

**THE  
BLOOM-CARROLL  
HIGH SCHOOL**



**HANDBOOK**

**2024-2025**

[bloomcarrollbands.org](http://bloomcarrollbands.org)

## Welcome to the Bloom-Carroll High School Instrumental Music Department!

It is a pleasure to have you as a member of our BC Band family. In our experiences, we hope that musical knowledge, skills, and the enjoyment of musical creativity will be obtained as we share the responsibility and commitment to work with others toward a common goal.

As a parent, we hope you will encourage your child meet his/her commitments of a busy schedule. **You play a very important role** in the enjoyment, success, and positive experience of your child's year in the BC High School Band. There are three ways that you can help:

- 1) **Encourage your child.** There are many new skills to develop and these take patience, home practice, and most of all, persistence. These skills can be learned by every student, but the length of time it takes varies from person to person.
- 2) **Attend Performances** – as many as you possibly can. Your presence in the audience is really important to each and every child (no matter what they may say!) It makes your child feel important that you care. You'll be surprised how many parents of band members there are in the crowd. The audience's response to our performance builds a sense of pride in each performer and makes our hard work worthwhile.
- 3) **Get Involved** – The BC Music Boosters is a vital support component of the overall music program. Our success is due, in part, to the boosters' commitment to the music students. We encourage all parents to get involved in the Music Booster activities – fundraising, tailgating, pit crew, uniforms, concession stand, competitions, and more. The BC Band can only continue its success with the tremendous volunteer support of the Music Boosters. If you can help a little or a lot, it is greatly appreciated by the staff and the students. You will also have the added satisfaction at the exciting performances that you helped to make it happen. If each parent volunteers for just one booster activity each year, it will provide a dramatic effect to the experience of each student.

As a student, welcome to one of the finest organizations in the Bloom-Carroll Local School District. You are now involved in a program that will have a positive effect on the rest of your life. While participating in the band program, we hope that you will learn responsibility, cooperation, self-discipline, character, leadership, respect, pride, as well as develop your musicianship skills. You will learn that we can have fun working together toward our common goal of musical excellence.

The following handbook has been designed to provide insight for both parents and student participants into the many aspects of our total band program. In order to have organization in any group, certain policies and procedures must be followed. This handbook does not and cannot cover each aspect of band life; however, it is intended to be used as a guide and reference for the inevitable questions that may arise.

Please join us in making this an outstanding school year. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Mr. Rob Falvo  
*Director of Bands*

Mr. Luke Mullins  
*Assistant Marching Band Director*

Mrs. Mackenzie Wilkerson  
*Color Guard Adviser*

Mr. Greg Starkey  
*Marching Percussion Instructor*

## **Introduction**

It is the purpose of this handbook to provide valuable information for and about the Bloom-Carroll High School Bands. It is the goal of the Director to consistently obtain and preserve the highest standard of excellence realizable by all members of this organization, and to dutifully promote the success of all efforts undertaken by members of this organization. Each year, every participant of the BCHS Band will be provided a copy of this handbook, and will fall under the guidelines set forth therein. Furthermore, it is the purpose of this handbook to familiarize students with the BC Instrumental Music Program. While serving as a summary of the entire program, this handbook also serves as a reference source for the policies and practices of the various facets of the overall instrumental music program; including any addendums to this handbook, i.e. Color Guard Policy. All attempts have been made to provide a clear understanding of the many aspects of the program. Individual questions regarding any of the policies and practices should be addressed to the Director of Bands. Be sure to use additional tools such as the band website, Facebook, remind101, etc. as they all aid in providing up-to-date information and communication from the department.

This handbook was developed, and will be revised annually, to help answer many of the most common questions of the parents and participants of the BCHS Bands. Because of the nature of the handbook, it is the responsibility of each student participant to have knowledge of the contents set forth in the handbook. This will be a valuable reference tool during the course of the school year, and a means to help avoid any confusion and misunderstanding should a question arise.

## **Tenets of the Bloom-Carroll High School Bands**

The BCHS Bands have had a long tradition of both accomplishment and distinction in our community. This tradition has been established over the course of many years, and it is the duty of every member to do his/her part in upholding this tradition. Therefore, when the BCHS Bands are in a public setting, each member will be expected to keep the following three tenets in mind.

- Regardless of the setting, there will always be at least one person watching the band's performance that has never seen any of the BCHS Bands. These people will make all of their personal judgments on the band, our school, our community, and everyone associated with us based on this one performance, and in the manner that we conduct ourselves.
- At all times, every member of the BCHS Bands, the Band Staff, and chaperones fall under the guidelines as established by our school board, school handbook, and band handbook. All of the normal school guidelines and procedures will be followed in addition to those found in this handbook and its addendums.
- The current members of the BCHS Bands are but the very middle "link-in-the-chain" of an outstanding tradition of excellence. We must at all times strive to properly maintain our image, and the standards of excellence which have previously been established for us, and also those which are currently being established by us.

If you will constantly act with these things in mind, and follow your own good common sense, you will be proud of your accomplishments and build pride within the school and community.

## PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

The BCHS Instrumental Music Department is dedicated to providing each student musician with an enjoyable comprehensive musical learning experience. It is vital to both the ensembles and to the musicians that the band program has continuity. The marching band, pep band and symphonic band are all basically the same band: The BCHS Band. Students are required to be in all of these ensembles. This is vital because it ensures the proper instrumentation for each ensemble and that each student is continuing to develop his/her musical skills in a variety of settings. It also provides the student with a well-rounded education of instrumental music and promotes unity and morale within the department.

**Symphonic Band** – This ensemble exposes the student musician to a different genre of music in the concert setting. Symphonic Band focuses on the progressive development of each musician through the study of musical skills such as ear-training, sight-reading, tone quality, and technique. The skills developed in this ensemble will enhance each ensemble's performance ability. Performances are scheduled throughout the year.

**Marching Band** – This ensemble focuses on marching techniques, visual and musical interpretations of the music striving to entertain the audience as well as perfecting each performance. The marching band performs at all high school football games and at select community performances, competitions, and parades. Rehearsals are in the summer and after school in the fall.

**Jazz Ensembles** - Each ensemble exposes the musician to the true American art form of jazz. The ensembles will study jazz at a variety of levels and perform jazz music from several eras. The musicians learn new skills in articulation, interpretation, phrasing, listening, and improvisation. Rehearsals are after school when marching band concludes with performances scheduled throughout the remainder of the year.

**Color Guard** – This group provides the visual effect of the marching band. The members of the Color Guard are selected each year through audition. Members must be enrolled in the Auxiliary Course and abide by the regulations of this handbook and the Color Guard Policy Guideline Addendum. The Color Guard performs as part of the marching band and may make additional appearances throughout the year.

**Pep Band** - This group provides entertainment at boys' home basketball games. This ensemble may be comprised of two equal ensembles to maintain musical excellence while providing a more relaxed schedule for the student musician.

# UNIFORM INFORMATION

## FULL UNIFORM

The full uniform is worn at all major performances including football games, competitions, Fairfield County Parade of Bands, and parades after Labor Day. The full uniform is an expensive item furnished by the Music Boosters. Each band member must take full responsibility for the care of the uniform issued to his/her. The full uniform consists of the following: **Payment for these items can be made by QR code, or by check/ money order made payable to the BC Music Boosters. If you would like to pay by cash, a designated day will be announced so that you can pay the booster treasurer in person.**

## BAND MEMBERS

- Uniform coat (furnished by the Music Boosters)
- Uniform pants (furnished by the Music Boosters)
- Uniform hat (furnished by the Music Boosters)
- Plume (furnished by the Music Boosters, issued before each performance)
- Black marching band shoes (purchased through the Music Boosters)
- Black cotton gloves (purchased through the Music Boosters)
- Black calf-length socks for fall uniform/ankle length for summer uniform.
- Marching Bulldog T-Shirts (required for band members, optional for color guard to be worn under Fall Uniform (purchased through the Music Boosters)
- Raincoat (furnished by the Music Boosters)
- Garment Bag (purchased through the Music Boosters)
- Ponchos (purchased through the Music Boosters)
- Band Toboggan (purchased through the Music Boosters)
- Band Ball Hat (purchased through the Music Boosters)
- T-Shirt (purchased through the Music Boosters)

## COLOR GUARD MEMBERS

- Color Guard members will receive more specific information regarding the uniform and warm-ups from the Color Guard Advisor.
- Color Guard Warm-ups (purchased through the Color Guard Advisor)
- Raincoat (furnished by the Music Boosters)
- Garment Bag (purchased through the Music Boosters)
- Band Ball Hat (purchased through the Music Boosters)
- Band Toboggan Hat (purchased through the Music Boosters)
- Band T-Shirt (purchased through the Music Boosters)

## SUMMER UNIFORMS

- Polo shirt (purchased through the Music Boosters)
- **Shorts – Please furnish your own non-torn, acceptable length (per HS handbook) khaki shorts. No cargo shorts, please.**
- Band shoes (purchased through the Music Boosters)
- Black athletic socks (ankle-length, no stripes or additional colors)
- Black belt
- Band Ball Hat (purchased through the Music Boosters)

## GENERAL FULL UNIFORM INFORMATION

- **Students will be fitted so that extra room is available in the coat and bibbers.** This is to allow extra clothing in cold weather and room to maneuver while sitting, standing, marching, etc. *These items should not fit like a pair of jeans and a t-shirt.* Hats will be fitted tightly as to not fall off while being worn.
- **Band members are required to wear shorts and the Marching Band T-Shirt underneath the full uniform at all times!** This is to help absorb perspiration that can cause damage to the material; accommodate changing on the buses; allow for uniformity on the practice field, in the stands, while traveling, and to avoid any embarrassing situations should a student become injured or ill and needs to remove his/her coat and pants. *Jeans are not permitted to be worn under the full uniform because they will damage the uniform pants.*
- **When you are in full or summer uniform, wear it in its entirety, appropriately snapped, buttoned, shirt tucked in, etc.**
- Students are to be in full uniform (performance ready) when they disembark from the bus unless otherwise instructed by staff.
- **Uniforms should always be transported in the band issued garment bag. However, uniform should not be STORED in any bag.**
- No makeup, finger nail polish, jewelry, watches, or other visible accessories are to be worn with any uniform. Do not plan to get your ears pierced during the marching season, for you will not be able to keep rings in to keep the holes open.
- NO PDA (Public Display of Affection) of any kind is appropriate while in uniform or at any time the band is officially assembled.
- No eating, drinking, or chewing gum while in uniform unless prior approval has been given.
- ***The uniform that has been assigned to you, is your responsibility at all times. Take pride in wearing the uniform and care for it as well. Lost and/or damaged uniforms may result in fees up to the full replacement of the uniform (\$550.00)***
- Students should maintain equipment by properly labeling items with their name. On masking tape, students should write their names and place on hat box and inside hat, making sure not to cover the inside silver hat number.
- Hangers! Students are responsible for the hanger they were given with their uniform.
- Duffel Bag: Students should provide a small duffel bag and carry to all performances. This will provide storage of personal items, band raincoat, extra gloves, black socks, and band shoes.
- Hair Accessories: When using hair accessories while in uniform, please use only black items, i.e. headbands, bobby pins, and hairbands.

Webster's definition of (uniform) is:

- always the same
- have the same form, appearance, manner, etc.; not varying among themselves; conforming to a given standard; always alike.

## **BAND MEMBERS IN OTHER HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

If you are in another school activity, please keep in mind that every effort will be made by the director and Coach to not put the student athlete/musician in the middle. However, it is the responsibility of the student to make sure that each leader has the schedule of the other, and any possible time conflicts, well in advance. It is expected that a student involved in multiple activities give an equal amount of effort to each activity so that he/she can remain a contributing member to each. The family of students involved in multiple activities must also realize the added responsibility that goes with making sure the students are where they need to be for each activity.

All attempts will be made to avoid scheduling problems, but occasionally a conflict may arise between band and an extra-curricular school activity. At that time, the director and the activity advisor will make every attempt to resolve the conflict without "placing the student in the middle." However, to make any decision, the director must be notified of the problem well in advance. ***PLEASE COMMUNICATE WITH ALL PARTIES INVOLVED.***

## **INSTRUMENT SUPPLIES**

All students are expected to purchase and use the necessary supplies needed for proper use and maintenance of their instrument. These supplies are available at a local music store.

## **INSTRUMENT REPAIR**

NEVER should a student or parent attempt any instrument repairs; no matter how small or easy they may seem. This particularly applies to school owned instruments. Doing so may make the instrument unplayable. Any problems with an instrument should be brought to the attention of the band director so that arrangements can be made for repairs.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Fundraising projects are necessary in order to provide the funds needed to operate the band program. All students are expected to participate in all such activities. This is only fair in view of the fact that these projects provide funds for the purchasing and upkeep of all school owned instruments, music, awards, additional supplies, etc. from which every band member benefits. ***Funds submitted for all fundraising activities must be in a check or money order made payable to the BC Music Boosters. Cash will not be accepted!***

## **CHAPERONES**

The director usually needs chaperones for just about every band event. Although he can only use a limited amount at one time, he strongly encourages the parents to become involved. If you are interested, please look over our calendar, complete the district's volunteer form/requirements, and see the director a.s.a.p. If there are any parents that would like to assist with the pit crew, equipment trailer, etc., please see the director.

## **BAND TRAVEL**

Board-approved transportation is provided for all band members. All band members shall travel to and from events by means of this transportation. Only the parent/guardian may transport his/her own child from an event. Written permission must be given to the band director by the parent/guardian prior to going to the event, informing him that their child is returning from at the conclusion of the event with the parent/guardian. Face-to-face contact with Mr. Falvo is required prior to the student leaving with his/her parent/guardian after an event. Mr. Falvo takes the responsibility of safety of your child very seriously and requires strict adherence to this guideline.

# **BLOOM CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL BANDS / COLOR GUARD**

## **CLASS SYLLABUS**

### **TEXTBOOK**

Music literature will be chosen by the director and will be distributed to the students. This music literature is the property of the Bloom Carroll Music Department and will be turned in by each student when we have completed each piece. The student is responsible for the music issued to him/her.

### **OVERVIEW**

The high school band program exposes the musicians to an enjoyable learning experience. This course offers the student musician a challenging and exciting journey through several genres of band literature, while giving the student the opportunity to maximize his/her musical potential. This class is a performance-based course that **requires individual preparation as well as the development of the ensemble.**

### **EXPECTATIONS**

The student musician is expected to put forth a 110% effort toward the improvement of his/her musical ability on an individual and ensemble basis. This can be accomplished by individual rehearsal time as well as scheduled ensemble rehearsals.

### **COURSE RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Playing Tests, Routine Assessments / Uniform Inspections
2. All Concerts/Performances
3. Rehearsal Attendance
4. After-school rehearsals (the majority for marching band) are vital for preparation of community performances & competitions. These rehearsals are also graded rehearsals.

### **CLASS CONDUCT**

1. No talking during rehearsal.
2. No gum, food, or drink in the band room and/or auditorium.
3. No cell phones during rehearsal/performances.
4. Always have a pencil! Pencil markings **ONLY** on music literature.
5. Abide by the rules in the Bloom-Carroll Student Handbook.
6. Abide by the rules of the Bloom-Carroll Band Handbook.
7. Put Forth A Good Effort Every Day!



## GRADING POLICY / ATTENDANCE

Students are graded/evaluated on an individual basis based on their ability, attitude, attire, and attendance of all rehearsals and performances. The absence of one person not only affects that person, but also the entire group. The critical factors of uniformity, balance, precision, spacing, and alignment can not be maintained or improved with absences. Band members rely on each other for these things as well as psychological support. *(A band/guard member found not to be prepared on the above criteria, may not be permitted to perform. This will be at the discretion of the director.)*

Every effort is made by the director to schedule these events in advance. Excused absences include:

1. extreme illness
2. death in the family
3. authorized school absence

**WORK IS NOT AN EXCUSED ABSENCE!!** You must arrange your work schedule so that it allows you to attend all band functions as scheduled. If you have an emergency and must miss a practice or performance, you must notify the director **BEFORE** that rehearsal or performance takes place. This notification after you missed a function will not be considered an excused absence. All cases concerning absences must be verified by your parent/guardian via the **band absence form** on the band's website (under the Forms link.)

In the event that a student withdraws from the band program, all school-owned instruments, fundraiser monies, and uniforms must be turned in. If the outstanding items are not returned within **30 days**, the parent/guardian will be responsible for the replacement costs of all outstanding items.

### **Responsibility of the Student to the Program**

1. Be regular in attendance to all rehearsals and all public performances.
2. Make a concerted effort to contribute, learn and improve on a daily basis.
3. Be responsible for yourself, other members of the Program, facilities, and equipment.
4. Follow all designed guidelines of both the school and the band program.
5. Have fun as we strive toward musical excellence.

### **Responsibility of the Program to the Student**

1. To provide each student with the proper facilities and equipment that will aid in the development of the individual's ability level and personal expectations.
2. To provide a regular and carefully planned set of objectives which pertain to the BCHS Band Program on a daily, seasonal, and yearly basis.
3. To provide each member with a broad, non-exclusive music education that will be deeply rooted in a lifelong approach to the enjoyment of music performance and appreciation.
4. To suspend and/or remove any person in the program that chooses not to follow the guidelines and negatively affects the experience for the entire group.



All band members and parents/guardians are expected to follow the guidelines established in this handbook. They must also understand that in compiling a handbook of this nature, it is impossible to include every possible circumstance that may arise while a student is a member of the band. Those extraordinary circumstances that may arise will be dealt with on an individual manner at that time.

Students and parents/guardians unwilling to comply with the band requirements will be jeopardizing the student(s) participation in the Bloom-Carroll Instrumental Music Program.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions concerning the band program.

Thank you for your support! I look forward to another exciting year of music-making!

Mr. Falvo

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