E.T. Booth Band
2015-2016

Handbook

Cary Johnson, Director
Dear E.T. Booth Band Students and Parents:

I am very excited about the school year ahead. I hope that you are, as well. Studies show that students who study music and the arts score high marks academically and are well rounded human beings. This handbook is intended to be informational about various band activities and policies and to help get the 2015-2016 Booth band prepared for this year.

As a member of the E.T. Booth Middle School Band, you and your child are making a long-term commitment to daily class participation, home practice, rehearsal attendance, and superior performance. **Students who join band are required to make a fulltime commitment.** Students may not make changes in their band schedule until the end of the first semester. Parental support, cooperation, time, and involvement are essential to the student’s musical development and success. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the contents of this handbook and retain it for use throughout the school year.

Students will go over this handbook in class. Parents are urged to review these policies with your child again at home. Please fill-out and return the Acceptance of Band Policies Contract to acknowledge receipt and agreement of this information. The contents of this handbook are subject to change. If possible, sufficient notice will be given in the event of any changes made.

I am looking forward to having your child as a member of the E.T. Booth Band. Band is an asset to every student in helping develop self-esteem and appreciation of music. The lessons learned in the benefits of teamwork and the necessities of organizational skills are invaluable and can be applied to most aspects of life. I am glad that you are taking advantage of the opportunity for your student’s growth and development. With your support, this will be a very successful year.

Sincerely,

Cary Johnson
E.T. Booth Middle School
Director of Bands
2015-2016 Performance and Rehearsal Schedules

Please Note: Conflicts with other school related activities might necessitate changes from the schedule of events printed in this handbook. Information will be sent as soon as possible in the event a date or time is changed. Times for events sponsored by the Georgia Music Educators Association may be sent to the directors approximately one week prior to the event. Scheduling information will be forwarded when it becomes available. Please do not schedule other activities for these dates, if they apply.

Important Band Dates:

August
  17 (A day) & 24 (B day)  Beginner Instrument trial during class
  14  Signed “Acceptance of Band Policies” form due
  31  Instrument Rental Meeting (6-8:00pm) for anyone needing to rent an instrument (Booth Cafetorium)

September
  11  Eighth grade performance with the Etowah Marching Band during football game
  16  All State Band fees due*

October

November
  6  Veteran’s Day performance during school-details to be announced
  30  6th grade Beginning Band after-school band rehearsal (4:15pm-5:30pm)

December
  1  7th grade band rehearsal (4:15pm-5:30pm)
  2  8th grade band rehearsal (4:15pm-5:30pm)
  3  Winter Concert (7:00pm, students report at 6:15pm), in Booth gym
  5  District All-State Band auditions (Creekland Middle School)*
  10-12  University of Georgia Midfest Middle School Honor Band*

January
  9  All State Final Auditions (Perry Middle School)*
  16  Inclement weather make up for All-State auditions*

February
  5-6  9th District Middle School Honor Band Clinic*
       (location to be determined)
  8-12, 22-26  LGPE after-school rehearsal (4:15pm-5:45pm)*

March
  3-5  All State Band (Athens Classic Center, Athens, GA)*
  7-11  LGPE after-school rehearsal (4:15pm-5:45pm)*
  16-18  Large Group Performance Evaluation (Concert or Symphonic members)*
       Specific date, time and place within these dates TBA

May
  April 27-May 1  8th grade Festival Disney trip (rehearsals TBA for April)
       ---  Spring concert rehearsals to be determined based on available calendar days
  12  Spring Concert (7:00pm, students report at 6:15pm), in Booth gym

* optional activities that may require audition to participate
WAYS TO GET ANSWERS

- **E. T. Booth**
  The main office phone number at E.T. Booth is 770-721-5500.
- **Website**
  http://www.cherokee.k12.ga.us/Schools/etbooth-ms
- **E-Mail**
  cary.johnson@cherokee.k12.ga.us

**GRADING**

**DAILY PARTICIPATION (50%)**

Students must bring the following to class **EVERY DAY**.

1. Instrument in good working order! Please have a nametag on each case!
2. **A PENCIL (not a pen) Every Day.**
3. Your method books.
4. Any sheet music or written materials handed out in class must be in your folder.
5. E.T. Booth agenda.
6. A Positive, Hardworking, and Respectable Attitude!

Students without required equipment or material will result in a 10 point grade deduction per infraction. Daily participation grade is based on conduct, level of ACTIVE participation, and POSITIVE contribution to class. Pass Off and Instrumental Grading Procedures are based on The Band Pass off System and playing evaluations or tests used to measure performance and written objectives for each student in the band program. The number of required pass-offs depends on the class size, the activities, and the musical objectives of the band during a given nine weeks. Usually, 30 pass-offs are required for an A. “Playing Tests” may be given in place of the pass off system. Grades for playing tests are based on tone, intonation, technique, balance, interpretation, musical effect and other factors.

For example: 30 pass-offs=A, 20 pass-offs=B, 10 pass-offs=C, 5 or less pass-offs =U.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>79-71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>70-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Practice Records 25%**

Practice Records are charts showing total practice times outside normal class time (private lessons, after school rehearsals, special honor band participation). Practice Records may be checked each week or at the very end of the nine weeks. A minimum of 20 minutes is expected each day.

**CONCERTS (Performances) 25%**

Any student who does not attend the concert must complete an alternate written or playing project. This work and due date will be given as close to the concert as possible.

- **Attendance:** Membership in a musical ensemble is a “team sport” and we rely on one another a great deal. It is very important that every student realizes that they play an important role in the band. Therefore, we expect EVERY student to participate in every performance and rehearsal. Lack of transportation is not an excuse to miss a rehearsal. If a problem arises, let us know before the rehearsal/performance so that we can help you make other arrangements. Lack of rehearsal attendance may result in exclusion from performances.
- **Dress:** Proper attire is expected. Please note the uniform section below. The uniform will be worn at every concert.

**Connections classes are included when determining academic awards.** The school make-up work policy will be implemented.
METHOD BOOKS AND SUPPLIES

- **Winning Rhythms** - All band students.
- Portable music stands for home practice/some performances.
- **ETBMS** Band shirt will be available early in the year and is required for all concerts.
- Reeds, valve/slide oil, cork grease, and other accessories for proper instrument function will be needed throughout the year.

OTHER NEEDED MATERIAL:

- **Brass** - valve oil, slide grease, cleaning “snake”, mouthpiece brush.
- **Flutes** - cloth swab, tuning/cleaning rods.
- **Clarinet** - 4 good reeds daily with a sturdy reed case! A strength 2½ reed is acceptable but size 3 reed is recommended for all players. Cloth Swab (cotton handkerchief type), Rovner style ligature.
- **Saxes** - 4 good reeds daily (same brands & rules mentioned above for clarinets), cloth swabs, reed holder, sturdy neck strap, Rovner style ligature.
- **Double Reeds** - 3 good medium-soft size reeds daily. Swab, reed case, 35mm film case or equivalent with fresh water.
- **Percussion** - Snare Drum and Bell kit, Vic Firth SD1 or similar brand and size sticks, bell mallets, stick bag, and black rubber practice pads or Remo practice pad. As students progress, they may need to purchase timpani and keyboard mallets.

ALL INSTRUMENT CASES MUST BE CLEARLY LABELED WITH THE STUDENT’S NAME

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Uniform dress is expected at all performances. Students not in proper uniform may be excluded from the performance. This visually represents our group, school, school district, state, etc. It is a must that we represent our group well both visually and audibly. Remember, this is a **TEAM** effort. The E.T. Booth band uniform is as follows:

**Black DRESS PANTS**: Black jeans are not acceptable as part of the uniform. Pants must be **BLACK DRESS**.

**Black shoes**: Dress shoes (preferably closed-toe) are required. Shoes must be solid black.

**Socks/Hose**: Black socks. No white socks.

**Band Shirt**: White shirt with band logo embroidered will be sold through the band. Every shirt must always be tucked in. Students will be notified of the order date for the shirts.

**Band Shirt Orders**: We will use the same white shirts as last year. Seventh and Eighth graders only need to order a new shirt if last year’s needs replacing. **I will notify you of the date that we will make the order**. The cost of the shirt will be approximately $16.00 per shirt. No money is to be turned in for the shirt until further notification.
INSTRUMENT AND EQUIPMENT

Some school instruments (baritone, horn, tuba, etc.) will be issued to those students who need them on a first come first served basis for a usage fee. These instruments will be issued in good playing condition, and the students will be responsible for their proper use, maintenance, and storage. School owned instruments are those instruments that are the most expensive. Students should be very diligent in the appropriate care for these instruments.

All students are encouraged to take private lessons from a qualified instructor on their specific instrument. If you need help finding an instructor, contact Mr. Johnson and he will recommend someone or assist in finding someone.

Each student is responsible for all issued materials such as instruments, percussion equipment, and music. Every student must keep his or her instrument in proper playing condition. No student is to play or tamper with another student’s instrument. This applies particularly to school owned instruments. In the event that damage should occur to an instrument, the individual responsible for the act of carelessness will also be responsible for any repair cost. Defacing of school property such as the rehearsal room, equipment, music, or instruments will result in payment for damages by those students involved and/or office referral.

Once a student chooses an instrument, they must commit to learning that instrument. No changing instruments without the express approval of Mr. Johnson. There may be times when a student is asked to try another instrument due to great difficulty on a particular instrument or to help balance the sound in the ensemble. Switching to another instrument without Mr. Johnson’s permission is not allowed. This is to help guarantee the success of each student and the band as a whole. Remember, the band is a team. Every position has to be filled properly to get the proper sound.

INSTRUMENT REPAIR SERVICES

The most frustrating experience for teacher, student, and parent is an instrument which is constantly going back and forth to the repair shop. Please be cautious about buying instruments from the internet and discount or membership warehouse stores. “Least expensive” is most likely not the best answer. Please consult the director if you have any questions. Here are a few tips regarding instrument repair:

- Never try pulling a stuck mouthpiece or slide with pliers. I have a device at school to do this when necessary. If I cannot pull it with this tool, a professional should repair it.
- Never store anything other than the instrument and necessary accessories inside the instrument case. Loose mouthpieces, music books and folders, music stands, etc. can do major damage when stored carelessly inside your case. Saxophones must place the end plug on the body of the instrument each time it is put in the case to prevent damage to the octave key.
- Before leaving the instrument at the music store have your child or Mr. Johnson write a brief note to your vendor explaining the problem.
- Have your child go with you to pick up the instrument. Play the instrument before leaving the store to be sure it is really fixed. If the problem was due to your child mistreating the instrument he/she needs to know what he/she did wrong so the problem will not occur again.
- If the repair is done by the music store where you are renting your child’s instrument ask for a loaner instrument while your instrument is being serviced.
- Most repairs should not take more than 5 school days. If you are getting poor service at a particular store let Mr. Johnson know so that he can contact the store and help resolve the problem.
- Be sure to remove your child’s music books and mouthpiece from the case before leaving it at the store. If there is a school-owned instrument available, your child may be able to continue playing.
PERSONAL CONDUCT RULES
It is the right of every musician to learn and it is the right of your director to teach. These rules should be preserved and respected.

- No talking when Mr. Johnson or another designated person is on the podium.
- Always follow directions. Have a pencil on your stand to make notes to help you follow directions and corrections.
- Raise your hand when you wish to speak and wait for your director to call on you.
- Show proper respect to people and property.
- Be seated with your instrument and music immediately upon arrival in class.
- Never play your instrument unless your director asks you to do so.
- No food, candy, drinks, or gum may be eaten or chewed during band. Water is the only exception.
- Each person is responsible for his/her own instrument.

EQUIPMENT RULES
Your family and our school system have invested a large sum of money in musical instruments and equipment. We will use these rules so everyone will understand guidelines for correct usage.

- Do not touch anyone’s instrument except your own.
- Do not play your instrument at the bus stop, on the school bus, gym, or any other classroom during the day.
- Do not leave music or books on the music stand after class.
- Always put your instrument in the appropriate storage area when not in use. Do not “hang out” in storage areas.
- Keep your instrument in perfect working condition.
- Instrument, music, binder and pencil are required for class everyday. If an instrument must be repaired, please bring a note from your parent stating where it is being repaired if not through the music vendor that services E.T. Booth.

MUSIC RULES

- Always write your name in your book.
- Mark your music notes in PENCIL only.
- Keep your music and books in your folder with you. Do not leave them in your locker or at home when needed in class.
- Do not keep music in your instrument case! It will often bend rods and keys. Do not fold music.
- You are responsible for your music. It may be collected. Please keep up with and take care of your music.
- Lost or severely damaged music will be replaced by the person issued the music.
PERFORMANCE GROUPS

6th and Grade Beginning Band*

No experience is necessary! The 6th grade band is a beginning band. The 6th grade band may perform a Winter concert and a Spring concert. More performances will be added as the opportunity arises.

7th and Intermediate (Advanced) Band*

This group will continue to develop technique, tone production, rhythms, key signature, and dynamics through the use of scales, rhythmic exercises, chorales, and band literature. The band will perform a Winter concert, Spring concert, appropriate school functions, and other possible performances. The band will concentrate on intermediate band literature.

8th grade Advanced Band*

This group will continue to develop technique, tone production, rhythms, key signature, and dynamics through the use of scales, rhythmic exercises, chorales, and band literature. The band will perform a Winter concert, Spring concert, football game, appropriate school functions, and other possible performances. The group will concentrate on more advanced rhythms, technique, tone production, and individual and ensemble performance. Select 7th grade students may be invited to participate in this group.

Combined Intermediate and Advanced Band*

There may be times when both Intermediate (Concert) and Advanced(Symphonic) bands will be combined for performances.

*After school rehearsals may be required. The more advanced the group, the more rehearsals that may be scheduled. Students who miss rehearsals may be excluded from the upcoming performance. Most after school rehearsals are outlined in the band calendar on a separate page in this handbook. We will try to keep the after school rehearsals at a minimum but after school rehearsal will be essential for a successful performance.

8th grade High School credit

Students who successfully complete advanced courses which meet high school standards in middle school receive credit toward their high school graduation requirements. Courses taken for high school credit at the middle school level do not count toward the grade point average requirement for the HOPE Scholarship Program.

Beginning Instrument Ensemble (Freshman High School Concert Band) provides opportunities for performers to increase performance skills and precision on a wind or percussion instrument. Students will be expected to master skills based on the Georgia and National Music Standards for Music. Each student is expected to participate in District and All-State auditions and prove proficient in 9-10 grade scales, etude, Large Group Performance Evaluation material and all other levels of proficiency expected at the 9th grade level. Students must have at least two years’ experience on their instrument and pass an audition/interview as a prerequisite to be admitted into this course. This course will be taken every day and will take the place of all other P.E. or Connections courses. Two semesters are required in order to receive full credit.

***There may be other performance opportunities for the various groups or individuals like ballgames, school assemblies, adjudicated trips, spring competition trip, etc. Extra performances will be determined by availability, student and band preparedness and time constraints. Notification will be sent in the event an extra performance or rehearsal is scheduled as soon as possible.
Acceptance of Band Policies Form
(This form must be turned in and is due August 14, 2015. Please detach it from the handbook and return it to Mr. Johnson.)

“We have carefully read the 2015-2016 handbook and understand and agree with the policies of the E.T. Booth Middle School Band.”

_______________________ ______________________
Parent’s name-printed clearly Student’s name-printed clearly

Parent’s signature Student’s signature

Address: ________________________________
                                      ________________________________
                                      ________________________________

Home Phone #_________________ e-mail:______________________________
Cell Phone #__________________________
Work Phone #__________________________

Band Donations:
By making a voluntary donation of $25.00, you can help support the band program. With 100% participation, we may only need one fundraising project during the year. Funds raised will be used for equipment, music, professional development, and repairs, etc. This is not part of any uniform or trip fee.

____Enclosed is our Family’s $25.00 donation to the Booth Band. Checks are to be made out to E.T. Booth Middle School with student’s name and reason on the memo line.

____I would be interested in serving on a committee for this year’s Band (i.e. chaperoning, fundraising, etc.)

Student Grade Level_______

* I agree to allow my information to be shared with the Etowah Eagle Band to enhance communication among both band programs. This information will only be used for band purposes and will not be shared with other parties.

____________________________(signature or initials)