

Bolivar High School Band Handbook

Revised July 2014

Band Class Enrolment

Students may enroll in 1st semester or 2nd semester band. The rule was previously "only by permission." We changed this due to increasing scheduling difficulties. You may also be in jazz band only if you choose. Students who wish to be in the HS band must have the required playing skills. Students who show up to band camp without demonstrating these basic skills will have their classes changed before school starts. This also applies to jazz band. Lessons will be required to return the next semester.

Concert Band

Concert band season starts after marching season is over. Concert Band gives one Christmas concert and one spring concert. Concert Band also participates in District events such as large ensemble and solo and ensemble contest throughout the year. Attendance to large ensemble contest is mandatory for enrollment the following school year.

Basketball Pep Band

Attendance to all Basketball games for jazz band members is required. Students may miss one game with prior written approval from the band directors. Please consult the attendance policy. Schedules are available far in advance.

Jazz Band / Jazz Lab

Jazz Band is an audition only group that rehearses 1st block. Jazz Lab is an entry level group that also rehearses 1st block. Students are no longer required to take band in order to take jazz band. A minimum set of skills are required for this group.

Instruments include:

1. Trumpets
2. Trombones

3. Saxophones
4. Guitar and Bass Guitar
5. Percussion
6. Keyboard

Marching Band

Marching Band season starts with summer camp in late July and ends with the Christmas Parade in December. Marching Band policies are listed below.

Rehearsal and Performance Attendance Policy for all Music Events

If a student has a conflict with an event and a practice, the event comes first with very few exceptions. If the student has a conflict with an event and a game, the student chooses, but is still required to give us two weeks notice. If the student has a conflict with a band event and an event that is not sanctioned by the school, then they must choose the educational event over the other unless we make an exception, which we sometimes do.

[BAND ABSENCE FORM WORD FORMAT](#)
[ABSENCE FORM TEXT FORMAT](#)

Music practices and performances are required. Any request for an exception must be submitted in writing and approved by the directors two weeks in advance of the conflicting date - except in emergencies. Work is not an acceptable excuse for missing any music event. Our schedule is always announced far enough in advance to avoid conflicts. Parents, please make every effort to schedule regular doctor's appointments around the music schedule whenever possible. If a change of schedule is necessary, a minimum of two weeks notice will be given. Students are responsible for arriving at each rehearsal and performance on time and properly prepared (properly dressed, instrument ready, music ready). Parents are urged to see that their children take this responsibility seriously. Please remember that students who fall below a C in band will be dropped the following semester.

There will be times, hopefully few, when a member must miss a rehearsal or come late. It is the responsibility of the member to request from the director an excused absence. Generally, personal illness and family emergencies are excused. Medical appointments are not excused unless they are emergencies.

Attendance Policy

[BAND ABSENCE FORM WORD FORMAT](#)
[ABSENCE FORM TEXT FORMAT](#)

Remember that it is your job to plan ahead. Please give 2 weeks notice by filling in the absence form found above. Forms are also available in the band room.

Excusable absences are:

- School schedule conflicts. (2 weeks notice is still necessary in writing.)
- Medical issues (Dr. excuse provided)
- Sick from school on the day of the event
- Death in the family
- Important family engagement (excused at the discretion of the directors)

Non-Excusable absences are:

- School schedule conflicts without 2 weeks notice in writing
- Doctor/Dentist/Orthodontist appt. (please schedule around band functions)
- Driving test
- Homework (you must learn to manage your time well)
- Attending a rock concert or pro-sporting event
- Birthday
- Work
- Trips that are not given two weeks notice (for example, you know you are going to be at a wedding, and you don't tell us until the day before you leave).

- "I didn't know" is not a valid excuse given the constant reminders that are available through email, class and this web page.
- Didn't have a ride (your section leader or director can help you find a carpool within the band) We have plenty of band parents willing to assist.

Large Ensemble Contest and Marching Field Competitions

Attendance to Large Ensemble Contest and marching field competitions is mandatory. These are the single largest events in our program. Check work schedules ahead. In the event that you need to miss, please let us know 2 weeks in advance. For an absence to be excused, it must meet your attendance policy. Students who miss these events without warning may be dropped from the following semester.

Revised Grading System updated July 2014

Grading System

Scheduled Performance - an unexcused absence from a scheduled performance may result in a overall grade deduction and will be at the discretion of the directors. Two unexcused absences will result in a failing grade per grading period. Please remember that students who fall below a C in band will be dropped the following semester. Scheduled

Rehearsals- an unexcused absence from a scheduled rehearsal will result in a drop in grade for each occurrence during that grading period.

Participation Grade

Students will lose points for every day they attend a rehearsal and do not actively participate. Example - a student does not participate because they forgot their instrument, don't have a reed or flag. Students that have medical excuses or verified instrument repair issues will be exempt from penalty.

Schedule Changes

In the event a change is made in a scheduled performance or rehearsal, students are encouraged to make every effort to adapt to that change. If ample notice of the change (2 weeks) is not possible the policy on absence will be adjusted accordingly at the director's discretion.

Skills/Music Memorization Grade

During each grading period, students will be accessed individually on their performance skills i.e. music memorization & preparation, marching skills, dance or flag routines. Students will receive a pass or fail evaluation. After two consecutive failed evaluations students will not be permitted to perform with the band until they can successfully pass their skills evaluation.

Tardy for a rehearsal or performance

Each tardy will result in a grade deduction.

Concert Dress

Concert dress is all black. For jazz band, we require black pants, belt, shoes and socks. A shirt will be provided. No jeans, tennis shoes or printed shirts. Your best dress. We can provide new clothes at no cost if you let us know in time.

Band Camp

Band camp is scheduled before the start of school each year and is when the band learns it's pre-game, half-time, and post-game shows. In addition to the show music, stands tunes and parade music are prepared and marching techniques and drills are polished. Band camp is mandatory for all students. If you need to miss, you must provide us with a valid reason for your absence. Keep in mind that making up what is lost by missing camp is nearly impossible. Students who miss camp will not have a choice in parts and may be placed as an alternate on the field. No informing us of the absence will remove you from the class completely.

BAND CAMP ATTIRE

1. Dress for the weather!!!
2. Bring rain gear!!!
3. SANDALS, FLIP FLOPS OPEN TOED OR FLAT SHOES, etc. are not permitted
4. Students should wear socks and tennis shoes.
5. Avoid perfume, hair spray, hand lotions, creams, etc. they attract pests such as bees, wasps and drummers.
6. USE SUNSCREEN.
- 7 Bring sunglasses and a hat
8. BRING A WATER COOLER OR WATER BOTTLE! (You may want to bring snacks, but only if you share with the band directors.)

Any student not appropriately attired (especially footwear) will be asked to sit out. This will influence your participation grade.

Behavior Policy

Band members are expected to follow all Bolivar School District policies regarding appropriate student behavior. Violation of the following will be handled through existing school policy: boy/girl relationships, class cut, destruction of school property, disrespect, drugs, fighting, gambling, knives or weapons, profanity, sexual harassment, smokeless tobacco, smoking, and stealing. In the event existing school policy does not cover a negative student behavior, the band directors and staff will evaluate behavior and appropriate disciplinary action will be determined based upon the severity of the incident and its impact on the band. Based upon the severity of the incident appropriate school officials will be notified. Discipline may include sitting a student out of one or more performances, 10% deduction (one letter grade), for that grading period (45 days), exclusion from a special band trip or expulsion from the band.

Behavior/Attitude

Any negative behavior i.e. disrespect for the directors, fellow band members, chaperones, student leaders, bus drivers, or tour guides will result in appropriate disciplinary action being taken.

Student Leaders

Senior students play a major role in the success of our program. Leadership positions include Drum Majors, and various student leaders for marching, music, flag team, clerical, inventory, music library, and band manager positions. Drum Major and Co-captain positions are selected by audition and student leaders are selected through an application screening process.

Drum Majors:

Drum majors act as assistants to the director. Drum majors are selected by audition during the spring for the following year and are required to attend a drum majors camp over the summer. The responsibilities of the drum majors include, but are not limited to, helping run rehearsals, warming up the band, teaching marching fundamentals, assisting in musical interpretation, and acting as field commanders during shows.

Section Leaders:

Section leaders are responsible for a particular section of musicians. They take roll and report to the drum majors on those people in their section who are absent or late for rehearsals and/or performances, and they encourage their section members to try their best in terms of participation and attitude. Section leaders also help set and monitor drill and marching style. Section leaders do not assign responsibilities to other band members that they would not do themselves.

Performance Policy

The entire football game is considered a performance situation, and all parts of the uniform must be worn properly at all times, unless otherwise specified by the drum majors.

Students may be asked to sit out of a performance for any of the following reasons:

- 1) Wearing the uniform in an inappropriate manner.
- 2) The uniform looks unkempt, stained or wrinkled due to poor care.
- 3) Shoes are not properly cleaned & polished.
- 4) Long hair is not tucked into the band hat..
- 5) Failure to remove all visible jewelry.
- 6) Do not know their music or drill.
- 7) Cannot stay in step for extended periods of time.
- 8) Behavior infractions.
- 9) Do not have their instrument/equipment/prop.
- 10) Chewing gum.
- 11) Fail to complete and return forms and information.
- 12) Unprepared due to extended absence.
- 13) Missing a practice prior to a performance.
- 14) Cannot perform the routine in the style and technique taught.

Travel / Transportation

Students are expected to travel with the band to and from all activities.

In the event a parent finds it necessary to drive a student to or from a band activity (where group transportation is provided) the following policy will apply:

1) Prior written notification must be received in advance of the event and approved by the director.

2) Students will only be permitted to leave with their parents or an adult authorized by the parents. You must be checked out by a director!

3) Students will not be permitted to come or go with boy or girl friends, classmates etc.

Uniform

WHAT YOU SHOULD HAVE:

1. BAND GARMENT BAG AND PLASTIC OR WOODEN HANGER
2. BAND BAG
3. HAT, HAT BOX, PLUME
4. BAND T-SHIRT
5. UNIFORM COAT AND PANTS
6. BLACK SOCKS (EXTRA PAIR)
7. BLACK DRILLMASTER MARCHING SHOES
8. BLACK GLOVES (EXTRA PAIR)
9. MUSIC LYRE - (WIND PLAYERS)

TOP TO BOTTOM:

THE HAT

1. Long hair is neatly arranged so that it fits up inside the hat.

2. The brim of the hat is level at the eyebrows.
3. The chinstrap should rest on the chin or under the chin.
4. The plume is straight

THE COAT:

1. You should have a sweat collar snapped inside the coat neck. The neck collar is hooked shut.
2. If your coat fits properly your sleeves should touch the wrist area of your gloves when your instrument is up and you should have room to breath. You should not be able to see the side adjustment zippers on your pants if your coat fits properly.
3. You should always wear the BAND SHIRT sweatshirt, sweater or long underwear under your coat. SLEEVELESS TOPS, TANK TOPS, OR COLORFUL SHIRTS ARE NOT PERMITTED. Sleeveless shirts allow under arm stains to occur on the coat. Colorful shirts often fade when you sweat or get wet.

THE PANTS:

1. The pants will fit high up on the chest. They should be adjusted so that the bottoms of the pants touch the tops of the shoes and are approximately one inch from the ground. They should not drag on the ground.
2. The sides adjust with zippers and the length can be adjusted with the suspenders.
3. You should wear shorts, and long underwear (if necessary), under the uniform pants. NO BLUE JEANS.

GLOVES:

1. All sections wear black gloves except percussion. Gloves are available through the band office.

2. Flutes, clarinets and saxes may choose to cut the fingers out on the palm side of the gloves for keys that require coverage. DO NOT CUT THE FINGER TOPS OFF THE GLOVES.

3. Gloves should always be clean before a performance.

4. It is a good idea to carry an extra set of gloves in your band bag or uniform jacket.

Color Guard

The color guard at Bolivar High School is a school sponsored group that will provide routines for the marching band field show and parades. Member of the color guard are required to audition for their spot on the guard. Members must attend all rehearsals. Color guard rehearsals can only take place on school property. Any rehearsals outside of school property are not school sanctioned in any way or approved by directors. Any rehearsal activity outside the normal school day or off school property is entirely up to the students and their parents.

The Band Director's responsibilities are as follows:

1. Direct the overall vision for the show.
2. Supervise color guard members while they are in class and at band events.
3. Always listen and consider suggestions from the sponsor.
4. Ensure that the color guard as a whole contributes appropriately.

The color guard sponsors responsibilities are as follows:

1. Manage color guard activities and report to the band director.

2. Teach and create routines that fit the director's vision of the show.
3. Schedule practices only.
4. Attend all practices.
5. Follow the proper chain of command.
6. Organize the squad and its activities.
7. Act in a professional manner at all times and adhere to all school policies and procedures.