



Welcome to the Betsy Band!

Participation in an organization such as this will provide opportunities for you to take part in concerts, competitions, trips, and other events. These activities will greatly enrich your high school life. The guidelines in this handbook will help us better work together and create outstanding performances. Being a part of the band is a positive experience you will never forget!

Please read this handbook carefully. By enrolling in the marching band, you agree to the information listed in this handbook, and to be the best band member, parent, volunteer that you can possibly be for this amazing team!

Director: Jonathan Valentine – Jonathan.valentine@ecschools.net – phone Ext. 1542

DID YOU KNOW?



- ◆ *High school music students score higher on SATs in both verbal and math than their peers*
- ◆ *Music lessons boost a child's capacity for verbal memory*
- ◆ *Students who were exposed to music-based courses scored higher on fractions tests than those who learned in the conventional manner*
- ◆ *Music majors are the most likely group of college grads to be admitted to medical school*
- ◆ *Data from the National Educational Study showed that music participants received more academic honors and awards than non-music students*
- ◆ *Research shows that instrumental students are better equipped to comprehend mathematical and scientific concepts*
- ◆ *College-age students who studied music are emotionally healthier than their non-musician counterparts and less likely to have substance abuse problems*
- ◆ *A ten-year study, tracking more than 25,000 students, shows that music courses improve overall test scores and boost problem solving skills*
- ◆ *"The nation's top business executives agree that arts education programs can help repair weaknesses in American education and better prepare workers for the 21st century."*

"The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather in a lack of will."

Vincent Lombardi

"You are what you repeatedly do.

Excellence, then, is not an act but a HABIT"

OBJECTIVES OF THE BAND PROGRAM



- *To teach instrumental music education through performance*
- *To develop valuable life skills*
- *To develop performance skills and techniques*
- *To develop leadership skills*
- *To provide an ensemble/group experience requiring commitment*
- *To be a source of pride and ambassador for the entire community*

SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF BAND

Teamwork- *No matter what you do in life, working together is essential. Band is a great way to work as a group and learn to reach goals.*

Extracurricular- *Colleges and Universities are impressed when students have participated and completed four years in activities such as marching band. Most scholarship applications require participation in extra-curricular activities.*

Life Skills- *Students learn dedication, commitment, perseverance, acceptance and responsibility (to name a few). These are necessary skills for life no matter what you choose as a career.*

Friendships- *Many band members make friendships that last. Most students will tell you that the band is their second family. Students will find a group to be part of – band is much better than running with the wrong crowd.*

Leadership- *Students learn to become excellent leaders through performance and activities.*

Time Management Skills- *You learn how to manage your time and make the most of it.*

FUN!!!

Don't forget we have lots of fun in Band. We play all kinds of music and have a great time no matter where we are.

Betsy Band State Championships

State Champions: 2010, 2012, 2013, 2016

Western Carolina – Reserve Grand Champions!

Only two nationally successful programs beat the band last year!

Will you be a part of the next state championship band!?

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BETSY BAND?

Rising 10-12th By Director Recommendation

Rising 9th By Director Recommendation

Rising 8th By invitation

Percussion- By Audition

Color Guard- By Audition (Auditions in April)

HERE ARE SOME KEY FACTORS IN TAKING OUR BAND TO THE NEXT LEVEL:

Be at practice: *Every member is part of a giant machine- just one person missing throws everything off (and also hurts the success of others). Each student is vital to our band. Please plan your schedule so that you can be at all practices. This teaches everyone the value of commitment.*

Attitude: *This is the only thing in life that you can actually control!! Approach this as if you know it's going to change your life for the better. You may even astound yourself at what you are capable of when you put your mind to it.*

Push yourself to find your limits: *Just showing up is not enough! You'll need to learn how to work hard, give your all for yourself and your team, and be proactive instead of reactive to be the best performer that you can. Be present physically, and mentally!*

Private Lessons: *If you want to take the band to the next level, working one on one with a professional on your instrument is WAY better than being in a band room with 70+ kids at one time! Take the time to properly learn your craft!*

An awesome, well maintained instrument! *Imagine showing up to the Bristol Motor Speedway in a Prius . . . hint, you'd lose and want to quit racing forever because you think you're bad at it. Make sure that you have an instrument that is of name brand and is in good working order. Professionals can't even sound good on a cheap instrument, and if they can't, we can't.*

EHS BAND STAFF

DIRECTOR OF BANDS

Jonathan Valentine – Jonathan.valentine@ecschoools.net

DIRECTOR OF BANDS – T.A. DUGGER

Chris Lockhart – chris.lockhart@ecschoools.net

VISUAL STAFF

Director - Phil Ledford

Nathan Hargis

PERCUSSION STAFF

Director – Michael Lester

Phillip Smith

Danny Wilson

Seanna Larkins

GUARD STAFF

Director - TBA

Courtney Bowers

Danielle Melton

ADJUNCT WIND STAFF

TBA

DISTRICT CHAPERONE/NURSE

TBA

ATTENDANCE



*Unlike many other classes and activities, this group cannot function properly without every student present. Please make every effort to be present and on time for each event. Remember, “**To be early is to be on time; to be on time is to be LATE!**”*

1) ATTENDANCE AT ALL PRACTICES AND PERFORMANCES IS MANDATORY UNLESS SPECIFICALLY DEEMED OPTIONAL BY THE STAFF! Attendance is 50% of grade!

2) Students should be in their spot ready to begin with all necessary music and/or equipment when official call time begins. Students who are present, but not ready, will be considered late. Students who arrive late without a valid excuse will be assigned extra training or other consequences.

3) An unexcused absence from practice or performance may be grounds for dismissal from the marching band (or cause a student to lose their full-time spot). A doctor's excuse is required for a performance missed due to illness.

*4) **Non-emergency** dentist, doctor and counselor appointments will **not** be considered an excused absence. Please schedule regular appointments at a non-band time.*

5) In case of bad weather, report to the band room or call time location and wait for further instruction. Do not assume cancellation unless an official staff member calls you or if it's posted by a director online.

*6) If a student is absent from school, they will be excused from band practice on that day. If a student is present at school, they are expected to attend band practice and will not be excused from any after school rehearsals. **AT SCHOOL = AT PRACTICE.***

7) Absences for the reasons listed below will be excused provided the directors are notified well in advance when possible. Please email the director and discuss this with them outside of practice time.

- Illness (Doctor's note needed for missed performance)*
- Marriage in the immediate family (2 month notice required)*
- Death in the immediate family*

Extenuating circumstances, such as church-related events or family situations will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. They must be discussed well in advance with the directors (the more advance notice, the better chances of it being excused)

8) Not having a ride is not an excuse. Please plan ahead and carpool if necessary.

9) Students with excessive tardiness and absences to school and/or rehearsals (excused or not) run the risk of being moved to a rotator position. The band directors will decide when and if they return to a starting position. Rotator positions are explained later in this handbook.

10) Most absences can be avoided by planning ahead. Check your band schedule because...

Your attendance is vital to the success of the entire band!



Football Game Responsibilities

- I. Before each event there will be a “call time.” This is the time you are to be ready in your designated spot to begin. We will have an inspection to check uniforms, instruments, and other equipment to be sure they are in proper condition. We will then do a very short rehearsal/warm up to get ready for the performance.
- II. The band will enter and exit the stadium together as instructed.
- III. Each section will have a designated area in the stands.
- IV. Only Band Members and staff will be allowed to sit in the band section. (only special circumstances with permission from the head director will others be allowed) Alumni must have permission from the band staff to enter the band section.
- V. Be in proper uniform at all times unless otherwise instructed by the staff.
- VI. Do not play instruments when the band is not playing together.
Section/group stands songs need to be approved by the staff before the game.
- VII. If a student must leave the band section for an emergency, please notify a staff member to get permission.
- VIII. Restroom breaks will be given during the game. You must be back in your assigned area by the designated time.
- IX. As a representative of your school, everyone is expected to act in a way that reflects positively upon our school, band, and community. Demonstrate that the band kids are ALWAYS the best kids in the school!



Equipment Required for performances and practices

- 1) Three-Ring Binder notebook with show music/warm ups/hand-outs (will be provided)
- 2) Instruments and any needed accessories/equipment
- 3) Flip folder and lyre
- 4) All music-- if we get rained out we may come inside and work on music (provided)
- 5) Water Cooler- during warm weather a personal water cooler is essential (you provide)

PEP BAND EVENTS

Sometimes we schedule a pep band performance for away games, small events, or parades. We will post a sign-up sheet with balanced small group instrumentation, usually 35-40 spots, about two weeks before each pep band event. Upperclassmen will be able to sign up first as a privilege. A final list of students participating will be posted before each event. These events do not include the full band in order to give students a break for family time and save on full band transportation costs.

Warm Weather “Summer” Uniform

- 1) Tennis shoes*
- 2) Khaki shorts* (must meet school code...**no Daisy Dukes!**)
- 3) Band Show T-shirt (provided)
- 4) NO-show ankle socks - NO Flip flops or sandals.

***Must be provided by the student. Most of you may already have these items at home. If not, area department stores carry these inexpensive items. Summer uniform will be worn for some events during early season such as meet the Betsy Band and early season football games.**

AFTER SCHOOL PRACTICE

Tentative times for after school practices (From start of school until State)

- Full band on each Monday & Thursday from 5:30-8:30
- Percussion will practice Tuesdays - 6-8pm as needed (MUCH less than previous years!)
- Color Guard will practice Tuesdays – 6-8pm as needed

Start and end times for all after school rehearsals will be finalized once the school bell schedule for next year is set. Regular appointments such as dentist, doctor, therapy, etc. should be scheduled around band practice. Please make the commitment to be at every rehearsal so that we have a chance to succeed. Championships are won at practice! Each rehearsal is vital to our success.



***“Do not follow where
the path may lead...
Go instead where
there is no path
and leave a trail”***

George Bernard Shaw



RULES AND GUIDELINES



Always follow School District rules while at any band function. See school handbook For a detailed list of school/district rules.

Each member should show respect for staff, band boosters and student leaders at all times. The reasonable requests of band boosters, officers and staff members should be honored without question.

Have a good attitude! Always give your best! We can't control what others think of us, only how we respond to it. Always choose to be positive!

Students are not to enter any part of the school or building not being utilized by the band when school is not in session.

Keep areas utilized by the band neat and clean. Discard all trash. No food or drink in the band room without permission. Do not leave non-essential items out in the band room. Please keep those materials in your locker, vehicle or proper storage area. Let's keep the best band room in East Tennessee looking great.

The band room will open at least 20 minutes prior to any call time. The band room will close 30 minutes after the end of rehearsal or return times- Students should allow 10-15 minutes following each rehearsal to put up their instrument and/or equipment. In other words---if practice is scheduled to end at 4pm...students will probably take until 4:15pm to put up their equipment and get to their ride. Students who have an unexcused tardy will need time to stay for extra-training.

Extra-Training – is a 20 min. session following each rehearsal in which students give extra practice to make up for being late or causing any discipline problem during practice. Band staff will make decisions on whether or not it's appropriate for a student to attend this session.

Do not touch play an instrument that does not belong to you on school grounds without permission (this includes color guard and electronic equipment)

Follow all classroom rules and guidelines issued for trips

No unnecessary noise or talking while rehearsal is in progress.

"Hazing" of students (including rookies) is never permitted.

It is not possible to list every delinquent action. Please use your common sense and remember that we are representing our school and community

Students who follow the rules and work hard are the students that enjoy band the most. Try your best to be one of these students!

BAND STAFF (BEFORE AND AFTER PRACTICE)

If you need to schedule a time to speak with a band staff member please email or call and schedule a time. The band staff will be off limits before, during and after practice. During those times the staff is busy focusing on giving the students our undivided attention. Unless it is an emergency, please set up a time to speak with them during a time that does not conflict with practice. We care about whatever you need to discuss, we just want to be able to focus on the students before, during and after practice. Thank you for your understanding.

ROTATOR POSITIONS

There will be a few students who march in rotator positions. These spots are special training positions for students who are not quite ready to march at competitions, or miss a significant portion of band camp, early rehearsals, competitions, or who have other extra-curricular events that prevent them from practicing with us. For those who are just physically not ready (i.e. two left feet ☺), this is almost always is a one-year thing. Those students mature physically and mentally over the course of the year and often comeback as if they are pros!

These students will march pregame, perform in the stands, pep rallies, concerts and be a part of the competition show in some capacity. Rotators are expected to attend all practices and performances (including competitions) and are considered full members of the band.

During band practice and early season football games rotator students will march in the field drill and play all the music that the band plays. Once competition season starts in late September, they will spend some practice/performance time helping with field props, sound system or other aspect involved with the performance. Some students may march a portion of the half-time show and help with props during another portion. The staff will determine this based on individual ability.

ROTATOR POSITIONS ARE TEMPORARY AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY POINT DURING MARCHING SEASON (EVEN THE DAY OF A COMPETITION)

In years past, many students who started as rotators earned a full-time spot by the end of the season. Just like a sports team, the starting positions can change at any moment based on performance. Usually, about 5-10% of the band will be in rotator positions at any given time. This type of position is standard in most band programs and it is common for students who start out as rotators to become leaders and officers for the band in the future.

MARCHING BAND EXPENSES

Unfortunately, we have picked an expensive hobby! Our student fees only cover about 1/3 of the operating cost for one single season of competitive marching band. The more money we are able to raise, the less that each student will have to pay out of pocket. This is why we need parents to help out with the concessions. But trust me, what you invest will show dividends as your student goes out into the world as a better person because of marching band!

Our cost is minimal considering most band programs of our level charge \$600 to \$1200 to participate in marching band. Please volunteer to help with booster club so that we can continue to keep our out-of-pocket costs down through fundraising.

UNIFORM DEPOSIT + BAND CAMP FEE + TRIP FEE = \$355

The Betsy band will be participating in fall trips to North Carolina, Knoxville, and other local competitions and football games. The band will also compete for a state championship in Nashville, TN each fall. This trip includes a charter bus transportation, some meals, and a night's stay at a local hotel. This is not optional! If we don't pay our fees, we may not be able to get charter buses, or get a hotel room, or even go at all! An application for help may be provided for those who have financial hardship.

Checks should be made payable to the Elizabethton Band Boosters

FEE PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

<i>April 26th</i>	<i>\$50</i>
<i>July 25th</i>	<i>\$100</i>
<i>Aug. 18th</i>	<i>\$50</i>
<i>Sept. 15th</i>	<i>\$50</i>
<i>Oct. 13th</i>	<i>\$50</i>
<i>Nov. 3rd</i>	<i>\$55</i>

If you need to work out a different payment plan than this, please contact the band booster club treasurer. We are more than willing to work with anyone due to any financial situations. We are happy to make accommodations if needed and this information will be kept confidential.

BAND SHOES

New members to the band will be required to buy new shoes this fall. Once you own them, you will be able to keep them for the duration of your marching career, if you keep them in good shape. We are wearing a more athletic shoe than in years past, and uniformity is essential! Please make sure you budget properly to purchase these shoes by August. Shoes are usually \$48 and are paid for at band camp directly to Music Doctors. They are required for the first football game.

Returning Members: *Hopefully you still have your shoes in good condition, otherwise you will need to purchase a new pair at band camp!*

SUMMARY OF MARCHING BAND EXPENSES:

Expense	Total	Due	Checks Payable to:
<i>Uniform Deposit</i>	<i>\$50</i>	<i>April 26th at spring Mini-Camp</i>	<i>Eliz Band Booster</i>
<i>Band Camp</i>	<i>\$100</i>	<i>See payment schedule</i>	<i>Eliz Band Booster</i>
<i>Fall Trip fee</i>	<i>\$205</i>	<i>See payment schedule</i>	<i>Eliz Band Booster</i>
<i>Band Shoes</i>	<i>\$48</i>	<i>By Aug 15th Fitted at band camp w/ gloves (\$6 per pair)</i>	<i>Music Doctors</i>

No refunds will be given after Aug. 1

The band fee and trip fees are required to participate in the Betsy Band because the fall competition trips are required and not optional.

*Only checks, money orders or credit card payments will be accepted for any payments
Please do not send cash.*

Color Guard/percussion students may have some additional expenses.

Some examples of some items that can be covered by the marching band fee, fundraising and the booster club:

- Summer Uniform T-Shirt
- Staff for small group instruction
- Equipment for the students to perform with
- Custom Designed Drill for the show
- Custom Arranged Music for the show
- Stands music for football games
- Clinicians for the marching band season
- Some transportation to away football games & competitions
- Use of Band Uniform Jacket
- Use of Band Uniform hat
- Use of Band Uniform Plume
- Use of Band Uniform pants
- Lyres for brass and woodwind players
- Drum-heads/supplies for Percussion
- Flip folders for brass, percussion and woodwind students
- Supplies for the band (including color guard flags and costumes)
- Sound system equipment
- Technology items for the band program
- Competition registration fees
- Newsletter/info packs/communication expenses
- Band Awards Night: awards, medals, etc .
- ***And much, much more***

FUND-RAISING

We have several fundraisers to help cover our full budget. Without these fundraisers, we would not have such a low band fee (MOST BOA SCHOOLS OF OUR CALIBUR CHARGE \$600-\$1200 TO PARTICIPATE). Students will be expected to help with fundraisers that occur during the year. If we all do our part the fundraising can help keep our individual costs down. Successful fundraising allows us to compete and participate in all that we do. Please make every effort to do your part during every fundraiser. Fundraiser details will be provided in newsletters and on the band web site during the year.

Our primary means of fundraising is our concessions! Everyone should sign up to work at least 1-3 events over the calendar year in concessions stand at either EHS or TAD to do their fair share!

SECTION SHIRTS/HOODIES/APPAREL

Some sections decide on their own that they want to design and purchase T Shirts, Hoodies and other items to show their pride. Although we do not discourage this... **Students are NOT required to purchase extra section apparel.**

Any section that would like to purchase section apparel must:

- Have a parent that is in charge of collecting money and ordering the items
- **Have a design approved by the band staff** (if it has anything to do with the school/band we are required to have it approved)
- **ALL STUDENTS IN THE SECTION MUST BE CURRENT WITH THEIR BAND FEE PAYMENTS FOR A SECTION TO ORDER ANY "EXTRA" ITEMS SUCH AS SHIRTS OR HOODIES**

SCHOOL STORAGE /EQUIPMENT

- 1.) Always show care towards school owned equip, whether it is checked out to you or not. We do not charge a rental fee for using school owned instruments.
- 2.) Anyone using school equipment will be responsible for any damage caused to that instrument while it is checked out to them.
- 3.) Any instrument or personal items left on school grounds or in a storage area is done so at your own risk. It is not possible for the staff to monitor these areas at all times. Valuables should be locked in a locker.
- 4.) Keeping your name clearly marked on your instrument case with a name tag discourages any problems.
- 5.) Do not play or touch any instrument that does not belong to you without permission from the director that day.
- 6.) Do not touch Color Guard or Percussion equipment that does not belong to you without permission from the staff that day.

Final note from the Band Directors:

This handbook includes a ton of information and if you are feeling a little overwhelmed.....relax, because that is normal. We will have many handouts and newsletters giving more details as the season progresses. The main final thought to leave you with is...

BEING IN MARCHING BAND IS WORTH IT!

It is a positive life changing experience. Elizabethton has a very proud tradition of having a powerhouse band program. Anytime I hear from past members they light up when talking about when they were in band. It becomes clear in the first few seconds that band was a highlight of their high school years.

YOU ONLY GET TO BE IN HIGH SCHOOL ONCE! Don't let life pass you by! Every high school student should find some activities to be involved in. Band can help you develop many extra life skills needed to succeed no matter what you choose as a career.

There is nothing else like marching band. We would not have over 300 students in our district band program if it weren't something amazing. Those who make the commitment to be a part of the 2022 Betsy Band will not regret it!

Sincerely,

Band Staff

***You miss 100% of the shots you don't take.
Wayne Gretzky***

If you don't try, You will never know. Give it a shot!