

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to an exciting year of band. I hope you had a relaxing summer. This year holds many wonderful and exciting things, and I hope you make the most of every opportunity presented to you. I strongly believe that with a great attitude, hard work, and dedication, we can still have a fantastic and productive year in band.

Inside this book, you will find the 2026 - 2027 Band Handbook for Summerdale Middle School Band. Take some time and read it thoroughly with your child. You will find answers for most questions concerning needed materials, procedures, rules, expectations, and guidelines for these band programs. Please refer to this handbook throughout the year as concerns arise. Concert dates and after school rehearsals are included. Please make note of this on your home calendars. Please know these dates can change or be canceled, but I will do my best to adhere to the established schedule.

When you finish reviewing the handbook, please take a moment to sign the Contract for Band. Please read the handbook with your child. Being informed and establishing good communication will

Sincerely,

Joey White

Band Director

Summerdale School
Elberta Elementary School

Contact Information

Email - jwhite2@bcbe.org

Summerdale School - TBD

Elberta Elementary - TBD

ParentSquare - Make sure you have access!

I. CLASS EXPECTATIONS FOR APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

We want to make the band the best it can be, and we use our class time wisely. These rules will be followed in band so everyone will benefit from our class:

1. BE RESPECTFUL - this means to be kind to others, to be mindful of instructions being given, and to have good character that will bring pride to your school and band program.
2. BE RESPONSIBLE - This means to put first things first! If you want to be good at your instrument, you will need to be responsible and take care of it, and to practice it outside of school. Being responsible also means you will show up to class daily and keep up with special rehearsals and concert dates!
3. BE PREPARED - Bring your materials to class every day! (your instrument, music, binder, and pencil) If you do not come to class prepared, you cannot participate and learn.
4. NO GUM

II. CONSEQUENCES FOR NOT FOLLOWING CLASS RULES

First Offense	Verbal warning/redirection
Second Offense	Minor violation and parents will be notified.
Third Offense	2nd minor violation and/or the student will be issued a time out with another teacher or a break detention. The parent will be notified.
Fourth Offense	3rd minor violation or office referral. The parent will be notified.

****Major infractions of conduct may result in an immediate office referral.****

III. CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

The following is a guideline to a successful rehearsal. Students who violate the procedures are responsible for reducing the amount of time for rehearsal and consequently hurt the entire band. **Any student who consistently breaks the expectations and procedures will be removed from the program.**

1. Enter the rehearsal hall in a quiet, courteous, and orderly manner.
2. Quickly get your instrument and music and take your seat.
3. Check the whiteboard for the agenda and put materials in order on the music stand.
4. Concert attention will be observed when the director steps on the podium. Class will begin.
5. Students will not play instruments without permission.
6. Students will not play other student's instruments including percussion and district owned instruments.
7. Band members should have their INSTRUMENT, BINDER, PENCIL, and MUSIC every day in class. If not, they will not be able to participate and learn. This will result in a lowered participation grade.
8. All student instruments should have a NAME TAG on the instrument case with a working phone number to a parent or guardian.
9. Good posture is of great importance at all times.
10. When class is over, quietly remain in your seat until you are dismissed.
11. All instruments will be put back in cases and stored at their appropriate areas before students are dismissed.

IV. FORGOTTEN INSTRUMENTS

It is impossible to become a better musician without your instrument during rehearsal and class time. Having all necessary materials is vital to your success. Therefore, the following consequences will happen when students forget their instrument:

First Offense	Verbal warning and points off of their participation grade.
Second Offense	Minor violation and/or break detention. A parent will be notified.
Third Offense	Referral to the Office. The student will be referred to the principal for not following class rules and procedures. Points will be taken off their participation grade, and a parent will be notified.

VI. SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR BAND AND BAND FEES

Middle school band fees are \$40. This covers the cost of band shirts, music, instrument upkeep, music, classroom supplies, field trips, participation in concerts or festivals, and to bring in band clinicians.

Middle School Band
• \$40 band fee • Red “Standard of Excellence” method book from 6th grade band. • Blue or Green “Standard of Excellence” method book for their instrument (provided) • 1in 3 ring binder • Pencil • Instrument care equipment (see section VIII) • Band shirt for concerts (provided)

VII. CARE OF YOUR MUSIC

The sheet music we will use in class and performances will be YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to take care of. It is very difficult to replace lost parts. I ask each student to take care of their binder so NO music is lost during the year. This means always making sure the folder is placed in a safe place and music is not left out of the folder after class. SHEET PROTECTORS should be used to keep music safely in your binder. PENCIL is the only marking device used on music. Lost music or books will result in points taken off of your participation grade.

VIII. INSTRUMENT CARE

Each student will be assigned a place in the band room to keep their instrument during the school day. The band room is kept locked when no one is present. ALL INSTRUMENTS should be taken home on a regular basis to practice. INSTRUMENTS that are saxophones or larger are not permitted on the school bus due to space limitations and safety reasons.

WOODWIND SUPPLIES (** = flutes exempt) All can be purchased on Amazon or at a music store.

1. mouthpiece brush**
2. cork grease**
3. reed guard** (to hold and protect extra reeds)
4. cleaning cloth
5. swab (flutes use a flute rod and soft cloth)
6. Reed** (3 good, playable reeds should always be available in your case).

Reed type and strength:

- Bb Clarinet - Vandoren or Juno 3 strength
- Alto Sax - Vandoren or Juno 3 strength
- Tenor Sax - Vandoren 3 strength
- Oboe - Jones or Leshner Med. Soft or Med
- Bass Clarinet Rico Royal 3 strength

BRASS SUPPLIES All can be purchased on Amazon or at a music store.

1. mouthpiece brush
2. cleaning brush
3. valve oil
4. slide grease and/or slide cream
5. soft cleaning cloth

IX. SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENT CARE

School instruments are provided to those students playing double reed, low woodwind, French Horn, and low brass instruments on a per need basis. It is the responsibility of the student to maintain and care for school owned instruments as if it were their own. All procedures and supplies as prescribed above are needed for maintenance and care are the same for school owned instruments. If you play a school owned instrument, you are in charge of getting your own supplies and materials. See a band director if you have questions regarding using school instruments.

X. PROCEDURES FOR REPAIRING INSTRUMENTS

At times, it becomes necessary to take your instrument to the repair shop. **DO NOT TRY TO FIX IT YOURSELF.** Here are the steps to take when your instrument needs fixing:

1. Before you take your instrument to the shop, let Mr. White look at it.
2. If I can not fix it, I will let you know the problem if I can diagnose it. Tell me if I need to call the music store reps to pick up the instrument.
3. Keep your mouthpiece, music, oil, and reeds!
4. The shop will call the number on the instrument's name tag to discuss repair and the next steps.
5. As soon as the instrument is ready, they will send it back to me to give to you. If a loaner was provided, it must be returned at this time.

XI. PROCEDURES FOR TURNING IN MONEY

There are many instances where money is turned in for band activities. **IT IS PREFERRED THAT PAYMENTS ARE MADE ON MY SCHOOL BUCKS!** If this is not possible, here are the steps you need to follow when turning in money:

1. Put your money in an envelope for the exact amount. Checks must be made out to the school.
2. Write your NAME, HOW MUCH money is in the envelope, and WHAT the money is for.
3. Turn your money into Mr. White. Do not leave it on my desk or podium where it can be stolen!
4. If you need change, it will take me at least one day, if not more, to provide it. I don't keep change or money in the band hall so providing change is incredibly difficult. Once I get your change together, you will be required to sign your envelope stating that you received the change.

XII. CONCERTS, FESTIVALS, AND AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS

As musicians, the reason we practice is so we can perform. This is the time we realize all the hard work is worthwhile. A performance also requires every member put in his or her best effort to make the performance a success for everyone. Music is a team activity – see yourself as part of the team!!

EVENTS CALENDAR

Middle School Band performance opportunities include pep rallies, multiple concerts, Music Performance Assessment, Christmas parades, playing at Elberta High School football games, and field trips. I will be reaching out to share the date, time, and location of these events as soon as I hear the dates are confirmed.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at ALL concerts and after school rehearsals are REQUIRED AND MANDATORY! Each person and part is equally important to the success of our band program. There are only two valid reasons for missing a concert or rehearsal:

1. Illness
2. Extreme Family Emergency

All performances and after school rehearsals WILL BE GRADED. Not attending a concert or rehearsal will result in a 0 for a grade. If there are school sports conflicts, I will talk with the coach to modify the schedule for the student.

In addition to concerts, after school rehearsals are necessary to put the band together since it is not possible during the school day. **All after school rehearsal will start after school and end promptly at 4:45 p.m.** A reminder will be sent home two weeks before the scheduled practice. This will be your opportunity to inform me of any scheduled engagements so your child can be excused. Any student with an unexcused absence will receive a 0 for not attending and lose his or her chair ranking. In the unlikely event you miss a concert, a voice mail, phone call, or note from your parents will be expected to explain your absence from the concert performance. **YOUR ABSENCE HAS TO BE INFORMED TO A BAND DIRECTOR PRIOR TO THE PERFORMANCE!** If you become ill after school on the day of a concert, or if there is an emergency, please send an email or Remind! These situations will be handled on an individual basis. Jobs, family trips, birthdays, etc., do not justify absences. If the student is absent, a written assignment equivalent to the concert will be given to make up the grade.

UNIFORMS

In this band program, we have standard attire all performing groups adhere to. This band uniform will be used at ALL performances, unless otherwise indicated by the director. Please make sure you have the following items:

Middle School Band Students
Band Polo (provided) Black pants or skirt NO shorts, sweatpants, crocs, or flip flops. School appropriate shoes

XIII. GRADING POLICY

Major Tests and Performances (60% of overall grade)

Each performance and rehearsal is considered a major test grade. The majority of major tests will be held during class or be video playing tests submitted through Google Classroom. Test material will consist of music assigned in class as homework. Your child will have a playing test where he or she will receive a grade based on an exercise assigned. The test will determine chair placement until the next test. If the student is not happy with the chair, he or she has the opportunity to challenge for higher chairs only! Challenges will not be used for extra points on a test grade.

Classroom Quizzes, Homework Checks, Written Homework (40% of overall grade)

All written work or video assignments will be counted as a quiz grade. Homework checks are playing grades to ensure that students are practicing at home and will be counted as a quiz grade. The following grading scale is used for homework checks:

- 2 mistakes or less - 100%
- More than 3 mistakes but overall correct - 75%
- Halfway correct - 50%
- Attempted but unrecognizable - 25%
- Refuse to try - 0%

Make Up Work

Initiative must be taken by the student to consult with the teacher about make up work. For excused absences or dismissals, 100% of the grade will be given for make-up work required by the teacher, provided that work is completed and submitted within two (3) school days. If assignments are due (including pre-announced tests) the day they return from an excused absence, the assignments and/or tests will be required to be completed that day. Principals may specify a longer period of make-up time for students who experience an extended period of excused absences.

All make-up work and assignments will be posted and completed in Google Classroom with the due date listed on the assignment. For students demonstrating need due to lack of reliable internet at home, they may schedule time after school to make up their assignments. Students needing to complete make up work will have until the final day of the grading period in which the make up work was assigned. It will

be the student's responsibility to check their Google Classroom or speak with the director to ensure they have made up all of their assignments. A grade of 0 will be assigned until they make up their assignment. Once a student completes their assignment, they shall earn the grade they achieved in their make up work. Any make up work not completed by the final day of the assigned grading period will remain a 0 in the gradebook.

XII. PERFORMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTRA CREDIT

Middle School Band Members

Alabama Bandmasters Association District 7 sponsors a program to honor the outstanding middle school band students from our region. Members of the honor bands are selected based on an audition of scales, prepared music, and sight-reading. Those students selected for the band will participate in a clinic and concert under the leadership of a well-known clinician. It is an extreme honor to be selected to this elite group. Honor Bands consist of

- Baldwin County Honor Band
- District 7 Honor Band
- Alabama All State Honor Band

All middle school band members are encouraged to participate. There is no cost to audition, and auditions are held in January every year at Robertsdale High School. Please let a director know if you are interested and they will provide the music for you.

All Band Members

All band members 6th - 8th grade have opportunities to receive extra credit to go towards their lowest grade in the grade book. This can be achieved by:

- volunteering to play (performing at church, retirement home, "Taps" for ceremonies, etc). A photo or video must be presented to receive credit.
- Attending concerts provided by the Pensacola or Mobile Symphony Orchestras, the Baldwin Pops, other local school performances, or any other group **that uses the instrument that they play**. A brochure from the program signed by your parent or guardian must be turned in to receive extra credit.

Summerdale & Elberta Elementary

Band Handbook

Point your phone's camera toward this QR code and click on the link it provides. This link will take you to the Summerdale Middle School Band Handbook. Please sign and return to Mr. White.

Contract for Band 2026 - 2027



My family and I have read each section of the Band Handbook, and we understand my responsibilities in this class. I will do my best to adhere to these rules and policies. Additionally, **I understand that my schedule can not be changed** after enrolling in band until the next school year (2027 - 2028). I will keep this handbook in my band folder for future reference.

Parent/ Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Name

Student Signature

Student Shirt Size: Circle one

Youth S

Youth M

Youth L

YouthXL

Adult S

Adult M

Adult L

Adult XL

Adult XXL

Adult XXXL

Date: _____

Parent E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

