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# Hewitt-Trussville Middle School

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## Husky Band

### *2019-2020 Handbook*

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Mr. Brandon D. Peters, Director of Bands

Mrs. Corinth D. Lewis, Assistant Director of Bands

Mrs. Jennifer Abney, Principal

# WELCOME

Welcome to the Hewitt-Trussville Middle School Band Program! It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that we introduce our band program to you in a more detailed manner. The HTMS band program has established a wonderful tradition of excellence and we are glad you have chosen to be a part of it.

Your child's participation in our band program is beneficial in many ways. Band students are engaged daily in a highly creative performing art that stimulates growth in areas of the human brain that no other discipline can. This growth effortlessly transfers into your student's academic life. In addition, our band students will develop traits such as teamwork, responsibility, dedication, self-discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership and dependability. Membership in our band program will give all a sense of accomplishment, pride, and respect as the students develop musical and personal skills that will enrich their lives.

The purpose of this handbook is to outline the guidelines and expectations for making this year a success for all involved, and to serve as a guide and resource for students and parents. Both students and their parents should take the time to read this handbook. Upon completion, the contract that was distributed to your student during class (or downloaded from our web site) should be signed and returned to school, indicating your understanding of these guidelines and expectations.

## CONTACT INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

The directors encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress.

Brandon Peters, Director of Bands

[brandon.peters@trussvillecityschools.com](mailto:brandon.peters@trussvillecityschools.com)

Corinth Lewis, Assistant Director of Bands

[corinth.lewis@trussvillecityschools.com](mailto:corinth.lewis@trussvillecityschools.com)

HTMS Band Room Phone Number

205.228.3763

Email is **the best** way to reach the directors. Emails are read and responded to during school hours only. Any email sent after school hours will most likely not be seen until the next school day.

Throughout the year, we will send a **weekly email update (This Week In Band – TWIB for short)** with important information. Please make every effort to read carefully, check calendars often and keep us informed of any conflicts. The sooner we know of a situation, the more options we have in solving problems.

**Please understand that our communication to you – the parents – is a very high priority for us.** We want to take care of concerns and make every situation the best for each student. Please contact us for clarification on any concerns before they become major issues. **Due to our large band enrollment there is a band class every period of the school day. If we are working with students, please understand that they are our highest priority and deserve our complete attention.**

## CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

Band members will observe all procedures set forth by Trussville City Schools, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

- Any behavior that is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area with all necessary equipment at the beginning of rehearsal time.
- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from a director.
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
- Students will return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area, and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who have difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band room.
- Students will not deface or mark on music stands or band chairs.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/HTMSBand](http://www.facebook.com/HTMSBand)  
Twitter: @HTBand  
Instagram: @hewittband

HTMS Band maintains a social media presence. Updates are posted often to keep students, parents, and the community informed about our program. The directors do not accept messaging requests via these social media accounts or our own personal social media accounts. Please send an email instead. Any comment/post deemed inappropriate will be deleted. Band students and parents are encouraged to maintain positive and appropriate thoughts when commenting on the band's social media accounts.

## **FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS & FEES**

We work to keep our band expenses among the **lowest** in the metro Birmingham area. No students will be denied the opportunity to participate in the HTMS Band program based on financial hardship. If you need financial assistance, please contact the directors. **When turning in any money to the band directors**, please send cash/check (payable to HTMS) in a sealed envelope with student name, amount, and purpose on the outside. If you have multiple students in the band program it is okay to write one check, just write the details on the envelope so we know how to code everything. All money should be placed into the safe that is in the band directors' office.

All Band Students: Elective Fee = \$25, Includes student binder, plastic pages, pencil pouch, pencil, instrument nametag, locker rental, all sheet music, additional copies, instruction from hired professional musicians, school bus transportation for local events, registration fees for Alabama Bandmasters' Association events, and various band room common equipment, supplies and technology.

Beginning Band Only:

**Spirit Pack = \$35 (\$50 for percussion)**, Includes band method book, t-shirt, and instrument cleaning supplies.

Percussion:

**7th/8<sup>th</sup> Percussion Fee = \$35**, Includes use and maintenance of the larger school equipment and smaller auxiliary instruments.

School Owned Instruments:

**Rental Fee = \$100**, Includes rental of larger school owned instruments such as tuba, baritone, French horn, bassoon, and oboe. Students must provide their own mouthpiece and are responsible for any damage beyond normal wear and tear.

Concert/Symphonic/Honors Bands:

Formal Uniforms are ordered in October. Specific costs and requirements will be shared at that time.

## **FUNDRAISING & VOLUNTEERING**

All fundraising and volunteering for the HTMS Band is handled by the **Trussville City Schools Band Foundation**. The Band Foundation is made up of current band parents and supporters. There are various events that help to raise much needed funding for our band program. All parents are encouraged to join the Band Foundation Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/TCSBandFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/TCSBandFoundation). **We encourage all HTMS Band families to work at least two events per school year.** This could be football concession stands, Miss Hewitt Husky pageant, marching competition, spring track concessions, etc. Please join the Facebook group for more information about upcoming TCS Band Foundation meetings.

There are two ongoing ways that you can help HTMS Band. Both of these are simple and **do not require you to sell anything**. We rely on these ongoing fundraisers to provide equipment, supplies, supplemental instruction, and more for our growing band program.

**PLANET FUNDRAISER:** This is an app in which you scan your receipts from local merchants and a portion of your receipt is given back to HTMS Band. Detailed instructions can be found on our website.

**AMAZON SMILE:** If you already order items on Amazon then this is VERY easy. You must be on smile.amazon.com for it to work. Choose "Trussville City Schools BAND FOUNDATION" as your charity. A small portion of every receipt goes back to our band. This will not cost you one more penny to use!

## **HTMS BAND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Beginning Band (Music Level 0.5-1)**

- Membership is open to all students with no prior instrumental experience.
- Performs a Parent Mini-Concert in October, Holiday Concert, Spring Concert, and one or two school assemblies.

### **Concert Band I and Concert Band II (Music Level 1-2)**

- Must have had at least one year of prior band experience.
- Selection into either of these groups is by audition.
- Performs at pep rallies, home football games, and these concerts: Fall, Holiday, Pre-MPA, and Spring.
- Participates in the State Band Assessment (MPA).

### **Symphonic Band (Music Level 2-3)**

- Must have had at least one year of prior band experience.
- Selection into this group is by audition.
- Performs at pep rallies, home football games, and these concerts: Fall, Holiday, Pre-MPA, and Spring.
- Participates in the State Band Assessment (MPA).
- Interested students are encouraged to audition for the All-State Band.

### **Honors Band (Music Level 3-4)**

- Must have had at least one year of prior band experience.
- Selection into this group is by audition, director recommendation, and demonstration of academic proficiency.
- Performs at pep rallies, home football games, and these concerts: Fall, Holiday, Pre-MPA, and Spring.
- The Honors Band will give numerous performances both on and off campus.
- Participates in the State Band Assessment (MPA) & special possible honors performances.
- Interested students are strongly urged to audition for the All-State Band.

**Yearly placement** in each band and occasional changes are based on the following criteria:

- Instrumentation needs and limitations
- Eligibility status and scheduling
- Overall performance and consistent progress
- Attendance at all band functions
- Attitude and behavior
- Audition

## **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is **required** at all band performances, both during the school day and after the school day. Concert performance is a major part of the nine weeks grading. Participation in scheduled performances counts as a grade of 100 points for each student who is on time, in uniform, and has all necessary materials. If for some reason a student feels he or she has a legitimate excuse for missing a scheduled performance, the director must be notified in **AT LEAST 2 WEEKS** in advance. Students who miss a scheduled rehearsal or performance without excuse may forfeit their opportunity to participate in future concerts or trips.

In the case of an unforeseen emergency, the student must bring a written excuse or email upon returning to school. A missed performance will constitute a grade of 0 until the written excuse is received. Excused absences include extreme student illness, family emergency, religious holiday or other reasons deemed worthy by the director. Organizing your

schedule and keeping all parties informed can help you avoid unexcused absences. Please do not allow the following to interfere with band functions:

1. Routine dental and other medical appointments
2. Transportation to a band event
3. Community sports events

## **DAILY SUPPLIES**

Each student should plan to bring the following items to rehearsals and/or performances. Other items may be added at the discretion of the directors.

- Black Band Binder with all issued music and method books
- Pencil
- Instrument (with case name tag)
- All supplies relative to their instrument
- Other equipment as needed

## **GRADING GUIDELINES**

The grading system allows each student to earn a grade based on his or her effort. It rewards responsibility and improvement and encourages a student to be conscientious about his/her commitment. The 9-weeks grades will be based on the following criteria. Some additions or deletions may occur during the year.

A. SKILL ASSESSMENT (PERFORMANCES & TESTS): 50% of the final average:

1. Performances (formal and informal)
2. Tests (playing, written)

B. ENSEMBLE EFFORT AND CONTRIBUTION: 20% of the final average:

1. Daily positive contribution through class work.
2. Having instrument, binder, and pencil in class every day.

C. PERSONAL PORTFOLIO: 30% of the final average:

1. Special assignments (Google Classroom listening assignments, etc)
2. Selected pass-off exercises (submitted via Google Classroom and/or in person)

*The following list is provided to give students and parents examples of items that may be subject to grading.*

- The student will be on task and focused during rehearsals.
- The student will have instrument, music, pencil, and supplies in rehearsals.
- The student will be prepared to play his/her part successfully.
- The student will mark music and take notes as needed.
- The student will be expected to improve individual music skills.
- The student's individual skill development will be evaluated through recorded music tests, individual playing tests, scale tests, and/or written tests.
- The student will be evaluated on improvement of ensemble skills during daily rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to improve his/her performance fundamentals.
- The student will be evaluated for improvement of his/her music fundamentals through daily observation during the "basics" part of each rehearsal and during sectionals.
- The student will be expected to demonstrate correct posture, hand position, embouchure, air production, and articulation as monitored during rehearsals.
- The student will receive a grade for each performance during a grading period.

# **INSTRUMENT STORAGE AND IDENTIFICATION**

Instrument lockers are to be used for instrumental storage only! Each student is assigned a specific locker, which is to be kept clean. Instruments are to be put in their cases, and the cases kept closed and latched while in the storage area. FOR YOUR SECURITY, ALWAYS LOCK YOUR LOCKER! Students are not allowed to leave their instrument unattended at any time.

All instruments must have the **official HTMS Band nametag** attached to the case handle. Students will receive these nametags at the beginning of the school year and must ensure they remain attached all year. Please see the directors if your tag breaks or becomes damaged.

Band students will take home their instruments and band binders often. Students are expected to practice regularly outside of band class.

## **UNIFORM GUIDELINES**

Beginning Band:

- Mini-Concert, any field trips, assembly performances = HTMS Band T-Shirt
- Holiday Concert, Spring Concert = Suggestions for girls include dresses or blouses and dress pants. Suggestions for boys include collared shirt, tie, dress pants. All members should wear appropriate dress shoes and socks. (No tennis shoes, t-shirts, or shorts).

Concert, Symphonic, and Honors Band:

- Assemblies, Pep Rallies, Football Games = HTMS Band T-Shirt
- Holiday Concert, State Band Assessment, Spring Concert
  - Girls will purchase/rent the formal dress through the band; In addition to the dress, girls will need to provide black dress shoes. No jewelry is worn with the exception of one small studded earring per ear.
  - Boys will purchase a tux shirt and rent a blazer/vest/bowtie through the band. In addition to these, boys will need to provide black dress pants and belt, black dress shoes, and black socks.

## **TRIP CRITERIA**

The Concert/Symphonic/Honors Band will possibly take a trip in the spring. This trip rewards the students for all of their hard work throughout the school year. In order to participate in these trips, the students must do the following:

- Students should strive to maintain a 70 or higher average in all classes.
- Turn in their medical release forms and permission slips.
- Perform all competition music at designated metronome marking to a director at or above 90%. This includes correct notes, rhythms, intonation, and dynamics. Students may be required to perform music more than once. All music must be performed to a director by a scheduled date.
- Cannot have been sent to Alternative Learning Center at any time during the school year.
- Cannot have received an office referral at any time from a band director during the semester in which the trip occurs.
- Cannot have received more than two office referrals from any teacher or administrator during the semester in which the trip occurs.

## **STUDENT LEADERSHIP**

Our band program provides many opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students may apply for the HTMS Band Leadership Team. In this manner, students can serve their band program and refine skills which they will be able to use in other school organizations, as well as in their future careers. Audition criterion is selected at the discretion of the directors and is communicated to the students. The directors evaluate all candidates based on their performance throughout the school year.

# **HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE**

*Please read and sign below as indicated:*

Students:

I have read the 2019-2020 Hewitt-Trussville Middle School Band Handbook and understand the requirements for being a band member. I realize it takes full cooperation and dedication (100% from me) to help our band meet its potential. I also realize that my failure to follow policies and directions could result in disciplinary action, which could lead to placement in another band or dismissal from the band program. I have received a copy of the HTMS Band calendar for the current school year and am aware that a copy also exists on the HTMS Band website.

As a member of the Hewitt-Trussville Middle School Band, I acknowledge the following as responsibilities I must fulfill if I wish to remain a member. I will:

- Follow our Band Room Law
- Understand that band is a full year commitment
- Be punctual and prepared for rehearsals
- Practice often and with a purpose
- Demonstrate my best on playing assignments
- Attend all concerts, rehearsals, and assessments
- Treat my peers and teachers with respect, and maintain appropriate conduct
- Maintain my grades for eligibility and self-achievement
- Have a high standard for improvement in class and on my own

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Parents:

I have read the Hewitt-Trussville Middle School Band Handbook and am willing to support it and my child. I also understand all policies and procedures set forth by the Hewitt-Trussville Middle School Band program, as outlined in this handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*This form is due back to the band directors by Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please bring to your seat and be prepared to turn in at the beginning of class. Thanks*