

Bethel High School Marching Band



Student Handbook
2019-2020

Welcome!

We are so happy to have you as a member of this program. Our vision is for the entire band community to work together and create something really special. Clearly, music inspires us. It provides us with experiences and memories that we will never forget. Add teamwork, motivation, and passion, and this program will go as far as we want it to go. The staff and I are ready to continue this amazing journey towards success, but we need your help!

Please make sure you read through this handbook, as it contains important information, especially for new members. Please refer to these resources as often as you can to be aware of the schedule, expectations, and more!

If you want to participate in the program, you must submit a signed “Band Permission and Medical Information” form to confirm your commitment to the program, as well as acknowledge receipt of the student handbook. Please check the fall schedule to make sure you don’t have any significant conflicts. This form must be turned in no later than June 13th, 2019 to confirm participation in the program.

I am looking forward to another successful season!

Sincerely,
Emanuel Arboleda
Band Director
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203-794-8600

Commitments

Spring Training- Introduction to Marching Band. Here, we develop fundamental techniques for our music and visual program. Spring Training runs from 6pm-8pm on 5/28, 5/30, and 6/4. This gives members three days to meet the staff, Band Boosters, and of course, other members, as well learn the beginning of our competitive show and warm ups.

Summer Training- The band room will be available every Tuesday and Thursday leading up to Band Camp for rehearsals, starting 7/9. Here, we continue to define and refine our music and visual technique by advancing through the show music, music warm ups, and visual blocks/choreography. We understand summer is summer, so we ask that you please make the effort to come to practice if you are not away for vacation. Attendance will be taken more seriously at Band Camp (see schedule below).

Regular Season Practices- These practices run from 5pm to 8pm every Tuesday and Thursday. Full attendance is expected by every member of the band. We grow together, and in this activity, one absence can negatively effect several members in a drill form and/or musical phrase.

Sectionals- Once a week group rehearsals that allow students to work on their show music or visual technique with their instrumental section one hour before the actual rehearsal starts.

Parades- One way to support our community is by participating in parades. We usually march in 3: Big E, Bethel Memorial Day, and Danbury Memorial Day parades. These performances are mandatory, like all other performances throughout the season.

Football Games- The band plays the National Anthem and pep tunes to support our home team! The band and guard may be asked to perform our competitive show if there is time built into the halftime performances. All marching band musicians are to attend football games. Guard = only halftime

Costs- Marching Band: \$350 Guard: \$255 Payment plans are accepted!

Band Camp

A successful Band Camp leads to a successful season! Here, **every member works together** to learn the entire competitive show, musically and visually. It is crucial that all members commit to this camp so we start the season at full speed.

Schedule:

8/12-8/16

9am-5pm

Lunch Break: 12pm-1pm

*No Rehearsal on Saturday & Sunday (8/17 & 8/18)

8/19-8/23

Mon-Wed 9am-8pm

Lunch Break: 12pm-1pm

Dinner Break: 4pm-6pm

Thursday 9am-5pm

Lunch Break: 12pm-1pm

Fun outing after practice (details TBA)

Friday 9am-5pm

Lunch Break 12pm-1pm

Friends and Family Performance + Community Dinner: 6pm

Students are expected to arrive early to get prepared and begin rehearsing right at 9am.

Hey, Mr. A! What do I need to bring?

It is important that all students bring their learning resources (music in a 3-ring binder, drill books/sheets, instrument, and a pencil) as well as water, sunscreen, a hat, and/or sunglasses to have a healthy and productive Band Camp!

Competitions

Rehearsal in the AM- Rehearsals will typically start at 10am, depending on our performance time that afternoon or evening. If a rehearsal ever needs to start sooner or later, we will be sure to send out an update in advance.

Pre-Show- Students should pack a lunch or have someone bring them a lunch to eat before leaving for the show. After lunch, all members clean and service their instruments with valve oil, slide grease, polish, etc. Then, they get into “halves”. This is the halfway point before being in full Class A Uniform. Halves dress is a black t-shirt, black tall socks, black undergarments, the pants of the Class A uniform, and black marching shoes. The uniform top should be folded nicely and brought onto the bus with the shako/head wear for that season, instrument, and a packed bag with the Class B uniform, extra layers, extra snacks or water, and/or money for food following the performance.

Students are expected to be on their best behavior at all times.

Under no circumstances may students leave the competition site without prior parental written request and subsequent director approval.

Class A: Traditional uniform seen on the field during competitions and at parades. All hair must be up completely invisible under the shako (hat). Hair elastics, bobby pins, snap-clips, or headbands required to make this happen are the responsibility of the student.

Marching shoes should have your name, in permanent marker, written on the inside of the shoe. Black socks must be pure black. No stripes, Nike symbols etc. The colored heels of the socks will show when marching and take away from the uniformity of the group. Socks must come up to your mid calf so no skin is showing when you march. Undergarments are black. Includes: T-shirts (no tank tops/cutoffs), shorts, thermals, & socks. Athletic wear works best; no jeans material is to be used.

Class B: Casual uniform worn after performances to keep the members comfortable and unified. These are also worn at football games. Show shirt, Class B jacket, and black pants (wind suit material is best).

Event Procedure

- The director and instructors will carry cell phones for needed communication. The band director will always carry a first aid kit, emergency contact forms, and medical forms.
- Before the performance, students must remain with their sections at all times. Often, percussion, guard, and winds will be separated and designated to different areas at the warm up site.
- Chaperones will accompany the band and assist as needed. Upon arrival at the performance site, chaperones will follow the end zone of the field to the home stands for band viewing.
- The front ensemble crew will assemble the pit and will subsequently move away from the competition field to the home stands. Upon completion of performance, the students in the front ensemble will assist the crew in loading the truck.
- After the performance, students return to the busses to change into Class B uniforms and pick up extra layers and/or money or food. Then chaperones will watch over members as they watch other bands' performances and the award ceremony.
- Students must always travel with a buddy (a "2") if they leave the area to go to the bathroom or buy a souvenir or food/drink. They cannot leave without notifying a chaperone or staff member.
- During that time, the staff is either listening to judges tapes or talking to the judges at the feedback meeting.
- After drum major retreat/awards, students will return to the buses where the drum majors and chaperones will account for attendance.
- Then, we take the bus back to BHS, where parents/guardians will be waiting to pick up their child on time. We will have the students call/text home to notify when we are close to the high school.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Personal Equipment - Students are responsible for the care, cleaning, and continual maintenance of their own equipment. It is each student's responsibility to make sure the equipment is in perfect working condition at all times. Please be sure it is oiled, cleaned, polished, and checked professionally to ensure that it is in working order.

School Equipment - There is a limited number of school equipment that is loaned to students. There is also a rental fee for wind instruments that belong to the school. Any damage to equipment as a result of misuse or negligence will be billed to the student. It is the student's responsibility to make sure all equipment is properly cared for, including purchasing reeds, oiling, and the cleaning and polishing of them.

Reed instruments - Students are responsible to purchase their reeds from local music retailers. All reed players (clarinets, all saxophones, and bass clarinets) should come to rehearsal with two reeds. If a student does not have a reed they can purchase one from the Band Director at a cost of \$3.00. This money goes towards the Band Activity Account.

Brass Instruments - should all have valve oil and slide grease. Instruments should be cleaned twice a year in a sink/tub. All parts should be in good working order.

Percussion Instruments - All percussion instruments are provided by the band program, but each student is responsible for their assigned instruments and its care. Students must have sticks and mallets at every rehearsal. They are part of your instrument, as they cannot be played without them. Extra sticks are provided to students at the cost of \$10 per pair.

Band Room - It is everyone's responsibility to keep the band room clean and neat. Instruments must be put away in their assigned area.

Only water is allowed in the band room. No food or drinks.

STUDENT LEADERS

Student Leaders are a great resource to students as they can assist in answering many questions you will have. (i.e. – Are we rehearsing in the band room or on the parking lot? When do I get my uniform? What time will we be getting home?). These questions and many more can and should be answered by the student leaders. If a sergeant can't answer a question, they will bring it to the Drum Majors or to the Director. The chain of leadership is set up this way, Section Leader to Drum Major to Band Director, to allow rehearsals to run smoothly and without unnecessary interruption.

Sectional Leaders- are responsible for taking care of an instrumental section. Students earn the right to be Leaders through an application process that takes into account their leadership qualities, participation in band activities, and attitude. These leaders will assist their instrumental group with show music and marching as well as other administrative responsibilities.

Guard Captains- are the student leaders of the color guard. These leaders will run 'sectionals' where they assist the guard with the weapon and flag work. The captains are also responsible to ensure that all students are prepared for rehearsals and competitions, including checking to make sure that all students' have all necessary uniform, hair, and makeup for competitions, as well as their equipment. They also are required to stop by the band room occasionally to check-in with the band director for updates, as well as check the scheduled upcoming events on the white board to ensure all the information regarding events, fundraisers, rehearsals, etc. is communicated efficiently to the guard.

Drum Majors- are the marching band's student conductors. The band director/assistant band director cannot be on the field with the students while performing at competitions, student leaders must direct them. The Drum Majors are responsible to get to rehearsal a half an hour early each evening to set up the field with the podiums, cones, and field markers. Drum Majors will run many elements of our rehearsals, along with the director and staff. The students must follow all instruction given by the Drum Major. The band director and the drum majors work very closely together to ensure things are operating smoothly. Students must trust that the Drum Majors will do what is in the best interest of the band. In addition to the standard application process drum majors also audition for the position by conducting in front of the band. These two items combined with their leadership skills and their attitude earns them the honor of drum major.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is not optional, and absences may affect your grade and/or future participation. Even if just one student is not present it adversely affects the entire ensemble's ability to rehearse effectively. Unlike other competitive activities we do not have subs to put in when a student is absent.

In order for the band to be successful all students need to be present and on time, every time. All students are to arrive ten minutes before rehearsal begins. This allows you to gather all necessary rehearsal equipment and be ready to rehearse on time.

If you have an extenuating circumstance and must be absent, there is an online google form that must be submitted prior to the absence. In the event of a last-minute unavoidable emergency you must notify a staff member. Missing of multiple rehearsals and/or a performance is subject to immediate dismissal from the group.

Attendance Policy:

- Students must be at all rehearsals and performances
- Performances include all competitions, football games, concerts, and parades
- A missed performance and/or the third occurrence of a missed rehearsal will lead to a discussion between parents/guardians and the band director
- Excused absences may include: illness, death in the family, school sponsored trip, game/performance in lieu of rehearsal
- Illness and injuries are only excused with a doctor's note.

Behavioral Policy:

-Students must be respectful at all times to the staff, band members, volunteers, and equipment.

- Guide to appropriate conduct:

- No swearing or inappropriate language
- Listen and follow directions - No talking back
- Keep away from equipment/instruments that do not belong to you
- Stay in your assigned area at all times
- Lead by example

Students that disrupt the learning environment and/or cause any kind of harm will incur the following repercussions (depending on the severity of the offense):

- First Offense – student will receive a verbal warning
- Second offense – temporary suspension from the program (all rehearsals & performances) until a meeting is held with the student, student’s parents, band director, and an administrator
- Third offense – student may be dismissed from the program

Scheduled Events

Fall Rehearsals- Tuesdays and Thursdays 5-8

Competitions-

9/7/19 Bethel HS

9/14/19 Brien McMahon HS

9/21/19 Naugatuck HS

9/28/19 Trumbull HS

10/5/19 Newtown HS

10/12/19 Lyman Hall HS

10/19/19 Bunnell HS

10/26/19 NE State Championships (location TBA)

11/2/19 Danbury HS

11/9/19 USBands Open Class National Championships - East
Rutherford, NJ - MetLife Stadium

Football Games- Friday nights- 5:30 in the band room in Class B
Uniform. Dates TBA (approximately 5 home games).

Report time may change. I will any communicate all updates in
advance.

Parades- Dates, arrival times and locations TBA.

*Other events will be announced throughout the school year.