

**Buckhorn High School Band**  
**Syllabus (Marching Band and Concert Band)**  
**Director: Jacob Souder**  
**Phone: 256-379-2123 ext. 2127**  
**Email: [jsouder@madison.k12.al.us](mailto:jsouder@madison.k12.al.us)**

**Expectations of Band Members:**

As part of this performance-based course, all members of the Buckhorn High School Band will be expected to:

- Demonstrate commitment to perform to the best of their ability
- Be prepared at EVERY rehearsal with the proper equipment (instrument, music and all accessories)
- Own their own flip folder (with adequate pages) and lyre, bring them and a pencil to rehearsal each day
- Be present at all rehearsals and performances, even those that may fall during school breaks
- Acquire appropriate performance attire (white gloves, white/gray gym shorts, band t-shirt, TALL solid white socks, etc)
- Be a part of the team and show initiative to help others who may struggle
- Be willing to ask for help when necessary
- Set aside time to practice outside of school
- Show respect for musical instruments, music, yourself and others at all times
- Pay ALL dues set forth by the booster organization (\$360- band fee, (available in three payments of \$120), and \$50 band camp fee)

**Grading/Attendance Procedures:**

60% Test Grades, 40% Daily Grades

- **Test grades**- are determined by students' participation in performances. Each performance will count as a test grade. If a student arrives late or leaves early from a performance, the test grade will be lowered at the director's discretion. If a student does not attend a performance for any reason, excused or unexcused, he/she will receive a grade of ZERO for the performance. IF the absence is deemed "excused" by the director, the ZERO may be recovered. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis. (All students who miss a performance will be given an initial "zero". It is up to the student, if the absence has been deemed "excused", to ask Mr. Souder for instructions to make up the absence and recover the grade.) Likewise, if a student arrives in incorrect attire or exhibits unacceptable or inappropriate behavior, the student may not be allowed to perform and will receive a reduced grade to be determined by the director.
- Any performance that is adjudicated (competitions/assessments) will count as **TWO TEST GRADES. The same attendance and behavior policies apply.**
- **Daily grades** come from participation in class, daily and assigned rehearsals. Students are expected to attend each rehearsal, prepared with all equipment, and in attire suitable for marching band. As with performances, **if a student arrives late or leaves early to rehearsals**, this grade will be lowered.  
**UNEXCUSED DAILY ABSENCES, TARDINESS, EARLY LEAVE, MISCONDUCT:** If a student misses one or more daily rehearsals, and they are deemed "unexcused" by the director, he/she will receive a grade of ZERO for the daily grade, will be required to attend, but will not be allowed to perform at the following performance. Likewise, if a student arrives in incorrect attire or exhibits unacceptable or inappropriate behavior, the student will be required to attend, but will not be allowed to perform at the following performance and will receive a reduced grade for the daily grade.  
**EXCUSED DAILY ABSENCES, TARDINESS, EARLY LEAVE:** If a student misses one or more daily rehearsals, and they are deemed "excused" by the director, he/she will be allowed to make up the missed work within one week. If not made up within one week, the student will receive a ZERO grade. He/she may still be required to sit out the following performance, depending upon the director's assessment of the student's preparation for that performance.
- **NOTE:** IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO CONTACT THE DIRECTOR TO DISCUSS ANY ATTENDANCE ISSUES AND IT IS UP TO THE DISCRETION OF THE DIRECTOR WHETHER ANY GIVEN REASON FOR MISSING REHEARSAL IS VALID. IF A STUDENT MUST MISS A PERFORMANCE OR REHEARSAL DUE TO A FAMILY DEATH OR OTHER **MAJOR** EMERGENCY, THE STUDENT SHOULD RETURN A WRITTEN EXCUSE FROM A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN WITHIN 2 SCHOOL DAYS OF THE MISSED ASSIGNMENT.
- **Prescheduled social events, doctor, dental appointments, etc. should be scheduled to avoid band rehearsals and performances, as those absences do very much affect the entire performing ensemble and that student's eligibility to perform. (We will have full-band rehearsal each Thursday after school; Friday afternoons and evenings should be reserved for football games during Marching Band season) Any additional rehearsals will be announced at least two weeks in advance so students may adjust their personal and work schedules.**

### Rehearsal Meetings:

Students are required to be in rehearsal appropriate attire for ALL rehearsals and will be expected to be in appropriate clothes and in their rehearsal location, ready to rehearse within the first 5 minutes of class. Failure to do so will be considered tardiness.

- **Band Class:** Band will meet each day during 3<sup>rd</sup> block
- **Weekly Rehearsals:** The band will meet each Thursday after school for full band rehearsal.
- **Sectional Rehearsals:** Each student will be required to attend weekly hour-long sectional rehearsals. The time and day for these sectional rehearsals will be negotiated among members of the section and should most likely be held immediately after school on Monday or Tuesday. Sectional rehearsals carry the same weight as any other band rehearsal.
- **Individual Practice:** Students should create a solid practice schedule, if not already a habit, of practicing their instrument every day. This is the quickest way to see personal and band-wide progress.

### Forms:

EVERY student must complete and submit the following forms before they are allowed to perform as a member of the Buckhorn High School Marching Band.

- STUDENT HEALTH INFORMATION FORM
- MCBOE EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION WAIVER
- OUT-OF-COUNTY/OVERNIGHT MEDICAL RELEASE FORM (**MUST BE NOTARIZED**)
- INSTRUMENT RENTAL CONTRACT (IF USING A SCHOOL INSTRUMENT)
- THIS SYLLABUS

### Professionalism:

As a performance based organization, professionalism is paramount to our success. All members of the Buckhorn High School Marching Band will be expected to demonstrate the utmost respect and professionalism. Students should remember that at all times, in uniform and out, their behavior represents them, their family, this organization and this school.

- Students will be expected to adhere to the following rules while in uniform, at all band functions and in the band room:
  - a) **No foul language**- this is an educational institution and we should be intelligent enough to find words to express our feelings without cursing.
  - b) **No PDA (public displays of affection)**- In accordance with the Madison County Board of Education policy, students will not be allowed to express public displays of affection, including but not limited to hugging, kissing, hand holding, etc..... this includes friends and members of the same sex.

### **\*\*Bullying:**

- Bullying **WILL NOT** be tolerated. If a student is caught participating in the harassment or bullying of another, they will immediately lose their participation privileges and will be punished to the fullest extent of the discipline policy set forth by the Madison County Board of Education.

### Attire/ Etiquette:

Each student is responsible for his/her own appropriate attire (adhering to Madison County Board of Education Dress Code Policies) at all rehearsals and performances.

- **REHEARSAL ATTIRE:**

Marching Band is an athletic activity and students should be prepared accordingly for rehearsal. Every student should attend rehearsal prepared with the following:

  - a) Athletic shorts/track pants/sweat pants (NO JEANS OR JEAN SHORTS- Jeans inhibit movement and are absolutely not conducive to marching.)
  - b) Athletic tennis shoes/sneakers **WITH LACES**- NO TOE SHOES, NO SKATEBOARD SHOES (VANS, ETNIES, DC...), NO DECK SHOES, NO CONVERSE ALL STARS TYPE SHOES. Only Athletic tennis shoes with good support and laces will be allowed.
  - c) NO INAPPROPRIATE CLOTHING WILL BE ALLOWED- i.e. (Gentlemen will keep their shirts on and ladies will keep their shirts down. Shorts must be fingertip length, no midriff exposure, tank top straps 3 fingers wide, etc...)

\*\*\*It is the responsibility of the student to choose clothing that is weather appropriate. Marching band is held outdoors during very hot and very cold weather. The student should plan accordingly and not wear clothing that will inhibit their performance.\*\*\*

- **PERFORMANCE ATTIRE:**

In order for the Buckhorn Band to be uniform in appearance and take pride in the way we look, we will abide by the following rules while in uniform (note that the following applies to both young men and young ladies):

APPEARANCE/HYGEINE:

- a) Only clear fingernail polish will be allowed. A student with colored nail polish will not be allowed to perform.
- b) Hair: 1) Marching Band: must be pulled back completely and all hair longer than the collar on the uniform must be pulled and/or pinned up into the shako (This includes men who choose to wear long hair, although a haircut is highly suggested for marching band) 2) Concert Band: pulled away from the face neatly.
- c) No unnatural hair colors or distracting hairstyles will be permitted. This is up to the discretion of the director.
- d) If a student chooses to wear facial hair, it must be groomed and well kept.
- e) Hair ties must be natural colors (black, white, brown) so as not so stick out, no bows, flowers, no neon colors, etc.

JEWELRY:

- a) No earrings may be worn while in marching uniform. If a student has freshly pierced ears, "clear outs" can be purchased at Claire's and other stores. These are very small, nearly invisible clear place holders to prevent closure of ear holes. A student may not wear clear earrings.
- b) No necklaces that can be seen while in uniform- if it is seen, the student will be made to remove it, no questions.
- c) No other jewelry will be worn while in uniform. (rings, bracelets, facial jewelry)

UNIFORM APPAREL:

Each member of the Buckhorn Marching Band will need to have the following uniform accessories:

- a) Yearly Issued Band T-shirt
- b) **SOLID GRAY OR SOLID WHITE** gym shorts (**NO STRIPES, NO DENIM and NO LOGO**)-any logo or markings on the shorts can be clearly seen through the white marching pants we wear.
- c) **SOLID GRAY OR SOLID WHITE** long underwear (for cold weather- NO PATTERNS OR STRIPES)
- d) Tall **SOLID WHITE** socks (NO ANKLE SOCKS)
- e) Solid white cotton gloves
- f) Marching shoes (Can be ordered through the Bandwagon the day of uniform fitting)

Each member of the Concert Band will need to have the following uniform accessories:

- a) THE specific dress (for young ladies) and full tux (for young men) –information on how to order these is on the website – [www.buckhornband.com](http://www.buckhornband.com)
- b) Young ladies: Close-toed black dress shoe, less than two inch heel; Young men: lace-up (no buckles or slip-on loafers, etc.) solid black dress shoe. With concert shoe on, dresses **MUST** be hemmed **AT FLOOR LENGTH**, no shorter, no longer.
- c) Young men must have true tux pants (with traditional tuxedo stripe down the leg seam), high black dress socks (no ankle socks), cummerbund, traditional white tuxedo shirt with wing-tip collar, black bow-tie, notched-lapel or peak-lapel – 1 or 2 button – traditional tuxedo jacket – no tails or short jackets
- d) Uniform must be worn in its entirety at all times until students are told to change (at band room or changing rooms) or at home after the conclusion of an event. Uniforms must be clean and wrinkle-free for performances.

## **UNIFORM AND INSTRUMENT PERFORMANCE PROCEDURE:**

a) **BEFORE** each performance, students' uniform and instrument will be inspected. All students, especially brass players, will be required to clean/polish their instrument before EVERY performance. Students are expected to wear clean, un-torn gloves (marching) and polished shoes at every performance. Students are expected to complete all that is necessary to abide by these guidelines BEFORE performance time. If a student forgets to polish their horn, wear clean gloves, etc. and as a result, is late to a performance or call time, this constitutes as tardiness and the student will receive a reduced grade.

b) **AFTER** each performance, students will report to their section leader so their uniform may be checked for needed repairs or cleaning. Section leaders will give any uniforms needing mending or washing to a designated band parent. **IF** a student fails to do this, and their uniform is found in unacceptable condition at the next performance, both that student AND their section leader will be held accountable. This may seem unreasonable, but 115 students, each with their own uniform can become a massive undertaking if each student does not take responsibility for their own belongings.

**\*\*ALL CLOTHING MUST ABIDE BY MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DRESS CODE GUIDELINES, INCLUDING THE CLOTHES INTENDED TO BE WORN UNDER THE UNIFORM. STUDENTS NOT FOLLOWING THE DRESS CODE WILL BE SENT HOME TO CHANGE.\*\***

- **ETIQUETTE**

**Good Sportsmanship:** Students are expected to display proper etiquette on the field, at performance venues, in the stands, and in the band room at all times. Students will show good sportsmanship at all football games and competitions and will refrain from any activity that might tarnish the reputation of the Buckhorn Band.

**Food/Drink in Uniform:** Due to the high cost of uniform cleaning and maintenance, students are not permitted to eat while in uniform. Drinks will be limited to plain WATER only. No clear sports drinks will be allowed as many of them contain sugar and other ingredients that are difficult to remove. The students will be provided with a bottle of water after each marching performance. If parents choose, they may bring students a bottle of water in the football stands or before a concert performance.

**Non-band members in football stands:** Only band members, chaperones of the current event, instructors and the director may be in the stands with the students during a football game.

**Uniform guidelines:** Each uniform is custom fitted at the beginning of the season for each student so as to appear professional and clean. The students will be instructed and shown how to wear each part of their uniform, including proper pant length, cleanliness of shoes and gloves, gauntlets, baldric, etc. **ALL STUDENTS WILL REMAIN IN FULL, ASSEMBLED UNIFORM IN PUBLIC. STUDENTS WILL BE GIVEN A DESIGNATED CHANGING LOCATION FOR EACH PERFORMANCE. STUDENTS ARE NEVER TO LEAVE THE DESIGNATED CHANGING LOCATION IN PARTIAL UNIFORM. WE FOLLOW AN "ALL OR NOTHING" UNIFORM DRESS CODE. EITHER THE STUDENT WEARS THE ENTIRE UNIFORM, OR THE STUDENT DOES NOT WEAR ANY OF THE UNIFORM. NOT FOLLOW THE UNIFORM GUIDELINES WILL BE CONSIDERED TO BE IN "INCORRECT ATTIRE".**

**NOTE: ANY STUDENT WHO FAILS TO MEET THE ATTIRE/ETIQUETTE POLICY, IN PERFORMANCE OR REHEARSAL, WILL BE CONSIDERED TO BE IN "INCORRECT ATTIRE", AND MAY BE SENT HOME AND/OR NOT ALLOWED TO PERFORM AT THE FOLLOWING PERFORMANCE, THEREFORE RESULTING IN A DAILY AND/OR PERFORMANCE GRADE OF ZERO.**

**Respect:**

Students are expected to show respect for each other, themselves, music and their musical instruments.

- a) **Musical Instruments-** all students will be required to show the utmost respect for all musical instruments, regardless of whether the instrument is their own, someone else's or school-owned.
  - All brass players will be required to wear solid white cotton gloves at all rehearsals (not nylon).** This will protect the lacquer and prolong the life of the instruments, as well as help the brass players become accustomed to wearing gloves while playing and maneuvering. Nylon gloves are not permitted as they are very slippery and we have seen many instruments dropped and damaged as a result of this.
  - School owned instruments:** any student needing to use a school-owned instrument may do so by signing a rental contract and paying a rental fee of \$40 upon rental OR \$10 a month August-December/January-May (\$50)
  - \*\*\*IN THE EVENT THAT A SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENT IS DAMAGED WHILE IN THE STEAD OF A STUDENT, THAT STUDENT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY AND ALL REPAIRS. ARRANGEMENT FOR PAYMENT FOR REPAIRS MUST TAKE PLACE IN A TIMELY MANNER. IF DAMAGE IS INCURRED TO ANY STUDENT'S INSTRUMENT (school-owned or not) BY ANOTHER STUDENT FOUND TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SAID DAMAGE, THE STUDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DAMAGE MUST MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PAYMENT FOR REPAIRS WITH THE STUDENT TO WHOM THE INSTRUMENT BELONGS\*\*\*
  - Students should not touch instruments that do not belong to them-** too many damages occur as a result of mistakes made due to inexperience and carelessness.
- b) **Music-** students will be expected to keep track of the music they are given and to care for it as they do their instrument. Many weeks of hard work will go into writing, customizing and printing the music for the Buckhorn Band each year. There will be a charge of \$.25 for each duplicate copy of music.
- c) **Respect for self and others-** This organization is as much about building up its members as it is about instilling discipline and value for hard work. At no time in this organization will we allow students to treat each other, instructors or teachers with disrespect. There will be severe penalties for doing so.

**Equipment:**

As a part of this course, students will be expected to play instruments that are in good condition, so as to be conducive to the student's musical advancement, and all musical instruments will be required to be traditional in appearance, i.e. (non-traditional colors will not be allowed). All brass players will need to use metal mouthpieces. The Buckhorn Band is fortunate to own many instruments that are available for rental to students. If a student does not have access to an instrument that fits these guidelines, they may rent one through the Buckhorn Band program, contingent upon availability, for a fee of \$40 per semester in one installment OR \$10 a month for 5 months (\$50).

---

---

I have thoroughly read the FALL/SPRING requirements of the Buckhorn High School Marching band and hereby state my understanding of all rules, policies, procedures and consequences. I agree to abide by all contents mentioned in this syllabus and understand that other policies, procedures and expectations not included in this text will be communicated otherwise, will carry the same weight as the aforementioned criteria and will only be introduced or applied so as to provide equal opportunity and fairness among members of the band.

---

STUDENT PRINTED NAME (LEGIBLY)

---

DATE

---

STUDENT SIGNATURE

---

PARENT/GUARDIAN PRINTED NAME

---

DATE

---

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

---

---