the students depend heavily on each other to achieve them. As a result, the concepts of **responsibility, teamwork, and good citizenship** will develop as each student experiences the world of music.

The **ultimate goal** of the program is to produce graduates who are **knowledgeable about music, can perform skillfully with confidence, can operate within a structured framework, and can work to develop the skills necessary to become a life-long musician.** In addition, the program also strives to produce **informed adults of high integrity** who understand and appreciate music and musicians, and who will foster the continuing developments of artistic endeavors in their community.

PHILOSOPHY AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

WORK ETHIC: I believe in work, hard work. Because of this, I believe that music can make a young person into a responsible adult. Music allows students the opportunity to express themselves. Music allows students the opportunity to belong. Music allows students the opportunity to take ownership in something. Music allows students to feel pride. Music gives students many opportunities, but at the root of all of these things is hard work. Without this, no organization can succeed. If you give your best at everything you do, then no one can ever take that away from you.

RESPONSIBILITY: At the basis of everything in this handbook is responsibility. If each person acts like a responsible, reasonable young person with self-discipline, there will be very few problems. Each and every member of this band program has the capability of acting in a mature and responsible manner, and that is what I expect at all times.

LEADERSHIP: Leadership is not exclusive to drum majors and section leaders. I expect every member of the band to be a leader. Everyone should strive to be the best they can be and not depend on someone else to do the work for them. If every member of this band would strive to be a leader then we would have no followers, and the band would be a better team. Every member should do their best at all times.

EXCELLENCE: One of our main goals as an organization is to continue the tradition of excellence that the Horseshoe Bend Band has and to elevate our standards to achieve the highest success possible. In order to do this, we must work hard during rehearsal. Our goal is also for every band student to become a great musician. I will work hard to give every student the opportunity to become a great musician, but they must also work hard in order to become one. We will strive to make great music. Great musicians make great music, and students in our band program possess this potential.

GRIT: You can control two things in your life: your attitude and your effort. Keeping your attitude and effort on the acronym GRIT will help you to always achieve success.

G = Growth Mindset

R = Respectful

I = Integrity

T = Teachable

BANDS

BEGINNING BAND: This performance-based class is for 6th-graders and focuses on basic instrumental skill development and music reading. The goal of this class is to teach students the proper way to hold and play a brass, percussion, or woodwind instrument with the characteristic tone quality of the instrument. **Students will play an instrument that is approved by the band director.** Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in solo and ensemble festivals, district honor bands, and private lessons. Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

JUNIOR HIGH BAND: This performing ensemble is for progressing wind and percussion instrumentalists in 7th grade. This year-long course introduces “comprehensive musicianship” through music performance of challenging and varied literature. Skills and concepts from the previous year are developed and expanded upon. In addition to continued refinement of individual performance skills, an emphasis is placed on ensemble performance skills. Students will continue to develop their knowledge of music theory, begin to analyze and evaluate music, and use critical thinking skills to make refinements in their performance. Individual and ensemble performance skills will be expanded through musical expression and technical accuracy. Individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble festivals, district honor bands, and private lessons. This is a performance-based class. Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

HIGH SCHOOL BAND: This performance-based class is Horseshoe Bend’s most advanced performing ensemble for wind and percussion instrumentalists in 8th - 12th grade. This year-long course introduces “comprehensive musicianship” through performance of challenging and varied literature. Skills and concepts from the previous year are developed and expanded upon. In addition to continued refinement of individual performance skills, greater emphasis is placed on ensemble performance skills. Students will continue to develop their knowledge of music theory, begin to analyze and evaluate music, and use critical thinking skills to make refinements in their performance. Individual and ensemble performance skills will be expanded through musical expression and technical accuracy. Individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble festivals, district honor bands, and private lessons. Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

FIVE-STAR MARCHING BAND: This performance-based class is Horseshoe Bend’s performing ensemble for athletic events, namely football. All students in 8th - 12th grade are required to participate in this group. **For 2025 - 2026, 7th graders may participate.** Students will develop their comprehensive musicianship through quality arrangements of varying genres of music. Students will also develop the skill of traditional corps-style marching and combine it with their playing skills to put

on various shows for the halftime audience at football games and for marching competitions and festivals. Participation at football games, competitions, and festivals outside of regular class hours is required.

COMMUNICATIONS

E-MAIL - Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns by email. I love hearing from you all and want to be available for conversations as needed. You may reach me by email at colin.cureton@tallapoosak12.org, and I will respond no later than 24 hours after during the school week. If you would like to set up a phone call with me, please let me know via email, and I will contact you during my planning period. I do not accept phone calls outside of business hours.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Any announcements regarding fundraisers, band events, trips, etc. will be communicated in the following ways:

1. Announcement in class/rehearsal
2. BAND App (All students and one parent /guardian are **required** to be members of this group.)
3. E-mail
4. Reminders from students in band leadership roles

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

All fees that may be associated with participation in band and/or marching band are located here.

MARCHING BAND

Band Fee	Winds and Percussion: \$150.00 Auxiliary/Drum Major: \$75.00 - Households with more than one student in band: the first student will be charged a full band fee according to their caption. The rest will be charged \$100.00 (winds/percussion) \$50.00 (auxiliary/drum major). - If you have one student being charged the winds/percussion fee and another being charged the auxiliary/drum major fee, the fee deduction will occur on the
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	auxiliary/drum major fee.
Instrument Rental Fee - Anyone who uses a school instrument during the school year for rehearsal and at-home practice purposes must pay this one-time fee	\$50.00
White Gloves	First pair: Free Each additional pair: \$3.00
Black Marching Shoes	\$35.00 (subject to change)
Flip Folder	\$10.00 (subject to change)
Lyre	Varies by instrument: \$10.00-\$25.00

The purpose of the band fee is to help with operational expenses that include but are not limited to bus fuel for trips, repairs for **school** instruments, copyright licensing for music arrangements, music, all-state registration, solo and ensemble registration, and band camp staff. It includes one band t-shirt for each marching band member.

The marching band fee must be paid in full by the first day of band camp, **July 22, 2024**. If you would like to pay before this, please either send it to school with your student before the last day of school or email me to arrange a time to drop off your payment **before June 13, 2024**. You can also arrange a time between **July 8, 2024** and before band camp. If it is not paid by this date, then your student will be removed from band. Please do not leave your student at band camp until you have ensured this fee has been paid. (**These are incorrect and the correct dates are included in the BAND app calendar.**) **[PLEASE USE DATES IN THE BAND APP FOR 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR!]**

BEGINNING BAND & 7th GRADE BAND

Class Fee - Covers band book, sheet protectors and binders provided by Mr. Cureton.	\$25.00
Instrument Rental Fee - Anyone who uses a school instrument during the school year for rehearsal and at-home practice purposes must pay this one-time fee.	\$50.00

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is a necessary part of the band's financial program. Most of the funding we receive comes from money that we raise as an organization through the concession stand at football games and fundraisers. Because of this, participation in fundraisers are required in order to be a member of the band.

FAIR SHARE FUNDRAISING - Every household must fundraise a minimum amount or "fair share" to contribute to our yearly fundraising goals.

- Households with only one band student are responsible for raising \$200.00.
- Households with more than one band student are responsible for raising \$150.00.

This can be fulfilled in the following ways:

1. Apply profits from fundraisers (most common).
2. Work two shifts in the concession stand for \$25.00 credit to fair share goal (two-time only).
[Maximum \$50 per student.]
3. Donate your fair share minimum based on your number of students in band (\$200.00 or \$150.00).

If your fair share minimum has not been satisfied by September 1, 2025, your student or students are required to participate in fundraisers to contribute toward their fair share. Any balance remaining after the school year's fundraisers will be charged as a fee that is due by the last day of school: May 23, 2026. If this is not paid, it will go toward your student's school debts to be paid by graduation.

To help your student achieve the required amount, a goal number of items will be designated for each fundraiser.

SUPPLIES

For this class, all students will need the following items for their personal use (anything not provided must be purchased):

1. 1-1.5-inch 3-ring binder (provided)
2. Sheet protectors (provided)
3. Notebook paper
4. Pencil
5. Any music received in class
6. Instrument and related materials
7. Designated Method Book (provided)
8. Lyre and Flip Folder (Marching Band)
9. 1-inch 3-ring binder for drill (Marching Band) - provided
10. Tennis shoes (Marching Band)

Students are **REQUIRED** to bring their supplies each day. Failure to do so will result in a loss of preparedness points.

GRADING

MAJOR GRADES - 60%

- Playing Tests
- Written Tests
- Notebook Check
- Check Offs (6th & 7th Grade only)
- Performances/Games/Competitions/Parades
- Tallapoosa County Honor Band
- Grades 7-12 Only: Audition for All-State OR Perform at Solo and Ensemble (Pass/Fail)
 - To pass, you must pass the scales portion of All-State Audition or participate in Solo and Ensemble.

MINOR GRADES - 40% (see classroom expectations)

- After-school & Special Rehearsal Attendance
- Conduct & Preparedness
- Sectionals
- In-Class Activities

GRADING SCALE

The grading scale is as follows:

100 - 89.5 A

89.4 - 79.5 B

79.4 - 69.5 C

69.4 - 59.5 D

Below 59.5 F

Our goal in band is to create lifelong lovers of music. Students who attend class, actively participate in class, and do all of their assignments to the best of their ability will have no issue making an A in this class!

EXPECTATIONS

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

1. Upon entering the band room, assemble your instrument, have a seat, and begin warming up.
2. When Mr. Cureton signals for you to stop playing, instructional time has started.
3. Any student who is not in their seat ready to play at 5 minutes after the tardy bell will be marked tardy.
4. At the end of class, you should put your own chair and stand away and place your instrument in the storage rooms. Percussionists are responsible for putting all mallets and sticks away.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

1. Have all applicable materials – instrument, binder, drill binder, lyre, reed, mouthpiece, flip folder, tennis shoes for marching band, etc.
2. Absolutely no cell phone or smartwatch use is allowed during rehearsal. These devices should be turned off and left in your locker. There is a designated area in the band room for electronic devices to go if you possess any.
3. Do not talk when Mr. Cureton is teaching.
4. If you have a question, please raise your hand and wait for Mr. Cureton to acknowledge you.
5. Food, candy, drinks, and gum are not allowed at rehearsal. Bottled water is allowed.
6. All students are expected to play when asked.
7. When Mr. Cureton is working with a specific group of students, you should remain on task by mentally practicing your music (airplay, finger through music, make notes).
8. All students must have a pencil during class. Mr. Cureton will have some available, but they must be returned at the end of class.

9. Principal players or section leaders are expected to frequently make helpful comments to their section in a non-disruptive and discreet manner so that the rehearsal is not interrupted.

Any breach of classroom expectations will result in a 5% deduction from your Rehearsal Conduct & Preparedness grade.

AFTER-SCHOOL/SPECIAL REHEARSALS/PERFORMANCES - Attendance at all scheduled after-school rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Any unexcused absence from an after-school rehearsal, special rehearsal, or performance (concerts, parades, sporting events) will result in a deduction from your corresponding grade or in the case of afterschool sectionals, a 0. Excluding special rehearsals, these dates are listed in the Calendar section of the handbook and in the BAND app. A special rehearsal is any supplemental rehearsal that Mr. Cureton may schedule to assist with a performance's preparation. Except for emergencies, you must notify me **VIA EMAIL OR IN WRITING** prior to the absence, or the absence will be considered unexcused regardless of the reason. Please try your best to schedule doctor's appointments, student jobs, and any other appointments so that they do not conflict with practice. **The only time you may do a make-up assignment is if you have an excused absence.** Each student must take pride in the band and be present and on time to every rehearsal. After-school rehearsals during marching season will be on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday until 5:00 PM. Sectional schedules for Concert Band will be given to students at the conclusion of football season and at the beginning of each nine weeks in the spring. Excused absences may still result in a lack of performance opportunity at games or competitions. Parents may observe rehearsals, but should not become a distraction. The **ONLY** reason a rehearsal will be canceled is if after-school activities are canceled district-wide or if I cancel the rehearsal (this may apply to rehearsals later on in the semester).

TARDINESS - All rehearsals, performances, and events have a call time. The call time is the time at which your student should be prepared to start said activity. Therefore, your student must arrive early so that they can be prepared to start at the call time. If your student is not prepared to start at this time, they are considered tardy, which will result in a grade deduction.

GRADE DEDUCTIONS - The Performance Attendance grade (PA), After-school & Special Rehearsal Attendance grade (RA), and the Conduct & Preparedness (CP) grades can receive deductions in certain circumstances. Students will receive an RA grade per week. Please note that the PA and RA grades are specifically for Marching Band since we rehearse much more for Marching Band than Concert Band. Concert Band sectionals will be their own grade since they are fewer in number.

These are the following infractions that will result in a grade deduction:

Unexcused tardy to a performance call time: 20% deduction from performance grade

Unexcused absence from an after-school/special rehearsal: 33% deduction from weekly RA grade

Unexcused tardy to an after-school/special rehearsal: 11% deduction from weekly RA grade

Missing equipment and supplies: 5% deduction from CP grade

Breach of classroom expectations: 5% deduction from CP grade

EXCUSES - Doctor's excuses, death in the family, school functions, and a limit of one parent note per nine weeks will excuse you from the grade deductions associated with attendance.

NOTE: There will be a separate system in terms of rehearsal attendance in regards to demerits and eligibility to march at football games. See the Discipline section of the handbook. Demerits and grades are related.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES - In order to participate in after-school activities, it is school policy that students must be checked into school prior to **11:30 AM**. If an activity takes place on Saturday, students must be checked into school prior to 11:30 AM on Friday.

BEHAVIOR - It is expected that all students in the band program act appropriately. When in rehearsal (either during the school day or after), at a concert, or at any other event, positive behavior is expected. Mutual respect is expected. Positive attitudes and a great product are expected of the band, and I know we will achieve that. Hold each other accountable for behavior because if someone in the band is behaving poorly, it impacts the learning environment for the entire band. Follow all rules set forth by the student code of conduct.

SOCIAL MEDIA - As each band member is expected to represent the band program, the school, and the community in a positive way, there must also be accountability regarding social media. Students should refrain from posting or reposting any offensive material or anything that represents our school and organization poorly. If there is any question about whether or not something is offensive, it shouldn't be posted. Consequences for violation of this policy can include dismissal from the band program.

PRACTICE - In order for our band to be the best it can be and for each student to be the best musician they can be, it is important for everyone to practice their music outside of school. I believe that you should spend a **MINIMUM** of 2 hours per week practicing your music. We cannot spend the time in class to teach everyone their music individually. If you don't practice, then you are bringing down the rest of your peers, and you are not unlocking your full potential as a musician. Feel free and please practice more than this if you feel led! This means you must take your instruments home and USE them! Frequent spot checks will be made during class on music and scales. More time spent practicing equals greater skill on your instruments. Please encourage your student to practice at home. Students in beginning band are not allowed to leave instruments in the band room or their teachers' classrooms.

BRACES - Students should avoid getting braces added and removed directly before a performance. Braces change the way the student performs which can negatively affect his/her performance abilities.

JOINING BAND - Much like math, band is a cumulative subject that builds upon itself. Students who would like to join after the initial entry point (6th grade) must stay after school weekly on Wednesdays in the fall and Tuesdays and Thursdays in the spring from 3:30-5:00 until they are caught up with learning to read music and playing their instrument sufficiently enough to the point at which they can catch up to their current grade level on their own. Over the years that students participate in band, they will obtain music reading skills that will allow them to successfully continue in music either in college or the community. Like reading words, music reading is important to the development of musicianship and music literacy. As students' skills in reading increases, their ability to perform higher level music also increases as well as their higher-order thinking skills and problem-solving skills. This is why it is important to ensure every student spends extra time focusing on music literacy at the beginning of their time in band.

ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION - In order for a student to be considered eligible for participation in band, they must meet a minimum GPA requirement of 2.3 for the spring semester. This is because students who are failing other classes will be pulled out of band for intervention purposes. For all grades 7-12, if your schedule says band on the first day of school, you are required to participate in band for the entire year. The counselor will not drop band from your schedule unless Mr. Cureton has requested you to be removed. For grade 6, you are only allowed to drop band from your schedule at the end of each semester. All students in grade 7-12 must participate in marching band AND concert band.

DRUMLINE - To play a battery instrument on the drumline, students **MUST** audition. Students on the drumline can expect to have some extra after-school rehearsals and sectionals.

AUXILIARIES* - In order to audition for first-time membership in either the color guard or majorette line, the student must be entering grades 8-12. All members **MUST** audition. Additional information can be gathered from the auxiliary coaches. Situations involving transfer students will be evaluated by the director. Auxiliary members can expect to have some extra after-school rehearsals as well as passoffs every week to determine halftime performance eligibility. Non-band students are allowed to audition for the auxiliary units but will be expected to fully participate in band by learning an instrument as well. Auxiliary members are expected to maintain skill on their primary instruments and will be expected to play their instrument at times during both semesters. They are expected to play their instrument at non-football sporting events.

***THIS SECTION PENDING FURTHER REVIEW BY THE DIRECTOR OF BANDS.**

FACILITIES - Each student is responsible for proper care of all school facilities. This includes appropriate disposal of all trash and a general respect for all equipment and supplies.

- Band Room – All students are expected to correctly store their equipment in the correct locations and ensure the chairs / stands are appropriately placed in the band setup . Trash is to be picked up off the floor.
- Instrument Rooms – All cases will be closed and stored neatly. Trash is to be placed in the containers. No person should tamper with another person's instrument or belongings.
- Library/Storage Rooms – All Students are to refrain from entering these rooms unless instructed to do so by the Band Director.
- Auxiliary Room – Only auxiliary students are permitted to access this room unless otherwise instructed.
- Percussion Equipment – Non-percussion students are not to play on drums or other percussion equipment without permission. These are not toys but expensive musical instruments.
- Band Office – Students should not be enter the office unless the Band Director has given prior permission. No items are to be taken from the desk or other areas without permission.

PARENTS - The band cannot function without the support of parents. For this reason, each parent is responsible for a certain number of duties during the course of the year. These duties include, but are not limited to: working in the concession stand, chaperoning away games and competitions, providing water for the band during band camp and football games, and providing meals for the band before football games and competitions. Each parent should understand that they must participate in order for the band to function. If you cannot personally work any of these duties, you may find someone to work in your place. Any assistance you can give the band would be greatly appreciated. Donations of any sort are great; water is always useful because we need water to drink during football games and competitions to make sure we remain hydrated.

CLEAN-UP DUTIES - Students are responsible for making sure the band room is clean and that all equipment is put away after all rehearsals, games, and other activities. The responsibilities are listed by grade level/group.

7th Graders / 8th Graders - responsible for carrying yard markers and picking up all trash at practice field and for cleaning and organizing the band room after Thursday rehearsals.

Freshmen - responsible for carrying speaker and speaker stand to practice field and for cleaning and organizing the band room after Monday rehearsals.

Sophomores - responsible for cleaning and organizing the band room after Thursday rehearsals.

Juniors - responsible for cleaning and organizing the band room after Tuesday rehearsals.

Seniors - responsible for cleaning and organizing the band room after Monday rehearsals.

Percussion - responsible for neatly putting away all percussion mallets, sticks, and equipment. [in addition to grade level responsibility.]

Auxiliary - responsible for neatly putting all auxiliary equipment away into the auxiliary closet. [in addition to grade level responsibilities.]

The drum major has the authority to keep a section or sections after rehearsal for clean-up.

Any item left in any part of the band room or practice field that is not an instrument will be disposed of if left unattended!

Classes not attending to their duties will be assigned extra duties. This includes those who leave without doing their share.

TRAVEL - All students are required to ride the bus to football games, competitions, MPA, and other events. Students may be checked out by their parent/guardian at the **END** of these events to ride back with them.

ATHLETIC EVENT EXPECTATIONS

The band has a very important role when playing and performing at athletic events (football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball, and soccer). We have the power to influence game momentum and crowd participation as well as the ability to cheer for our team. Therefore, when playing at these event, our sole priority should be to play this role to our best ability and to perform at the highest level possible. These are the following expectations for athletic events:

1. Be prepared by having all music organized in your flip folder, bringing your lyre, and having your music prepared.
2. If applicable, a uniform inspection will occur before leaving for an event or before exiting the bus at another location. You must be in complete uniform (shako, coat, pants, gloves, marching shoes, long black socks).
3. Most of the time, you will know which stands tune well before the timeout occurs. It is your responsibility to be ready to play as soon as the timeout starts. You must have your horn up and ready to play before the drum major or director counts off. In football, when we play offensive/defensive cheers after every down, the same applies. While band is a social activity, we have a job to do when playing in the stands. Everyone must be ready to play **AS SOON AS** the ball is dead or the timeout starts. When the drum major or Mr. Cureton signals a cheer, you must pop your horn up and be ready to play. All cheers must be memorized.
4. At football games, unless there is an injury or we are on a break, you are expected to stand the entire time.
5. No non-band members are allowed to sit in the band section, including during halftime.
6. Every member stays until the band is dismissed.
7. Band members are expected to cheer with the cheerleaders and support the team. Absolutely no booing and negative comments toward players, coaches, and officials are allowed.

8. Students are only allowed to drink water outside of our third quarter break. Students are not allowed to accept any other drink or food from parents, relatives, and friends. Students will be provided meals before games, so this is not necessary.
9. After the third quarter break, students are to be back in the stands at the designated time on the clock. During this break, students are not to remove their uniform jacket. Students should finish all concession food and drink before returning to their spot in the stands. At this point, students should only have water until the game is over with. Food and specifically sugar can get into the instruments and damage them.

Any breach of these expectations will result in a 5% deduction from the CP grade.

DISCIPLINE

DISCIPLINARY ACTION - The student handbook section on discipline will be followed for disciplinary action, but ultimately, the consequences of poor decisions are at my discretion. Repeated disciplinary problems will result in a reevaluation of the student's participation in the band program and possible removal. Possible disciplinary actions include, but are not limited to, loss of third quarter break, loss of halftime performance privileges, and other actions not explicitly outlined in this document. All disciplines will be equal to the infractions presented.

BAND CELL PHONE POLICY - With the passage of the **THE FOCUS ACT** by the Alabama Legislator, schools are now required to have policies in place surrounding the ban of devices capable of telecommunication. Our band program will follow these rules both in class AND at rehearsals. Our program will operate on a "one strike, you're out" basis. Meaning, if the student is caught using / possessing a device, they will 1) lose possession of the device until the end of rehearsal, 2) receive **three** demerits toward their weekly allowance, and 3) after three (3) infractions of THIS rule, students will be dismissed from the program.

In addition, students who post unfavorable opinions or disrespectful content of HBS and its faculty and staff on their social media will be immediately dismissed from the band program. As a member of this program, you represent ALL of HBS and we - as an organization - will not tolerate such behavior.

Inappropriate Behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Mocking a faculty/staff member
- Any act that threatens, harasses, or demeans a peer, faculty, or staff of HBS (or in general)
- Places an individual in a state of fear of harm
- Any action that disrupts the learning environment and order of school rules

- ANY ACTION DEEMED INAPPROPRIATE BY THE DIRECTOR OF BANDS AND HBS ADMINISTRATION

Places Cell Phones are NOT allowed:

- Anytime during the Instructional Day
- Class
- Rehearsals
- Pep Rallies
- Football Games (Minus 3rd Quarter Break)
- Parades
- Concerts

Places Cell Phones ARE allowed:

- Bus Rides to and from performance events*
- Band Competitions / Contests
- 3rd Quarter Break at Football Games

*Bus drivers are allowed to ban devices on Bus Trips. In the event of a social media infraction that occurs on the bus, the guilty party will receive appropriate discipline and ALL students will lose cell phone privileges for the remainder of the season.

If you need to contact your student, please message Mr. Cureton, Mrs. Kelley, or Mrs. Smith when cell phones are prohibited. The BAND app will be the quickest and easiest way to contact us during the instructional day / after-school events.

DEMERITS - Demerits are administered to students in marching band to remind them of expectations. Demerits can be issued for infractions listed below or upon consideration by the director. 3 demerits accumulated within 1 week means the student will not perform at halftime. Students who acquire 3 demerits must still attend the football game, participate in the stands, and perform the halftime show but will not be allowed to carry their instrument / flag / baton. Please note that performing at half-time is half of the performance grade; therefore, receiving 3 demerits will automatically deduct your grade by 50%.

1 demerit - Tardies, missing supplies, breach of classroom expectations

2 demerits - Excused absence

3 demerits - Unexcused absence, ISI (In School Intervention) or OSS (Out of school suspension), **USE / POSSESSION OF AN UNAPPROVED ELECTRONIC DEVICE**

PERFORMANCES

PERFORMANCES - A performance includes any sporting event, parade, concert, or other event that is listed under important dates. It is required that students be at all performances and very important to have every student at all performances. Each student is an important part of the band, and they must be present to make us as successful as possible. Excusing an absence is ultimately at my discretion, and I must be made aware of the absence **VIA EMAIL OR IN WRITING** before it occurs.

The Horseshoe Bend Five-Star Marching Band attends **ALL** varsity football games and some other sporting events. See the attendance and grade deduction policy in the Expectations section of the handbook.

MPA: MUSIC PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT - MPA is our "Spring Contest" which happens in the month of March each year. Typically, the High School Band and sometimes the Junior High Band attend MPA as two separate ensembles. If you are in the band, you will be at MPA. We have **ONE** adjudicated performance per year for each concert band, and it is mandatory that you be present. Other school activities do not excuse you from MPA. I do not schedule MPA, and I do not choose what day or time we perform. There are usually 50 or more bands throughout our ABA district that perform at MPA, so there is no way for each band to get their preferred time. I do submit requests to attempt to avoid conflicts with extracurricular activities. The only excused absences are as previously stated: illness with doctor's excuse, death in the family, or other serious situations. Unexcused absences from MPA will likely result in dismissal from the band. Except for extreme circumstances, students with more than 7 absences, whether excused or unexcused, from their band class or unexcused absences from half of their sectionals between the time we return from holiday break and the time we go to MPA will not be allowed to perform at MPA or travel with the band to MPA. It is imperative that each student be present in class.

UNIFORMS AND ATTIRE

UNIFORMS - Uniforms are issued to students in marching band. These uniforms are to be taken care of. Uniforms are very expensive and should last for many years. It is the responsibility of each student to make sure their uniform is appropriately tailored. Pants should NEVER drag the ground. Uniforms will not be taken home with students, they will be returned to the uniform closet following every performance.

If your student damages a part of their uniform through neglectful behavior, they must pay to repair or replace it depending on the severity of the damage. These are the unit prices for each uniform part (NOTE: these prices are based on a bulk order, so replacing one uniform will be slightly more expensive)

Coat - \$261.38
Pants - \$114.15
Shako - \$70.32
Plume - \$24.00
Garment Bag - \$15.85

APPEARANCE IN UNIFORM - When participating in events that require marching band uniforms to be worn, all uniform parts must be worn properly if you are in the public eye. Students must be in full uniform. Students are not allowed to take the uniform coat off at any point until we are finished wearing the uniform and back on the bus or at the band room. Do not change in and out of your uniform unless you are on the bus or in the band room or bathroom. Students are not allowed to wear any jewelry, including watches, smartwatches, bracelets, necklaces, or any visible piercings. Students must wear long black socks as well as their black marching shoes when in uniform. Auxiliary units must wear their agreed upon uniform as decided by each unit's coach. Any infraction regarding proper wear of the uniform will result in a 5% deduction from the student's PC grade.

HAIR - All students must have a natural hair color (red, blonde, brown, black). Hair must also fit neatly underneath the shako so that the shako can be worn properly.

CONCERT ATTIRE - For all concert band performances, concert attire will consist of an all-black outfit that we often refer to in the music world as concert black. Concert black is a specific style of clothing that allows an ensemble to appear presentable but does not require anyone to purchase a specific uniform. Concert black only includes solid black articles of clothing that are considered dress clothing. Athletic shorts, leggings, t-shirts, tank tops, jeans, and articles of clothing with writing, glitter, or multicolored are **prohibited**. Black blouses, dress shirts, polos (with no other coloring including logos), knee-length or longer skirts, slacks, or other dress pants are part of concert black attire. Additionally, dress shoes that are closed-toe and solid black are the only type of shoe allowed. Sneakers, slides, sandals, and other non-dress shoes are prohibited. Students are not allowed to wear large accessories while wearing concert black. Small rings, small necklaces, and solid silver or gold colored stud earrings are permitted on stage. All bracelets, watches, smartwatches, and hair ties must be removed from wrists before performances. Hair must be pulled away from the face for performances. Makeup is allowed, but only light eyeshadow and blush colors. **PERFUME, COLOGNE, AND SCENTED LOTIONS ARE PROHIBITED AT ALL PERFORMANCES AND REHEARSALS.** Deodorant is expected, but other sprays or oils that have a fragrance are prohibited. Band requires deep and concentrated breaths and fragrances can prevent students from being able to do so. If you have any questions about your students' concert black attire, please feel free to reach out.

EQUIPMENT

INSTRUMENT CHECK OUT - Larger and more expensive instruments such as tubas, baritone/tenor saxophones, euphoniums, bassoons, bass clarinets, etc. can be provided by the school. If an instrument is checked out by a student, it is expected to be returned in the same condition it was in upon check-out. Any damage that occurs is the responsibility of the student and will be charged to the student. The check-out procedure will be handled during the first week of school. The instruments will be checked back in during the last week of school, and damages will be assessed if necessary.

INSTRUMENT CARE - If you have difficulties with your instrument, be sure to show Mr. Cureton as soon as possible because he will be able to take care of some repairs in the Band Room. If it becomes necessary to take your instrument to the shop to be repaired and you take it to the shop on your own, you must bring a repair ticket from the music store or a note from your parent or guardian stating the date the instrument was taken in and the date it will be ready for pickup. Upon receipt of the repair ticket or parent note, the dates stated will then be excused. If no excuse is submitted, the dates will be unexcused, and points will be deducted from your Class Participation grade. Students without instruments will still be required to participate in the class assignment and may be required to complete a written assignment. Mr. Cureton can also send your instrument into the shop with a music store rep for an estimate. They will not do anything to your instrument until you approve of the estimate and agree to pay it.

How to keep your instrument safe:

1. Make sure your name is on your instrument case (instrument tags are required on all cases).
2. Record your serial number, make, and model at home for insurance purposes.
3. **DO NOT** leave instruments in vehicles. They can be easily stolen, and weather can damage them.
4. Treat others and their property the way you would like to be treated.
5. Do not play your instrument while eating food, chewing gum, or drinking anything that is not water.
6. Brass instrument players should oil valves when needed and keep slide grease on all tuning slides.
7. Apply cork grease to instruments with cork when needed.

UNIFORM CARE

Every student is responsible for cleaning their uniform. It is recommended uniforms be washed on a *gentle cycle* at least once per two performances. **FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE TAG!** Damages to uniforms due to neglectful care will be the responsibility of the student. (Please refer to uniform costs section.) In the event that a family cannot wash uniforms, it is the responsibility of the student to find alternative means to wash the uniform. (Having other families wash, etc.)

Shakos are not be closed in their cases if they are wet. In the event of rain, shakos will be left out in the band room to air dry. This prevents mold - which is irreversible - and will be the financial responsibility of the owner if mold is discovered on shakos.

Shako boxes are not storage containers. Gloves, music, or other items will NOT be stored in shako boxes. Only shakos.

PRESEASON CAMP

Preseason camp is for marching band members. Tentative dates for preseason camp are released as soon as potential school calendars are released in the spring of the preceding school year. A finalized schedule is released once a school calendar is chosen. Attendance is mandatory and any unexcused absence will result in dismissal from the band. Do not schedule any trips or events for the last few weeks of July or the first few weeks of August before the school calendar is released and band camp dates are set. Students must be on time to ensure we can make the best use of this time. Early is on time. On time is late, which means if we start at 8:00 AM, you must arrive earlier than that to make sure you have all of your materials and are ready to start at the designated location whether it be the band room or the band field.

LEADERSHIP

The Five-Star Marching Generals shall have a leadership team that is comprised of the following student leaders:

The Five-Star Marching Generals leadership team will be selected by the following criteria:

1. At least 1 year experience in the marching band (2 years for Drum Major)
2. Successful completion of the prescribed audition/application process
3. Be a member in good standing.

DRUM MAJOR - Each spring, tryouts are held for the upcoming year's Drum Major.

The Drum Major shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Be an outstanding student and leader.
2. Conduct the marching band at all scheduled performances.
3. Assist in the instruction of rookie band members.
4. Assist in orderly beginning and ending of rehearsals.
5. Be the leader of the section leaders.
6. Nurture young band members in learning traditions.
7. Be the model for professionalism.

8. Act as an ambassador of Horseshoe Bend High School and Tallapoosa County
9. Perform on their instrument at the highest level.

SECTION LEADERS & CAPTAINS - Each instrument section and auxiliary group has a section leader or captain. Some have more than one because of size. These students are selected based on an application and the ability they have demonstrated to guide the marching and playing performance of their section. Section leaders run sectional rehearsals and teach instrument-specific marching skills to their sections. Section leaders also have assigned clean-up responsibilities for their sections.

PRINCIPAL PLAYERS - In concert band, the most skilled player in each section (determined by playing tests) should serve as the leader of their section. This person is expected to lead their section's playing by serving as an example, leading sectionals, helping section members, and giving comments to section members (much like section leaders).

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Participation Outside of School

There are many musical opportunities for our students outside of school. I highly encourage each student to participate in as many of these opportunities as possible. They are a great way to make friends, have musical experiences, and they look good on resumes when going to college. I will make students aware of as many of these opportunities as possible. If you have any questions about these things, I would be glad to help you.

CALENDAR

Important Dates

Dates are always given at the beginning of the year and will not change if the date is under my specific control. If a date changes, it will typically be an outside date that is not up to me. I want to give you all as much notice as possible about specific dates for concerts and after-school band activities as to assure the attendance and success of your student. Please note that special after-school rehearsals and concert band sectionals will be scheduled during concert band season in November/December as well as the spring semester to supplement our MPA and concert preparation. This is at the discretion of Mr. Cureton.

AFTER-SCHOOL REHEARSALS: * = pending playoff participation

August - 8, 12, 13, 15, 19, 20, 22, 26, 27, 29

September - 3, 5, 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 19, 23, 24, 26, 30

October - 1, 3, 10, 14, 15, 17, 21, 22, 24, 28, 29, 31

November - 4, 5, 7, 12, 14, 18, 19, 21, 29*

December - 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 12, 16 (CONCERT DRESS-ALL GRADE LEVELS)

May - 5 (CONCERT DRESS-ALL GRADE LEVELS)

Note: November and December will most likely convert to sectional days pending playoff participation. In this case, Mr. Cureton will schedule each section for a one hour time block on a day between Monday and Thursday pending other extracurricular schedules

FOOTBALL 2025

8/22: Football @ Saks

8/29: Football @ Home

9/5: Football @ Home

9/12: Football @ Coosa

9/26: Football @ Home (Homecoming)

10/3: Football @ Ranburne

10/10: Football @ Home

10/17: Football @ Lanett

10/24: Football @ Home (Senior Night)

10/31: Football @ Woodland

11/7: Possible Round 1 Playoff

11/14: Possible Round 2 Playoff

11/21: Possible Round 3 Playoff

11/28: Possible Round 4 Playoff

12/3-5: Possible Super 7 State Championship @ [Location TBD]

JV FOOTBALL (CONCESSIONS) 2025

See BAND app.

COMPETITIONS/FESTIVALS

Tallapoosa County Night of Bands: 9/11 @ Charles E. Bailey Sportsplex

Pride of the Valley Marching Competition: 9/29 @ Pinson Valley High School

Lake Martin Invitational: 10/5 @ Charles E. Bailey Sportsplex

Prattville Heart of Dixie Band Festival: 10/12 @ Stanley-Jensen Stadium

District VI MPA: TBA (March 4 - 6, 2026)

PARADES:

Dadeville Christmas Parade: 12/7

Alexander City Christmas Parade: 12/2

HONOR BANDS:

District VI Audition Date: TBA January

District VI Honor Band: TBA February

District VI Solo & Ensemble: TBA April

ABA All-State Band: April TBA @ Arthur Outlaw Center, Mobile, AL

CONCERTS/OTHER PERFORMANCES:

Fall Concert: December 16, 2025 @ 6:00 PM (Tentative)

Spring Concert: May 5, 2026 @ 6:00 PM (Tentative)

OTHER PERFORMANCES:

Graduation: May 21, 2026

BAND CAMP 2026

TBA once 2026-2027 school calendar is released

*****PLEASE LEAVE THE LAST 2 WEEKS OF JULY/FIRST 2 WEEKS OF AUGUST OPEN
NO ABSENCES ALLOWED**

LEARNING STANDARDS

The four areas of music standards for the state and nation fall under the following categories: **Create, Perform, Respond, and Connect.**

The Course of Study followed for our band classes is area Traditional and Emerging Ensembles under the Alabama Arts Education Course of Study and can be found on pages 106-115 at the following link: <https://arts.alabama.gov/PDF/AIE/ALC/2017%20Arts%20Education%20COS.pdf>.

The standards under Create, Perform, and Respond depend on the level of the student (Novice, Intermediate, Proficient, Accomplished, and Advanced).

The standards under Connect are the same for each level and are described as follows:

The skill of connecting is relating artistic ideas and work to personal meaning and external context. Because connecting is a part of all music-making, it is embedded within the standards at every grade and proficiency level. While teaching the Artistic Processes of Creating, Performing, and Responding, teachers should actively encourage students to seek personal and cultural connections within their own

interests and experiences, in wider historical and social contexts, and among content areas within and beyond the arts.

1. Demonstrate how interests, knowledge, and skills relate to personal choices and intent when creating, performing, and responding to music.

2. Demonstrate understanding of relationships between music and the other arts, other disciplines, varied contexts, and daily life.

Due to the nature of band as a subject, most or all of these standards will be covered in all four nine-week terms. Most or all standards are assessed near the end of each concert cycle when preparing for and presenting each semester's concert.