

*Booker ISD*

Booker  
*JH/HS*

Band  
Handbook  
2022-2023

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for choosing the Booker ISD Band program. Participating in band is a rewarding, fun, and challenging experience that fosters teamwork, self-discipline and leadership in students. This handbook is designed to help parents and students understand the guidelines of the Booker ISD Band Program. With a thorough understanding of these expectations and procedures, parents and teachers can help students establish positive discipline, organization and responsibility that will serve them their whole lives.

By signing the form at the end of this handbook, you will be making a commitment that includes the following:

1. Your son/daughter will be a member of the band for the entire school year. Band is a full-year course.
2. Your son/daughter will give their best effort to improve as a musician.
3. Your son/daughter will maintain a progressive, positive attitude toward band and school throughout the year.

I am looking forward to an outstanding year of musical progress and performance with your student. Please feel free to contact me with any comments, questions or concerns at (806)658-4521 ex. 236. Again, I thank you for your continued support.

**MaryAnn Spurlock**  
Band Director, Booker ISD  
**Christy Mock**  
Principal, Booker HS/JH

## **PURPOSE**

To strive for excellence in each individual member's musical performance and further appreciation through teamwork and the development of instrumental music performance skills.

## **EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS**

- Be on time to each band class, rehearsal, and performance.
- Attend all required performances.
- Always try your best and keep a positive attitude.
- Follow instructions the first time they are given.
- Follow all school and band policies and behavior expectations.
- Bring supplies to each band class, rehearsal, and performance.
- Properly store your instrument and respect others' property.
- Ensure your instrument is in good working conditions at all times.
- All parts of the instrument should seal/move correctly or be scheduled for repair.
- Take your instrument home to practice.

## **BAND HALL RULES**

1. Everything is expensive.
  - a. This means taking care of your instrument to avoid costly repairs.
  - b. This also means not touching or handling any instrument that isn't yours - INCLUDING PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT.
2. Stay quiet while the teacher is working.
  - a. Whether the director is on or off the podium, if they are working with a large group, small group or individuals, the rest of the class should stay quiet.
  - b. This allows for students to receive the help they need and may assist another individual or section indirectly if everyone can hear what is being said.
3. Instruments are the only thing allowed in your mouth.
  - a. Avoid bringing food, drinks, gum, candy, pieces of plastic, etc. in the classroom to chew on.
  - b. These items pose a health hazard and can harm your instrument.
4. Only band members are allowed in the band hall.
  - a. Band students know the rules and how to respect the equipment in the room. Others do not and they need to stay out.

Consequences for breaking the rules include parent phone calls for initial misbehaviors and lunch detentions for repeated misbehaviors. Serious misbehavior including being disrespectful, fighting, profanity and the abuse of school property will be referred to the principal's office.

## **SUPPLIES**

Students are required to bring the following items with them every day to class:

1. Instrument with all parts (mouthpiece, reeds, sticks/mallets, etc.)
2. Band folder or binder with music neatly organized
3. Band method book
  - *Rhythm Master* – 5th and 6th grade woodwind/brass players
  - *Simple Steps to Successful Beginning Percussion* – 5-6th grade percussionists
  - *Foundations for Superior Performance* – ALL 7-12th grade band members
4. Pencil (no other writing tools will be allowed)

Other supplies such as a tuner/metronome may be checked out for the student to keep up with and bring to class as needed. Woodwinds will need to have 4 working reeds at all times in their reed guard. Woodwinds also need to keep up with their swabs and cork grease. Brass players may have valve oil or slide oil to keep their instrument in working condition. These extra supplies will be provided by the school. The method books will need to be purchased for \$10 and may be found online or at either of these two music stores. If there are issues finding it, I can also place an order through the school. Come see me privately if you need a scholarship to cover the price of your book. The music stores have our school information on file and can tell you exactly what you need.

### **Music and Arts**

3300 S Soncy Rd #200  
Amarillo, TX 79121  
(806)352-2739

Store Hours: Mon-Fri 11:00pm-8:00pm  
Saturday 10:00am-5:00pm  
Sunday 12:00pm-5:00pm

### **Tarpley's Music Company**

8300 I-40 West  
Amarillo, TX 79102  
(806)352-5293

Store Hours: Mon-Sat 10:00am-6:00pm  
Sunday (closed)

## **CUBBIES**

At the beginning of the year, each student will be assigned a space to store his/her instrument and band supplies. This space will be yours and yours only. Your name will be put on the space and you will not be allowed to switch cubbies during the school year. **Only band equipment and band materials are to be kept in these spaces.** Students are responsible for their space's neatness and cleanliness during the school year.

## **INSTRUMENT REPAIRS**

Students should not allow others to handle their instruments, and must keep instruments in good working order. Routine maintenance will prevent many issues and potentially costly repairs. This means checking for loose screws, regularly using cork grease/valve oil, and letting a director know as soon as anything isn't working properly.

### ***School-owned instruments:***

1. Students must report any problems with their instrument to the director.
  - a. If I can fix it, I will. If not, it will have to be sent off for repair.
2. Damage due to negligence of the student will be the responsibility of the student to pay for.
3. Damage due to normal wear and tear will be paid for by the school.
4. **DO NOT** try to repair an instrument on your own.

### ***Privately-owned instruments:***

1. Students should still report any problems with their instrument to the director. We can fix some issues.
2. If the instrument needs more help than we can provide, there are two great music stores in the area that provide pickup and dropoff services to the school:

**Music and Arts**

**Tarpley's Music Company**

## **INSTRUMENT RENTAL**

If you or your student are interested in renting their instrument, we will have a night for Tarpley Music to come and host a rental drive. This is NOT required, but just an option if you are interested. We will do this after the 5th graders have been placed on an instrument, so probably during the first couple of weeks of September. I will send out more information when I have more to share.

## **BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL PROCEDURES**

Students are allowed to drop off their instruments in the band hall in the mornings. I try to get here around 7:15, but it can vary. The student's instrument is their pass. Students are allowed to drop off their instruments or come in and practice until the first bell rings.

Immediately following dismissal from school, students should pick up their instruments. Only students enrolled in band are allowed in the band hall. Students may practice after school until 4:15 pm on most days.

\*\*\*Students are only allowed in the band hall if the director is present\*\*\*

## **ELIGIBILITY**

The Booker Band Program will follow the eligibility rules set by the Texas Education Agency and the University Interscholastic League. Students must pass all classes to compete with the band. This includes All Region auditions, Solo and Ensemble competition and UIL Concert and Sight-Reading competition.

## **PRACTICE TIME EXPECTATIONS**

Practice is extremely important to students' musical development. Consistent daily practice is the best way to develop good habits and improve playing skills. Daily practice will be kept up with using a Practice Log (for junior high). They will be available as paper copies and posted in Google Classroom every week. Students must keep track of what they are practicing and for how long. Grades will be determined by days practiced during the week and will be counted as a **homework grade**. Practice Logs will be due on Wednesdays. Please check your students practice log sheet to encourage and motivate your student's achievement and development.

Objective sheets will be used for the high school students. They should know how to practice at this point, plus I know they are involved in a plethora of other activities. Every 6 weeks, students will get an objective sheet with their weekly assignments on it. Weekly assignments will be due on Wednesdays. We will try to take care of some of these in class, but they will also be available on Google Classroom to submit video assignments. These will count as a homework grade, so please keep track of your student's progress.

## **GRADING POLICY**

In determining the band grade each six weeks, these areas will comprise the average:

- **Test Grades** including written or performance examinations, concerts/events, or other grades as assigned by the director. Failing test grades can be made up to a 70. Failing test grades only have three days following the test to be made up. They must be made up before/after school. This is the only grade allowed to be corrected. **Test grades will count for 25% of the total grade.**
- **Daily/Homework Grades** including participation and preparation in class, rehearsals, daily assignments, practice logs, and other daily or homework grades as assigned by the director. **Daily/Homework Grades will count for 75% of the total grade.**
- **Extra Credit**, including attendance at concerts by other performing art groups and any activity sheets given over long breaks. Students must present a program or ticket stub of the event to receive credit or have a parent/guardian signature. Students may also earn extra credit by participating in optional band

events such as All Region or Solo and Ensemble. **Extra credit can add bonus points to either test or daily/homework grades.**

## **PERFORMANCES AND ADDITIONAL REHEARSALS**

The success of the band relies on **ALL** its members. Eligible band members are required to participate in all performances scheduled on the band calendar. Other mandatory events may be scheduled throughout the year at the directors' discretion. Performances (concerts and contests) are required and will be counted as **test grades**.

Required performances include, but are not limited to:

1. Christmas Concert
2. Spring Concert
3. UIL Concert and Sight-Reading evaluation

Additional rehearsals only apply to the high school band and include our weekly marching band rehearsal from 7-9pm on Tuesday evenings until marching band is over. If a student has an excused absence or a conflict with a school-related activity, it is the student's responsibility to *notify the director at least one week prior to the event*. This allows the conflict to be resolved so the student will not be negatively affected in either activity.

For excused absences that cannot be previously communicated (absence from school due to illness, family emergency), notice will be accepted on the same day and up to two days after, preferably by email to guarantee receipt.

Performances function as a major/final exam, and according to required state standards (TEKS), students must demonstrate both performance and audience skills to receive full credit. As such, students are required to stay for the full length of the concerts to listen to the other performing groups.

## **ALL REGION BAND**

All Region Band auditions are an optional (but highly encouraged) opportunity for 7th through 12th grade students to showcase their individual skills as a musician. The audition materials will be available upon request and I will schedule optional before/after school rehearsals for those interested. Auditions will be after school on November 29 in Pampa for 7/8th grade and after school on December 5 for 9-12th grade. If students rank high enough, then they will be invited to participate in the All Region Clinic and Concert at WTAMU on January 13-14.

## **SOLO AND ENSEMBLE**

Solo and Ensemble competition is another optional band competition on the individual level. Students work on a solo piece of music, with the help from the director, and perform it in front of a judge. Depending on the availability of an accompanist, students can compete on February 3 at Palo Duro HS (7/8th grade), February 4 at WTAMU (9-12th grade) or we will host a solo competition at the school sometime during the spring.

## **UNIFORMS**

The marching band uniform (8-12) is to be worn to all football games and marching contests:

- Booker Band t-shirt
- Athletic pants/shorts (no jeans)
- Tall black socks
- Marching bibbers that have been checked out
- Marching jacket that has been checked out
- Marching shoes that have been purchased by the student
- Marching hat that has been checked out
- Black gloves that have been given to the student

The parade uniform (8-12) is to be worn at all parades we participate in:

- Booker t-shirt
- Denim pants/shorts
- Tennis shoes

The concert uniform (8-12) is to be worn to all formal performances:

- **Black** dress (appropriate length), blouse or collared shirt
- **Black** skirt (appropriate length), slacks, or dress pants
- **Black** shoes and appropriate socks
- No: jeans, pants with holes, or T-shirts
- Students must be in dress code at all times.

The concert uniform (5-7) is to be worn to the Christmas and Spring concerts.

- **Nice** shirt. Button down, collared shirt, polo, blouse, etc. **No t-shirts.**
- **Nice** pants. Khakis, slacks, dress pants, skirt, dress, etc. **No holes in your pants.**
- Students must be in dress code at all times.

If you need any help getting these items for any reason, please let me know in advance so I can help you out.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Fundraising helps pay for band trips and other band related activities and materials. Band Boosters help with this. We will have a parent meeting to discuss possible fundraiser ideas sometime during the first of the school year.



## **BAND TRIP**

When/if there is a possibility of a band trip at the end of the year students **MUST** qualify to attend. To qualify, students must not have unexcused performances for the year, must be passing their classes, and not have repeated disciplinary issues. Excused performances are determined by the director's discretion, and require parent communication with the director. More information will be included with the permission slip prior to the event.

## **PARENT HELP**

Chaperones are needed throughout the year, and all help is greatly appreciated. All volunteers must have an approved volunteer clearance form through the district office. All parents are strongly encouraged to participate in any way they can to support their students!

## **CONTACT**

I am always happy to answer any questions or concerns. Email is the best correspondence:

Ms. MaryAnn Spurlock: [maryann.spurlock@region16.net](mailto:maryann.spurlock@region16.net)

Telephone: (806) 658-4521 ex. 236

My conference period is from 9:39-10:25am.

**HANDBOOK AGREEMENT FORM**

Please initial beside each statement.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. I have read and understood that my student will stay in band for the entire 2022-2023 school year and will try their best to improve their musicianship.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. I have read and understood the expectations, rules and consequences.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. I have read and understood the required supplies and how to take care of them and what to do if I find my student's instrument needs repair.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. I have read and understood the grading policy and how practice time and required performances fit into it.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. I have read and understood the concert uniform expectations.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, and my child, \_\_\_\_\_, have received and  
**(Print parent's name)** **(Print student's name)**

read the entire Booker ISD Band Handbook, and we agree to abide by the rules, regulations and guidelines set forth within the handbook.

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **FORMULARIO DE ACUERDO DEL MANUAL**

Escriba sus iniciales al lado de cada declaración.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. He leído y entendido que mi estudiante permanecerá en la banda durante todo el año escolar 2022-2023 y hará todo lo posible para mejorar su maestría musical.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. He leído y entendido las expectativas, reglas y consecuencias.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. He leído y entendido los materiales requeridos y cómo cuidarlos y qué hacer si encuentro que el instrumento de mi estudiante necesita reparación.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. He leído y entendido la política de calificación y cómo encajan en ella el tiempo de práctica y las actuaciones requeridas.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. He leído y entendido las expectativas del uniforme de concierto.

Yo, \_\_\_\_\_, y mi hijo, \_\_\_\_\_, hemos recibido y **(letra de molde el nombre de los padres) (letra de molde el nombre del estudiante)**

hemos leído todo el Manual de Banda de la Booker ISD, y estamos de acuerdo en cumplir con las normas, reglamentos y pautas establecidas en el manual.

Firma de los padres \_\_\_\_\_

Fecha: \_\_\_\_\_

Firma del estudiante \_\_\_\_\_

Fecha: \_\_\_\_\_