

BAYTOWN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

BAND HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Welcome to the Baytown Junior Band program. Band at Baytown Junior is an exciting experience for students as well as parents. Your involvement is essential and welcome.
- ▶ Beginning in the sixth grade, your student has the opportunity to participate in our band program, which we feel is beneficial in many ways. Band students develop in areas of responsibility, self-discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership, and dependability. Being in band will give students a sense of accomplishment and pride, through the development of musical skills that will enrich their lives.
- ▶ Every band student has been carefully screened and should, with practice and effort, achieve success on his/her instrument. The amount of practice and effort on the student's part will directly reflect upon their degree of success. Parental support and encouragement is so important.

BAYTOWN JR. BANDS

- ▶ In beginning band, the emphasis is on learning the fundamentals of music and the basic skills required to play an instrument. Mastery of these fundamental skills will lead to further development of higher level skills, which will enable students to progress smoothly through our band program.
- ▶ In advanced band classes, students will continue to perfect skills while learning new and more challenging aspects of music and music performance. There is a greater emphasis placed on competition at this level for individuals as well as groups. These bands are open to any sixth, seventh, or eighth grade student by audition. Instrumentation needs of the ensemble, the individual student's attitude, conduct, playing ability, and existing openings in the ensemble will determine membership. The advanced bands will have a regularly scheduled sectional or full band rehearsal before or after school throughout the year.

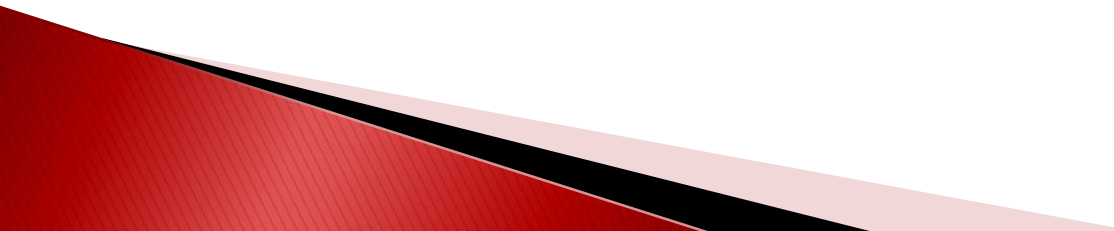
STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- ▶ We expect students to arrive to class on time and ready to learn. We expect them to follow instructions the first time given. We demand respect for the rights, feelings, and property of others. A successful band program is a **DISCIPLINED BAND PROGRAM**. We expect proper respect for authority, rules, and school policies. We expect all student to have all materials daily, take home your instrument daily, and **PARTICIPATE IN ALL REQUIRED BAND FUNCTIONS**. A calendar of dates will be given to your student at the beginning of the school year. Please mark them on your family calendar. Absences are excused for emergencies.

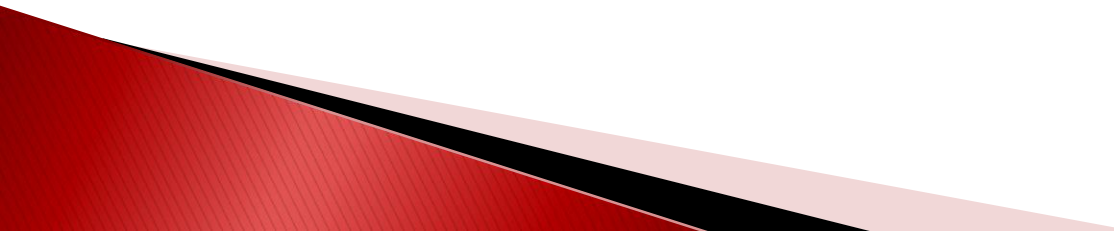
STUDENT BEHAVIOR

- ▶ The teacher will handle minor behavior violations. Discipline actions may include, but not limited to, discussion with the student, parent, administrator, or support personnel. It may also include band detention before or after school and/or lowering of chair position. For more serious or continued misbehavior it may include, but not limited to, office referral, lowering of band placement, or removal from the band program.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

- ▶ If a student is disrupting rehearsal they will be asked to quietly leave the set-up.
 - ▶ The student will need to write a description of their behavior and/or other assignments.
 - ▶ We will document the offense and call your parent(s). Recurring offenses will result in an office referral.
 - ▶ Continued misbehavior may result in the loss of Band privileges (including trips, parties, etc.) or a schedule change.
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TARDY POLICY

- ▶ Students must be in the Band Hall before the tardy bell.
 - ▶ Students must be in their seats with all required materials 1 minute after the bell.
 - ▶ Time allowed before class for individual warm up is not to be used for restroom and/or water breaks.
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GRADING SYSTEM

- ▶ Our grading system evaluates each student's progress in the musical and technical mastery of his/her instrument. In addition, we evaluate the social and work skills of each student. Preparation, responsibility, self-discipline, attendance, and promptness are all evaluated.

MAJOR GRADES

- ▶ **60% Major Grades (Playing Assignments, Concerts, etc.)** – assignments will be handed out during class with a specific date or “window” in which they will need to be played. Concerts are required and count as a major grade. Failure to attend a concert will result in a “zero.” The 2nd unexcused absence may result in the demotion for students in advanced bands. Excessive absences from performances indicate a conflict with course requirements and the selection of a different elective would take place. Students who do not attend all required concerts/performances will not be allowed to attend band trips.
- ▶ *** If a student is absent the day of the concert, or goes home ill, no penalty will be assessed and the student will receive full credit. Please submit a note to the director upon returning to campus.

DAILY GRADES

- ▶ **40% Daily Grades** – the following are examples of daily grades: Class Participation, Sectionals, Rehearsals, Practice Records, Uniform, etc.
- ▶ *****Practice is crucial to a band student's success.** The quality of practice is important; therefore, it is essential that students practice correctly and have a systematic approach to their daily practice outside of school. Practice Records help a student plan this time and allow parents and directors to keep track of a student's practicing. Practice Records must be signed by a parent and turned in on time.

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

- ▶ Materials needed for class include: an instrument, items necessary for playing the instrument (i.e. reeds, oils, etc.), and a band book. Students should try to get these items before the school day begins.
- ▶ **Beginners** will need a 1” binder, 2 sharpened pencils, 1 highlighter and a 3 ring pencil pouch.
- ▶ **Advanced** band members will be supplied with a 1” binder, 2 pencils, 1 highlighter and a pencil pouch. You must replace anything you loose.

CONCERT ATTIRE

- ▶ The Seventh and Eighth grade bands will wear a “formal–style” concert uniform for concerts and contests. The band department will provide a vest and bow tie. Each student will provide their own white tuxedo shirt, black slacks, (no jeans or leather pants), black shoes, and black socks.
- ▶ All band students are also required to purchase a BJS band T–shirt for non–formal performances. All shirts are to be tucked in. Beginning band students will wear their BJS band shirt and blue jeans to all performances.
- ▶ ***Students facing difficulty purchasing their required uniform will need to submit a request for assistance in writing to a director.

CONTESTS

- ▶ All-City and All-Region Band
- ▶ Students in HONOR BAND are required to prepare for All-City and All-Region band unless deemed by the band director not in the student's best interest. SYMPHONIC members are welcome to participate.
- ▶ Solo and Ensemble
- ▶ All Students are required to prepare for the Goose Creek CISD Solo and Ensemble contests. If necessary, the band director will evaluate conflicts and certain circumstances.
- ▶ UIL Concert and Sight-Reading
- ▶ The ADVANCED Bands will participate in the UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest.

FUNDRAISERS

- ▶ Each year the BJS band will conduct at least one fundraiser. These monies help supply the band with many needed materials for the students. All funds are used directly on the students. The fundraiser is not required, but is highly encouraged. A percentage of these funds will be credited towards the individual student's trip fees. Donations may be made in lieu of fundraising.

TRIPS

- ▶ Each group will be given the opportunity to participate in a band trip. This is a reward for the work that the students have done throughout the year. Students must meet certain requirements to attend the trip(s). These will include fulfilling the performance obligations (i.e. Concerts), attendance at rehearsals, turning in practice records, etc. Students must also meet citizenship and eligibility requirements to attend.

ELIGIBILITY

- ▶ The state law is such that a student shall be suspended from all extra-curricular activities during the six-week period following a grade report period in which a grade below a 70 in any class was received. Activities affected are band contests and trips. Students are still to attend Band Concerts on campus and before/after school rehearsals.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE

- ▶ Shelves and lockers are located in the band hall where students will leave their instruments during the school day. We will issue each student a combination lock. Students are required to have their names on all instruments and books. If you lose your lock you must pay the \$5 fee to replace it.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

- ▶ Students are responsible for the care and maintenance of school-owned instruments that they are using. An instrument use agreement form must be completed and kept on file in the band office to protect the rights of the students and the Baytown Band program. Once the instrument is checked out to a student, the instrument becomes their responsibility. This also includes theft and destruction of an instrument. If an instrument is damaged while in the possession of the student, the student is responsible for the cost of repairs to put the instrument back into its original condition. Damage to school-owned instruments need to be immediately brought to the attention of your band director. At the end of the school year, it is the student's responsibility to clean the instrument and have any damage repaired before end of the year check-in.

INSURANCE

- ▶ It is highly recommended that instruments be insured. Parents may wish to check with their insurance agent about coverage under their homeowners/renters policy or about a musical instrument “floater” policy. Information about instrument insurance will be given to the students. The school’s insurance does not cover theft/destruction of an instrument.