

## **BATH HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK**

This handbook will help band members and parents understand the philosophy, operations, and expectations of the band program. Becoming familiar with this handbook will help you understand the many opportunities available to band members. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask a director at any time. We are here to help you and your child in your educational pursuits.

The Bath Bands have earned a very favorable reputation throughout the state of Ohio and we must do our best to continue this reputation. In order for our program to be successful, it is important that each band member do their best to be responsible to the group and to themselves. We all make mistakes, but we must learn from our mistakes and strive to maintain our level of excellence.

Please take time to schedule all rehearsals and performances so nothing is missed. We are looking forward to another exciting year for “The Tradition of Excellence”!

### **PHILOSOPHY**

The Bath Bands operate under the following philosophy:

1. The learning of good musicianship is an educational process that leads to knowledge of music as an art, to an appreciation of many styles of music, and to the enjoyment of performing at the highest level possible.
2. Students are taught to understand different types of music so enjoyment and participation can continue throughout life.
3. Students are taught that the arts are an essential and integral part of a quality education.
4. Students experience personal growth and maturity to become a better citizen of society.

### **“THE TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE”**

**Quality Musicianship** – *the ultimate goal.* Strive to do your best at all times. Learn your music and complete all assignments. The more effort you put forth, the more enjoyment you will experience. Any band member not accepting their share of responsibility is hurting the entire band. The “Tradition of Excellence” is maintained through the efforts of every band member, not just a few.

**Practice** – *the key to musicianship.* You must have pride in yourself and the band. Expect the best of yourself and the band will do well. Laziness and apathy are not traits of a good band member.

**Rehearsals** – *great rehearsals make great performances.* Band is a regularly scheduled subject, which meets the last period of each school day. In order to maintain or improve quality, rehearsals must be used efficiently. Practice must take place at home prior to rehearsals to make the rehearsals worthwhile. Band rehearsals are not the time to learn the notes, but rather to learn and explore the making of music. Occasionally, extra rehearsal time may be necessary to complete our music goals. There are numerous rehearsals scheduled before and after school, in which attendance is required. Please see all rehearsals listed on the band calendar of events that was included in this packet.

### **PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES**

**Symphony and Concert Bands** – These two organizations are the foundation and focus of a quality instrumental music program. All students will be required to perform an audition to determine placement in either Symphony or Concert Band. Full band and sectional rehearsals are necessary before and after school hours during the months of January, February and March. These are scheduled and included in the calendar of events. Both bands perform regularly throughout the year. These groups, in conjunction with Marching Band, offer one (1) credit for each completed year.

**Marching Band** – Membership is mandatory for all students in the instrumental music program, unless excused by a medical doctor and the band directors. Bath Schools does provide instruments for those students required to switch for marching band. This group performs at all football games, local parades, the Allen County Fair, other band shows, a small trip/performance (every four years), Florida (every four years), our own Bath Band Spectacular, and more.

- A. *Flag Corps* – Membership is open to all students in the high school band program upon successful completion of an audition in April. There is no set number of flag corps members to be selected each year. These students, as with any marching band member, are bound by the same rules, regulations, and performance schedule. Each flag corps member is expected (but not required) to attend the Fred J. Miller camp with the group in July. This camp is at the student's expense.
- B. *Twirlers* – Membership is open to all students in the high school band program upon successful completion of an audition in April. Outstanding twirling ability and consistent private lessons with a qualified teacher are a necessity. Attendance at a summer twirling camp is expected. These students, as with any marching band member, are bound by the same rules, regulations, and performance schedule.
- C. *Field Commanders* – Candidates must be members of the instrumental music program, and are chosen by audition in April. Attendance at a summer camp is expected.

**Pep Band** – A volunteer group organized to perform at all varsity boys' home basketball games and sometimes at a few varsity girls' home games. Rehearsals are held after school and/or before each performance. A pep band shirt must be purchased (through the band) and worn at all performances. Extra performances are at the discretion of the director.

**Jazz Band** – This organization is for the study of jazz, jazz improvisation, and big band music. A ½ credit is given for each school year. There are two or three rehearsals (classes) per school week, which occur on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 7:30 a.m. during the school year. The director selects students for the ensemble. This ensemble performs at our Bath Band Concerts, and some other events.

**Pit Band** – This group, chosen mainly through director invitation, is organized to accompany a musical theatre production. Rehearsals are held before or after school hours.

**Solos and Ensembles** – Solo and ensemble performances are strongly encouraged at Ohio Music Education Association Adjudicated Event. Solos are usually played by those students studying privately. Ensembles are organized when interest is expressed and rehearsal time can be arranged.

**Private Lessons** – These are necessary to maintain a high level of performance. We have highly qualified private teachers for most instruments who travel to Bath and are available to teach after school hours. This is an opportunity for every band student to improve his or her playing ability through extra study. There is a fee payable to the private teacher by the student taking lessons.

**Honors Groups** – Throughout the year, various opportunities arise for students to audition for district and state honors ensembles. Students will be approached with information about these groups as they come available to us during the school year. These are wonderful opportunities to meet other great musicians from around the state.

## **ATTENDANCE**

There are very few excused absences, and these must be cleared in advance with the directors. *A note or phone call to the director explaining an absence is due BEFORE the absence in order to be considered for an excused absence. In an emergency situation, a telephone call to the director is greatly appreciated. Please call 221-0366 ext. 2153 or ext. 2166 for emergencies. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in an "F" for the 9 weeks grade and may cause expulsion from the band program. More than one unexcused absence will result in expulsion from the band program, resulting in a "F" for the year.* Attendance at rehearsals and performances is a very important part of a successful band program. You must understand that attendance governs the quality of the group. When a student misses a rehearsal or performance, the group suffers. Remember this thought: *To be early is to be on time, To be on time is to be late, To be late is to be left out.* This applies to all rehearsals, performances, and trips.

**Performances** – Attendance at all performances is mandatory. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in an 'F' for the grading period, and may result in dismissal from the band program and an "F" for the remainder of the year.

**Pre Camp** – These two weeks are required for all band members unless excused by the directors prior to then. We ask that you have a good reason if you can not be there.

**Band Camp** – Attendance at band camp is mandatory. Camp is held the week before the Allen County Fair. Camp starts daily at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. **An unexcused absence from band camp could result in dismissal from the band program.**

**Rehearsals** – Attendance at rehearsals during school hours is governed by school rules. Rehearsals after school hours during marching band is governed by the following: All students must be excused by a director to

miss an after school rehearsal. The times for these rehearsals will be from after school until – 3:45pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, and after school until – 4:00 on Wednesdays.

**APOLLO Career Center** – Those band students attending Apollo will observe the same band rules and regulations as all other band students, especially those governing attendance. All students are required to in band each day. No passes will be accepted from other teachers dismissing you from our class. *Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the band program and an “F” for the remainder of the year.*

**Student Jobs** – Many band members have part-time jobs. It is the student’s responsibility to work out his/her work schedule so he/she can attend all rehearsals and performances. Your directors will assist if necessary.

**Athletics** – Many band members participate in sports. We have tried to scheduled all band time to avoid conflicts. However, when conflicts do arise, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the band directors and the coaches as far in advance as possible. This allows both the teachers/coaches to work out an agreeable solution (this is to the student’s advantage). It is very possible to be a great instrumentalist and athlete, but it takes responsibility and good organizational skills to accomplish this. We will work to the best of our ability to help you and we also expect the same in return. Students participating as statisticians or in any other non-playing role will be unexcused from missed band time. Absence from a rehearsal or performance for a sport not sponsored by Bath Schools will be unexcused.

**Snow/Fog on Concert or Performance Days** – ***When school is cancelled on a performance day, please listen to the local radio station, check the internet/watch TV 35.*** A decision to cancel the concert will be made very early in the day. *The following radio stations will also announce concert information. (WIMA 1150 am, T 102 fm, BUCK 107.5 fm, 92 Zoo).* TV 35 will also provide information. In the event of a fog or snow cancellation, the performance may still proceed as scheduled, but listen for any other updates. ***\*\*If the performance is for a sporting event such as marching band or pep band, there will almost always be a performance. The sporting events are generally not cancelled.***

### **GRADES**

Band grades are an average of class participation, playing tests, written tests, rehearsal attendance, performance attendance, and extra credit. Extra credit will be given for private lessons, additional musical endeavors (honors groups, solos, etc.) and outside of school concert attendance (with our approval and a parent signed program). Please be advised that attendance policies may override a student’s grade average. ***In addition, a student who is removed from the band program or chooses to quit band, during the school year, will receive an ‘F’ for the year. A student’s band grade is calculated into their overall GPA and is included on the transcript.***

### **CREDITS**

Students enrolled in band as a full-time member receive one (1) credit for each year they are in band. Student’s enrolled in band as a flag corps member only for marching band season only receive one half (1/2) credit for each season they are in marching band. A student is able to accumulate up to four (4) fine arts credits towards their graduation requirements.

### **EXPECTATIONS**

**Citizenship** – Learn to work with and get along with your fellow band members. The success of the band depends on your cooperation with each other. We are judged as a group, not as individuals. When you are in or out of uniform, people form an opinion of our band, community, school, parents, and directors, according to your behavior. Part of being a good band citizen is the acceptance (and sometimes tolerance) of a great deal of different people. *Seniors need to especially remember this with freshman. They need and appreciate your guidance. There will be no type of hazing and/or humiliation. Actions such as these will not be tolerated.*

**Discipline** – We wish disciplinary actions were never necessary. As members of the band, you should have enough pride in your actions, and care enough about the band’s reputation to avoid trouble. The need for rules and regulations originates from your directors’ love for you and the band. If you question something you are about to do, don’t do it. At any band function, whether in or out of uniform, tobacco, alcohol, and drugs are forbidden. Automatic dismissal from the band program and enforcement of school policy will result. Any situation needing disciplinary action not specifically mentioned in this handbook or in school rules will be handled on an individual basis in consultation with school administrators.

**Band Conduct** – Good bands look organized at all times. Your conduct in band leaves an impression on everyone. Remember that you are a representative of the Bath Bands. Remember... A band that looks good and behaves well has a better chance of playing well.

**Marching Band –**

- During marching season you need to be alert. Enjoy the game, but watch the directors at all times.
  - You must be prepared to play at a moments notice and only play when the directors ask you to play. Sit with your section.
  - Non-band members are not permitted to sit with the band.
  - You should not leave your seats without permission from a band director.
  - You may get refreshments during third quarter break only.
  - Watch your instrument to avoid damage.
  - Stay in your uniform at all times unless a director grants permission.
  - You must return to your seats and be ready to play before the end of the third quarter.
  - Third quarter break could be removed if rules are not followed.
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- **Concert Season** - During concert season, all concert etiquette rules apply. A professional attitude will be conveyed at all times.

**EQUIPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, UNIFORMS, LOCKERS, AWARDS**

- **Equipment and Facilities**

We are fortunate to have fine facilities and equipment for our band program. They have been provided for you through the cooperation of the Bath Board of Education and the Bath Music Association. Please respect the facilities and equipment because they represent a considerable monetary investment and would be difficult to replace. Keep your instrument and other assigned equipment in good condition at all times. You are also responsible for the cleaning and care of the instrument you play. If you play a school owned instrument, advise the directors immediately if anything happens to it or it needs repair. ***A student whose school owned instrument is damaged due to negligence on the part of the student will be responsible for repair expenses.***

- **Equipment Transportation**

1. Small instruments will be carried on the bus. Medium sized instruments will be stored in the bus compartments, and the largest instruments will be put in the band truck.
2. You alone are responsible for your instrument, equipment, and uniform.
3. Make sure you load everything you need for the performance. Do not ask someone else to do your duties as a band member!
4. Reed players must have good reeds. Brass players need to have slide grease and valve oil.
5. Do not play another student's instrument.
6. Make sure your instrument is properly identified on the case.
7. Never leave your instrument lying out of the case. (We want to avoid accidents).
8. Have uniforms in the bag, hats in the box, and rain coats off of the floor.

- **Transportation**

The school provides transportation to and from band functions. Students are expected to use this transportation. Requests for alternate transportation must be made in writing by a parent prior to the event, and will be decided by the directors on the merits of the request.

*Basic Guidelines*

1. No food or drink is allowed on the busses.
2. You must ride both ways in your assigned seat on the same bus.
3. You are responsible for loading and unloading your equipment/uniform.
4. Be courteous to drivers and chaperones.
5. Students must obey chaperones at all times.
6. Stay in your seats while the bus is moving.
7. No screaming or loud singing.
8. No exiting out of the back door of the bus!
9. Profanity will not be tolerated.
10. Be quiet at railroad crossings.

11. Radios, tape players, CD players, etc. can be used with headsets only.
12. Change into and out of uniforms in appropriate areas.
13. Public display of affection will not be tolerated.
14. You must sit up at all times. Chaperones may separate any students when necessary.
15. All Bath School rules apply and will be enforced

All rules and laws that apply to regular school bus transportation will apply on band trips. The bus drivers, chaperones, and directors are responsible for your behavior and safety. A Bath band member is expected to be polite and courteous at all times. The band doesn't need "show-offs". We will "show-off" together when we perform.

#### • **Uniforms**

Each band member will have three different uniforms. The following items constitute proper uniform dress. All members must be in proper uniform in order to avoid disciplinary consequences.

1. *Regular marching uniform:* Provided by the music association is the coat, panel, cape, two pairs of pants, hat with box, plume, uniform bag, and an all weather coat. Each band member must purchase, from the band; two pairs of shoes (one white and one black), white gloves, and a blue band T-shirt. On your own, you purchase two pairs of tall socks, one all white and one all black. All orders are taken before the end of the previous school year.
2. *Summer marching uniform:* Each band member orders the entire uniform through the band. It consists of navy Docker look-alike shorts, white golf shirt with logo, white w/blue striped socks, and the white shoes (Dinkles). All orders are taken before the end of the previous school year.
3. *Concert uniform:* Furnished for each lady is black floor-length dress. Furnished for each guy are a black tux coat, blue bow tie, and a blue cummerbund. Each guy must purchase appropriate black dress pants, black dress shoes, black socks, and a white, studded tux shirt. The tux shirt and studs are ordered through the band.

*No band member is permitted to appear in public with the uniform in disarray or partially on. The uniform will be worn properly at all times or as instructed by the directors.* There will be unannounced uniform inspections before or during performances. We will check to see if your uniform is clean, worn properly, wrinkle free (must have been hung on the hanger properly), and your hair must be inside the hat. Any item of dress that spoils the uniformity of the group will not be permitted. If there is any doubt, don't wear it. The Music Association has purchased all furnished uniform parts. Any part that is lost, stolen while in your possession, or shows abnormal wear due to negligence or abuse, will be replaced at your expense.

#### • **General Uniform Care Guidelines**

1. Hang your uniform properly every time – make sure the trousers are hung evenly with no wrinkles; the jacket should also be hung evenly on the hanger.
2. Nothing goes in the uniform bag except: the white/blue trousers with suspenders, the band coat, the panel, and the cape. Your shoes, socks, band T-shirt, gloves, etc... will NOT be stored in the uniform bag.
3. The hat should always be stored in the hatbox. You may keep your gloves in the box but make sure they are clean.
4. If a repair or dry cleaning is needed please notify a director as soon as possible.
5. You are also responsible for your assigned raincoat - do not leave it lay.
6. Failure to take care of your assigned uniform may result in a repair charge and or loss of the third quarter break.

#### • **Band Lockers**

Lockable compartments have been provided for the safekeeping of instruments and a minimal amount of personal belongings. It is the student's responsibility to keep it locked and clean at all times. Be aware that small items can be pulled through the wire doors and not everything is totally safe – even if the locker is locked. The lockers are designed for instrument storage - not to be a "school" locker. Do not share your combination with anyone else. Students who lose their lock will be responsible for the expense to replace the lock.

#### • **Awards**

The Music Association sponsors the annual awards night towards the end of the school year. Everyone is asked to bring a dessert. All students are expected to attend this event with their parents unless excused ahead of time by the directors. The awards presented are as follows:

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> year .....       | Letter "B" with band imprint   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> year .....       | Chevrons with band imprint   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> year .....       | Numerals with band imprint   |
| Senior year .....                | Plaque   |
| Jazz Band.....                   | Paw with band imprint  |
| Pep Band.....                    | Paw with band imprint  |
| Pit Band.....                    | Pin  |
| Flags (non-instrument).....      | Star   |
| John Philip Sousa Award .....    | Given to an outstanding senior member as voted by the band members             |
| Louis Armstrong Jazz Award ..... | Given to an outstanding jazz band member                                       |
| Directors Awards .....           | Given to an outstanding senior member of the band as selected by the directors |

### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- **Fundraisers**

These are an extremely important part of any instrumental music program. The cost of instruments, supplies, and equipment is incredible. The Music Association sponsors the Century Resources Gift Sale, Rays certificates, Speedway Gas Certificates, and fruit fundraisers in the fall. You and your child are responsible for the delivery of merchandise and the collection of money as part of the fund raising. All monies collected belong to the Bath Music Association. Be prompt in turning it in on the due dates for proper trip credit. We strongly advise that no merchandise or money be left in school or in an unlocked area. The band sponsors a World's Finest Candy Sale to purchase needed items for the band.

- **Band Obligations**

We have always allowed students to "charge" items they need for band in emergency situations. But this has become increasingly difficult due to the great amount of debt the students have accumulated. Notices are sent home with students and also we remind them regularly. Please check with you son/daughter – sometimes they don't remember until you ask if they need funds. If everyone takes care of the obligations, then we will have the monies to offer supplies to the students, as they need them.

### **BATH MUSIC ASSOCIATION**

This organization provides the necessary assistance to the music directors to make the music programs more effective. All parents of instrumental students in grades 5 through 12 (5 through 12 in the vocal department) are members of the association. It is the parents' responsibility to work for the association when asked, and assume positions of leadership when needed. Music Association is a tremendous support to our music students. Meetings are usually held the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the high school band room. See the Music Department Calendar for details.

### **CONCLUSION**

It is our desire to keep both students and parents informed of the rules, regulations, and schedule of the band program. We sincerely hope to make the Bath Bands a wonderful experience. We want students and parents to believe in the band program because of its musical content and value. Your loyalty and commitment to the program are a valuable asset to your child's success in band. We are always open to suggestions that might improve the quality of our program.

**We have one of the best band programs in the state. This is due to the hard work and dedication by the directors, students, and parents. It took everyone to be the best and will take everyone to stay the best. Let's have a great time achieving awesome performances together.**