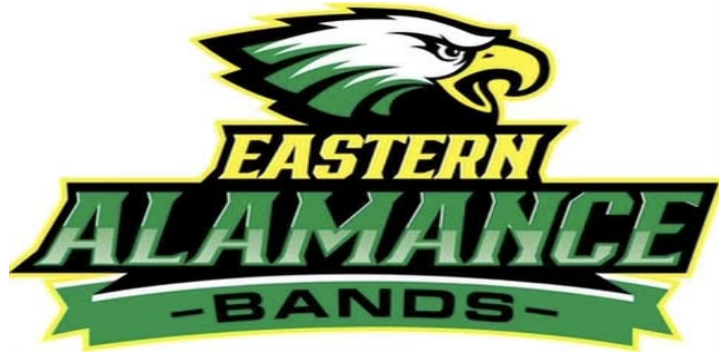




Band Handbook & Syllabus

2025-2026

Director: Mr. Ben Crofts

ben_crofts@abss.k12.nc.us

(919) 563-5991 Ext. 52486

www.eahsbands.com

Dear Parent(s), Guardian(s), and Students:

On behalf of the Band Boosters and the faculty and staff at Eastern Alamance High School, I welcome you to the Eastern Alamance High School Band Program! For those of you who are joining us for the first time, welcome!! For those of you who have been part of this organization before, we are very glad to have you back!!

Please consider this handbook to be your “survival guide” to band. Everyone involved with this band program wants to see it succeed at a high level, and I want every member of this band program to be successful. The expectations and information laid out in this handbook will ensure that we continue to move in a positive and successful direction throughout the school year.

In this handbook, you will find expectations, policies, and procedures related to the function and success of the Eastern Alamance High School Band Program. Please take time to read this material thoroughly, as the success of this program depends on every individual working towards the same goals. Please sign the acknowledgement form in the back of this handbook and return it to me.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me by phone (919-563-5991 Ext. 52486) or by staff e-mail (ben_crotts@abss.k12.nc.us). I look forward to the musical success of each and every student, and continuing to grow the Eastern Alamance Band in a manner which reflects the high standards of Eastern Alamance High School, and most importantly the parents and students who make up this band.

Sincerely,

Ben Crotts

Ben Crotts
Director of Bands
Eastern Alamance High School

General Information about Offered Ensembles

Marching Band (Extra-Curricular): This band performs at pre-game and half-time ceremonies during each football game, various marching band competitions around the state on Saturdays in September, October, and November, area parades, and some away games. There are after-school rehearsals every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 4:00-6:30p.m. In order to participate in Marching Band, students must be enrolled in the correct class for their instrument (percussion ensemble, symphonic band, concert band) during the Fall Semester to be eligible to participate.

Percussion Ensemble (4th Block S1, 1st Block S2): Percussion Ensemble is a class designed for students in grades 9-12 that play a percussion instrument and will consist of all percussionists at Eastern Alamance High School. These students will learn and perform music specifically written for a high school percussion ensemble as well as learning percussion parts for the other band classes in preparation for joint and combined performances. Attendance at any after school rehearsals to prepare for these performances are required. Students must be enrolled in this class in order to participate in any extracurricular activities offered during the current semester.

Symphonic Band (3rd Block S1, 4th Block S2): Symphonic Band is offered to students in grades 9-12 who play a woodwind or brass instrument. These classes will consist of all instrumentalists at Eastern Alamance High School. These students will learn and perform music specifically for advanced level instrumentalists. Attendance at any after school rehearsals to prepare for these performances are required. Students must be enrolled in this class in order to participate in any extracurricular activities that are offered for the current semester.

Concert Band (1st Block S1, 3rd Block S2): Concert Band is offered to students in grades 9-12 who play a woodwind or brass instrument. These classes will consist of all instrumentalists at Eastern Alamance High School. These students will learn and perform music specifically for advanced level instrumentalists. Attendance at any after school rehearsals to prepare for these performances are required. Students must be enrolled in this class in order to participate in any extracurricular activities that are offered for the current semester.

All rehearsals, concerts, and performances are mandatory for all band members. Any rehearsals to prepare for concerts will be announced a minimum of three weeks in advance, attendance at these is required. A detailed schedule will be shared by Mr. Crotts via email with specific start and end times prior to each performance.

Dates for First Semester Band Performances ([Band Google Calendar Linked Here](#))

Thursday November 6th: Fall Concert for All Band Students, 6:30p.m. Report Time (Students), 7:00 Performances begin in Eastern Alamance Auditorium

Tuesday December 16th: Winter Concert for All Band Students, 6:00p.m. Report Time (Students), 7:15p.m. Performances begin in Eastern Alamance Auditorium

Dates for Second Semester Band Performances

Tuesday March 3rd: MPA (Music Performance Adjudication) Preview Concert Performance at Cedar Ridge High School. This event is sanctioned by the North Carolina Bandmasters Association, and this concert is a preview to help us prepare, and allow families and friends to hear the music we are working on across all of our classes. Students participating in MPA (4th Block Band, Selected Students from 3rd and 1st Blocks) will perform.

Wednesday, March 18th: MPA Performance at Cedar Ridge High School. Students participating will report to the bandroom during the school day to rehearse, eat lunch (provided), load the trailer, depart for Cedar Ridge, perform, and return to EAHS. A schedule to participating students and families will be shared in early March, as soon as it is available to Mr. Crotts.

Tuesday, March 24th: Concert for Band Students in 1st and 3rd Block Classes, 6:30p.m. report time (students), 7:00 Performances begin in Eastern Alamance Auditorium

Thursday May 21st: Spring Concert for All Band Students, 6:00p.m. Report Time (Students), 7:00 Performances begin in Eastern Alamance Auditorium

Honor Band Dates/Deadlines

Tuesday, December 2nd: Pre-Registration Due for Students wishing to audition for All-District Band. Pre-registration is performing, in person or via video, your scales and solo for feedback as well as paying the audition fee of \$10.00. Audition Material is linked here: [9/10 Auditions](#) [11/12 Auditions](#)

Saturday, January 10th: All-District Auditions for Registered Students, Hawfields Middle School School (Snow Date: Saturday, January 17th, Hawfields Middle School)

Friday, January 23rd-Saturday, January 24th: All-District Band Clinic at NCSSM (Snow Dates January 30th-Saturday January 31st, NCSSM). Clinic Fee is \$35.00 per student.

Friday, February 6th: ABSS All-County Audition Videos Due (Auditions are Virtual, [Audition Material linked here](#))

Saturday, March 8th: All-State Band Auditions for Eligible Students (Location Atkins HS, Snow Date Saturday, March 15th)

ABSS All-County Band Clinic and Concert: Friday, March 13th (1:30-8:00pm) and Saturday, March 14th (9:00am-3:00pm), Southeast Alamance High School

Friday, May 2nd-Sunday, May 4th: All-State Band Clinic at UNCG

Saturday, May 30th: Annual Band Banquet at Eastern Alamance High School, 6-8pm

Expectations for Students and Parents

Performance Expectations:

1. Students should be on time for all performances. Arrival times will be communicated to all students well in advance. Being on time means being in your seat or area with your instrument and all needed materials at the designated start time.
2. Instrument and all appropriate materials should be on hand upon arrival.
3. For Concerts, all students should wear black socks and dress shoes. Male students should be in a black button up dress shirt with black pants, with shirts tucked in. Ties are optional. For female students, a black shirt or blouse with either black dress pants or a black skirt of appropriate length, or a black dress.
4. Students should be attentive and contributing to a good performance at all times.
5. Students are expected to stay and attend the concerts of all performing ensembles, not just perform in their concert and leave. This does factor into the student's individual grade.
6. Individual parts are expected to be performed at a high level of proficiency.
7. All students are expected to help move equipment and neaten the performance spaces at the conclusion of each performance.

Individual grades will be lowered one letter grade (10 points) for each/any offense during a performance.

Rehearsal Expectations:

1. Remain attentive and engaged while rehearsal is in progress.
2. Have appropriate materials in class (Pencil, Assigned Music/Technique Studies, Instrument, All Materials Needed to rehearse using your instrument)

3. No food or drink is allowed in the bandroom except bottled water.
4. No profanity, under any circumstances.
5. Respect the property of others and yourself. DO NOT touch or play another person's or school owned instrument without their permission.
6. If leaving rehearsal, students must sign in and out using the SmartPass system whenever they leave. Students are expected to use the restroom before class to maximize each day's instruction, barring emergencies.
7. No smoking or use of illegal or banned substances will be tolerated while at a school or band related rehearsal.
8. All Eastern Alamance High School and ABSS rules and policies are in effect during all band functions
9. Students should perform their music at a proficient level. This is part of each student's weekly grade and shows their proficiency of subject content at their assigned level.
10. Students are expected to work as a team and motivate each other to achieve at a high level.

Outside Practice Expectations:

1. Each student is expected to practice a minimum of 30 minutes a day outside of rehearsal, six days a week, for a total of three hours. Practice records may be used as needed to ensure students are practicing on an individual basis.

Parent Expectations:

1. Ensure that your child has transportation to and from all rehearsals, concerts, and other events.
2. Ensure that your child has their instrument, assigned music, and all other materials and supplies for them to fully participate in rehearsals daily.
3. Support your student in this musical experience. As the year goes on, students will receive more challenging music, and expectations will continue to grow as students achieve. Talk to them about their progress in rehearsals, ask them to play their music for you, and help motivate them to continue to learn, grow, improve, and take advantage of other band opportunities such as All-County, etc throughout the year.
4. Find appropriate times to conference with Mr. Crotts. All parent concerns will be addressed in an appropriate setting and at an appropriate time, and parent volunteers are greatly appreciated. Please e-mail or call to schedule an appointment to discuss ways to help or questions about the band.

5. Show respect and support at concerts. Students spend weeks preparing for one opportunity to perform. Students can not perform at their best if there are distracting noises from the audience, flashes from photography, or repeated entrances and exits during a song. If it becomes necessary to leave before the end of a concert, please do so quickly and quietly in between musical selections.

Tardies

It is understood that students enrolled in band have the responsibility of assembling an instrument for rehearsal as well as getting all needed instructional materials. Therefore, a student is considered tardy if one of the following instances occurs:

1. A student is not inside the Band Room at the sounding of the tardy bell, or
2. A student does not have their instrument fully assembled and all materials are not out two minutes after the sounding of the tardy bell or beginning of rehearsal. The director will drop the first downbeat of rehearsal exactly two minutes after the sounding of the tardy bell or beginning of rehearsal. All students are expected to be playing by this time.
3. In the event of tardies, the following steps will be taken:
 - 3 Unexcused Tardies: Parent/Guardian Contact & Documentation
 - 6 Unexcused Tardies: After-School Detention Assigned, Parent/Guardian Contact
 - 9+ Unexcused Tardies: Office Referral and ISS

Cell Phones

In accordance with North Carolina House Bill 959 (Session Law 2025-38), Alamance-Burlington School System Code of Conduct, and Board of Education Policy 4318, **Cell phones and other wireless electronic devices shall not be used during the instructional day.**

In accordance with ABSS Policy, all students will be asked to turn their phone off, or on airplane mode, and put it into a pre-assigned holder in the front of the room. Each student will have their own holder, numbered and assigned to them. The devices will remain here for the duration of the class, unless the teacher directs students to use their devices as part of class/rehearsal.

If a student does not turn in their device(s), the device will be confiscated and turned over to administration. Parent/guardian contact will be made and the incident will be documented in Educator's Handbook.

Attendance: Unlike other classes, band depends on the contributions of each and every individual student. Every student contributes a unique role, and the quality of our sound is determined in large part by the individual student being able to perform in time, in tone, and in tempo with those around them. Absences negatively impact the present students as much as the absent students. It is expected that each student be in attendance for rehearsals and performances. The following consequences will be assigned in the event of an absence considered unexcused by EAHS/ABSS:

1. Students will receive no points for any absences in daily class rehearsals if they can not demonstrate mastery of the content rehearsed in their absence. Daily slides will be created and shared in CANVAS to help students know what is being rehearsed if they are absent. Students may make up missed time by staying after-school or during Eagle Time to practice for full credit restoration, or by sending a recording of them performing the music rehearsed in their absence.
2. A student will receive a grade of 0 for missing any after-school rehearsal announced by Mr. Crotts or that is listed in the handbook. These grades may not be made up.
3. If a student is absent from a concert or performance, they will have the option to make that performance up. The make-up assignment will be linked in CANVAS and consist of individually playing all of their assigned concert music as well as a two page essay to be scored separately.

Expectations for Tests/Written Assignments:

1. Any missed test/assignment must be made up within five days of the student's return to school. It is the responsibility of the student to seek out Mr. Crotts and schedule a time of mutual convenience for this.
2. Corrections may be done to any written/homework assignment. Students must also provide an explanation of what they missed and what they learned in making their correction to receive the points. Any playing test may be made up within 7 days of the student receiving their grade.
3. All tests and assignments should be completed and turned in on the date assigned by the teacher. One letter grade will be removed per day of tardiness.

Grading Percentages

Tests (50%): Band Concerts, After-School Rehearsals, Festivals, Performances, etc will be listed under this category and will count 50% of the student's grade. These grades are earned through demonstrating proficiency of the following: performing with characteristic tone, correct pitch, correct articulation and rhythmic values, intonation, phrasing, shaping, blend, balance, and rhythmic accuracy. Any student who is absent from a concert will need to complete the make-up assignment linked in CANVAS before the end of the grading period. Failure to submit the make-up assignment will result in a grade of "0" entered for that individual student.

Performance Tasks (30%): Any formal written tests, individual SmartMusic Assignments, individual recordings assignments (Pass-Offs), will be listed under this category and will count 30% of the students grade. SmartMusic Assignments will be scored by the system and reviewed by Mr. Crotts for any necessary changes. All other assignments will be scored by Mr. Crotts on a rubric specifically designed for the individual assignment, based on characteristic tone, correct pitch, correct articulation and rhythmic values, intonation, phrasing, etc and can be accessed through CANVAS.

Classwork (20%): Weekly rehearsal grades (assessed on the rubric on the following page, 20 points per day), any informal written assignments or assignments posted in CANVAS will be listed under this category and count 20% of the students grade. Any assignments in CANVAS will be scored on the specific criteria listed in the assignment directions.

Final Exam: Each student's final exam grade will be their average grade from the concerts during that semester. If there are no concerts during a semester, then the final exam will be made by Mr. Crotts that reviews all material covered during the semester. All EAHS policies regarding Final Exam, including exemptions, are in place for the Final Exam for each band student.

Weekly Rehearsal Rubric

<u>Daily Work</u>	<u>Always (4)</u>	<u>Frequently (3)</u>	<u>Sometimes (2)</u>	<u>Rarely (1)</u>	<u>Absent (0)</u>
Perform with Characteristic Tone Quality	Student always performs with a tone that is characteristic of their instrument and ability level. Student is able to center and play pitches in tune. Correct posture and breathing are always evident, and the instrument is always held correctly.	Student frequently performs with a tone that is characteristic of their instrument and ability level, with minor lapses and flaws during the rehearsal. Most pitches are centered and in tune throughout the rehearsal. Posture and breathing are evident with minor lapses/flaws.	Student shows characteristic tone at times during the rehearsal, but more work is needed to improve warmth/sound/air support. Posture and breathing are not consistent throughout rehearsals and need more attention.	Student performs with tone that is not characteristic of their instrument. Pitches are rarely centered and in tune, and a lack of breath support and control are attributable to poor posture and fundamental breathing.	The student is absent from rehearsal and is unable to participate with the ensemble.
Interpret Technical Demands	Student is able to perform all technical demands of their assigned music with characteristic tone, centering of pitch, and rhythms that are accurate and evenly spaced. All accidentals are correctly played throughout the assigned music. It is evident that prior practice was done prior to the rehearsal.	Student is able to perform most of technical demands of their assigned music with characteristic tone, centering of pitch, and rhythms that are accurate and evenly spaced. All accidentals are correctly played throughout the assigned music. It is evident that some prior practice was done prior to the rehearsal.	Student is able to play parts of their assigned music correctly, but there are large sections with errors in either/or pitch and rhythmic accuracy. It is not evident that much time has been taken at home to prepare the music prior to the rehearsal.	Student is unable to play the majority of their music correctly in regards to pitch and rhythmic accuracy.	The student is absent from rehearsal and is unable to participate with the ensemble.
Interpret/ Understand Instructions	Student is attentive in all aspects of the rehearsal and receives all instructions given by the teacher. Student makes progress in their performance through their ability to receive and understand all feedback from the teacher.	Student is attentive in most aspects of the rehearsal and receives most instructions given by the teacher with minor lapses in attention to detail. The student could make more progress with the ability to receive all teacher instructions.	Student has frequent lapses in attention in which they do not receive a large chunk of instructions or feedback from the teacher. Musical progress is hampered due to inattentiveness in class.	Student rarely displays the ability to focus on teacher instructions and feedback. Their actions negatively affect the ability of their peers to understand instructions and improve performance.	The student is absent from rehearsal and is unable to participate with the ensemble.
Exhibit Collaboration as a Musician	Student is able to work with peers in a positive manner. Student exemplifies leadership through the example they set musically and professionally. They motivate their peers to achieve at a high level.	Student is able to work with peers in a positive manner, but do not consistently meet all expectations set forth by the teacher or motivate their peers to achieve at the highest level possible.	Student frequently does not show that they can work with their peers in a way that will help their performance and motivate their section to achieve at a high level.	Student frequently exhibits behaviors that are detrimental to the success of their section and their entire band, both through their own preparation and actions during the course of the rehearsal.	The student is absent from rehearsal and is unable to participate with the ensemble.
Preparation	Student is always prepared for rehearsal. They have their pencil, music, instrument, and all supplies/implements needed to fully participate. Their instrument is well maintained and in good working order. Measures are numbered in their music and parts are marked accordingly.	Student has music and instrument, but either does not have their music marked, all supplies needed for their instrument, a pencil, or all supplies for class. The student's music does not have numbered measures or is not marked accordingly.	The student is missing multiple items for rehearsal. Their music is not marked and their instrument is not in working order.	The student is missing either music or their instrument for class, along with several or all of the necessary materials for class. Their music is not marked nor numbered and they are not able to fully participate in rehearsal. The student does not have an instrument in proper working condition.	The student is absent from rehearsal and is unable to participate with the ensemble.

Travel Expectations

All Eastern Alamance and ABSS Rules and Policies are in full effect whenever we travel. When we travel, we represent not only ourselves, but Eastern Alamance High School, our community, and Alamance County. The conduct of **everyone** who travels with the band must reflect these high standards. Traveling with the band is a **privilege**. The following are procedures that need to be followed whenever we travel.

1. If a conversation can be heard in the front of the bus, it is too loud. Be respectful of your peers, chaperones, and bus driver at all times.
2. Do not hang any kind of clothing up on the bus. The bus driver needs to have a clear view at all times.
3. Cell phones and other electronic devices are permitted on the bus. However, be respectful of others at all times. If you are listening to music or talking to a friend, people five seats away should not be able to hear you. The director reserves the right to confiscate **any item** should it be used in a disrespectful manner.
4. When we arrive at a performance venue, all students need to be silent. More often than not, someone working at one of these events will have to give the bus driver specific directions on where to park. Be respectful.
5. All buses must be cleaner than we found them. All personal items and trash must be removed from the bus before any student is allowed to leave the bus. The band is not responsible for personal items left on the bus.
6. Bus seating may be assigned at the discretion of Mr. Crotts. If a student does not follow their instructions regarding where to sit, they will not be asked or allowed to continue traveling with the band, as well as other consequences to be determined by Mr. Crotts and EAHS Administration.
7. Be respectful to all parents, bus drivers, and chaperones. Students who do not act in a respectful manner will not travel or participate with the band, along with other consequences to be determined by Mr. Crotts.
8. Thank your bus driver and all chaperones for all their hard work.

Recommended equipment for ALL members:

- Combined Metronome and Chromatic Tuner (\$20 - \$40)
- The “Tonal Energy” app for IOS or Android may be used in place of the standalone tune/metronome. (\$3.99 to download). See phone policy above.

Additional Recommended equipment:

Clarinet	Vandoren B45 or M13 Mouthpiece Rovner Dark Ligature Vandoren Reeds Size 3-3.5 if instructor approved)
Bass Clarinet	Vandoren B44 Mouthpiece Rovner Dark Ligature Vandoren Reeds Size 3 (3.5 if instructor approved)
All Saxophones	Selmer C Mouthpiece Rovner Dark Ligature Vandoren Reeds Size 3 (3.5 if instructor approved)
Oboe/Bassoon	Reeds, Hand-scraped by a private teacher is preferred Reeds can also be purchased online from Forrests Music
Trumpet	Bach 3C Mouthpiece Metal Straight Mute (Yamaha, Bach, or Dennis Wick)
Horn	Holton Farkas MC or Schilke Mouthpiece
Trombone	Bach 5G Mouthpiece
Euphonium	Schilke 51D Mouthpiece
Tuba	Conn Helleberg 7B
Percussion	Year 1: ● Concert Snare Drum Sticks a. Vic Firth American Custom SD1 Drumsticks - General ~ \$10 - OR b. Cooperman Mike Rosen #6 or John C. Graham ~ \$30 ● Snare Drum Practice Pad: Numerous brands/sizes ~\$15 - \$60

- Mallet/Stick Bag: Vic Firth Keyboard Mallet Bag | ~\$65

Year 2:

- James Ross Series Xylophone/Glockenspiel IP902 | ~\$30
- Marimba Mallets: Vic Firth Corpsmaster Keyboard/Ian Grom-Medium Hard Birch| ~\$30

Year 3:

- Vic Firth American Custom Timpani T1 - General ~\$32
- Vic Firth American Custom Timpani T2 - Ultra Staccato ~\$32

Year 4:

- Vibe Mallets: Vic Firth Corpsmaster Keyboard/Ian Grom-Medium Rattan | ~ \$30
OR
- Vic Firth Gary Burton M25 Vibe Mallets | ~ \$40

Instrument Repairs

Students are responsible for all repair costs regarding your personally-owned instrument. Instrument repairs can be completed through reputable vendors or technicians. Vendors in our area include but are not limited to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Music & Arts
1258 South Church St.
Burlington, NC 27215
Phone: (336) 584-3338 | 2. B&F Repairs
2002 Spring Garden St.
Greensboro, NC 27403
Phone: (336) 313-2000 |
| | 3. Moore Music Company
615 West Market St.
Greensboro, NC 27401
Phone: (336) 274-4636 |

Use of Facilities

Band Room: The use of the Band Room is not a right, it is a privilege. Students who abuse their privilege to use the bandroom will receive appropriate consequences. Any damage to any school owned property located in the Band Room is considered vandalism. All percussion and color guard equipment is considered “off limits” except for the students who have direct permission to use them. It is expected that each student take their personal items with them, the director is not responsible for any items left in the Band Room. It is also expected that the Band Room be left in the same condition it was found. All music, instruments, and equipment should be removed and stored properly. Absolutely no horseplay is permitted in the bandroom. Students should not use the hallways outside of the bandroom to socialize or “hang out” before or after-school. Students found in this area may be written up for being out of area. Students should also not use the uniform room, copier room, or instrument room for any reason other than to pick up or drop off music, instruments, and equipment.

Band Office: The Band Office is a private area and should not be entered by any student or parent unless they have permission from the Band Director. The office phone may be used by students who need to call a parent/guardian in the case of an emergency.

Role of the Teacher: In the previous pages above, many rules, policies, and expectations have been outlined for the students. However, I realize that this is not a one-way street. There are just as many expectations that I must fulfill in order to do my job. I will always be available and willing to help a student out, from help with their assigned music, to honors band auditions, college auditions, etc. I am more than willing to be here early or to stay late to help any student out. If a student needs help in another class, I will do anything I can do for them. I will be more than happy to write recommendation letters for students or serve as a reference if asked. The most important part of the Band Program is the students, not the teacher. I will work to keep open lines of communication between parents and myself, and I will be glad to speak to parents or guardians of students at any time.

Acknowledgement Form

I acknowledge that I have received, read, and understand the 2025-2026 Eastern Alamance Band Handbook. I also acknowledge that I realize the procedures that are necessary for the band to be successful. By signing below I give permission for Eastern Alamance High School and Ben Crotts to photograph/video my child, with the photographs/videos used for in class concert critiques, or Eastern Alamance website/Facebook page, P.R. flyers, or in the newspaper to advertise and support the Band Program.

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

E-Mail (If different than Infinite Campus):
