

2019-2020

Beech High School

Band Handbook



Mr. John Hylton, Director
Mr. Ryan Ramsey, Director

Beech High School
3126 Long Hollow Pike
Hendersonville, TN 37075
(615) 824-6200

Table of Contents

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Contact Information	2
Welcome	3
Directors' Philosophy	4
Expectations	4
Discipline, Attendance, Eligibility	5
Daily Procedure "How We Do What We Do"	7
School Owned Instruments	7
Music Retailers	7
Private Lessons	8
Practicing	8
Class Materials	8
Required Performances	9
Performance Attire	9
Rules for Chaperones	10
Marching Band Fees	11
Directors' Closing	12
Signature Section	13

Beech High School Band Program

Directors: Ryan Ramsey and John Hylton

Booster Officers

Band Booster officers are nominated each March by a nominating committee and are selected each April for the following term of office. This year's officers are:

President	Kendra Carter	615-839-9332 (C)	president@beechband.org
Vice-President	Molly Dienna	512-850-7656 (C)	vp@beechband.org
Internal Operations	Andreina Solis	615-260-7476 (C)	operations@beechband.org
Fundraising	Jennifer Mitchell	615-429-7688 (C)	fundraising@beechband.org
Treasurer	Patrick Clark	615-823-0224 (C)	treasurer@beechband.org
Asst. Treasurer	LeeAnn Sobek	615-992-7791 (C)	assttreasurer@beechband.org
Secretary	Anquetta Johnson	216-659-6398 (C)	secretary@beechband.org
Communications	Connie Reeves	901-603-1289 (C)	admin@beechband.org

Boosters' Email: admin@beechband.org

Band Webpage: www.beechband.org

Charms Website: www.charmsoffice.com

1. Welcome!

From the Directors

We, the directors, are happy that you have decided to join, or return, to the band program at BHS! You made a great decision, we have a lot of exciting things planned for this year!

Our plan is to expand upon a fine band tradition at BHS by creating great student musicians. This can only be done by working as a team and having a great attitude. We have very high expectations for the band, and for each student.

We hope each student and parent will become familiar with this handbook, and as always, please feel free to contact us with any further questions. You have joined a fantastic group of people, and we couldn't be more excited to start a new successful year.

John Hylton
Ryan Ramsey
Band Directors
Beech High School

2. Directors' Philosophy

Mr. Ryan Ramsey - From the first notes, to my highest level of education, my mentors have played a huge role in my development as a musician. I continually call upon their guidance in becoming a better musician and teacher. They are the reason I do what I do. They were on my mind when shaping my philosophy:

My mission as a teacher is to provide a quality musical education to as many students as possible, within a respectful and team-oriented environment which encourages lifelong learning and a meaningful passion for music.

Mr. John Hylton - I believe that music is a powerful tool that can help students discover their own identity, build positive relationships with their peers, and foster meaningful connections with their community and the world. As a director, my job is not just waving the baton--it's conducting our band in a way that brings the benefits of music into the lives of our students and neighbors.

As a band director, I am committed to providing a safe place for students to grow musically, helping students develop a feeling of musical competency, fostering students' love of music and an appreciation for fellow musicians, and cultivating partnerships among students, teachers, families, and community.

Throughout the year, we will focus not only on creating positive musical experiences, but also the necessary fundamentals of theory, musical notation, and of course the fundamentals of our instruments. Through our hard work, we *will* experience success.

Music, to me, is like breathing – I don't get tired of breathing, I don't get tired of music – Ray Charles

3. Expectations

Students who are members of the Beech Band are held to a high standard of excellence in performance and conduct, and are expected to be some of the most respectful and hard-working students in the school. We *ask* a lot, so that each student can *grow* a lot!

1. **All students are expected to follow the rules outlined in the Beech High School Student Handbook, with special attention paid to dress code.**
2. **All students are required to take a final exam each semester.** Seniors are eligible for exemption based on School Code of Conduct.
3. **Prepared – On time**, with all class materials. All students should have folder and be seated on time. Failure to have music, pencil, or instrument (and all parts needed to play it), will impact your weekly grade.

4. **Well-Behaved** –The band room is full of expensive instruments; we must all be on our best behavior at all times to avoid any accidents which could cost you.
5. **Attentive** – When the teacher talks, the students listen. The quicker we say what we need to say, the quicker we get back to the music! We will give you time to talk between activities.
6. **Honest** – Admit your mistakes, take responsibility for your actions, and NEVER lie, steal, or cheat.
7. **Respectful** – Students will be respectful of teachers, guests, facilities, and *all instruments*. Instruments should not be played without permission from the director. Markings in music requested by the director should be done in pencil only.
8. **Positive** – Only you are in control of your actions. Have a positive attitude and it will spread.
9. **Committed** – Accept that music is a lifelong process. Be aware how your dedication, attitude, and performance impact the group!
10. **Proud** – Have pride in our band and our school.

Attitude is a choice. Think positive thoughts daily, and believe in yourself.

– Pat Summit

4. Discipline, Attendance, Eligibility

It is important to understand that the actions of one person have a direct impact on the group. BHS band students are on their best behavior at all times. We expect students to be attentive, exhibit proper attitudes, and to act in a disciplined manner. We expect each student to be dedicated to being a better musician, thereby enhancing the sound of the entire group. Our goal is to work together to be the best we can be. The following are the procedures and rules for band classes. Failure to follow all school and band rules will be handled within the guidelines of the school policy.

Consequences

First Offense – Usually a verbal warning from the teacher, depending on the severity.

Second Offense – Written up referral to BHS administrator.

Continual Offenses - Removal from the band program.

“Don’t Go There” Offense - One severe slip-up could result in immediate removal from the band program and/or school. See school handbook.

Attendance Policy:

1. Attendance is mandatory for ALL concerts, competitions, and performances.
2. ALL excused absences must be cleared with directors as far as possible in advance and definitely PRIOR to the performance. You MUST submit a hand-written excuse before the absence.
3. 3 tardies = 1 unexcused absence.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

1. Sickness or ill with a doctor's note
2. Death in the Family
3. Family Emergency (parents must talk with directors)
4. Another school event as long as it has been discussed and approved by the directors in advance

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:

1. WORK
2. DON'T HAVE A RIDE
3. DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE
4. HAIRCUT/BEAUTY APPOINTMENTS, ETC....

Academic Eligibility:

BHS band students are on some of the highest academic students in the school! We expect our students to be their best in the classroom as well as out. To participate in any extra-curricular ensemble (Marching Band, Winter Guard, Pep Band, etc.), students must be passing 75 % of their academic classes. This would translate to 3 of 4 regular blocks plus skinny block if you are grades 9-12. Senior students taking less classes and/or Sr. Projects are checked at the discretion of directors, which includes classes you must pass to graduate (Sr. English, Gov/Econ. etc.) Middle school students involved in high school ensembles must be passing 5 of 7 periods to maintain eligibility. Grades will be checked at various points through the season by county reports. In the event of failures, students will have weekly reports to submit to determine weekly eligibility dependant on season.

5. Daily Procedure

“How We Do What We Do”

Beech band students will enter the classroom with maturity and be ready to play **on time**.

Students must be prepared at that time with instrument, pencil, and music. **We will warm up as a group each day**. Only mature warm ups such as long tones and scales will be allowed before class begins.

We will dismiss in time for you to pack your instruments, tidy up the band room, and get to your next class on time. **Do not begin packing up instruments before we have dismissed you**. At the end of each class, students should assist in keeping the band room clean and neat by returning their instrument to assigned areas, and putting the chairs and stands back in order. **It’s a team effort to keep the band room clean!**

The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual – Vince Lombardi

6. School Owned Instruments

Beech High owns some instruments which can be used by students. Most of these are for students who wish to play larger instruments such as tuba or euphonium (students will provide their own mouthpieces). We also have a large variety of percussion equipment (the students will provide their own sticks and mallets).

There is a small selection of other instruments available for those with financial concerns. Matters of finances when choosing an instrument should see the directors. Don’t let finances keep you from being a band member.

Students who are using school owned instruments **must** have the instrument checked out, along with a **\$50 rental fee** (per year) returned to the directors. Any **damages** due to neglect or mishandling will result in the **student** paying for the repairs. Normal wear and tear is covered in the \$50 rental fee.

7. Music Retailers

Amro Music - Band Department - (901) 302-3320 John Easley, Representative
Music and Arts – 1050 Glenbrook Way, Suite 460, Hendersonville, TN
(615) 264-8686

Sam Ash-1647 Gallatin Pike N, Madison, TN 37115 (615) 860-7475

Guitar Center-1000 Rivergate Pkwy Suite 1550, Goodlettsville, TN 37072 (615) 851-8564

Amazon.com is a great resource for reeds and other musical books/equipment, **BE SURE** a director has approved any purchases before you spend the money!

8. Private Lessons

Private lessons are the quickest and most effective way to gain proficiency on your instrument! We cannot express enough how important private lessons are for students interested in making serious growth as a musician.

A band director is a generalist. We know a fair bit about all of the instruments. We have a solid foundation of how to help our students play well and how to teach musical concepts. Much like a general practice doctor you see consistently. A general practice doctor also refers you to a specialist, when there is a need. **A private lessons instructor is a specialist.** They have chosen one instrument to become a master of, and will provide one-on-one detailed instruction on that instrument.

9. Practicing

Practicing outside of class is expected of each student in the Beech Band program. 20-30 minutes per day on average will show great individual improvement. We will be coaching students in class on how to practice, but here is a quick guide for how to block out your practice time at home:

5 minutes of long tones and/or warm ups we use in class

5 minutes of scales, arpeggios, articulation exercises we use in class

15+ minutes focusing on music and/or upcoming playing test - **isolate the hardest parts.**

Play SLOWLY then get faster, *the metronome is your friend.*

5+ minutes music of your choice. Have fun and explore the instrument!

Students will frequently be asked to play in front of the class, or individually for a grade. Students who do not practice will be easy to spot, and their grade will reflect their lack of practice.

We encourage parents to be involved with the practice routine. Encouraging and giving support such as verbal praise when you hear improvement, OR just providing a nice quiet location for focused practice to occur. A room with few distractions, a music stand, and a metronome would be ideal.

10. Class Materials

Instrument in Working Condition

Band Folder –Black, if you don't have one, see a band director

Pencil – for note taking, small written assignments, or marking lightly in music.

By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.

– Benjamin Franklin

11. Required Performances

Dates subject to change based on school calendar. Students and parents will be notified well in advance of changes and confirmation of dates. **Failure to attend the concert, WITH A NOTE, will result in an alternative assignment to earn their performance grade. Failure to do the alternate assignment will result in a 0. Failure to attend a concert with NO NOTE will result in an immediate 0.**

Fall Concert - October 3rd - 7:00pm

Holiday Concert - December 10th - 7:00pm

Pre-CPA Concert - February 18th - 7:00pm

CPA Window (only one of these days) - March 4-6 during school day

Spring Concert - May 5th - 7:00pm

12. Performance Attire

Concert Band/Jazz Band

Members will be fitted for a uniform: tuxedo for men and a black dress for women. **In lieu of a class fee, we charge a \$50 rental fee of the uniform.** This fee must be paid or else final grades and diplomas will be held by the school. Dresses and pants will be **GENTLY** hemmed so long as **no fabric is cut or removed from the uniform.**

Marching Band

Summer uniforms include a band shirt, athletic shorts, and sunglasses, all of which are included in marching band fees. The shirt and shorts will be sized at the marching band meeting. This uniform will be worn for summer and early fall performances, as well as underneath the traditional marching uniform. A separate uniform for the color guard will be provided and worn when instructed to do so by the color guard instructors.

A traditional Dress uniform will be issued to students to wear. These uniforms are checked out prior to performance and checked back in after. All uniforms are stored in the uniform room when they are not in use. Any needed repairs should be reported immediately to the Uniform Committee Chairperson.

The following items are in addition to the uniform:

Black Band Shoes - Any members that need shoes must order them by camp. Students are responsible for cleaning their own shoes before EVERY performance.

Black Crew Length Socks - Students are responsible for having CLEAN socks for every performance. NO ANKLE CUT SOCKS!

Black Gloves - One pair will be provided for wind instruments; Returning members can order new gloves if needed.

Jewelry - To be determined by directors! Nothing that could be seen from a distance while wearing the uniform.

13. Rules for Chaperones

Chaperones must report at call time, which will be sent out via a charms email and remind message prior to each event.

- Sign In
- Help load equipment
- Receive chaperone badge
- Acquire bus assignments
- Receive last minute instructions from directors

Chaperones shall be assigned seating on the bus and in the stadium so they are positioned around the band as necessary. The Chaperone Committee Chairperson shall designate seating.

No band member is allowed to leave on his/her own, with a parent or any other person unless prior written notice is given to the Directors and permission is received.

All chaperones must perform final bus check, turn in badge, and sign out before leaving school property.

No chaperone may use tobacco products or alcohol at school functions.

14. Marching Band Fees

Band fees are the primary means of funding the Beech High School Marching Band. These fees are used to pay for the following expenses, specific to marching band:

Fee Name	Fee Amount
Uniform Rental/Replacement	\$50.00
Uniform Dry Cleaning	\$20.00
Instruction	\$213.00
Transportation/Trailers	\$44.00
Summer Uniform/Show Shirt	\$42.00
Tailgating Meals	\$11.00
Field Paint	\$3.00
Music	\$10.00
Competition	\$7.00
Band Camp	\$125.00 (this serves as your deposit to be a member of the band)
Instrument Usage/Guard Equipment	\$50.00* (only for students needing school instrument and color guard)

2019-2020 Fee Schedule

	May 22 nd	June 10 th	July 10 th	August 10 th	September 10 th	Total
General Fee	\$125.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$525
School Instrument/Guard	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$575

The undersigned Parent/Guardian understands and agrees to the following:

- The undersigned student to be a member of the Beech High School Marching Band for the 2019-2020 season
- To pay the fees as scheduled above to the BHS Band Boosters
- Participation is an optional extracurricular activity
- The above fees do not include special trips or band accessories such as shoes, polo shirts, hoodies, or gloves
- Band member fees are non-refundable. No exceptions.
- Fees must be paid timely in order for the band to meet all financial obligations
- Choose one fee schedule option:

☐ General Fee - \$525 Fee

☐ School Instrument/Guard - \$575 Fee – For students who require a school-owned instrument, and color guard who require extra costuming and school-owned equipment

15. Closing

To Parents,

We hope this handbook provides as a valuable resource to prepare for the coming school year. Sign and return the form on the next page, and store this handbook in a safe, easy to find place.

We are always open to parental involvement in the Beech band, anyone interested in volunteering to fundraise, attend band booster organization meetings, chaperone, etc. we would LOVE to have you. Please be in contact with a director or booster officer to find out how you can assist in the success of the band program.

If you feel overwhelmed, be assured that once we get into the routine of things, this handbook will be a great reference and become far less daunting! With that said, any questions should be taken up with a director via phone, email, or setting up a meeting time.

To Students,

We look forward to making great music with each and every one of you this year. We have a lot to look forward to, and a lot of hard work ahead of us. We know that if we work as a team towards our goal of making great music, nothing can stop us from being successful. We can't wait to see how much we grow and how much fun we have together this year.

Ryan Ramsey

John Hylton

Band Directors
Beech High School

16. Signature Section

Be sure to have this page filled out, signed, and returned by MONDAY, AUGUST 19th.

By signing, I agree that I understand and agree to all terms listed in the Beech High School Band handbook.

Print Student Name _____

Print Parent Name _____

Parent Email _____

Parent Phone (_____) _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____