

HEWITT-TRUSSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BAND

2025-2026 HANDBOOK

WELCOME

Welcome to the Hewitt-Trussville High School Band Program! The HTHS band program has established a wonderful tradition of excellence and we are glad you have chosen to be a part of it.

Your student's participation in our band program is beneficial in many ways. Band students are engaged daily in a highly creative performing art that stimulates growth in areas of the human brain that no other discipline can. This growth effortlessly transfers into your student's academic life. In addition, our band students will develop traits such as teamwork, responsibility, dedication, self-discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership and dependability. Membership in our band program will give all a sense of accomplishment, pride, and respect as the students develop musical and personal skills that will enrich their lives.

The purpose of this handbook is to outline the guidelines and expectations for making this year a success for all involved, and to serve as a guide and resource for students and parents. Both students and their parents should take the time to read this handbook in order to understand these guidelines and expectations.

CONTACT INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

The directors encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress.

Dr. Mark Knauss: mark.knauss@tcsk12.us

AJ Adair: jerry.adair@tcsk12.us

Shannon Moore: shannon.weber@tcsk12.us

HTHS Band Room Phone Number: 205.228.4118

Email is the **best way** to reach the directors. Emails are read and responded to **during school hours**. Any email sent after school hours will most likely not be seen until the next school day.

Throughout the year, we will send email updates (as needed) with important information. Please make every effort to read carefully, check calendars often and keep us informed of any conflicts. The sooner we know of a situation, the more options we have in solving problems.

Please understand that our communication to you – the parents/guardians – is a very high priority for us. We want to take care of concerns and make every situation the best for each student. Please contact us for clarification on any concerns before they become major issues. Due to our large band enrollment there is a band class most periods of the school day. If we are working with students, please understand that they are our highest priority and deserve our complete attention.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

Band members will observe all procedures set forth by Trussville City Schools, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

- Any behavior that is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area with all necessary equipment at the beginning of rehearsal time.
- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from a director.
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
- Students will return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area, and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who have difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band room.
- Students will not deface or mark on music stands or band chairs.
- Students will keep a tidy locker, free of personal belongings or food items. Only a student's instrument, in student accessories, and band binders should be in band lockers.
- Backpacks are not permitted in the band room (school policy - backpacks must stay in school lockers)
- Students will conduct themselves according to the expectations of Trussville City Schools when traveling on a school bus, or to any event in which they are representing the band program.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HTHSband

Instagram: @hthsband

HTHS Band maintains a social media presence. Updates are posted often to keep students, parents, and the community informed about our program. The directors **do not** accept messaging requests via these social media accounts or our own personal social media accounts. **Please send an email instead.** Any comment/post deemed inappropriate will be deleted. Band students and parents are encouraged to maintain positive and appropriate thoughts when commenting on the band's social media accounts. Band Directors reserve the right to obtain access/administrative rights to any social media accounts which represent the band program (directly affiliated with HTHS) that are created by students.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS & FEES

We work to keep our band expenses among the lowest in the metro Birmingham area. No students will be denied the opportunity to participate in the HTHS Band program based on financial hardship. If you need financial assistance, please contact the directors. When turning in any money to the band directors, please send cash/check (payable to HTHS) in a sealed envelope with student name, amount, and purpose on the outside. If you have multiple students in the band program it is okay to write one check, just write the details on the envelope so we know how to code everything. All money should be placed into the safe that is in the band directors' office.

All Band/Auxiliary Students: Elective Fee = \$50

Jazz Band: \$25

Includes instruction from hired professional musicians, school bus transportation for local events, sheet music, registration fees for Alabama Bandmasters' Association events, and various band room common equipment, supplies and technology.

Marching Band: For all marching band members (except Auxiliary students) = \$400

*Includes Uniform Maintenance & Cleaning, Field Maintenance/Paint, Transportation, Band Camp Instructors, Music & Drill Writing/Copyright, supplies & Instrument Maintenance, etc. *Various additional costs may include marching shoes & uniform materials.*

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS & FEES, CONTINUED

School Owned Instruments: Rental Fee = \$100

Includes rental of larger school owned instruments such as tuba, baritone, French horn, bassoon, and oboe. Students must provide their own mouthpiece and are responsible for any damage beyond normal wear and tear. The school does not supply piccolos. Playing piccolo requires a student to be taking private lessons and own a Pearl or Yamaha quality level instrument. Director approval required.

FUNDRAISING & VOLUNTEERING

All fundraising and volunteering for the HTHS Band is handled by the Hewitt Band Director team & the Trussville City Schools Band Foundation. The Band Foundation is made up of band parents and supporters. There are various events that help to raise much needed funding for our band program. Please visit our website, or read our newsletters for volunteer opportunities. <https://www.hewittband.com/volunteer>

- Parents/Guardians are asked to volunteer their time for 3 events throughout the year, 2 of which should be concessions stand events.

HTHS BAND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Concert Band (Music Level 2-4)

- Selection is by audition and demonstration of academic proficiency, however, beginning players are welcome (with private lessons required).
- Performs at these concerts: Fall, Holiday, Pre-MPA, and Spring.
- Participates in the State Band Assessment (MPA).

Symphonic Band (Music Level 3-5)

- Symphonic Band is an accelerated level course.
- Selection is by audition and demonstration of academic proficiency.
- Must have had at least one year of prior band experience.
- Performs at these concerts: Fall, Holiday, Pre-MPA, and Spring.
- Participates in the State Band Assessment (MPA).
- Interested students are encouraged to audition for the All-State Band.

Wind Ensemble (Music Level 4-6)

- Wind Ensemble is an advanced level course with expectations beyond that of a traditional band class.
- Selection is by audition and demonstration of academic proficiency.
- Must have had at least one year of prior band experience.
- Performs at these concerts: Fall, Holiday, Pre-MPA, and Spring.
- Participates in the State Band Assessment (MPA) & special possible honors performances.
- Interested students are strongly urged to audition for the All-State Band.

Jazz Band 1 (Music Level 3-6)

- Selection is by audition and demonstration of academic proficiency.
- Students must also be enrolled in a band ensemble: Concert Band, Symphonic Band, or Wind Ensemble.
- Must have had at least one year of prior jazz band experience.
- Performs at these concerts: Fall, Spring, and various community/school events.
- Interested students are strongly urged to audition for the All-State Band.

HTHS BAND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - CONTINUED

Jazz Band 2 (Music Level 1-4)

- No jazz experience required.
- Students must also be enrolled in a band ensemble: Concert Band, Symphonic Band, or Wind Ensemble.
- Must have had at least one year of prior band experience.
- Performs at these concerts: Fall, Spring, and various community/school events.
- Interested students are encouraged to audition for the All-State Band.

Yearly placements in each band are based on the following criteria: Instrumentation needs and limitations, eligibility status and scheduling, overall performance and consistent progress, attendance at all band functions, attitude and behavior, and a performance audition. Auditions are held in the Spring prior to the start of the next school year. Ensemble placements determined are for the entire school year.

Percussion Ensemble (Music Level Varies)

- Selection is by director discretion - students must be a full-time percussion student.
- Students must also be enrolled in a band ensemble: Concert Band, Symphonic Band, or Wind Ensemble.
- Performs at events outlined in other elective courses, as well as a Percussion Ensemble concert in the Fall/Spring.

Auxiliary (Color Guard & Highsteppers)

- Selection is by audition and demonstration of academic proficiency.
- Performs in the Marching Band
- Performs at events such as: Pep Rallies, Basketball Games, school events, etc.

Marching Band (ALL BAND/AUXILIARY STUDENTS)

- All students in the HTHS Band Program are required to be a part of the marching band (exceptions only made for HTHS sanctioned groups/athletics that have a direct conflict). *This is not a course that will appear on student schedules. It is an ensemble tied to a student's core band or auxiliary class that rehearses after school.*
- The Husky Marching Band is the largest student organization group on campus. The ensemble performs at all football games, pep rallies, and competes in several marching band competitions throughout the fall semester.
- Attendance and grading for the marching band will be reflected in the student's core band class.
- Upon completion of participation, the student may receive a waiver for the LIFE credit.

Band Aid - Not offered 2025-26 School Year

- Selection is at the band director team's discretion. Only eligible students are Juniors and Seniors.
- This class is utilized by students to perform small group literature, work on All State music, and prepare for individual auditions. This class is offered as a whole or half credit.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required at all band performances, both during the school day and after the school day. Concert performance is a major part of the grading. Participation in scheduled performances counts as a grade for each student who is on time, in uniform, and has all necessary materials. If for some reason a student feels they have a legitimate excuse for missing a scheduled performance, the director must be notified **AT LEAST 2 WEEKS** in advance. Students who

ATTENDANCE, CONTINUED

miss a scheduled rehearsal or performance without excuse may forfeit their opportunity to participate in future concerts, performances, or trips.

If a student misses a marching band rehearsal the week of a performance (excused or unexcused), band directors reserve the right to pull a student from performing on the field. This is not intended to be a punishment for absences, but a policy in place for the safety of the other performers on the field.

In the case of an unforeseen emergency, the student must bring a written excuse or email upon returning to school. A missed performance will constitute a grade of 0 until the written excuse by a parent/guardian is received. Excused absences include extreme student illness, family emergency, religious holiday or other reasons deemed worthy by the director. Organizing your schedule and keeping all parties informed can help you avoid unexcused absences. Please do not allow the following to interfere with band functions: routine dental and other medical appointments, transportation to a band event, community sports events.

DAILY SUPPLIES

Each student should plan to bring the following items to rehearsals and/or performances. Other items may be added at the discretion of the directors.

- Black Band Binder with all issued music and method books - all music kept in sheet protectors
- Pencil pouch, pencils and highlighter
- Instrument
- All supplies relative to their instrument - woodwinds require good conditioned reeds at all times
- Other equipment as needed

GRADING GUIDELINES

The grading system allows each student to earn a grade based on their effort. It rewards responsibility and improvement and encourages a student to be conscientious about their commitment. The grades will be based on the following criteria. Some additions or deletions may occur during the year.

CLASSWORK: 25 points **DAILY WORK:** 25 points **PLAYING ASSIGNMENTS:** 25 points **PERFORMANCES:** 100+ points

The following list is provided to give students and parents/guardians examples of items that may be subject to grading.

- The student will be on task and focused during rehearsals.
- The student will have an instrument, music, pencil, and supplies in rehearsals.
- The student will be prepared to play their part successfully.
- The student will mark music and take notes as needed.
- The student will be expected to improve individual music skills.
- The student's individual skill development may be evaluated through recorded music tests, individual playing tests, scale tests, and/or written tests.
- The student will be evaluated on improvement of ensemble skills during daily rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to demonstrate correct posture, hand position, embouchure, air production, and articulation as monitored during rehearsals.
- The student will receive a grade for each performance during a grading period.
- The student will wear their uniform properly for all performances.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE AND IDENTIFICATION

Instrument lockers are to be used for instrumental storage only! Each student is assigned a specific locker, which is to be kept clean. Instruments are to be put in their cases, and the cases kept closed and latched while in the storage area. Students are not allowed to leave their instrument unattended at any time. School owned instruments are labeled both on the case and with a luggage tag, which is not to be removed.

Band students will take home their instruments and band binders often. Students are expected to practice regularly outside of band class.

UNIFORM GUIDELINES

Marching Band:

- [Click Here to see a Uniform Care Guideline](#). It is expected that all students adhere to this uniform policy.
- When wearing the marching band uniform, students are required to wear every required piece properly. Any student reporting for a performance with a missing part of their uniform will not be allowed to perform and may be sent home, with a grade deduction.

Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble:

- Assemblies, Pep Rallies, Scrimmage Games, any other school events = HTHS 'Show T-Shirt' or 'Uniform T-Shirt'
- Concerts, State Band Assessment, Honor Band Ensembles = Formal Attire
- Students will order formal wear attire during Band Registration - Option 1 is a dress, Option 2 is a black suit. Students are expected to wear appropriate black dress shoes/socks for their desired formal wear option.
- More information regarding uniforms will be sent home via email. Please email for further information.

TRIP CRITERIA

Any trips taken by the marching band (spring trip, etc) are considered a privilege. This trip rewards the students for all of their hard work throughout the school year. In order to participate in these trips, the students must do the following:

- Turn in their medical release forms and permission slips.
- Should not have been sent to Alternative Learning Center at any time during the school year.
- Cannot have received an office referral at any time from a band director during the semester in which the trip occurs.

The band/band foundation may hold fundraiser opportunities to help offset costs of trips. Trip credits only apply to students attending the trip, credits cannot be transferred to other fees. Students and families are responsible for trip expenses. Any parents/guardians wanting to chaperone a trip must fulfill their volunteer requirements to be eligible for chaperoning (however, this does not guarantee a spot on the trip): 3 Events Volunteered, 2 of which are concessions stand events. We kindly ask that HTHS Band Fees be paid in full before making trip payments.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our band program provides many opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills. Students may apply for the HTHS Band Leadership Team. In this manner, students can serve their band program and refine skills which they will be able to use in other school organizations, as well as in their future careers. The directors evaluate all candidates based on their performance throughout the school year. Leadership interviews and auditions will take place in the Spring Semester for the next school year. Leadership positions are held on a yearly basis. Band Directors reserve the right to remove a student from leadership positions as necessary.

HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As a member of the the Hewitt Band Program, I agree to the following:

Students:

I have read the Hewitt-Trussville High School Band Handbook and understand the requirements for being a band member. I realize it takes full cooperation and dedication (100% from me) to help our band meet its potential. I also realize that my failure to follow policies and directions could result in disciplinary action, which could lead to placement in another band or dismissal from the band program. I am aware that a copy of the band calendar exists on the Hewitt Band website.

As a member of the Hewitt-Trussville High School Band, I acknowledge the following as responsibilities I must fulfill if I wish to remain a member. I will:

- Follow our Band Room Law
- Understand that band is a full year commitment
- Be punctual and prepared for rehearsals
- Practice often and with a purpose
- Demonstrate my best on playing assignments
- Attend all concerts, rehearsals, and assessments
- Treat my peers and teachers with respect, and maintain appropriate conduct
- Maintain my grades for eligibility and self-achievement
- Have a high standard for improvement in class and on my own

Parents/Guardians:

I have read the Hewitt-Trussville High School Band Handbook and am willing to support it, and my student. I also understand all policies and procedures set forth by the Hewitt-Trussville High School Band program, as outlined in this handbook. I have also marked all important dates on my calendar.

*Completing the Band Registration form serves as a student/parent acknowledgement of the handbook.