



**PRIDE OF ALEXANDER CITY**

**BRHS**

**WILDCAT MARCHING BAND**

***Benjamin Russell High School Band  
Member Handbook***

*Of Policies, Expectations, and Procedures*

*2019-2020 Academic Year*

## Table of Contents

<b><u>Section Number / Subject</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
<b>0 - Preface</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1 - Program Mission Statement</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2 - P. R. I. D. E. - Our Character Pallet for every member</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3 - Member Information and Communication</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4 - Financial Responsibilities/Procedures</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5 - Equipment/Instrumental Care &amp; Usage</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6 - Participation Requirements / Standards</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>7 - Additional Policies / Standards</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>8 - Clean-Up Duties</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>9 - Travel Policies</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>10 - Student Pick-Up Policy</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>11 - Uniform Policies and Procedures</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>12 - Football Game Procedures / Stands Expectations</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>13 - Band Leadership / Auxiliaries</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>14 - Letter Points Schedule</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>15 - Awards and Recognition</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>16 - Enrichment / Scholarship Prep Opportunities</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>*Addendum 1 - Charms Account Information</b>	
<b>*Addendum 2 - FairShare and Fundraising</b>	
<b>*Addendum 3 – Membership Contract</b>	
<b>*2019-2020 Calendar of Events</b>	

# Preface

This handbook has been written to help students gain the most from their band experience, as well as to provide **guidance to the practical everyday experiences of the band program.**

The success of the band program centers on **pride, commitment to task, and the willingness to work hard to achieve a common goal.** We do not expect every student in the band program to become a virtuoso musician. **We do expect every student to establish both short and long range goals for improvement on his/her instrument, to exhibit mature responsible attitudes and actions at all times, and to be willing to contribute lots of hard work for the benefit of all.**

The band program exists to provide an **excellent music education for the students.** This is achieved through individual study and varied performances in many venues, both marching and concert, and supporting a curriculum that places an emphasis on musicianship and participation. **Performance opportunities** include large ensembles, chamber ensembles, and solos. The skills that band students acquire in these activities are **directly related to skills necessary for auditions, presentations, and interviews in other career fields.**

The band program will also develop a student's **social skills.** Participation in band enables the students to form **close friendships** within the school through their collaborative efforts. It also provides the opportunity to work with their peers as part of a **team.** As a member of the Benjamin Russell High School Band, students make long-lasting friendships and develop a sense of **camaraderie** that is unique to our organization. There will be many opportunities for musical fellowship and fun through participation in band. **Organizational goals are clearly established,** and the students depend heavily on each other to achieve them. As a result, the concepts of **responsibility, teamwork, and good citizenship** will develop as each student experiences the world of music.

The **ultimate goal** of the program is to produce graduates who are **knowledgeable about music, can perform skillfully with confidence, can operate within a structured framework, and can work to develop the skills necessary to become a life-long musician.** In addition, the program also strives to produce **informed adults of high integrity** who understand and appreciate music and musicians, and who will foster the continuing developments of artistic endeavors in their community.

**If you have questions regarding the interpretation of any Benjamin Russell High School Band Policies or Procedures, please contact the band director at (256) 234-8618, stop by and visit, or send us an Email at [brhsband@acsk12.net](mailto:brhsband@acsk12.net) .**

# 1

## **Program Mission Statement**

The Benjamin Russell High School Band is committed to excellence at every level through practice, discipline, teamwork, and performance. The BRHS\$ Band will strive to provide students the opportunity to grow in musicianship, citizenship, and to become a lifelong advocate of music.

# 2

## ***P. R. I. D. E. - Our Character Pallet for every member***

- **Professionalism**: Professionals work toward a goal, acquiring skills, accepting challenges, and constantly learn and grow from their work. A professional knows what is expected and seeks to
- **Responsibility**: Each member has their own instrument, music, and wealth of resources they need to choose success every day. A member's responsibility is to be prepared, be on time, meet deadlines, and know what is next on the calendar.
- **Integrity**: Members are responsible for their own actions and outcomes. They are to represent our program, school, community, and their family, with Character, Class, and Pride.
- **Determination**: Try. Fail. Learn. Practice. Improve. Repeat. Succeed. This will happen individually and as a team.
- **Enthusiasm**: Meet every opportunity to be together as a band with your best self, your best attitude, and passion for what we do.

# 3

## **MEMBER INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS**

To be a successful organization, effective, accurate, and prompt **communication is a benchmark** for our organization. The directors are very effective at making our communications universally available to all members and parents, immediately. There is also a **published official calendar** of events in this document, and published on our website, <http://www.brhsband.net>.

### **Participation carries the following requirements for members and their parent/guardians:**

1. Email is our **official** means of communication.
  - a. **Students** will use (and regularly check) their “@acsk12.net” addresses.
  - b. It is the **parents/guardians** responsibility to keep email addresses current and accurate.
2. All students have a **Charms** account. (See **Charms** addendum)
3. Students and Parents understand the information is distributed in these ways, simultaneously:
  - a. **In class/rehearsal**, by announcement (sometimes by handout)
  - b. **Charms** blast...to given emails and MMS message to listed cell phones
  - c. **Facebook** pages
    - i. Benjamin Russell High School Pride of Alexander City Bands
    - ii. Alexander City Band Booster BRHS Band Parents
  - d. **Handout** (for more involved events and trips)
  - e. Published **calendars** on our website, Facebook, and sent as attachment through **Charms**.
4. Great care is made to use **technology available to our students**. Parents should support these opportunities by **encouraging compliance to school rules and policies**.
5. **Please email or call the directors, directly**... Personal and official communication with directors should **NOT** be done in **public threads** on **Facebook**, by **Messenger**, **text message** or as a **reply to a Charms blast**.
6. Directors **do not** maintain any type of **online relationship with individual students**. They will not accept students as friends on Facebook and will not follow on other social media platforms. All directors communicate openly and encourage parent scrutiny of all our social media use related to the BRHS Bands program. Parents can expect **prompt communication, a very high level of professionalism, and accessibility** from your program’s directors.

**\*\*NOT KNOWING IS A CHOICE.\*\***

# 4

## **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES & PROCEDURES**

It is school policy that all fees and expenses are **cleared before the first game of the season**. While the directors have some flexibility to assist students and parents with this, the financial obligation for fees and fundraising must be met.

If accommodations are needed in making a payment of fees, contact the BRHS Band Director directly.

**Should agreed-upon conditions not be met to the satisfaction of the director, participation may be disallowed in accordance with school policy.**

**Band Fee (ALL MEMBERS):** **\$150.00** (\$50 credit for each sibling)

**School-Owned Instrument Fee:** **\$50.00**

*(All students who play a school-owned instrument must pay this annual fee. This includes percussionists, tubas, horns, baritones, and any other student who has been issued a school instrument.)*

**Band T-Shirt:** **\$15.00**

**Gloves** (All non-percussion instruments): First pair is provided at no cost.

*Additional gloves available as needed* **\$3 pair**

**Rain Poncho (ALL MEMBERS)\*:** **\$10.00**

**Black Marching Shoes\*:** **\$40.00** (Price subject to change.)

*\*Returning members may not have to purchase these items if all are in good shape.*

**ALL STUDENTS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE FUNDRAISING THROUGH THE FAIR-SHARE PROGRAM (See Fair-Share Addendum)**

All payments should be made **on time** to the directors or to the Band Booster treasurer. Deadlines will be published **well-in-advance** of due dates.

Do not turn in cash **without receiving a receipt immediately**. All checks should have a **physical address, phone number, and the student's name(s) on the "for" line**. Starter checks and two-party checks are **not acceptable** by ACBOE policy.

# 5

## **EQUIPMENT / INSTRUMENTAL CARE & USAGE**

**ALL INSTRUMENTS WILL BE STORED/TRANSPORTED IN CASES, KEPT IN LOCKERS, WITHOUT EXCEPTION. CASES ARE TO REMAIN IN LOCKERS DURING REHEARSAL.**

### **Personal Instruments:**

A student's **own instrument** will be kept in its case, in their assigned locker, and must be properly maintained in good playing condition. It is the **students' responsibility** to keep their instrument in good playing condition and secure.

### **School-Owned/Issued Instruments:**

The BRHS Band will provide a **limited** number of instruments for student use. These instruments include large instruments, expensive professional model instruments, marching horns, and a large inventory of percussion equipment. **Students failing to care for, or take care of their school issued instrument will lose the privilege to use such instruments and will be held accountable for the cost of repair and/or replacement.**

The following is a list of **general procedures for school owned instruments:**

1. If at all possible, students will be issued an instrument for home use and one for school use.
2. BRHS Band does **not** provide **insurance** or school-owned equipment.
3. Students and parents must sign an **instrument check-out form** before the instrument can be used by the student.
4. Each instrument will be issued in **good playing condition**. Each issued instrument will be checked and cleaned prior to issue. Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly.
5. **Irresponsible care or negligence** resulting in damage to their (or others') instrument will be the **responsibility of the student**.
6. The BRHS Band assesses a **\$50 fee** for routine cleaning and maintenance of school-owned instruments.

### **Special Note**

School owned instruments are **not "free" instruments**. Basic supplies must still be purchased and repairs must still be made just like personally owned instruments. Please strive to treat these instruments (and their cases) as if they were your own.

# 6

## ***PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS / STANDARDS***

### **All Performing Ensemble Classes**

Each performing ensemble has a specific set of **requirements and performances**. Performances of the concert ensembles will include, but are not limited to, the following: Fall Pops/Halloween Concert, Holiday Concert, State MPA, Spring Concerts, Graduation (Symphonic Band only). Please check the **band calendar** for all concert dates and times. Students in **ALL ENSEMBLES** are expected to practice, maintain passing grades and satisfactory conduct.

### **“The Pride of Alexander City” Wildcat Marching Band**

1. Members attend all scheduled after-school rehearsals
2. Members attend all scheduled camps, performances, and competitions
3. Members meet all financial obligations
4. As an extra-curricular activity, no grade is given for participation in the marching band, However, failure to meet the above requirements may bear consequences at the discretion of the director.

### **Graduation Band**

Members of the Symphonic Band for the forthcoming academic year are **required** to attend rehearsals and perform for graduation ceremonies. **Siblings of graduating seniors** are excused if they choose to attend graduation with their family.

### **Cell Phone/Smart Watch Policy**

THESE DEVICES **ARE NOT WELCOME** DURING REHEARSALS OR PERFORMANCES OF ANY GROUP IN THE BRHS BAND PROGRAM. We know that all students have them and are not interested in taking them up. However, it is made clear that they should, at no point, be in use in a rehearsal or performance. Failure to comply will result in **disciplinary action**.

### **Fall Break Policy**

It's very simple. You've committed to be in the band, **be in the band**. There will be performances during the break. We will not rehearse during the break until the Day of the Game at an announced time. Further arrangements will be announced as necessary.

# 7

## **ADDITIONAL POLICIES / STANDARDS**

### **ACS Drug Testing**

Alexander City Schools randomly tests athletes and those involved in its extra-curricular activities. Please refer to the BRHS Student Handbook for these details.

**\*No Pass, No Play** – State mandated requirements must be met or exceeded to participate in all extra-curricular activities.

#### **1. Incoming Freshmen**

- Must have a 70 average in 5 classes, including core, for the previous year.

#### **2. Students in grades 10-12**

- a) Must pass **all** core courses
- b) Must have a cumulative GPA equal to 70 in all classes
- c) Must be on track for graduation in terms of earned credits

#### **3. Students may be removed** from elective classes for lack of progress toward college and career ready standards or lack of adequate performance on standardized tests.

\*These are State Board of Education and Alex City Board of Education policies. Be prepared and stay on track.

### **Home-School/Online Academy Student Participation**

1. Students **must be enrolled at BRHS** to participate per Alexander City Board of Education policy. Simultaneous enrollment in multiple online academies is not allowed by Alabama law.
2. Students **must meet the same attendance, participation, and performance standards as their peers**. This includes all scheduled class meetings through the end of the academic year.
3. All other guidelines set forth in this handbook **equally apply**.

### **Security Standards**

1. Benjamin Russell High School and the Benjamin Russell High School Band are **not responsible for individuals' personal instruments**. Storage space is provided at the school but it is at the owners' risk that the instrument is kept there. Liability is the same as for school lockers. While the staff strive to keep the band's storage areas secure, absolute security cannot be guaranteed. These should be included on homeowners or rental insurance policies to maximize your protection.
2. **Personal instruments are to be used by the owner only**. Serial Numbers for individuals' instruments are recorded. A periodic serial number check may be performed to assure compliance. Anyone caught intentionally using another student's instrument or mouthpiece will be reported, written up for theft and consequently removed from the band and prosecuted. Stay out of others' cases and use your own instrument. The same goes for swapping your school-owned instrument without permission. When caught, you could very well lose your privilege to use one, but find yourself facing serious disciplinary action.
3. Purses, Book Bags, all electronics, and other personal effects are the **responsibility of individual students**. The band provides lockers and locks. None of the above should be left in the band room after class or overnight. Not only could they be stolen or pilfered, they contribute to general clutter and will be removed. During marching rehearsals and concerts, an effort is made to keep the band room secure but it cannot be guaranteed.

# 8

## ***CLEAN-UP DUTIES***

**Freshmen** – Responsible for practice field after **ALL** rehearsals.

**Sophomores** – Clean and organize Band Room after Thursday Rehearsals.

**Juniors** – Clean and organize Band Room after Tuesday Rehearsals.

**Seniors** – Clean and organize Band Room after Monday Rehearsals.

**Visual Ensemble**– Equipment properly stored and all rehearsal areas neat and clean, **every day**.

**Librarians** – Responsible for Library

**Percussion** – All percussion instruments and cases. All equipment should be properly stored every day.

- ♦ **Drum Majors have the authority to keep a section or sections after rehearsal for clean-up.**
- ♦ **Any item left in any part of the band room or practice field that is not an instrument will be disposed of if left unattended!**
- ♦ **Classes not attending to their duties will be assigned extra duties. This includes those who leave without doing their share.**
- ♦ **ALL LOCKERS WILL BE KEPT CLEAN.**

# 9

## ***TRAVEL POLICY***

### **AWAY EVENTS**

All students are **expected** to ride the bus to band events at the Sportplex and out of town. Common courtesy and behavior in accordance with the high standards of the band are also expected. **Chaperones** are **appointed by the band director** have the authority to ask students to be seated, remain quiet, or move to another seat if necessary.

### **The following bus rules must be observed at all times:**

1. Remain seated in a forward position.
2. Keep the bus clean of food, drinks, and debris.
3. Keep all body parts inside the bus.
4. Headphones are required when listening to music.
5. Remain silent when addressed by any adult on the bus.

6. Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, screaming, whistling, etc.
7. **ABSOLUTELY** no public displays of affection.

**As per ACS policy, students who travel off-campus to an event shall return by the same means.** On **extreme** occasions, it may be more prudent for students to return from “away” band events or football games with their parents (ex: a student is taking the ACT early the next morning.)

1. A parent note must be approved by **the principal ONE WEEK BEFORE the event.** Details should be specific concerning the need for alternative transportation and whom it will be with.
2. Students not returning with the band are **responsible** for the unloading and proper storage of their instruments and equipment.
3. “Blanket” permission for several events **will not be given.** Each event must be handled **individually.**
4. All students **must stay** until the band has been dismissed from the stands, equipment is stowed, buses are loaded.
5. The student and parent must **personally check in with the director** (at the buses) before departing.

### **HOME EVENTS**

After home games, **all students will return from the stadium to the band room on the bus.** All previously mentioned bus rules apply to these short trips. The band director **must approve** exceptions. We travel together to and from the Sportplex. Upon returning to school, band members are responsible for unloading and **properly storing their own instruments and attending to cleaning assignments.**

### **OTHER BAND TRAVEL**

Guidelines and expectations for other travel will be addressed in writing in advance of those events.

# 10

## ***STUDENT PICK-UP POLICY***

The safety of our band members is very important. A student will **not be left at school unsupervised** after an event. Please be responsible for making ride arrangements **in advance.** All times for performances and rehearsals are posted **in advance.** The following is BRHS Band Policy for **all** band events and after school rehearsals.

1. Estimated return times for band events and starting and ending times for after school rehearsals will be communicated via **Charms** blast. Phone calls for rides following for rehearsals and concerts should not be necessary. However, a phone is available to any student needing one.
2. All students waiting for a ride are to wait **at the band room.**
3. Any student not picked up within **30 minutes** after a rehearsal or return from band events **may** be taken to the Alexander City Police station.

# 11

## **UNIFORM POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

Pride of Alexander City **REQUIRED UNIFORM PARTS:** Jacket, bibbers, black marching shoes, long black socks, \*current\* under-uniform t-shirt, white gloves, bad weather bag (with poncho), hat and gauntlets (carried in hat box).

### **Uniform Dress Code & Policy**

1. Our **hot weather uniform** is dark blue/black shorts, under uniform shirt, and athletic shoes.
2. Nothing is to be **pinned to or attached** to the uniform.
3. **ALL hair** must neatly fit under the hat and the hat must then sit properly on your head. Extremely long hair, rigid hairdos, and hair extensions prevent this. Plan and groom appropriately.
4. Face and hair **paint/coloring** is not permitted
5. **Earrings** are metal studs only. The stud may be no wider than 1/8"
6. Bandannas, do rags, and **head covers** are permitted, but must be black (without exception)
7. **Under uniform shirt** is issued with uniform. Replacement available for \$10
8. **Pants** hemmed to hang at ankle without wrinkle
9. **Auxiliaries** dress, wear hair and make-up, exactly as directed for each performance. Cool weather attire must be uniform to group.
10. **Percussionists** bind their sleeves at the wrist. **Do not pull up over the elbow.**
11. **We ALL wear our uniform the same way, ALWAYS.** Loosen zippers as directed. Completely unzip or remove as directed. If it is extremely hot, we will take up and reissue jackets. The directors will make that call.
12. **Cleaning of the pants is the student's responsibility.** It is inexpensive and should be done at least biweekly. They are to be hung and worn with proper hem and pressed. Pants are **not to be left in lockers.** This is a major breach of uniform policy.
13. **Jackets** are to be picked up at the band room **BEFORE CALL TIME** and returned as directed for the particular event.
14. At the **end of the season**, all uniforms should be turned at the designated time. Dates and times will be announced.
15. **Do not leave** your uniform lying around the band room or bus. **There will be consequences** for those not able to be responsible for their uniform. Parts, found by chaperones or bus drivers, will be returned to students by the Director or staff.

If you have any questions about your uniform, **please check with the band directors before doing anything.** We want these uniforms to look good for many years to come.

Students who lose or fail to care for their uniforms **will replace damaged or lost parts.**

#### **Uniform parts are priced as follows:**

- Pants \$ 120.00
- Jackets \$ 400.00
- Hat \$ 100.00
- Plumes \$ 25.00
- Gauntlets \$ 40.00 (pair)

# 12

## **FOOTBALL GAME PROCEDURES / STANDS EXPECTATIONS**

- **Please, above everything else, prepare well and you will enjoy yourself.**
- Songs, cheers, and beatz are all called up from the podium. We thank you for your input... but we got this! **You just get your horn up and worry about being awesome!**
- There will a **uniform inspection** before leaving for each performance. If you are not in complete uniform, hat, black socks, and a clean pressed, hemmed uniform, you will not be allowed to get on the bus. Gloves and socks may be purchased before inspection for \$2 a pair.
- The band staff and chaperones have the director's approval to instruct and give directions. They are not to be questioned and certainly not disrespected.
- Go to the restroom **before you get on the bus**. After that, we're on a schedule!
- **We** have a job to do in the stands. **Everyone plays and cheers** to contribute to the excitement of the crowd and the spirit of our team. **Everyone** plays. **Everyone** cheers. **Every** time.
- When **we** are in the stands, **everyone** sits with their own section in the assigned place.
- Visitors are not allowed to sit with the band. GHOSTS ARE VISITORS! Say hello, shake hands and exchange evening pleasantries, and get back to the game. **Focus on the game and our job.**
- **Everyone** should have the music they need for every game **memorized**. All school songs and short cheers should be memorized before school starts (or now, or immediately...you get the idea).
- Water will be provided after pre-game. Only water is allowed in the stands, **period!** No other food or drinks are acceptable during the game. Students will refrain from accepting food or drinks from parents, relatives, or friends.
- A snack and water will be provided after half-time, in the stands. Restroom trips should be made as soon as half-time ends. **Our job in the stands continues as soon as the teams begin the second-half.**
- Ghosts of BRHS Bands past are free to sit in the band section during half-time.
- Everyone stays until the band is dismissed.
- Percussion, Tubas, and Loading Crew are dismissed first then everyone else.
- ***The Band Director reserves the right to adjust the rules as needed.***

# 13

## ***BAND LEADERSHIP / AUXILIARIES***

The BRHS Band shall have a “Leadership Team” this is comprised of the following student leaders. The BRHS Leadership Team will be selected by the following criteria:

1. At least 1 year experience in the marching band (2 years for Drum Major)
2. Successful completion of the prescribed audition/application process
3. Be a member in good standing.

### **Drum Major**

Each spring, tryouts are held for the upcoming year’s Drum Major(s). The Drum Major shall have the following responsibilities:

1. **Be an outstanding student and leader**
2. Conduct the marching band at all scheduled performances
3. Assist in the instruction of rookie band members
4. Assist in orderly beginning and ending of rehearsals
5. Be the leader of the section leaders
6. Nurture young band members in learning traditions
7. Be the model for professionalism
8. Act as an ambassador of Benjamin Russell High School and Alexander City
9. Perform on their instrument at the highest level

### **Band Captain(s)**

The Drum Major Alternate(s) and other experienced band members will be chosen to serve in this capacity. These members will be prepared to accept the role of Drum Major should the need arise. This leader will perform as a member of their section, however not as a section leader. Band Captains are responsible for:

1. **Being an outstanding student and leader**
2. Assist directors and guide section leaders in identifying band members who need extra help
3. Participate in the instruction of rookie band members
4. Cover for section leaders when they are absent, assist when requested
5. Nurture young band members in learning traditions
6. Assist in the instruction of Marching Fundamentals
7. Guide instruction and cleaning of drill
8. Lend help to the directors, Drum Major, or section leaders as needed
9. Be a liaison for keeping the directors aware of problems and needs
10. Perform on their instrument at the highest level

## **Section Leaders**

Each instrument section has a section leader. Some have more than one because of size. These students are selected based on an application and the ability they have demonstrated to guide the marching and playing performance of their section. Section leaders run sectional rehearsals and teach instrument-specific marching skills to their sections. Section leaders also have assigned clean-up responsibilities for their sections.

## **Visual Ensemble**

Each spring, tryouts are held for the upcoming year's Visual Ensemble. Students in the band are eligible to try out if they meet the following requirements:

1. **Rising freshman** and a **member in good standing** with the ACMS or BRHS Band Program.
2. **Successful** completion of application and audition process.

Members of the Visual Ensemble will be **expected to continue to keep up with their instrument technique as well as their performance level in the auxiliary unit.**

After marching season, an **organizational meeting** is held for interested students and their parents. Information concerning clinic sessions, tryout procedures, and other general expectations are given at that time.

There is a **financial commitment** associated with participation in the Visual Ensemble. There will be **costs and deadlines**. Failure to meet deadlines (or make arrangements) will result in **dismissal**.

Uniform decisions are the **responsibility of the band director**.

# 14

## LETTER POINT SCHEDULE

**Letter Points** are awarded to each band members to **recognize their individual level of service and commitment to the Benjamin Russell High School Band program**. The following are achievements, events, activities, honors, and performances for which letter points are awarded annually. The band director sometimes **may add items** to this list to allow recognition of those students who go **above and beyond** expectations.

It is possible for **every incoming freshman to earn a letter** with a good level of involvement. Each band member is challenged **to set the standard** for letter point achievement. Compete with your peers. Be involved. The result is more recognition for you, and a stronger band for Alexander City. Show off your **PRIDE!**

Wookie (8th grade marcher)	3 pt.
Each Parade the marching band performs	1 pt.
Member of the Marching Band or Auxiliaries	1 pt.
Each Fall Break Marching Band performance	1 pt.
Each Marching Contest where the band earns a Superior Rating	2 pt.
Each member who performs at MPA	1 pt.
Each member who earns a Superior Rating at MPA	3 pts.
Visual Ensemble Member	1 pt.
Section Leader or Captain	1 pt.
Drum Major	2 pts.
Member of the Jazz Band	1 pt.
Band Librarian (appointed by the Band Director)	1 pt.
Member of the Loading Crew	1 pt.
Completing an All-State Audition	1 pt.
District Honor Band	3 pts.
All-State Red Band	5 pts
All-State White Band, JR High All-State Band	4 pts.
All-State Blue Band	3 pts.
First Chair in District Honor Band	2 pts.
First Chair in any All-State Band	2 pts.
Participation in an approved Honor Band or Instrumental Festival	2 pts.
First Chair in that Honor Band	2 pts.
Superior Solo or Ensemble	2 pts.
Excellent Solo or Ensemble	1 pt.
Private Lessons (for an extended period of time w/ approved teacher)	3 pt. per semester
Attending an approved Summer Music, Auxiliary, or Band Leadership Camp	1 pt. Per Day (3 pts. Max)
Summer tour as Drum Corps Member	15 pts.
National-level Event participant (Macy's All-Star, All-American MB, etc.)	10 pts.
Top Seller in a fundraiser	1 pt.
Any extra performances as designated by the Band Director	1 pt.
Participation in Clean-Up and Work-Days	1 pt. Each Day
Working the Lake Martin Invitational <b>Half Day</b>	1 pt.
Working the Lake Martin Invitational <b>Full Day</b>	3 pts.

***Band letter is earned at an accumulated total of 15 letter points.***  
***Service Bars are earned at each additional 15 point intervals.***

***Go over the top! Show your "Pride" in our band, school, and our community. Participate, Participate, Participate***

# 15

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

### **LETTERS & SERVICE BARS**

Students who participate in band functions are providing not only entertainment, but often service to their school and community. To recognize those band students who excel in participation in extra performances, earn special recognition as instrumentalists, participate in auditioned auxiliary units, and serve their peers in leadership roles with the band, we award letters and successive service bars. Each is awarded at 15-point intervals beginning with a letter and then successive service bars every 15 points. A detailed scale of points and how they are earned can be found on the page titled **Letter Points**.

### **PATRICK S. GILMORE BAND AWARD**

This award is given annually at the awards banquet to recognize an outstanding member of the concert band. The recipient is a student who has demonstrated superior commitment to the band program, active participation, outstanding musicianship, remarkable responsibility, and above all, has provided a truly positive example to his peers.

### **LOUIS ARMSTRONG JAZZ AWARD**

This award is given annually at the awards banquet to recognize an outstanding Jazz Band member for creativity, charisma, and for being an outstanding performer and entertainer.

### **BENJAMIN RUSSELL HIGH SCHOOL BAND SCHOLARSHIP**

This is a scholarship given annually to a senior based on their individual level of service, commitment, longevity in the band, and their remarkable achievement as a musician in the band program. The scholarship is awarded for four years to a student enrolled in college full-time. The scholarship is privately funded and is awarded contingent on the availability of those funds.

### **JOHN PHILIP SOUSA BAND AWARD**

The Sousa award is the epitome of band awards. This award speaks volumes to the level of musicianship, leadership, service, and character of the recipient. It is given only to the most accomplished musicians who possess a true passion for music. This is an internationally recognized award given under the strictest of guidelines and confidence. Earning this recognition is a true benchmark in a band member's high school career. It is a true crowning achievement.

### **MOST IMPROVED, OUTSTANDING SECTION, PERFORMANCE, etc.**

Several other awards are given annually to recognize achievement, improvement, outstanding performances, and outstanding students. These may change from year to year as the identity and quality of our band evolves.

# 16

## ***ENRICHMENT / SCHOLARSHIP PREP OPPORTUNITIES***

### **All-State Band Festival**

The purpose of All-State Band is to provide students an opportunity to be evaluated on an individual basis and earn selection to play in a statewide band of the highest caliber. All students are encouraged to participate in this activity. Auditions are held in January of each year. These auditions include scale skills, prepared exercises, and sight-reading. Audition material is usually available by the first of October. Students, who set this as a goal and work to reach it, always improve as instrumental musicians. Clinics will be held throughout the year and extra help, coaching, and tutoring is always available from the band staff. The All-State Band Festival is the most distinguished student activity of the Alabama Bandmasters Association. Section Leader and Drum Major Candidates should strongly consider pursuing this course. Any college that offers music scholarships would consider All-state credentials essential.

### **Solo and Ensemble Festival**

The purpose of the Solo and Ensemble Festival is to encourage the participation in solo and ensemble playing, and to offer individuals and small groups of select students an opportunity to be evaluated by a qualified adjudicator. Students benefit greatly from this activity as it promotes musical independence. It is an excellent opportunity for individual students to be rated on an individual basis on work that they do primarily on their own. Students who receive a superior rating receive a medal for this achievement. All students are encouraged to participate in this activity. Solo and Ensemble Festival is a good beginning point for students who wish to participate in Honor Bands and All-State Bands, because the individual adjudication often provides the keys to success in those other activities.

### **Honor Bands**

Participation in Honor Bands has recently expanded to marching Honor Bands and, increasingly, students are able to register online. Participation is strongly encouraged. The experience is a valuable tool for building leadership and skill in our own band program. Honor Bands are generally hosted by a college or university, and are composed of students from around the region. Requirements for participation vary from one honor band to another. Notices will be posted and announcements made about these events. For attendance purposes, students receive a school-related function absence. BRHS Bands **may** pay for lodging for **one Honor Band per student each year if funding is available**. Parents are responsible for all other expenses at these events.

**\*\*\*A student may not miss a BRHS Band performance to participate in an Honor Band.**

### **Private Lessons**

Private lessons are highly recommended for as many students as possible. These may be taken during the summer, during the school year, or all year. The individual attention that students receive during lessons is extremely valuable, even if it is only for a few months. Lessons are often available from adults in the community. Former students who have performed at the college level are often available during summer months, and sometimes even during the school year. Younger students may wish to take from older students. Directors generally teach lessons to the most highly motivated students and make themselves available to tutor and help prepare auditions. However, time prohibits directors from teaching too many lessons. College students and area professionals can be engaged to assist in providing these opportunities.

## Alexander City Bands "Charms" Account Information

Attach Charms Sticker Here

Charms is a secure web resource for managing music programs and the main method of communication used by the Alex City Band Programs. Students and parents have unrestricted access to their own account and information through the "student portal." We require a current and accurate cell phone number, active email addresses, home addresses, and the same information if the student has other guardians who will be transporting them. Information will come in the form of Charms "Blasts" that can be sent to registered cell phone numbers and email addresses simultaneously.

This account will stay with your student through high school as long as they are a member of the band.

Charms is available anywhere you have an internet browser.

### To access your Charms account:

- 1) Go to <https://www.charmsoffice.com>
- 2) Click on "Login" at the top right of the page
- 3) Scroll down to the section that says "Parents/Students/Members"
- 4) Enter our school code: **BRHSBand** (case sensitive)
- 5) Click on "Enter Student/Parent Area"
- 6) Under "Student Area Password", type in your student's ID Number... (case sensitive)
- 7) You will then be prompted to change your password and create a password hint.  
**\*YOU DO NOT HAVE TO CHANGE THE PASSWORD! BYPASS BY CLICKING ANY LINK AT THE TOP**  
**\*\*MAKE SURE EVERYONE WHO NEEDS ACCESS KNOWS THIS PASSWORD!**

You may write your new Charms password here \_\_\_\_\_

- 8) Students **MUST** fill out all known information for their profile and **MUST** use their "@acsk12" email.
- 9) Parents **MUST** also provide information for **AT LEAST ONE ADULT** including **email and cell**.  
**\*\*\*PLEASE provide contact information for ALL adults who will be transporting students\*\*\***

If you have questions or would like to have their password reset, please email:

ACMS - Mr. Coggin            [gcoggin@acsk12.net](mailto:gcoggin@acsk12.net)  
BRHS - Mr. Bloodworth    [dbloodworth@acsk12.net](mailto:dbloodworth@acsk12.net)

Please keep this page for your reference.



# 2019 BRHS Band "Fair Share" Fundraising

Fundraising is a necessary part of our financial program. Our band booster provides the essential services and support required to operate a band our size. In recent years, we have been able to make some changes to our fee structure in an effort to lighten the financial burden on our band families. Students no longer pay for uniform cleaning, and our sibling credit applies to all sibling in a family. That is a reduction of \$50-\$100 per student. We want to do more.

We have a "Fair-Share" fundraising program. A family's Fair-Share is its contribution to our band's fundraising efforts. You may choose to do the fundraisers, work concession shift(s) (and earn a credit toward fees), or just make a simple contribution. Here is how it works.

Every band family (one student per household) is charged a "Fair-Share". This year, \$150 is our Fair Share contribution.

You may choose: (This will be reflected against the balance in your students' Charms accounts on completion)

- To work concessions for a football game or games:
  - 1 shift = \$50 Credit
  - This year should be able to support 2 shift per family,  
**We have only 6 regular season games, and 4 ACMS Home Games.**
- To apply profits from fundraisers (*To be determined...*)
- To donate your fair share of \$150.

If you have any remaining fees balance after September 1, your student is expected to participate in fundraising to complete each family's FairShare requirement. What ever remains, after all fundraisers, of the FairShare balance will be charged as fees and collected as such.

**The Concession Stands are a business opportunity for our band! They must be operated as such.**

A FULL SHIFT IS DEFINED AS THE FULL TIME SCHEDULED. THOSE COOKING DO SO UNTIL COOKING IS COMPLETE AND EQUIPMENT IS CLEANED AND STORED. THOSE NOT COOKING MUST WORK THROUGH CLEAN-UP/CLOSING. NO PARTIAL SHIFTS OR CREDITS.

Additionally, if someone fails to report for a scheduled shift without sending a replacement. The \$50 credit will not be given. A **"no-show" may not be rescheduled and may result in the parent not being able to work shifts in the future.**

If additional workers (including ACMS games) are needed and a family has already worked their shift, they may:

- Work additional available shifts to earn credits for their own band members.
- Work a single shift and donate the credit to a member-in-need.
- Work additional shifts for the good of our band.
- **As of now, ACMS Football concessions will be offered to ACMS band parents to defer their members' fees and fundraising before being made available to BRHS parents as additional shifts.**

This is our 2019 plan. It may be amended and updated as our organization learns to maximize the opportunity to support The Pride!



## Addendum 3

### **BRHS Band Handbook Acknowledgement Form and Commitment Contract** **2019-2020 Academic Year**

Read the BRHS Band Handbook and Calendar of Events. Then, fill out this form **completely** and return to the director **NO LATER THAN THE LAST MONDAY REHEARSAL DATE**. Please use the handbook and calendar for reference.

#### **\*REQUIRED\* INFORMATION**

Student's Full (Given) Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student @acsk12.net E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Full Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Student T-Shirt Size (Adult sizes only): \_\_\_\_\_

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**\*We acknowledge by our signatures that we have received, read, understand, and agree to abide by the ALL policies and participation standards set forth by the BRHS Band Handbook.**

**\*We have read the calendar of events and I agree to be faithful in attendance at ALL required rehearsals and performances. We also understand that excessive tardiness and absence (at the discretion of the director) is cause for denial of performance and travel privileges or, in extreme cases, dismissal from the program.**

**\*We understand the communications policy and the methods in which information is distributed. We will actively seek out distributed band-related information and understand that "not knowing" is a choice.**

**\*We understand how to access and manage our "Charms" account as outlined in Addendum 1, and are encouraged to ask for help, if needed. We will be proactive in keeping contact information up to date.**

**\*We understand that band is a TEAM and we will work hard to be strong team players. Every family matters!**

**\*We understand the financial responsibility associated with membership and will be timely in paying band fees. We also understand that un-paid fees may result in dismissal from the program or denial of performance and travel privileges.**

**\*We understand the FairShare/Fundraising program and will actively participate as outlined in Addendum 2.**

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# 2019-20 Pride of Alexander City Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time	Location/Details
June 3	Monday Session #1	6-8 p.m.	BRHS Bandroom (All members)
June 3	2019 Parent Orientation Meeting #1	6-7 p.m.	BRHS Auditorium (Parents required to attend one or the other)
June 4-5	Leadership Retreat w/ Pat Stegall	8 a.m. - 4 p.m. 8:a.m. - Noon	BRHS Band Room-ALL 2019 PAC Leadership (Lunch provided on 6/4, Dismiss at Noon 6/5)
June 10	Monday Session #2	6-8 p.m.	BRHS Bandroom (All members)
June 17	Monday Session #3	6-8 p.m.	BRHS Bandroom (All members)
June 17	2019 Parent Orientation Meeting #2	6-7 p.m.	BRHS Auditorium (Parents required to attend one or the other)
June 24	Directors at Music for All Conference - No Monday session this week		
July 1	Monday Session #4	6-8 p.m.	BRHS Bandroom (All members)
July 8	Monday Session #5	6-8 p.m.	BRHS Bandroom (All members)
July 15	Uniform Fitting #1 (returnees)	4-6 p.m.	BRHS Bandroom
July 15	Monday Session #6	6-8 p.m.	BRHS Bandroom (All members)
July 16	Uniform Fitting #2 (all others)	4-7 p.m.	BRHS Bandroom
July 18	Marching Boot Camp	6-8 p.m.	BRHS Band Practice Field
July 22-23	Full Camp	8-11:30 a.m. 1-4:00 p.m. 6-8:00 p.m.	BRHS Band Practice Field BRHS-Indoors (V.E. @ Radney, tentative) BRHS Band Room, Field, or Amphitheater
July 24	Full Camp	8-11:30 a.m. 1-4:00 p.m.	BRHS Band Practice Field BRHS-Indoors (V.E. @ Radney, tentative)
July 25-26	Full Camp	8-11:30 a.m. 1-4:00 p.m. 6-8:00 p.m.	BRHS Band Practice Field BRHS-Indoors (V.E. @ Radney, tentative) BRHS Band Room, Field, or Amphitheater
July 29	Full Camp	8-11:30 a.m. 1-4:00 p.m. 6-8:00 p.m.	BRHS Band Practice Field BRHS-Indoors (V.E. @ Radney, tentative) BRHS Band Room, Field, or Amphitheater
July 30	Full Camp	8-11:30 a.m.	BRHS Band Practice Field
July 30	Band Pictures	5:30 Call time	Sportplex Stadium-Big Group and Sections
August 1	Preview Show & Cookout	6:00 Call Time 6:45 Show	BRHS Band Practice Field
August 7	First Day of Classes		NO REHEARSAL TODAY!!!
August 8	Regular After-School Rehearsal	3:30-5:30 p.m.	Regular Rehearsals at this time on M, T, Th.
August 23	Wildcat Football @ Beauregard <i>All Games Kick-off at 7 p.m. CDT</i>	4:30 p.m. Call 5:00 p.m. Dep	Pregame meals for away trips will be bagged to be eaten on the way. Location: Beauregard, AL
August 30	Wildcat Football vs. Central Clay Co.	4:45 p.m. Meal 5:00 p.m. Call	Pregame meal served before issuing uniforms. Location fo all home games is The Sportplex.
September 6	Wildcat Football vs. Stanhope	4:45 Meal 5:00 Call	Charles E. Bailey Sportplex Stadium
September 13	Wildcat Football @ Selma	Details TBA	Selma HS (This will be an early departure)
September 20	Homecoming Parade	1:30 p.m. Call	Below Hamp-Lyon, Full Uniform
September 20	Wildcat Football vs. Demopolis	5:00 Meal 5:15 Call	Charles E. Bailey Sportplex Stadium
September 27	Wildcat Football @ Chilton Co.	4:30 Call Dep. ASAP	Chilton County High School, Clanton, AL
September 28	Marching Competition #1	T.B.A.	Location T.B.A.

# 2019-20 Pride of Alexander City Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time	Location/Details
October 4	Wildcat Football @ Opelika	4:45 Call	Opelika High School, Opelika, AL
October 5	Lake Martin Invitational	All Day	ALL HANDS ON DECK FOR THIS EVENT !!!
October 7 - 11	Alexander City Schools Fall Break		
October 10	Wildcat Football vs. Wetumpka	5:00 Call	Charles E. Bailey Sportplex Stadium
October 18	Wildcat Football vs. Calera	5:00 Call	Charles E. Bailey Sportplex Stadium
October 19	Marching Competition #2	T.B.A.	Location T.B.A.
October 25	Wildcat Football Open Date - No game this week!!!		
October 29	Halloween @ The Amp	T.B.A.	Lake Martin Amphitheater, Kowliga, AL
November 1	Wildcat Football vs. Valley (Senior Night/ACMS Night)	5:00 Call	Charles E. Bailey Sportplex Stadium
December 2	Hometown Christmas Parade	5:00 Call 6:00 Step-off	Meet at Band room, bus to A/C Shopping Center parking lot.
December 10	BRHS Bands Christmas Concert	6:45 Call 7:00 Start	BRHS Auditorium
December 12	ACMS Bands Christmas Concert	6:45 Call 7:00 Start	BRHS Auditorium
December 13	BRHS Symphonic to JPES	During class	Jim Pearson Elementary School
Dec. 16-20	Concert & Symphonic to Ele. Schools during Exam time	T.B.A.	Stephens and Radney Elementary Schools
Dec. 23 - Jan. 3	Alexander City Schools Christmas/Holiday Break		
January 10-11	BRHS/ACMS Bands Concert Band Camp	Sched. T.B.A.	BRHS Band Room and Auditorium
January 20	Martin Luther King Day Parade	8:30 a.m. Call 9:00 Step-off	Stephens Elementary to Downtown and back. <i>(Uniforms turned in following parade)</i>
January 25	Alabama All-State/District HB Auditions	T.B.A.	Unassigned Auditions in Montgomery Early All Others at Opelika HS beg. at 12 p.m.
February 14-15	ABA District VI Honor Band	T.B.A.	Auburn High School, Auburn, AL
February 25	Pre-MPA Concert ALL BRHS/ACMS Bands	T.B.A.	BRHS Auditorium
March 2-5	Music Performance Assessment	T.B.A.	Location T.B.A.
March 16-20	Alexander City Schools Spring Break		
April 23-April 25	Alabama All-State Band Festival	T.B.A.	Huntsville, AL
April 28	BRHS Bands Spring Concert	6:45 Call 7:00 Start	BRHS Auditorium
May 5	ACMS Bands Spring Concert	7:00 p.m.	BRHS Auditorium
May 14	BRHS Bandquet (Plans for this events may change)	6:00 Meal Awards Follow	FBC Fellowship Hall, Downtown Alexander City
May 19-20	Graduation Band Rehearsals	After School	Band Room (2020 Symphonic +Volunteers)
May 22	Graduation Practice	8:30 - @10:30 a.m.	Sportplex Stadium
May 22	Graduation Ceremony	6:00 Call 7:00 p.m. Start	Sportplex Stadium (Light Sunday attire)

Please check ALL communications sources (email, Charms, texts, FaceBook, [brhsband.net](http://brhsband.net), Google Classroom, etc.) frequently for updates, changes, and important information. If you have questions, contact Mr. Bloodworth or Mr. O'Bryant directly! Other performances may be scheduled as requested by ACS administration and the Alexander City community. These will be considered equally important to all scheduled performances for grades and continued participation.

**We are always searching for new opportunities for our students to represent our school and community.**

**PROFESSIONALISM, RESPONSIBILITY, INTEGRITY, DETERMINATION, ENTHUSIASM**

*...the character palette of every member of "The PRIDE of Alexander City"*