



# **Buckhorn High School**

**Buckhorn High School Band**  
**Handbook and Syllabus (Marching and Concert Bands,**  
**to include extracurriculars)**

**Buckhorn High School Band**  
**Handbook and Syllabus (Marching Band and Concert Band)**  
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**What can I expect from my (my student's) experience as a member of the Buckhorn Band?**

- The Buckhorn High School Band is an award-winning championship organization. Our students consistently bring home superior scores as a result of their hard work and dedication.
  
- The first thing to know is that this is an athletic activity. We use physical training as a part of our daily regimen. It is not uncommon for the band to run a mile before each rehearsal. The cardiovascular exercise is vital to the execution of the caliber of show our students put on.
  
- The show the Buckhorn High School Band puts together each year is a hand-written show customized for each individual student. Attendance is crucial to the success of our organization. When a student is absent, the rest of the band has to repeat the progress the next rehearsal. The show we create is also one of, if not THE most difficult show you will see on the field this year. This is because we believe in our students' ability to rise to a challenge- and so far, every year, they do it impeccably.
  
- Our expectations of students are very high. We take pride in pushing our students very hard. Many students come to band not having done anything this tasking before. However, we also take pride in encouraging our students that they CAN do what we ask of them and that our instructors and director will not ever ask them to do anything that they, themselves have not done.
  
- It is not uncommon for new members to want to quit during the first few weeks of camp. It is important that parents and families help encourage them to stick it through. Like many things, the hardest work comes at the beginning. It is common for students to say they're 'not having fun' or don't 'enjoy' it in the initial weeks- this is when the hardest work takes place. However, after that first performance or first competition when our band brings home superior ratings, the 'horrible' first weeks almost always seem to disappear and the pride that inherently comes as a result of hard work remains.
  
- The Buckhorn Band prides itself in a strong familial bond- not only between students, but between parents as well. We spend so much time together we refer to ourselves as a 'family'. There are numerous opportunities for parents to get involved in the organization in which their student invests so much time. Outdoor rehearsals are always open to spectators. We encourage families to bring lawn chairs and watch their students in action. We love to see our students' families around our events and we strongly feel that without the families' involvement, our organization could not function. Thank YOU for all you do.
  
- It is our goal to create independent, critically thinking, talented young musicians and it is our hope that when you (your student) leave this organization, you (they) are stronger, more dedicated, more mature, responsible young adults than they were when they joined us. While it is true that we strive to create outstanding musicians, it is our ultimate goal that our members leave us prepared with the tools you (they) need to be good people and goal-oriented contributors to society.

## Basic 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)
- Music will be given out in timely fashion. The student MUST work out the notes and rhythms in their own practice, and come to practice READY TO REHEARSE (Practice and Rehearsal are two very different things – students will be expected to practice regularly so that rehearsals can be successful. Percussionists particularly have a lot of notes to learn and we CANNOT move forward without students spending time learning their individual parts!  
*NOTE: If a student has not learned his/her individual music, he/she will be ineligible to perform with the band.*
- Be present at all rehearsals and performances, INCLUDING sectionals and 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. Being a team and family means relying on each other. If you are not reliable (knowing your music and being prepared), our team suffers.
- Be willing to ask for help when necessary
- Implement a regular practice schedule outside of school – this is imperative! You cannot improve without practice!
- Show respect for musical instruments, music, yourself and others at all times

## 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/PROOF OF REASON FOR ABSENCE 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 evening; Friday afternoons and evenings should be reserved for football games during Marching Band season) Any additional rehearsals will always 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 4th block
- **Weekly Rehearsals:** The band will meet each Tuesday and Thursday, after school until 6:00 for full band rehearsal/sectionals.
- **Sectional Rehearsals:** Each student will be required to attend weekly 1-3 hour long sectional rehearsals (depending on section). **Wind and Percussion** sectionals are included in the above “weekly rehearsals” time. **Color Guard** will meet **Monday** evening **6-8:30**. Sectional rehearsals carry the same weight as any other band rehearsal. *They are not optional – this is when/where lots of content is learned and taught by section leaders and hired instructors.*
- **Individual Practice:** Students are asked to 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. **If a CHARMS form (contact info) and a valid email address are not provided, we cannot ensure that you will receive vital information that is frequently distributed via email. If you DO NOT have/use an email, please request that hard copies of important information be sent home with your student.**

- THIS HANDBOOK/SYLLABUS – signed by student and parent
- MCBOE EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION WAIVER
- OUT-OF-COUNTY/OVERNIGHT MEDICAL RELEASE FORM (**MUST BE NOTARIZED**)
- CHARMS information form (email and contact info)

### **IF-APPLICABLE / OPTIONAL FORMS:**

- INSTRUMENT RENTAL CONTRACT (IF USING A SCHOOL INSTRUMENT)
- STUDENT HEALTH INFORMATION FORM – if there is a health concern/consideration not already communicated to the school nurse.

## Marching 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 over 100 students, each with their own uniform, becomes a massive undertaking if each student does not take responsibility for their issuance. **These uniforms cost over \$40,000.**

**\*\*Personal items left in the bibber pants are not the responsibility of the band or the cleaning service we use\*\***

***\*\*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.\*\****

## Procedures:

### 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.

**GENERAL RULE: IF YOU WOULDN'T SAY IT TO YOUR MOTHER, IT DOESN'T BELONG HERE.**

**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.

**Bus rides:** Boys and girls will not sit together. Band members will not touch each other. Blankets may not be shared. Students will be expected to maintain a reasonable volume so as not to distract the bus driver. If the director is not present, the head chaperone on the bus has ultimate authority. If he/she deems it necessary to require the students to be silent, the students will be expected to observe and respect their decision. Safety comes before fun.

**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.

**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.

**Retreat/Awards at Competitions:** During the announcement of scores, there is no talking or moving. Whether or not the band wins, the reaction is the same- none. One of the senior members of the band may call you to attention to be recognized, and then you will return to parade rest or be seated. This is done because we feel it is demeaning to the other bands to ever celebrate our victory or their defeat, and demeaning to ourselves to show discontent in scores less than we desired. Whatever the result, we accept it. It is a long-standing tradition that the band displays a professional bearing at all times.

**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.

**Respect for the marching uniform:**

-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. Any student who does not follow the uniform guidelines will be considered in 'incorrect attire' and sent home.

-We do not ever run, skip, or jump in uniform – except when it is DURING/PART of the performance.

- Food/Drink in Uniform: Due to the high cost of uniform cleaning and maintenance, students are not permitted to eat while in uniform unless given direct instruction by the director in rare cases. 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 at each marching performance. We do not visit the concession stand.

-The parts of the uniform that belong to you personally are expected to be kept clean and in good condition. Shoes must be clean and undergarments must be clean. There are times when we travel and we wear our undergarments. Keep them in good condition knowing they will not always be hidden under the uniform.

-Students will be shown how to hang up a pair of creased pants one time. After that, they will be held accountable for storing uniforms properly.

**Dismissal from performances:**

Before you do ANYTHING after the show or stage performance, you must change out of your uniform in the designated location and put your equipment away. Your uniform, shako and plume must be protected from damage. USE EXTREME CAUTION IN HANGING UP YOUR UNIFORM AND IN HANDLING YOUR PLUME AND SHAKO. THEY ARE EXPENSIVE.

**\*\*\*COLOR GUARD- you do not go anywhere in your uniform except to change/home, including restaurants, friends' house, etc.**

**NOTE: ANY STUDENT WHO FAILS TO MEET THE PROCEDURAL EXPECTATIONS, 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.**

**ATTIRE:**

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.

- **MARCHING 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, NO KHAKIS- 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, clothes should be loose-fitting, 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 – MARCHING AND CONCERT BANDS:**

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) Marching and Concert Band: Only clear fingernail polish will be allowed. A student wearing colored fingernail polish will not be allowed to perform. (Short French-tips with no design may be permitted at the discretion of the director.)
- b) Hair:
  - 1) Marching Band: Hair longer than the collar of the uniform must be pulled back in a bun completely and pinned up off the neck and away from the face.
  - 2) Concert Band: pulled away from the face neatly.
- c) Marching and Concert Band: No unnatural hair colors or distracting hairstyles will be permitted.
- d) Marching and Concert Band: If a student chooses to wear facial hair, it MUST be groomed and well kept.
- e) Marching and Concert Band: Hair ties must be natural colors (black, white, brown) so as not so stick out, no bows, flowers, no neon colors, etc.
- f) Marching and Concert Band: Students should practice good hygiene and bathe before putting on the Buckhorn High School Band uniform.

JEWELRY:

Marching Band:

- 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 marching uniform- if it is seen, the student will be made to remove it, no questions.
- c) No other jewelry will be worn while in marching uniform. (rings, bracelets, facial jewelry)

Concert band:

- a) During concert band, ladies may wear a single strand of pearls.
- b) During concert band, only small diamond, pearl, silver or gold ball **studs** may be worn. It is up to the discretion of the director to determine suitability.

UNDER MARCHING UNIFORM APPAREL:

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

- a) Yearly Issued Band T-shirt
- b) **SOLID LIGHT GRAY OR SOLID WHITE** gym shorts (NO STRIPES, NO LOGO, NO DENIM)
- c) **SOLID LIGHT 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 in GOOD condition.
- f) Marching shoes (Can be ordered through the Bandwagon on the day of uniform fitting)

**\*\*Students who need to purchase gloves may do so at the band room BEFORE performance dates.\*\***

**Gloves: \$3.00/pr**

**Each member of the Concert Band will need to have the following uniform accessories (These items need to be acquired BY late October, in time for our Veterans Day performance in early November.)**

- 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) . You are not required to order your tuxedo from the band as long as it meets the below specifications, but the link on the website is the only place to order the official Buckhorn concert dress. *Please order this as soon as possible as it will be worn in March.*
- b) Young ladies: Closed-toe 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. Pants must be hemmed one inch above the ground at the heel.
- c) Young men must have true tuxedo 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.

## 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 marching 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 in marching band.
- 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 \$60 upon rental OR \$15 a month August-December/January-May (\$75)
- \*\*\*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 NEVER 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).

### Equipment for every MARCHING BAND rehearsal:

- Insulated water jug to drink from (Minimum ½ gallon)
- Sunscreen
- White rehearsal gloves (brass only – must be cotton, NOT NYLON = slippery)
- Appropriate attire (See above)
- Lyre and flip folder (battery, guard and front ensemble exception)
- Music
- Pencil
- Hat (optional but encouraged)

**PLEASE KEEP ALL PREVIOUS PAGES FOR YOUR REFERENCE AND DETATCH  
THIS FINAL PAGE, SIGN, AND RETURN TO MR. SOUDER.**

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.

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STUDENT PRINTED NAME (LEGIBLY)

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DATE

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STUDENT SIGNATURE

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PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

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