

Blythewood High School Band Policy Handbook

2011-12

This handbook is provided to ensure the success of the Blythewood High School Band Program. These regulations are implemented because we believe that discipline is the cornerstone of a successful program. This handbook is a supplement to all policies set by Richland School District Two and by Blythewood High School, and is in effect during all rehearsals, performances and travel.

AFTER-SCHOOL REHEARSALS

In an effort to maintain the high performance standards of the Blythewood High School Bands, the BHS Concert and Symphonic Bands will have an after-school rehearsal once a week, starting in November. The BHS Symphonic and Concert Band will rehearse every Tuesday from 3:45pm until 4:45pm. Considering that these rehearsals are an extension of the classroom, attendance will be mandatory. Please see the attendance policy below. In preparation for the SCBDA Senior Concert Festival, Symphonic Band students will also need to attend sectional rehearsals during the months of February and March. These dates have been listed on the attached calendar.

Please note: Parents should make arrangements to have their child picked up within 30 minutes of the dismissal time of rehearsals.

ATTENDANCE

Rehearsals and performances depend on 100% attendance to be effective. Each member depends on all other members. ***You are important and we need you at each and every rehearsal and performance!***

For Marching Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Percussion classes; there will be only three excused reasons to miss a rehearsal or performance: (1) death in the family, (2) personal illness (with a parent contact), and (3) an emergency conflict that you have approved with the director in advance. **Dentist and doctor appointments should be scheduled around after school practices.** Rehearsals will begin on time! School tardy policy does apply to BHS Band after-school rehearsals. After school detention, tutoring, or TGIF is not an excused reason to miss rehearsal or to be tardy to a rehearsal. If there are excessive tardies, or if a rehearsal or performance is missed in its entirety for an unexcused reason, the member will not be allowed to attend the next performance(s) at the discretion of the director. **If this occurs a second time, the member may be permanently dismissed from Marching, Concert, or Symphonic Band with a “Withdraw Failing” grade. Excessive excused absences will not be tolerated.**

Attendance in Concert/Symphonic Band classes will follow school rules. Attendance is a part of grading. See **“Grading”**.

AWARD LETTERS

This section will be updated later. We are currently in the process of changing the policy for “BHS Band Award Letters”

BAND CAMPS

Blythewood Marching Band Members are required to attend Summer Band Camp in order to be in the Marching Band. A non-refundable deposit must be paid in the spring of the previous school year, and all financial commitments must be met. The Marching Band fee for the 2011 – 2012 school year is \$450 per student (\$400 if paid in full by August 19). ALL wind and percussion players are required to attend Winter Band Camp. A non-refundable payment of \$75 will be due in December.

BAND COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Each spring, there will be an interview process for students seeking to serve in a leadership roll within our organization. All Field Conductor candidates will also need to prepare a conducting audition as part of their interview process.

BOOSTER CLUB

The Blythewood High School Band Booster Club is an organization developed to further aid the needs of the band program. This group coordinates fund-raisers, chaperones, equipment personnel, etc. Active club members are asked to chaperone, etc.

CELL PHONES

Cell phones as of late have become a nuisance in the music rehearsal atmosphere. Student cell phones will be confiscated if:

- (1) If a cell phone is found on a music stand during rehearsal.
- (2) If the cell phone rings during rehearsal.
- (3) If a student is using a cell phone during Marching Band rehearsal.
- (4) If a student is using a cell phone during a BHS football game.

Permissible times to use cell phones:

- (1) At the end of school, before Marching Band rehearsal.
- (2) At the end of school, before the report time for a football game.
- (3) During rehearsal breaks (Exception: Not at Marching Band rehearsals)
- (4) While traveling (football games, contests, concert festival trips, etc.)
- (5) During 3rd Quarter breaks at football games.
- (6) At the conclusion of any rehearsal or performance.

CLASS RULES

1. Only Band Members are allowed in the Band Room.
2. No food, drinks, or gum – ever.
3. Band members are not to touch any instrument or equipment that has not been assigned to him/her.
4. Band Members are to keep their instruments in good working order with the proper accessories. Students having their instruments repaired need to bring in the repair receipt in order not to receive a 0 for the daily grade.
5. Band Members are to arrive by the tardy bell and immediately begin to assemble their instrument, retrieve music, and have a seat. Students will not be allowed to go back for a note.
6. No talking during a rehearsal.

Band Members are to put away all equipment, music, etc. in the proper place after each rehearsal or performance.

CONCERT ATTIRE:

The BHS Concert and Symphonic Bands will always perform in traditional attire for all performances, unless modified by the directors. All band members must follow the guidelines below as you plan your performance wardrobe.

Ladies: Will be required to purchase the dress that has been selected by the directors. We will have fitting sessions for dresses during the month of September to ensure that they are delivered by the Winter Concert. A memo will be sent in early September stating the cost for this year's dress.

Gentlemen: Will be required to wear a tuxedo or black suit that can be modified to look like a tuxedo. You must have a tuxedo shirt, bow tie, cummerbund, black socks, and black dress shoes. The BHS Band Boosters still have some tuxedos available for purchase. Please contact our Uniform Committee if you are interested in purchasing a school-owned tuxedo.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parents will be contacted once a week via email. If you do not receive the "Weekly Funderstorm" please contact the directors at once.

Glen Funderburk, Director
Blythewood High School
10901 Wilson Blvd.
Blythewood, SC 29016
803-691-4090, ext 28904
gfunderb@richland2.org
www.blythewoodbands.org

Jon Burbank, Associate Director
Blythewood High School
10901 Wilson Blvd.
Blythewood, SC 29016
803-691-4090, ext 28903
jburbank@richland2.org
www.blythewoodbands.org

ENROLLMENT

All after school rehearsals and performances are extensions of the classroom. Therefore, all Blythewood Marching Band members (with the exception of Color Guard members) are required to be enrolled in a band class for the year.

EXPECTATIONS

- Tardiness for After-School Rehearsals (Marching Band/Concert Band/Symphonic Band): Role will be taken at the beginning of each of these rehearsals. Students should always arrive early so rehearsals can begin on time. **Rule:** *Do not be tardy to any band rehearsal. Consequence: Consult the school tardy policy. After-School rehearsal tardies will be handled the same way. Loss of time during 3rd quarter will be enforced when applicable.*
- Appropriate Listening, When Someone Else Is Talking: It is expected that when a staff member or guest clinician is talking, that you address that person with your EYES and give them your full attention. We believe that you should have enough self-respect that you would honor this request.
- Inappropriate Talking: When a staff member or guest clinician is talking, you should not be talking. If another student talks to you at an inappropriate time, don't respond. They'll get the message. – **Please note: Although this is an expectation, an**

inability to comprehend this concept will result in a consequence commensurate with the frequency of the talking.

- Saying, “THANK YOU”: It is expected that when you encounter deeds of goodness, you say “thank you”! This could be chaperones, band council representatives, other members of the group, bus drivers, staff members, teachers, principals, AND PARENTS.

FUNDRAISING/FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Financial obligations for the 2011 – 2012 school year are as follows:

Marching Band Fee - \$450 (*400 if paid in full by August 19)

Symphonic Camp Fee - \$75 (Due in January)

Winter Guard Fee - TBD

All band members are expected to meet all of their financial obligations. We do give every student an opportunity to “fund raise” toward their band fees. This year, we will be creating student accounts that can be used to make fee payments. Most of the profits from our fall, spring, and fruit fundraisers will be put into the student accounts.

GRADING SYSTEM

Band members are graded on playing tests, written tests, daily grade average and after school rehearsals and performances. Band members must pass the fall semester in order to continue in the spring semester. Band members must make at least a “C” in order to continue the following year. Since attendance affects everyone’s success, unexcused absences will not be tolerated. One unexcused absence will cause the 9 weeks grade to be lowered by one letter grade. A second unexcused absence can result in dismissal with a “Withdraw Failing” grade. This year, we will be using a “Total Points System” for grading. Please see the charts below for grade breakdowns. Students will be held to the Academic Integrity policy of Richland District II.

Marching Band:

Daily Grade – 15 points/rehearsal

Football Games – 50 points/performance

Competitions – 100 points/performance

Blythewood Christmas Parade – 100 points

Symphonic/Concert Band

Daily Grade – 5 points/rehearsal

Playing Tests – 50 points/performance

Concerts – 100 points/performance

Written quizzes – 50 points

Things that negatively affect grades:

- (1) Tardiness to after-school rehearsals or performances
- (2) Not having assigned materials (instrument, music, pencil, dot books, flip folders, lyres, uniform/concert attire, mouthpiece, reeds, etc.)
- (3) Lack of effort
- (4) Lack of practicing

INSTRUMENT RENTAL

We do not charge a usage fee for school-owned instruments, with the expectation that these students should treat these instruments with the utmost respect. The student to whom an instrument is issued is responsible for all repair costs. Please be mindful that most of our equipment is still relatively new. Please be respectful of this equipment so that we may keep our school-owned inventory in great shape.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS/CODE OF CONDUCT

When students are in a performance venue (i.e. auditorium stage, football game, contest/festival, etc.) or in uniform (i.e. summer uniform, full uniform, formal concert attire, semi-formal concert attire, etc.); they will be expected to display “professional” behavior at all times. Students need to understand that they are always representing our band program and our school while in uniform. It is imperative that we display a sense of professionalism each time we perform in public. We always want our audience and community to be impressed with our level of discipline and self-control.

Please note: All uniform/concert attire regulations will be communicated well in advance of any performance. The directors reserve the right to not allow a student to perform if they are dressed inappropriately.

PRACTICING

Individual practice time is a very important component in a comprehensive high school band program. Students will be expected to prepare music excerpts, solo literature, ensemble literature, technique exercises, and audition literature outside of the typical class period.

Parents, we ask that you still encourage your child to practice their instrument on a consistent basis, especially considering that most of you have made a large financial investment for your child’s instrument.

TRAVEL

The Blythewood Bands will travel to and from all events as a group via school or charter bus. Each band member will be assigned a specific bus to be used for the entire season. Band members will be given itineraries the week of each trip (game, contest, or festival) with departure times and arrival times. Since we keep uniforms at school, each band member is required to ride the bus to and from each event. A parent must make requests for exceptions to this rule with the director in advance. Parents should make arrangements to have their child picked up within 30 minutes of the arrival time from a trip.

UNIFORMS

Blythewood High School Marching Band uniforms will be issued during the beginning of each marching band season. The uniform will be stored at the high school and dry cleaning will take place as needed. The dry cleaning fee will be included in the Marching Band fee.

Summer uniforms for Brass, Woodwind, and Percussion students will consist of band shirt, khaki shorts w/ belt, white socks and white tennis shoes. Summer uniforms for Color Guard members will consist of the band shirt, gray soffee shorts, white socks, and white tennis shoes.

In marching season, jewelry will not be worn while in full uniform. Long hair must be put up in the shako (hat) in full uniform. At no time is any part of the uniform to be removed when in public (except for hat and gloves). The student will have the responsibility to repair or replace any damage to the uniform beyond normal wear and tear. Wear your uniform with pride! You represent us all - be a “Class Act”.

This sheet must be signed by a parent/guardian and the student.

I have read and agree to the policies set forth by the Blythewood High School Band Policy Handbook 2011 - 2012 regarding attendance, awards, award letters, band camps, booster club, class rules contact information, enrollment, fundraising, grading system, instrument rental, officers, travel, and uniforms. I understand that this is a performance-based class and that any unexcused absence from a performance may result in dismissal. I understand that a passing grade must be met for the first semester in order to continue for the second semester, and at least a grade of C to continue the following year. I understand that attendance is a part of grading and that there are consequences for unexcused absences. I also have a copy of the calendar of band events.

Student Name (please print)

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date