Welcome!

Welcome to the Buford High School, Band of Wolves! As Director of Bands, I would like to personally welcome you to the Buford band program and cannot wait to meet you, get to know you, and share the wonderful gift of music with you. Here at Buford, we strive to attain triple “A” excellence - excellence in Athletics, Academics, and the Arts. As part of the Buford Band and Buford High School, I firmly believe that with the right mindset we can achieve greatness in all our endeavors!

The Buford band program has two main purposes. Purpose number one: To support the school as the largest unit of school spirit in any activity. As the largest group of school spirit, we must represent our school to the upmost at all times. It is our goal as a band to generate school spirit at all athletic and school events and entertain audiences with EVERY performance that we do. This includes everything from pep-rallies and pre and post game festivities to stand and half time performances. Purpose number two: To allow students to explore their talent in a safe and positive atmosphere while being challenged to achieve excellence at the highest levels. Being involved in the Buford band program means that you are accepting the tradition of excellence that exists at Buford and that you are committed to continuing the same. Students involved in the band program will have every opportunity to explore their musical talents and gifts and as you leave Buford, you should feel that you received everything you needed to accomplish your goals, and that you are prepared for any future endeavor you might encounter, musical or not. I firmly believe that the success of this program is not measured by the achievements of the director, but by the achievements of the students during and after high school.

Again, I would like to say welcome to Buford, and the Buford Band of Wolves Band. I hope you have a great experience and GO WOLVES!

Musically,

Matt Young - Director of Bands
Buford High School
Mission Statement

The Buford High School Band Program is an instrumental music organization that promotes the advancement of the Buford High School Band and its students by offering a unique educational experience to young people; teaching sound, quality instruction of instrumental methods to all students; and building the next generation of leaders for the community and beyond.

Vision Statement

Commitment to leadership, in band, above and beyond the rest.

Motto

P.R.I.D.E

The Buford High School Band Program believes that to achieve the highest levels of excellence the program will follow the acronym “P.R.I.D.E.” in all its actions, students and staff members alike. "P" stands for Positivity, as a positive attitude and positive behavior is necessary to accomplish true excellence. "R" stands for Respect, as respect is mandatory from all persons associated with Buford High School and the Buford High School Bands. “I” stands for Integrity, as students will demonstrate integrity in all actions both band related and non-band related. "D” stands for Discipline, because discipline in music is essential to success in music. Finally, "E” stands for Excellence, because excellence will be the by-product if the other four values are upheld.

Code of Ethics

1. I will respect my fellow students and band mates and also respect myself. I will treat others as I wish to be treated.
2. I realize my rights go only as far as another person’s rights begin.
3. I will show respect for my Director of Bands, other teachers, and administrators, not only for who they are, but also for what they represent in the educational process and the school.
4. I will work to ensure that Buford High School and the Buford High School Band program is a community of positive action. I will endeavor to speak, act and conduct myself in a manner that brings pride to my school, my band and to me at all times.
Band Rules and Procedures

1. The use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products in any form is not permitted at any Buford High School band function. Violations will result in permanent dismissal from all aspects of the Buford Band Program.
   a. Violations that occur outside of band functions will follow the Buford High School drug and alcohol awareness program and its guidelines.
2. Students should not publicly display their affection for each other in an inappropriate manner.
3. The use of foul language and profanity is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
4. Band members of Buford High School will always be expected to maintain an attitude of professionalism, pride and class at all times!
5. Students should respect the bands from other schools and be supportive of their performances.
6. No initiation or hazing of rookies will be tolerated.
7. Inappropriate behavior or distractions from the group goals will not be accepted. Violations will result in a parent conference and a re-assessment of the student's participation in the band program.
8. The BHS band program's reputation is built on the attitude, character and musicianship of its members. NOTHING LESS THAN YOUR BEST IS EXPECTED!

Miscellaneous Polices & Procedures

1. At times during the year fees for All-State Band, Solo & Ensemble participants, etc. must be collected. All deadlines are expected to be met. When possible, these dates will be placed on the calendar.
2. Each student is assigned a slot for storing music, instruments and folders. Students should keep their areas clean and only use areas assigned to them.
3. After-school rehearsals are vital to the success of our band program. Attendance of each individual is crucial for the overall success of the team .
4. Fundraising procedures will be given when each event begins. Please read, listen and follow all instruction to help the process run smoothly.
5. Use of the band facility after school by students for practicing, rehearsals, or any other reasons must be approved in advance by a director.
6. Leadership positions and/or membership in the marching band can be revoked if a student violates the rules of BHS or this band program.
7. When the band is traveling as a group, all students are expected to travel to and from the event on the buses. If a student MUST travel home with a parent from the field-trip, advanced notice must be given in writing and the parent MUST be present to “check out” their child from the trip.
Fees

Every student that is involved in the marching band will be held responsible for a financial commitment to the program. This financial commitment or fees, and a breakdown of those fees, will be provided at the beginning of each season. Students must be in good financial standing to perform at any performance opportunity. Students that quit or are removed during the season will still be held financially responsible for their season fees.

Band Room Rules

1. No food, gum, or drink of any kind is permitted in the band room at **ANYTIME**.
2. All instruments must go in their designated area when not being used.
3. Only instruments may be stored in the instrument storage room.
4. Only Buford Band students may use Buford Band instruments, no loaning or borrowing of school owned instruments will be done!
5. Only Buford Band students may be in the band room at any time, unless entering the office to see the Director of Bands. (That goes for before and after school as well.)
6. No Equipment/Instrument may leave the Band room unless told to do so by the Director of Bands.

Band Room Procedures

- Enter the band room calmly and quietly.
- Turn in all work, handouts, forms, etc.
- Get your instrument and music folder.
- Sit in your seat, and await further instructions.
- Use the restroom before coming to class, students may only use the restroom during class for emergencies only with a signed agenda.

Band Room Expectations

- **You are expected to** arrive to class on time every day!
- **You are expected to** have your instrument in class every day!
- **You are expected to** show up to class with all needed materials (i.e. music, in a notebook, pencil etc) to class every day!
- **You are expected to** have a pencil in class, on your person, in class every day!
- **You are expected to** have a positive attitude in class every day!
- **You are expected to** respect the Director of Bands and all other students while in class everyday!
FOOTBALL GAME
PROCEDURES

1. Band assembly times will vary with the football schedule and will be announced during the Thursday night "dress rehearsal".

2. All members are expected to attend every function in which the band participates. If you are unable to attend a performance, you must provide a written excuse to the Director of Bands five (5) days or more in advance. Personal illness, death in the family, weddings, and religious holidays are usually the only legitimate excuses for missing a performance.

3. No band member is permitted to leave the organization in advance of group dismissal at any time, unless excused by the Director of Bands PRIOR TO THE PERFORMANCE.

4. While seated in the stands, only current band members are allowed in the band seating section. Third quarter break is your chance to “catch-up” with alumni.

5. There is no eating in uniform this year and no food is allowed in the band block. Please make sure you eat dinner at home or at school (when dinner is served there) before the game. However, there will be plenty of water available to you.

6. The band will always sit in sections of like instrumentation.

7. Attention should be given to Band Director and Drum Major when he/she is standing in front of the band.

8. We play only as a group in the stands. Unapproved solo/section performance is strictly prohibited.

Attendance Policy

Attendance at all band functions is critical for the overall success of the program. Students absent during rehearsals pose problems for the band during ensemble and marching (drill) rehearsal. Students absent from performances hurt the group immensely, as the part that they play is musically decreased. An added difficulty in marching band is large holes in the drill. In order to avoid the above problems caused by a multitude of absences, the following policy will be enforced:

Buford High School Bands will be following a “Three Strikes” policy. Any unexcused absence occurring during the competitive season will be counted as a “strike” against the student. With the first unexcused absence, the student will be ineligible to perform during the week of the infraction’s Friday night half time performance. The student is still required to attend the game, and perform all other performance opportunities (i.e. pre-game, the stand, and post-game performances). At half time, the student will be required to stand on the sideline at attention during the entirety of the half time performance. If a second unexcused absence occurs during the season, the same course of action will be taken for that week’s game, as well as a phone call home to notify the parents of their student’s absence and the consequences of the third absence. If a student reaches a third unexcused absence during the course of the marching band season,
that student will forfeit their spot on the field and be removed from the marching band for the rest of the season. The student will not be removed from any band class they are enrolled in, just the marching band. Just as in baseball, on the third strike, you are out!

The following are examples of excused AND unexcused absences:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excused Absence</th>
<th>Unexcused Absence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serious personal illness (fever, stomach)</td>
<td>Doctor/ Dentist appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Holidays</td>
<td>Work Scheduling Conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close Family Wedding</td>
<td>Completing Homework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close Family Funeral</td>
<td>Club meetings (no prior approval)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Head cold or “not feeling well”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Any other absence</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*All serious personal illness absences must be accompanied with a doctor’s note*

An unexcused absence from a halftime performance, contest, festival or any other required performance will jeopardize the student’s membership in the ensemble. All performances are mandatory. In the event that a member belongs to another organization (non-school affiliated) that has scheduled an event at the same time as a BHS Band function, the school band shall always take precedence. Proactive communication between the Director and the students will usually resolve any conflicts. The Director will review notification (in written form by parent or guardian) of conflicting events and will accept or reject the absence request, according to the policy. This is standard procedure for all bands, amateur and professional.

**Tardy Policy**

The purpose of this tardy policy is set to define the actions needed to be taken if late to practice. The following formula will be used:

For every 2 minutes that the student is tardy to rehearsal, 1 lap around the practice field will be given. If the student arrives on an odd number of minutes the laps will round down. However, a student will run 1 lap regardless of one or two minutes late period. If a student is late 30 minutes or more, that student will be counted absent from rehearsal. This absence will be considered unexcused. The drum major, or field conductor will be responsible for keeping track of minutes late and laps ran. Students should not wait for the drum major or field conductor to issue laps. It is the responsibility of the tardy student to run them when they arrive to practice.

If a student has a conflict with any rehearsal, he/she will need to contact Mr. Young via email, or phone call. All conflicts should be dealt with PRIOR to the rehearsal day. Students that call or email the day of the rehearsal in conflict will be counted absent.
UNIFORM INFORMATION AND RULES

BASIC UNIFORM INFORMATION - Band members will be issued uniforms in August or before school starts. Each student will be issued a coat, hat, pants, gauntlets and garment bag. These are included in your annual assessment. Students will purchase gloves, and shoes as needed from the band boosters. Members of the color guard must check with their instructor for uniform information. Uniforms are to be hung neatly at all times. Any items not stored at the school are the responsibility of the student who must keep them cleaned, in good repair and ready for performance.

UNIFORM FEE - The uniform (jacket, pants, gauntlets, and hat) is included in the band assessment. However, each student who uses a school owned uniform is responsible for the loss or damage to his/her uniform. Students that have damaged their uniform past normal wear and tear will be responsible for the reimbursement/replacement of that item.

WEARING OF NON-UNIFORM ITEMS WHILE IN UNIFORM - While in uniform, no performing students will be allowed to wear earrings or other jewelry unless issued with a uniform. Earrings must be removed. Band-aids will not be used to cover-up freshly pierced ears. If un-issued items are seen on a student during an inspection, the student will be asked to remove the item. The student will not be able to perform until he/she removes that item(s) and meets appearance requirements.

HAIR - Students with shoulder length hair will be required to wear their hair up (inside their shako) while wearing their shako.

ACCESSORIES - Shoes, gloves, and socks are part of the uniform and are the financial responsibility of the student. This includes cleaning and upkeep expenses. Such accessories are not to be stored at school. The band will not be responsible for the items in any way. Orders for accessory items will be placed with the Uniform Chairperson during uniform fitting.

INSPECTIONS - All band members are expected to keep their uniforms looking good at all times. Prior to each performance an inspection will occur of all uniforms, shoes, instruments, and equipment. Students that do not meet appearance requirements may be removed from the performance.

GOLDEN RULE - Always hang up your uniform properly!!!

Last, but not least, OUR uniform should always be worn properly, with pride and dignity. Uniform jackets are always to be folded or hung up when not worn. When we warm up our jackets are folded and carefully placed on the ground with our hats on top of them (all facing the same way).
Marching Band Requirements

- **ALL STUDENTS** participating in marching band will need to have a physical on record with the school.
- **ALL STUDENTS** will need to have a water cooler with them anytime the band is outside
- **ALL STUDENTS** need to wear athletic clothing to all marching band practices (Please refer to the clothing guide in the handbook)
- **ALL STUDENTS** are required to have their music in a 3 ring binder with sheet protectors
- **ALL STUDENTS** are required to have a pencil on them at all times
- **ALL STUDENTS** are required to have their dot book on them at all outside marching practices

Marching Band Clothing Guide

Marching band is an outdoor activity that requires students to be athletic, mobile and functional. Students’ dress attire should accommodate athletic activity with no restrictions due to wardrobe. The following articles of clothing are acceptable for marching band rehearsal attire:

- Tennis Shoes (running, cross trainer, athletic shoes, etc...)
- Socks (socks that cover the entire foot, not just the toes)
- Athletic Shorts (no khaki, board, cargo, jean shorts, etc. allowed)
- A white or light colored shirt (dark colored shirts trap heat)
- A hat of some sort (baseball cap, full brimmed hat, athletic hat, etc.)

Students **MAY NOT** wear the following articles of clothing to rehearsal:

- Jeans!!!
- Baggy pants of any kind!
- Toms, Chucks, Bobs, Vans, cleats, sandals, etc.
- Derogatory lettering or imaging of ANY kind!
- Revealing clothing of any kind!!

For music only rehearsals, students may wear clothing that does not facilitate athletic activity. However, students will still be accountable to the Buford High School dress code and must follow the BHS rules and guidelines concerning appropriate attire.
Handbook Acknowledgement Statement

I, ________________________________, have read the 2018-2019 Buford High School Band handbook in its entirety. I acknowledge that all the information given in the handbook is understood and that I will be held accountable to its standards and principles. Furthermore, I understand that failure to abide by the rules, procedures, and expectations of the Buford Band Program can ultimately result in my/ or my child’s removal from the band program. By signing in the designated area below, I am committing myself to Buford High School, and the Buford High School band, and will follow the guidelines set before me stated by Buford High School and The Buford High School Band.

X____________________________________________ (Student Signature)

X____________________________________________ (Parent Signature)

Date: _____/_____/_________