

THE 2005 – 2006 J.C. BOOTH BAND MANUAL



This band manual is for the J.C. Booth Middle School band members and their parents with the hopes of giving information regarding the various phases of the instrumental program at Booth. This manual also contains the policies and regulations of the band program.

All money transactions should be by check with your child's name on the check. We cannot be responsible for cash.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are the best way for students to help with their individual playing habits. They are also the best means of developing the refined, mature playing habits that help students compete for honors such as: top band membership, District Honor Band, first chair positions, and All-State Band membership. Most All-State Band members begin private instruction at an early age and study and practice diligently to study privately, and we have had excellent response in this area in the past. I want to encourage all parents to consider this very important advantage for your child.

We are fortunate to have many fine teachers in our area. A “fundamentals oriented” teacher, one who has a proven record of successful teaching, is recommended.

PRIVATE LESSON NIGHT AT BOOTH

This past school year we were fortunate enough to have teachers from the Ft. McPherson (Army Ground Forces Band) come and teach at Booth. We are fortunate to offer the same “*Lesson Night*” on Monday afternoons and nights at Booth. These lessons run \$15.00 for a 30 minute session. A few instructors may charge more but this will be on a “instructor by instructor” basis. Sign-Ups will begin within the first week or two of school. **THESE SLOTS WILL CLOSE UP QUICK.**

CLASSROOM GRADING

All classes are graded primarily on class participation. Chair tests are also given for grades, usually on scales, etudes, or music contained in the folders. **STUDENTS CAN LOSE POINTS OFF OF THEIR FINAL GRADE FOR LACK OF INSTRUMENTS OR MATERIALS NEEDED FOR CLASS. A STUDENT CAN GAIN EXTRA CREDIT FROM ATTENDANCE OF PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCES (Atlanta Symphony, etc) , WHEN THEY PRESENT A PROGRAM FROM THE PERFORMANCE.**

Daily Class Work – A set number of points are earned for each class. Points are subtracted for not having an instrument, materials, pencil, or other required equipment.

Tests – Students can earn points on written and playing test.

Band Homework / Practice Records – Points can be earned by consistently turning in the student’s practice record.

Band Citizenship – Points can be earned for proper behavior, cooperation, equipment and facility care, and for other appropriate activities.

THE CLASSES

Each grade level has 2 classes, Intermediate and Advanced. At this time the 6th Grade classes will be split into a *Brass / Percussion class* and a *Woodwinds class*. They will then change to a Intermediate and Advanced Class in the 2nd 9 weeks. In the 7th and 8th Grade the Intermediate classes will combine to form the Concert Band and the Advance classes will combine to make a 7th and 8th Grade Symphonic Band. This places each student into the class where his / her needs can best be met. Some players are more advanced than others. Some players progress slower than others. We do not want them to feel uncomfortable with surroundings. With this class setup, students will be allowed to progress from the Intermediate class into the Advanced class. (And will also allow for students to fall back into the Intermediate class from the Advanced class if additional skills are needed) **All Advanced classes are by audition only.** This will happen at the discretion of the director.

Each class will need:

Woodwind Players - 3 reeds (at all times), cleaning swap, cork grease

Brass Players - Oil (slide, rotor or valve depending on instrument), slide grease

Percussion - Sticks -The sticks the percussion need will be the small “concert” sticks. (model numbers vary to brands) We will provide the “mallets” for the keyboard percussion. If you have your own, please label them.

Flip Folders (7th and 8th Grade only) - These will be used in the “Football Pep Band”.

The following books will be needed for each class (please ask your child which class they are in):

6th Grade Band – “Winning Rhythms” and “Essential Elements” Book 1

7th Grade Concert (Intermediate) Band – “150 Original Exercises” and “Essential Elements” Book 2

7th Grade Symphonic (Advanced) - “150 Original Exercises” and “Foundations for Superior Performance”

Both 8th Grade Classes – “Foundations for Superior Performance” and “101 Rhythmic Rest Patterns”

6th Grade Band Uniform

Band Shirt (Polo Style, listed in the forms), Black Pants, Black Socks and Black Shoes.

7th and 8th Grade Concert (Intermediate) Uniform

Band Shirt (Polo Style, listed in the forms), Black Dress Pants, Black Socks and Black Shoes.

7th and 8th Grade Symphonic (Advance) Uniform

Boys = “ Wing Tip” Tux shirt, Black Cumber Bund and Bow Tie. Black Tux Pants, Black Socks and Black Shoes (Look for the Symphonic Tux form for ordering pants and cumber bund)

Girls = Concert Gown (Look for the Symphonic Dress form for ordering and info on buying a used dress)

Band Shirt (Polo Style, listed in the forms)

Football Band Uniform

The polo style band shirt (listed in the forms), any shoes and pants (shorts) they choose.

PRACTICE NOTES

1. Students are required to practice their instruments **120 minutes** a week. A student who practices this amount will receive an “A” for that week of practicing.
2. Students will turn in their practice records on Friday of each week. Each student will be given several practice record slips. Each week they will turn in one slip with the dates of practice and amount of time practiced. **Parents** and **Students** are asked to sign the form verifying the student has practiced that amount. Parents will need to be sure that students fill out the reports in pen. Parents can also “email” the practice notes in each week. Please send these emails to burton.robert@fchoe.org and put the words “**Practice Note**” in the subject line (and nothing else).

REHEARSALS

FOOTBALL BAND - This is a type of “Pep Band” that plays at the middle school 8th grade home football games. The first 2 games **both the 7th and 8th grade bands will play at**. TBA on whether we will be playing at “home” play-off games or not.

We will have **FULL BAND REHEARSAL** for the **FOOTBALL BAND** on August 30 (Tuesday) from 3:45 to 4:45pm. **(This is only for both 7th and 8th grade band members)**

*******THIS IS THE ONLY TIME THE FOOTBALL BAND WILL BE TOGETHER AS A FULL GROUP. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU BE PRESENT AT EACH REHEARSAL.**

FOOTBALL BAND EXPECTATIONS -

All students who are in the 7th and 8th grade will participate in the Football Band. Students will sit in their sections while at the football game. (The band will be in the stands before the game to play the Star Spangled Banner then during 1st and 2nd quarters. The band will play one song during halftime and then break till the end of 3rd quarter. The students will be told if there are any changes to this before they leave the stands. The band will spend the 4th quarter in the stands and will also play one song after the game.

SYMPHONIC BAND (7th and 8th Grade Advance Bands combine) - Practice day is normally on Thursday. Practice times are from 3:45 to 4:45. ***This is a change from last year.*** Practices with the Symphonic Band will startup soon. This will be in preparation for the GMEA Convention performance.

CONCERT BAND (7th and 8th Grade Intermediate Bands combine) - Practice days are normally on Tuesday. Practice times are from 3:34 to 4:45.

6TH GRADE BAND - Practice days are normally on Wednesdays. Practice times are from 3:40 to 4:15. TBA on how the 6th Grade Band will perform at the Fall and Christmas Concerts. (We have done this with a combined group and we have done this with a separate 6th Grade Advanced and Intermediate group. Depending on the groups ability level(s) will determine on how the Concerts will be setup)

PRACTICE FOR **SYMPHONIC AND CONCERT BANDS** WILL BE “TBA” ON STARTING AFTER SCHOOL. **6th grade band** will start up toward the end of November. Calendars will be given out within the first couple of weeks of school.

BOOTH BAND RULES

- 1) **Come to class prepared and on time.**
- 2) **Please show the utmost respect for the podium.** Whenever anyone is on the podium, your attention is required. There should be NO TALKING. Failure to show respect will result in time out in the office, parent letters or disciplinary action by the administration.
- 3) **Follow directions the first time they are given.**
- 4) **If it doesn't belong to you, do not touch it!** This applies to ALL wind and percussion instruments, as well as books, supplies, etc.
- 5) **No gum, food or drinks in the bandroom!!!** This will keep the bandroom more presentable and nice.
- 6) **Keep up with your music.** Each student will receive a copy of all music to be rehearsed. Please be sure and put your name on each piece of music that you receive.
- 7) **Follow all school rules.** Failure to abide by these rules could result in the lowering of grades, discipline action such as detention or dismissal or a trip to the office. Abiding by these rules will help the class run much smoother and make band more enjoyable for all of us!
- 8) Students should always read, have parents read, and return signed, all material sent home by the band director. All correspondence sent home is to be signed by a parent and returned promptly. This will be a consideration in the band grading process.

ATTENDANCE

Participation In a performing band class necessitates attendance at all performances and rehearsals, both during school and outside of school time. Absence and tardiness mar the effectiveness of the entire group. Adherence to a strict attendance policy is necessary for the good of the band. The following guidelines should be followed:

1. When a student learns of the necessity to be excused from a rehearsal or performance, a note from the parent should be submitted at that time...not after the absence.
2. When a student unexpectedly has to miss a rehearsal or performance, the student must bring a note from his/her parent to the next band function.

All excuses must be in writing and must be thorough enough to clearly indicate the need for the absence. (Look at student handbook for the definition of an unexcused absence) Failure to observe these procedures may affect the student's placement or enrollment in the performing band. Students removed from the performing bands will become ineligible for awards, spring trips and other band privileges.

PERFORMANCES

****PLEASE NOTE - Membership in the J.C. Booth Band Program automatically includes attendance of all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. Absences due to illness or family emergency will be honored, but please try to give the director at least 24 hours notice if possible. An unexcused absence from a special rehearsal or performance will result in grade reduction and/or exemption from the Fall or Spring Trip. Possible expulsion from the band could also result. **** (Band is a privilege not a right!)

Several of the things listed below are events that are **NOT** required but are available to the students. If the words **All Bands** appear, it is a required function.

All State Entry Deadline – Aug. 30 (the cost last year was \$13.00 per student as charged by the GMEA, forms for will come later. TBA on cost for this year.)

District Level All State Audition – Dec. 3 (Fayette M.S.)

Christmas Concert (ALL BANDS) – Dec. 12

GMEA “Pre-Convention” Concert (Symphonic Band) – Jan. 12th at the Starr’s Mill Complex

8th Grade Trip to Disney – TBA (possible date: Feb. 16 thru 19)

District VI Honor Band – Feb. 10th and 11th at the Starr’s Mill Complex

State Level All State Audition – Feb. 4th (TBA time and place)

All State Band – Feb. 23rd thru 25th

Pre - Festival Concert (Possibly all bands) (Possible end of Feb. or in the first part of March TBA exact time and place)

District VI Festival (TBA on which band will play on WHAT DAY. It will only be one day for each band) **March 13 to 18** (TBA on which day)

Solo & Ensemble - TBA

Spring Concert (All Bands)– May 15th

Some dates might change. In this event advance notice will be given.

FOOTBALL BAND

As explained earlier, all 7th and 8th grade band members are required to participate in the Football Band. (unless you are playing football or cheerleading during the game) **Each student will be expected to remain in the stands for the entire game.** Games generally end between 7:00 to 7:15pm. We will wear blue jeans or shorts, the Booth Band shirt (available through Mr. Burton), sneakers, and hats if you wish.

SCHEDULE FOR 2004

Aug. 30	Tuesday	7 th and 8 th Grade Football Band practice
Sept. 7	Wednesday	8 th Grade Football game against Fayette MS
Sept. 14	Wednesday	8 th Grade Football game against Flat Rock

At this time we ARE NOT playing for any other games. This may change if the administration asks us to play at playoff games.

We will report to our Bandroom at 4:15pm for warm-up (on home games...at this time we are not attending any away games, this may change). Please be on time!!!!

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

JC Booth Band owns several types of instruments. These are the larger brasses, low woodwind instruments and percussion instruments. These instruments are issued out to the students at the first of the school year. A "Maintenance Agreement" is in the form packs for these students. A fee of \$45.00 for wind instruments and \$25.00 for percussionist is charged per student. This helps in maintaining these instruments. The school will take care of normal wear and tear. If a horn is damaged because of misuse or careless handling, the student's parent will be responsible for immediate repairs.

JC BOOTH BAND BOOSTERS

The JC Booth Band Boosters are parents and friends who are interested in providing support to the JC Booth Band program. There is a \$25.00 fee we ask for joining. Please help with the opportunities that become available to support the band program. Opportunities will be available in chaperoning, helping in the concession stand at the football games, assisting the director with secretarial work (posting practice records, taking up forms, and other things of this type) and our annual luminary sale. Monies made by the booster club help with buying new instruments, music, copying machine supplies / repairs, phone bill, and other expenses.

FUNDRAISING

As mentioned above, there are just a few fundraisers in which the band participates. Monies from these events go into the booster account as well as the student's account. This way the student can earn money to help pay for his 8th grade trip. (A workshop at Disney World) At this time we are planning a "Coke Sale" and our annual "Luminary Sale". On the Luminaries each student is expected to sell at least 2 kits. If the student cannot sell at least this amount of luminaries, they will pay a "fund raising fee" of \$10.00. As mentioned before, this money is used to help in support of the program.

Statement of Obligations and Contract for Band Membership

I, _____, desire to be a member of the JC Booth Middle School Band. My signature below signifies that I will to the very best of my ability meet the obligations below.

- I will **CONDUCT** myself in an orderly and responsible manner during all classes, rehearsals, programs, and performances.
- I will **PRACTICE** my assigned parts diligently and work to be a positive contribution to the group.
- I accept the obligation to **ATTEND** all rehearsals and performances unless I am legitimately ill or have a serious, unavoidable conflict which cannot be resolved.
- I agree to have my **ABSENCE** from any band function thoroughly explained in writing by my parent.
- I agree to **POST** the performance and rehearsal dates given to me at the beginning of the year on my home calendar and work to avoid conflicts throughout the year.
- I agree to properly wear the uniform as agreed upon by the students, parents and director.

Student's Signature _____

Date _____

I have read the JC Booth Middle School Band Handbook and will support my child in meeting these obligations to the band.

Parent's Signature _____

Date _____

Please fill this contract out and have it back to Mr Burton no later than August 16th.