

Dear Brentwood Band Students and Parents:

Welcome to the Brentwood Band program, which has consistently built a tradition of success since its inception in 1982. We are confident that 2009-2010 will afford each of us opportunities to continue to build on this foundation with successes both personally and as an organization. Congratulations on your decision to be a part of one of the finest high school musical organizations in the state of Tennessee. The Brentwood Band provides musical activities that encompass a wide scope and allows everyone a chance to reach the highest possible level of success.

During the fall, the Brentwood Marching Band will continue to build the enviable reputation it now enjoys. Our performances will include home and away football games, as well as several marching competitions. In the 2009 season, we will perform in local competitions as well as the *Bands of America* Indianapolis, and the marching band will culminate the marching season with a trip to the *Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade!* The 2009 season above all else will prove to be an exciting, action-packed fall. A full schedule of performances will be mailed to each student and posted on the band's website, [www.brentwoodband.com](http://www.brentwoodband.com).

The Brentwood Band program also features outstanding concert organizations that have developed a reputation for musical excellence through concert and festival performances. The Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Percussion Ensemble and various chamber ensembles will present several public concerts, including our annual Guest Conductor Concert.

In addition to ensemble successes, members of the Brentwood Band distinguish themselves through individual efforts in All Midstate and All-State auditions, Solo and Ensemble Festival, and other Honor Band activities.

Hard-working students, a dedicated staff, involved and active parents, and a supportive administration and community all combine to make it possible for the Brentwood High School band program to offer an outstanding array of musical opportunities. Our students are expected to set and reach high goals for themselves and their program, and the rewards of meeting those expectations are immeasurable. Members of the Brentwood High School Band develop musically, emotionally, mentally, and socially.

It is our intent that this handbook be used by students, parents, administrators, staff and directors as a convenient source of information regarding the varied aspects of the Brentwood High Band program. We have tried to cover as thoroughly as possible every facet of the program. Students and parents are encouraged to read this handbook very carefully. BHS Band members will be expected to understand and abide by all the rules and regulations set forth in this book.

***Brentwood High School Band - Building on a Tradition of Success!***

Sincerely,

Randal W. Box, Director of Bands  
Brian Diller, Associate Director of Bands

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## The Value of Music Education 1

For centuries, music and art have been recognized as disciplines, on equal footing with mathematics, language, and the sciences as regards the development of mental process. More recent research has shown that the study of music and in particular performance actively involves more of the domains of the brain than any other discipline. Instrumental music, particularly in an ensemble such as band or orchestra, is the purest form of mental activity. It requires more of the brain to be utilized, both right and left brain functions, than any activity we experience in formal education. Dealing with the demands of ensemble performance and individual performance simultaneously requires that the performers manipulate visual symbolic information, interpret visual instructions from a conductor, analyze and synthesize aural information being received constantly, exhibit manual skill with the instrument, regulate their volume level and style of playing in concert with several other performers, and many other factors that all combine to become "making music."

We can cite all that information and that's just a band director trying to justify his own existence in many people's eyes. Instead we would like to present what many philosophers, thinkers, and leaders have expressed regarding the value of music. (*from the Sept. Oct. 1993 BDGuide*)

PLATO: "Music training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul."

SHAKESPEARE: "The man that hath no music in himself . . . let no such man be trusted."

ERNEST BOYER (President, Carnegie Foundation): "Music gives us a language that cuts across the disciplines, helps us to see connections and brings a more coherent meaning to our world."

PAUL HARVEY (Broadcaster/commentator): "Our schools tend to refine intellects but neglect to discipline emotions. For anyone to grow up complete, music is imperative."

GREGORY ANRIG (President of Educational Testing Service): "The things I learned from my experience in music in school are discipline, perseverance, dependability, composure, courage, and pride in results. Not a bad preparation for the work force!"

JOSEPH M. CALAHAN (Director of Corporate Communications, Xerox Corporation): "Arts education aids students in skills needed in the workplace: flexibility, the ability to solve problems and communicate, the ability to learn new skills, to be creative and innovative, and to strive for excellence."

CLIFFORD V. SMITH (President of the General Electric Foundation): "GE hires a lot of engineers. We want young people who can do more than add up a string of numbers and write a coherent sentence. They must be able to solve problems, communicate ideas and be sensitive to the world around them. Participation in the arts is one of the best ways to develop these abilities."

SHIRLEY YOUNG (VP, Consumer Market Development for General Motors): "The Japanese consider the study of music important for their engineers. Playing a musical instrument involves discipline, creativity, and conceptualization. These attributes, added to engineering talent, help produce results that are not only functional but also harmonious in every way. Music reaches across cultures and needs no translation."

**MUSIC IS NOT ONLY IMPORTANT . . . IT'S ESSENTIAL!**

## **2 Instrumental Music Department Philosophy**

Music education is a primary means by which an educational institution can transmit to students the cultural heritage of society. Music transcends barriers of ethnic background, economic status, language, and even literacy in its power to reach the depths of the human soul. Experiences with music develop a student's ability to make value judgments, to function logically as well as intuitively, and to utilize one's innate creativity. Participation in performance organizations encourages initiative and leadership in the students, stimulates goal-oriented thought processes, creates an appreciation and respect for the efforts of others, and assists students to develop a sense of responsibility to themselves, the organization, and in a broad sense, society.

We recognize that few high school musicians make music a career. However, the mental discipline and thought processes required in the study of music are applicable in all fields of endeavor.

### **General Objectives**

- To make participation in instrumental music available to all students at Brentwood High School.
- To develop musical experiences that enhance students' overall educational experiences.
- To provide a suitable background in music instruction for those students who elect to continue the study of music after graduation.
- To develop a life-long appreciation for music and continuation of musical activities.
- To develop performing organizations that are a source of pride for the individual, the school, and the community.

### ***CONCERT BAND -***

Open to all students (grades 9 -12) with prior band experience, this class will concentrate on developing basic playing skills such as tone production, rhythmic proficiency, intonation, and technical ability, as well as preparation and performance of fine concert band literature. This ensemble will perform on several concert programs and in concert festivals. There will be out-of-school time required for rehearsals and performances. In addition, students are strongly encouraged to participate in the BHS Marching Band. *Note: All 9th-grade students except percussion are assigned to this band class.*

### ***PERCUSSION CLASS – (course named Band - Percussion)***

Open to students in grades 9 - 12, with Director approval. All percussion students are assigned to this class; additionally, every effort is made to assign each percussionist to the appropriate period study hall to allow them to perform with the Concert Band or Symphonic Wind. This group will concentrate on performance in all areas of percussion.

### ***SYMPHONIC BAND –***

Open to students in grades 10 – 12, with director approval. After Concert Band, this class concentrates on the further development of individual and ensemble playing skills, with emphasis on the performance aspects of wind band music and the preparation of the finest band literature available at this level. Out-of-school time is required for rehearsals and performances. Students in this class are ***most strongly*** encouraged to participate in the BHS Marching Band

### ***WIND ENSEMBLE –***

Open to students in grades 10 - 12, **by audition only**. This ensemble comprises the most outstanding instrumental musicians in Brentwood High School, and will have as a primary focus the preparation and performance of the finest literature for the modern wind band. While students will already possess a high degree of ability, the further advancement of musical skills, both individual and ensemble will be paramount to the success of the student and the organization. Great emphasis is placed on individual musical responsibility, in that students are one or two-on-a part. Students in this class must perform with the BHS Marching Band, on several concert programs, and in concert festivals. There will be out-of-school time required for rehearsals and performances.

### ***NOTE***

In order to be eligible for certain activities (such as, but not limited, to honor bands, solo & ensemble competitions, and trips) students must meet all requirements of the course in which they are enrolled; this constitutes being a "member in good standing" of the Brentwood Band program

### ***COLOR GUARD -***

Membership in the BHS Color Guard is by audition only. The student agrees to attend all rehearsals and performances, including summer activities. Students in Color Guard that also play instruments should be enrolled in the appropriate band class period. Color guard is an intense, physical, outdoor activity. Performing in the guard requires that students be in excellent physical condition. Our experience has been that students with chronic respiratory, cardiac, or other sun or heat-related problems, as well as problems with the knee, ankle, hip, elbow, and shoulder joints will encounter serious obstacles to performing with the proficiency necessary to earn and maintain performance status. Membership in the fall marching program as either a member of the Color Guard, Horn Line, or Percussion Section is a requirement for participation in Winter Guard.

## 4 Grading Procedure

Band is a unique course at Brentwood High School. It has curricular requirements, just as any other academic discipline, but it also has out-of-class time requirements. The strength of the band program is the consolidation of these requirements into one performance based, academic course of study. The level of commitment from each individual student is the driving force behind the organization and is reflected in the level of achievement reached by the individual and the program.

Band is a learning activity. Rehearsals, whether during or after school, are the means by which students learn, and by their very nature cannot be reproduced or made-up. Therefore it is imperative that students are present unless the absence is absolutely unavoidable. Excessive rehearsal absences will undoubtedly affect a student's performance. Although we frequently function as conductors, we are primarily teachers responsible for the musical and aesthetic education of each student in the band program. This is the reason we are absolutely insistent upon each student's daily participation. Rehearsals are not optional, and are reflected in the student's daily grade.

Performances are viewed as major tests: a performance is a learning experience that cannot be duplicated in a rehearsal hall or practice room; the level of concentration required in a public performance assists each student develop an insight into their own level of performance; a performance is an important evaluation tool, allowing comparison of a student's performance in relation to classroom objectives presented and with past performances. Absences from performances are only excused in the event of an extreme emergency: *serious* illness or hospitalization of the student, death in the family, religious holiday, or other reasons deemed excusable by the band director. *The band director must approve all absences from performance in advance.*

Finally, we take our job as a band director very seriously. The band as an organization provides a medium through which students progress academically, musically, and socially. Musicianship, attitude, attendance, punctuality, conduct, and a desire for excellence are absolutely expected from each member of the Brentwood Band. Therefore, individual **practice** and **preparation** are essential. No other discipline in education requires the high level of achievement from all participants as does musical performance. Through the level of commitment required we hope to better prepare our students for the responsibilities encountered throughout their lives.

Parents are an important part of the Brentwood Band, and have a vital role to play. Without the assistance and cooperation of Band parents, there would be no chance for the level of success we want the band to reach. *There are many things parents can do:*

Attend Band Parent meetings.

Volunteer for parent committees. There are many different tasks with which we need your assistance, and everyone can find the niche that suits them best: chaperon, uniforms, transportation, equipment handling (pit crew), sewing, meals and publicity are just a few of the areas we need filled for the marching season alone.

Be supportive of the band program and your child's participation by:

- Assisting your child to be prepared and punctual for every rehearsal and performance.
- Notifying the director if your child is to be absent or late for performance or rehearsal. This should be done in advance unless in absolute emergency situations.
- Encouraging your child to practice at home and help them find a quiet place to do so.
- Showing your interest and support in your child's music study by enthusiastically attending every performance possible.
- Discussing with directors and staff anything that will help them understand and better serve your child.
- Arranging for private lessons for your child, if at all possible.

### **Staff and Chaperons**

Everyone on the staff of the Brentwood Band has been selected due to the skills and qualities they possess and for the benefit they can bring the band program, and should be considered an extension of the directors. They are to be treated with the highest level of courtesy and respect.

Chaperons are also extensions of the authority of the directors. Without the dedication of our chaperons and other adults that assist with the band, we could not travel or perform in the way we do. These people work hard, and the only payment they receive is our appreciation. Be respectful, polite, cooperative, and remember that the words “*Thank You*” cost you nothing but are highly valued by the recipient.

If you disagree with something a chaperon asks you to do, you **are not to argue** with the chaperon. You are to do as you are asked and then inform a director as soon as possible. This policy will be strictly enforced. (In the *extremely unlikely* event that a chaperon's instruction would cause you to violate civil law or moral standards, the student should ask to be taken by that chaperon to a director immediately) If a chaperon has to report a student for being uncooperative or for any other reason, that student is subject to removal from the group.

## 6 Summer Activities

A schedule of all summer activities is distributed by the beginning of summer vacation.

**Color Guard Camp: June 1 - 4 4:00 – 10:00 PM**

**Summer Rehearsals Schedule:**

*Monday*

**June 8 – Color Guard 5:00 – 8:30**

**June 15 – Color Guard 5:00 – 8:30**

**June 22 – Color Guard 5:00 – 8:30**

**July 20 – Color Guard 5:00 – 8:30**

**July 27 – Color Guard 5:00 – 8:30**

*Tuesday*

**June 9 – Full Band 5:00 – 8:30**

**June 16 – Full Band 5:00 – 8:30**

**June 23 – Full Band 5:00 – 8:30**

**July 21 – Full Band 5:00 – 8:30**

**July 28 – Full Band 5:00 – 8:30**

*Thursday*

**July 30 – Full Band 5:00 – 8:30**

***FULL BAND = HORN LINE, PERCUSSION AND COLOR GUARD***

**Band Camp: (at BHS) - *No one leaves campus until all rehearsals for the day are complete***

**Aug. 3 – 6 Everyone follows the same schedule:**

**7:30 AM - 8:30 PM daily**

- No one will leave campus at mealtimes
- Band Boosters will provide lunch and supper each day. Parents are invited to these rehearsals to find out more about *how* we do *what* we do.

***EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE IN ATTENDANCE!!!***

**School begins on August 13<sup>th</sup> – we will have night rehearsals on the following dates:**

Monday, Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>

Friday, Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>

Monday, Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>

First football game – Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup> – vs. Lavergne AT Lavergne

Regular rehearsal schedule begins **Monday, August 24th**

## Marching Band 7

The Brentwood Marching Band enjoys a reputation for musical excellence aesthetically complemented by vivid visual images and movement reflecting the mood and character of the music. The band is fast becoming recognized as one of the top programs in Tennessee; to continue in this tradition of success requires a high degree of dedication, effort, and pride on the part of each person involved. Membership in the Brentwood Marching Band requires that students: 1) attend all rehearsals and performances; 2) pay a \$85 band fee; 3) through fund-raising or contribution account for their share of the band budget; and 4) be enrolled in one of the band classes offered at Brentwood High School, and comply with all rules and regulations for that organization as well as Marching Band. The only exception to item 4 is color guard membership, which is discussed elsewhere in this handbook.

The band follows a regular rehearsal schedule; any changes are announced well in advance. This allows students to plan other activities and obligations around the schedule.

Plan to arrive well in advance of the beginning of rehearsal...don't try to squeak in at the last second. We have a limited amount of rehearsal time and it is essential that we make efficient use of the time we have. This can only happen when every band member is present and working to improve. The band member that misses rehearsal cannot improve, and the other band members around them have a less effective rehearsal due to the absence. We all depend on each other to "carry our fair share of the load" in order for us to achieve the level of proficiency for which this band has become noted.

Rehearsals are never canceled due to inclement weather. We will not usually rehearse outdoors in the rain, unless it is just drizzle or intermittent light rain. In the event of steady rain, we will rehearse indoors and go out at the first opportunity. Students should dress for the weather. Not having the proper attire is no reason for having a poor rehearsal. Students should wear comfortable shoes (preferably low-topped tennis shoes) and socks for rehearsals. This is important in that the style of marching step we use requires that the foot and ankle be permitted to move freely. Shorts are the appropriate attire for rehearsals – once the weather is too cool for shorts, you should wear something that gives freedom of movement in the lower body, like sweatpants. Constricting clothing, such as jeans, will limit your ability to function effectively in the visual part of the program.

### **Horseplay, throwing ice or water and other such activities will not be permitted.**

Each member is expected to have all necessary equipment, in working order, along with all music and coordinate sheets at all rehearsals. Students are expected to have a notebook with clear vinyl sheet protectors for their band materials.

Absences from band rehearsals or performances are *unexcused* unless due to (a) personal illness, (b) death in the family, (c) an emergency, or (d) special permission of the Director obtained in advance by the parent or guardian. Students must exhibit consistent responsibility in these areas. Excessive absences may result in being removed from performance status.

**Health issues:** It is critical that each member take personal responsibility for their own well-being in order to be successful in rehearsal and performance. Perhaps the most critical issue is **hydration**. If you wait until you are thirsty, you are probably already well on your way to a dehydration problem. Students should have had a minimum of 32 ounces of **water** before starting a rehearsal or performance day, and should drink adequately during the rehearsal or performance day at every opportunity, whether or not they feel thirsty at the time. Adequate water breaks will be taken. Please avoid soft drinks before and during rehearsal or performance days. Of almost equal importance is protection from the sun. All students should wear sunscreen, even on cloudy days, and reapply as needed. Students particularly susceptible to the sun should have light weight "cover-up" clothes to put on should they start to sunburn. Light colored clothes, sunglasses and a cap will make you more comfortable and able to be successful when the sun is strong.

The regular rehearsal schedule for marching band (times may change!) is as follows:

Monday	3:00 - 5:00	Horn Line	5:00 - 8:30	Color Guard & Percussion
Tuesday	3:00 - 6:00	Full Band		
Wednesday	<b>no rehearsals scheduled</b>			
Thursday	3:00 - 6:00	Full Band		

## 8 Rehearsal Technique / Rehearsal Etiquette

1. Be present and on time — you cannot reap the benefits of a rehearsal or rehearsal segment you miss. Don't make plans that involve leaving rehearsal early or arriving late. Often some of the most important teaching in a rehearsal happens at those times.
2. Be actively and intently involved in the rehearsal
  - A. Just “going through the motions” during rehearsal is as bad as not being there. **Always be thinking about your performance.**
  - B. Your only focus should be the objectives the ensemble is trying to achieve during that rehearsal. **There is to be no unnecessary talking.**
  - C. Members are expected to give their utmost efforts during rehearsals in the pursuit of excellence in performance — **any less is an insult to your peers, your staff, and yourself.**
  - D. Instructions given by directors and staff should be followed not just to the letter, but also in the spirit of the intent.
  - E. Horseplay, throwing ice or water, or other such activities will not be tolerated
3. The proper attitude during rehearsal affects the value of that rehearsal
  - A. **An instruction that has to be given twice robs the band of rehearsal time and focus.** Don't cheat us all because you are not paying attention.
  - B. **Be cooperative.** Even if you don't understand the motivation for a rehearsal activity, have confidence that your staff does and execute as you are asked.
  - C. Disrespect towards directors, staff, and student leadership will never make the band more successful; **all students should show the proper respect for their peers, staff, and leadership,** and avoid exhibiting disrespectful attitudes such as eye-rolling, pouting, talking back, being unsupportive of directors and staff or in any way questioning any instruction or direction given.
  - D. **Being negative in rehearsal is a sure way to lessen the effectiveness of that rehearsal.** If you say things like “this will never work” there will probably be people around you that either believe what you say or are at least influenced by your opinion, and in either case they (like you) will be less productive.
  - E. **Offer encouragement to your peers, instead of criticism.** It takes a lot of pats on the back to erase the sting of a kick in the pants.
4. You can't be effective in rehearsal if you are unprepared
  - A. Arrive early enough to be in place, with all necessary equipment and materials, BEFORE rehearsal starting time.
  - B. Know all music/work that is due to be worked on in rehearsal. It is your responsibility to catch up should you be compelled to miss a rehearsal.
  - C. Have your materials organized - music in sheet protectors in notebook, coordinate sheets or dot books in order and readily available.
  - D. Be certain your equipment is always in good working order.
  - E. Be dressed for the weather. Not having the proper attire is not a satisfactory reason for having a poor rehearsal. Wear low-topped tennis shoes and socks for rehearsals. Caps and sun block are recommended.
  - F. Never be an obstacle to the success of others. If you are keeping someone else from achieving their objectives, the entire organization is losing ground.

**The BHS Band can only reach its highest level of success when each individual, each section, and each element are all at their highest possible effectiveness. It is the responsibility of each individual to do everything possible to reach that level, and to do nothing that would keep themselves or others from reaching their goals.**

## **Behavior Guidelines 9**

All band members are expected to follow the instructions of any teacher, staff member or chaperon *without question* unless said instruction is a violation of civil law or moral standards.

All school rules and policies are in effect at all band functions.

Any band member possessing or using any controlled substances, which include tobacco and alcohol, during any band function is subject to immediate removal from the organization, referral to school authorities, and if applicable, the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Band members will not play on or play with the equipment of others. This practice can lead to potential damage and a general lack of respect for the property of others. If you see someone picking up an instrument or equipment that is not theirs, remind them.

Destructive activity will not be tolerated, whether it be something as seemingly innocent as playing on a wall, locker, or door with drumsticks, or bumping things with horns or equipment, or something more overt as deliberately damaging equipment, throwing objects, writing on walls or leaving trash around. An organization with class, mature members, and pride will not permit acts such as this. It is the responsibility of everyone to see that these types of things do not occur. If you see it, stop it. If they refuse to stop, notify a director, staff member, or chaperon immediately.

Band members should not remove, play with, hide, or take all or part of the uniform of others. The uniform is obviously an essential part of the performance. If you have a problem with your uniform, don't take someone else's. See the uniform people for assistance. Take care of your own uniform.

All students travel to any off - campus activity on the bus. If you wish to ride home from an event with your parents, they must sign you out in person, at the conclusion of the event, and you will be removed from the bus roster. Students will be released only to parents or guardians. Only directors may release students, not chaperons or staff. Please be aware of this policy -- it is for your protection as well as ours.

Band members are expected to use good judgment and show respect for others in displaying affection. An impassioned embrace or more ardent demonstration of feeling is best kept for private moments. Band trips and activities are not "carte blanc" makeout opportunities. Keep your raging hormones in check and don't embarrass your friends or cheapen your relationship by taking things beyond the limit of common decency.

Any time there is a critical incident involving our people, our people and other band members, our people and "civilians", or any incident involving police or other authorities, the directors are to be notified immediately.

Any injury that occurs during a band function should be reported to the director without delay.

At any band contest, festival, trip, or other function, band members should move from place to place in a group. Do not go off by yourself, especially after dark. To leave the site, you must have permission from the director.

## **10 Behavior Guidelines (cont.)**

Food and drink are not allowed in the stands at football games. You will be given a break during third quarter. When you re-enter the band section, get rid of your food and drinks without being told.

Students remain in their own row when in the stadium. It is important to present the image of discipline and pride at all times. The band plays only as a group, except when the percussion section plays in support of the cheerleaders. There should be no individual, indiscriminate playing.

Only Band members are allowed in the Band section of the stadium.

When the Brentwood Band "falls in" to march to or from any location, there is to be absolutely no talking. When we march in formation, we are observed by the public and by other bands, and our tradition of success demands that you exhibit the highest level of personal and ensemble discipline at all times. You are "performing" whenever you are in public, whether you are getting off the bus, marching to the stadium, or on break. Do not embarrass yourself and your friends by acting in an immature manner.

Following any football game or competition, it is your responsibility to insure that all your equipment is put away correctly. Non-band personnel should wait outside the band room to help limit confusion and expedite dismissal.

### **Attitude**

Those who have a positive attitude, regardless of their individual skills, will always have a place in the Brentwood Band. Regardless of your ability, if your attitude is not positive, if you are not doing your personal best to make the group successful, you should not be a part of this band. In fact, students who do not project an attitude that is positive and cooperative will be given the opportunity to change their personal perspective or else leave the organization.

Those who have pride in themselves will generally project a positive attitude.

Characteristics of a positive attitude include a generally cheerful outlook toward rehearsals and performances, cooperation in the preparation and maintenance of equipment and facilities, and an eagerness to do what is necessary to be successful.

In short, the ideal band member is someone who is always willing to give their best for the good of the organization.

## Contests and Festivals 11

Contests, festivals, and other adjudicated activities are important features of the Brentwood Band program. Through these activities we obtain valuable feedback about our progress as individuals and as a program. Although we never "live or die" by any one judge's or any panel's opinion of our performance, it is important that we learn the value of giving maximum effort and standing by the results as our best possible effort that day.

Competitive performances are packed with emotion. Because of the time, work and discipline required to produce award-winning performances, we develop great camaraderie within the organization. We share hardship, discomfort, *tedium ad nauseam*, fatigue, oppressive heat, chilling cold, long bus rides, disappointment, tears, success and joy.

Along with these emotions go high levels of tension, which often causes students to react immaturely. We learn to avoid these normal pitfalls and channel our energy and attention toward the goal of performance excellence and the ultimate success that will follow.

All members of the Brentwood Band stand with silent pride as scores are announced and graciously accept the results, regardless of outcome. We show our appreciation and respect for those who have earned the right to score ahead of us and gracefully accept our own successes. Many of our competitors will not understand that we are able to congratulate those who are ahead of us and appreciate their performance. Those are the people that will not ever know the true reason for participating in competition, but will mistakenly equate winning with coming in first. We will come in first when we deserve to based on our performance. Until then, we know "winning" is the state of every individual having endured the hardships, taken the chance of competing, and done their personal best in the pursuit of excellence.

The band's image is based on each individual. Our public reputation is based on our appearance, our actions, and our projection of pride and organization. It is the responsibility of each member to insure that we present the best possible image at all times.

## Instrument Care

School-owned instruments become the responsibility of the student to whom they are issued. Any damage other than normal wear and tear will be repaired at the student's expense. Individual instruments must always be maintained in top playing condition. Always show the director your instrument before taking it for repairs.

Remember that horseplay can cause damage to instruments and equipment. Be careful with your own instrument, place it out of harm's way if it is necessary for you to put it down, and never play around with or play on anyone else's instrument.

## **12 Uniform Information**

When you are in uniform, you are no longer just an individual, but a representative of our Band, school, and community.

Your uniform is to be complete at all times when in public: you will receive detailed guidelines regarding the proper manner to wear the uniform, with which you will be expected to conform. Horn line and percussion will have two different uniform jackets – it is imperative that students be attentive to performance information sheets and have the correct jacket for each performance!

**Trousers MUST be hemmed long enough to just brush the tops of shoes. Shorten the shoulder straps enough that the trousers don't sag in the stride.** Students with trousers either too long (“puddling” around the feet) or too short (high-waters) may not be allowed to perform.

**Jewelry, nail polish, and student - selected accessories are not permitted. Earrings are limited to one, post-type, per ear. No other piercings will be permitted. Gentlemen are to be clean-shaven. There is to be no hair on the collar or showing around the face when wearing shakos, the headgear worn with the uniform. Gentlemen are to be clean-shaven.** The only headgear worn with the uniform is that provided by the Band. **Baseball caps will not be tolerated.**

Uniforms are to be transported in a uniform bag...ALWAYS. Shoes **must not** be placed in the bag with the uniform. Students are responsible for having a clean, neat uniform for every performance. The student must pay for any lost, damaged, or destroyed articles of the uniform

All band members must have black marching shoes for performance and can be ordered through the band. Any other all-black lace-up shoe must be brought to the director for approval prior to purchase, in that the structure of the shoe affects individual marching performance. Shoes will be clean for each performance.

Color Guard uniforms are to be worn in the prescribed manner. Members of the Color Guard are also required to provide the appropriate footwear. Make-up, jewelry, and hairstyle are as much a part of the uniform as the uniform itself. Guidelines for these will be established and members will be expected to conform.

The way you wear your uniform reflects the pride you have in your band. Our uniform, when worn properly, projects an image of pride and dignity. It is everyone's responsibility to see that all members respect and care for the uniform and that the uniform is worn properly at all times.

## **Leadership Team13**

The Band Council is a group of students who serve as advisors and a "junior staff" for the band program. Four members of the Band Council are elected each spring as officers for the coming year. To be eligible for office, candidates must be full participants in the band program, exemplary in attitude, loyalty, and dedication, and willing to give of their personal time for the betterment of the Brentwood Band. One of the primary assignments of all officers will be the Band's morale.

Specific offices, qualifications and responsibilities are:

**Band President:** A Senior. The primary liaison between the band students and the directors, responsible for organizing activities of the council. Chief contact for band directors, staff, and parents whenever student input or assistance is required. Is asked to meet with the Band Parents Board of Directors at times to share student viewpoint.

**Vice-President:** A Senior. First responsibility is the planning and implementation of activities of social and motivational nature. Is also responsible for assisting directors with recruiting strategies. Assists President with council activities.

**Historian:** Sophomore, Junior or Senior. Responsible for compiling a yearly scrapbook for the band. Assists with other paperwork, music library, etc. as needed.

**Media Officer:** Sophomore, Junior or Senior. Responsible for communicating with newspapers and other media outlets regarding band activities, including upcoming events and awards received. Is to insure that the band receives maximum publicity whenever possible. Will maintain a bulletin board in the band room detailing upcoming events, band member accomplishments (musical and otherwise), and news clippings regarding the band and its members. An emphasis should be placed on elevating the band's image.

**Operations Manager:** Junior or Senior. Primary responsibility is that of equipment and materials manager. Arranges student workers for loading and unloading of equipment for transport, moving equipment either on or off campus, and procurement of any equipment or supplies that might be needed. Interested students will complete an application and interview as part of the process for selecting the person for this important position

Field commander(s), section leaders, and Color Guard Captains make up the remainder of the Band Council.

We can only continue to build on the successes of the past if we continue to have outstanding student leadership. Section leaders are selected based on musical accomplishment, service, dedication and loyalty. These appointments are made by directors and staff and are not a popularity contest.

## **14 Leadership Team (cont.)**

Student leaders are expected to be the first students to arrive and the last to leave. Good leaders look for jobs that need doing. They don't wait to be asked. Good leaders know that respect comes from peers only when it is earned. Therefore, the leadership team should strive to always set an example by their behavior.

It is an obligation of the leadership team to keep directors and staff informed about any situation that might hinder the progress of the Band program. Members of the leadership team never ask a member of their section to do anything they are not prepared to do. You should be the first to rehearsal, the first on line, the first to have music memorized...in short, you should be first at everything.

*The man at the top of the mountain did not fall there.* Leaders must set the right example every day. Immaturity will often encourage us not to push ourselves to achieve our personal best until the week of a major performance. Unfortunately, that is too late. Success is built a piece at a time, every day. Lead your sections this way.

Students who wish to have leadership roles should act and set their goals accordingly. Remember, directors and staff are watching for future Brentwood Band leaders throughout the year.

## **Band Awards**

Each student that participates in the full band program at Brentwood High School, including Marching and Concert activities, will receive a band award at the annual Band Banquet. After the first year of participation, students receive a Band Letter. Each subsequent year they receive a chevron signifying another year's service. In addition, students meeting these requirements are also eligible for several special awards, selected by directors, staff, or by vote of the band. An unexcused absence from rehearsal or performance will automatically disqualify the student for band awards.

## **Funding the Band Program**

The Brentwood Band program is only partly funded through the Williamson County Board of Education. The bulk of the funds necessary to operate an organization such as this is generated in two ways. Each member of the band is required to pay an \$85 band fee. The remainder of the budget can be raised through a few select, tried and true programs, or by direct payment. The amount that the budget exceeds what is generated through fees is divided by the number of band members. That figure becomes the "Fair Share" of the budget each band member is responsible for generating, either through profits in fundraising or by payment.

All-Midstate Band, All-Midstate Jazz Band, All-State, Solo and Ensemble, and other Honor Band activities provide students with the opportunity to excel individually on their instrument and to receive recognition for their musical achievements.

Honor Bands – Auditions for All-Midstate Band and All-Midstate Jazz Band are held in early December. Students in grades 9-12 are eligible for All-Midstate Band. Students in grades 10-12 are eligible for All-Midstate Jazz Band. Students perform required music (available in the Band Office), scales, and sight-reading (no scales for Jazz auditions). The audition process ranks the students from Middle Tennessee on their specific instruments. Students selected for one of the Mid-State ensembles prepare and present a concert during the Spring semester (usually in January). The top students from the All-Midstate Band are selected for All-State status and also present a concert during the Tennessee Music Educators Association State In-Service Conference, usually held in March.

To be eligible for these auditions, students must be members in good standing of the Band program at BHS (see *Membership Requirements*) and pay an audition fee. This requirement does not apply to Mid-State Jazz Band, as there is at present no established Jazz program at BHS. Any student in grades 10 -12 is eligible to audition for Mid-State Jazz.

There are always outstanding musicians in the Brentwood Band, and we strongly encourage widespread participation in these activities. Often, colleges and universities use membership in these organizations as partial criteria for music scholarship consideration.

Other "Honor Band" activities may be available to BHS Band students through the year, either based on audition or application. Students will be notified of these opportunities.

Solo and Ensemble Festival, held in March or April, also give students opportunity to excel individually or in small instrumental groups. Students may select their own music (with Director approval) or Directors will assist in the selection.

Students should allow at least four weeks of preparation time for the festival.

There is an entry fee for each participant.

With all these activities, the value of private lessons cannot be measured.

### **Private Lessons**

Private lessons are the key to developing an outstanding musical organization. Students who study their instruments privately with a professional show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As these students improve, their excitement towards practicing increases, they continue to improve, and they become a stronger contributor to the overall success of the band.

Private instruction has a great impact on the individual student and on our band program both this year and in the future. Private lessons on most instruments are available at Brentwood High School, from instructors approved by the director. These lessons are scheduled during study halls, band classes, or if necessary, after school. Lessons are also available during the summer. The key to satisfactory results from private instruction is to start as soon as possible ... SO START NOW.

## 16 Travel Tips

1. Whenever we travel, whether to a football game, a competition, or an overnight trip, band members are to be at the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment.
2. Follow all instructions of directors or chaperons. If you don't understand, ask.
3. No boys in girls' rooms, no girls in boys' rooms ...EVER (The purple room rule)
4. No unnecessary moving around on the bus. No standing in seats, sitting on backs or arms of seats on the bus. Do as the bus driver asks when on the bus.
5. Each bus will have a first aid kit on board. Ask chaperons for help.
6. Be quiet and cooperative during roll call on buses.
7. Use restrooms on buses as little as possible. We will make regular stops, and we don't want the restrooms to smell.
8. Know who the chaperon for your group is, as well as their room number.
9. You are responsible for any damage to your room.
10. Make no charges to your room (phones, movies, etc.) Use pay phones.
11. Take no souvenirs from your room, restaurants, etc.
12. Make no calls between rooms after lights out, unless you are calling a chaperon to report a problem.
13. Don't leave your room unlocked.
14. No alcoholic beverages, or any controlled substances (which includes tobacco and alcohol) are to be taken, bought, or consumed during the trip. All prescription and non-prescription drugs you need to take must be listed on your medical release form.
15. No changing buses or rooms without directors' permission.
16. Leave non-essential valuables at home.
17. Watch your belongings. If you put something down unattended, there is an excellent chance it won't be there when you return.
18. Profanity is not a part of this band. Make sure your language is never offensive.
19. Curfews will be announced and strictly enforced.
20. Personal radios and cassette players (e.g. headphones only...no speakers) are allowed on the bus, but for your own hearing the volume level should not be loud enough to be heard outside your head.
21. Behavior of students will be exemplary at all times. There is no excuse for rude, obnoxious acts.
22. All school rules are in effect throughout the duration of any trip.
23. Kindness and courtesy work miracles in almost every situation. Remember that PLEASE and THANK YOU cost you nothing, and yet are highly valued, especially when received from a teenager.
24. **There Shall Be No Action For Which An Explanation Is Necessary.** (Translation: If you think someone might ask you "Why did you do that?" then don't do it.) Usually abbreviated **TSBNAFWAEIN!**

Violations of these rules will result in disciplinary action that could include removal from the organization, confinement to your room for the duration of the trip, or being sent home. Detailed information sheets, showing reporting, departing, and estimated arrival times, are distributed prior to any trip. Please have transportation available at the designated ETA.

Band Members are expected to be in the band room (or other designated area), with equipment ready, at the time designated by the director.

Arrive early. Leave enough time to get all equipment prepared, be dressed and ready to warm-up or load when so instructed.

Once you're in the band room, keep noise to an absolute minimum. No horseplay.

After any performance, put away all equipment properly.

On concert performances, if your portion of the program is over before the entire concert ends, this does not mean you are dismissed. It is very rude for you to leave before your friends and peers have completed their performance.

**Bus Rules**

Buses are loaded in an orderly fashion. No pushing, running, or crowding the band room doors will be tolerated. We generally load in descending order by grade. Respect this tradition...you'll get to be a senior someday, too.

Remain in seat while bus is moving. Do not kneel in seats or sit facing backwards.

No loud talking or profanity. No horseplay. No playing of instruments on the bus. This includes drumming on the seats.

No switching buses. Ride in the same seat returning, unless change is by mutual agreement.

Do not yell from the buses. Hands, arms and other body parts inside the bus at all times.

**FALL 2009 Schedule**

**FRIDAY ACTIVITIES**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FOOTBALL - OPPONENT</u>
August 21	@ Lavergne
August 28	Smyrna
September 4	@ Independence
September 11	@ Oakland
September 18	Ravenwood
September 25	@ Gallatin
October 2	@ Centennial
October 9	No Football - Rehearsal
October 16	<b>Hillsboro - Homecoming</b>
October 23	Blackman (senior night/ 8 <sup>th</sup> graders)
October 30	@ Franklin
November 6	<b>Departure for Indianapolis</b>
November 13	<b>Football Play-offs, Round 2</b>
November 20	<b>Football Play-offs, Round 3</b>
November 23 – 29	<b>Trip to Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade and New York City</b>

**SATURDAY ACTIVITIES**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
August 29	<b>Camp Day – 9 - 5</b>
September 5	<b>Labor Day Weekend</b>
September 12	<b>Camp Day – 9 – 5</b>
September 19	<b>Williamson Exhibition @ BHS</b>
September 26	<b>Columbia Contest</b>
October 3	<b>Contest or Camp Day</b>
October 10	<b>Contest or Camp Day</b>
October 17	<b>FALL BREAK</b>
October 24	<b>Camp Day – 9 - 5</b>
Oct. 31	<b>Contest or Camp Day</b>
November 7	<b>BOA Indianapolis Regional</b>

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

In becoming a member of the Brentwood High School Band, I agree to do my personal best to carry on the tradition of excellence and success both musically and personally. I realize that conscientious attendance and preparation for rehearsals and performances are essential for the Brentwood Band to operate successfully. I fully understand the conditions set forth in the band handbook, and agree to abide by them.

Both student and parent must sign this agreement.

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

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

**Please complete all information:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Instrument / Section grad. yr. M F Home Telephone # Mom's Cell # Dad's Cell #

\_\_\_\_\_  
street address zip code neighborhood (or closest to you)

\_\_\_\_\_  
parent/guardian first name(s) last name

\_\_\_\_\_  
student e-mail address parent e-mail address -very important - we would like to deliver band booster news electronically whenever possible to save on postage

**Emergency Medical Consent**

Phone Numbers where parents can be reached: Mom - Work \_\_\_\_\_ Dad - Work \_\_\_\_\_

Family Physician \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Specify any medical conditions of which an attending physician should be aware:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please list **all** over the counter and/or prescription medications, with dosage, your child has your permission to possess and administer during band functions, including overnight trips. (ex: Tylenol – as needed, Claritin – 2X per day, Albuterol – 2 puffs as needed, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Insurance information: Name of Policy Holder: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy No. \_\_\_\_\_ Group No. \_\_\_\_\_

**CONSENT:**

If deemed necessary by school officials during a function of the Brentwood High School Band, permission is hereby granted to the attending physician to proceed with any medical or minor surgical treatment, x-ray examinations, and immunizations for the above-named student. In the event of serious illness, the need for major surgery, or significant accidental injury, I understand that an attempt will be made by the attending physician to contact me in the most expeditious way. If said physician is not able to communicate with me, the treatment necessary for the best interest of the student may be given.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please sign this form in the presence of a notary.