

# **AUBURN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BANDS**

## **BAND SYLLABUS & HANDBOOK 2019-2020**

### **AJHS MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Auburn Junior High School, the compass towards excellence, is to ensure each student navigates the future with curiosity, knowledge, and passion through a system distinguished by:

- Guided opportunities
- Respectful relationships
- Openness to diversity
- Worthwhile innovation
- Technology-infused instruction
- Healthy, compassionate community

### **AJHS BANDS VISION STATEMENT**

The primary goal of all band classes at Auburn Junior High School is to heighten the students' aesthetic awareness through the musical arts and connect with their peers and community through music-making. While there are many secondary objectives that are also set for the students, using sound as a means to communicate the intentions embodied in a musical work is always the ultimate focus.

We believe that junior high students are not too young to begin exploring the meaning of music as art. We also believe there is no better way to accomplish that than to develop the ability to perform to take the creation of an artist and bring it to life. At the junior high level, we attempt to develop the musical skills necessary to recreate meaningful music and listen critically to both ourselves and others as they perform. The AJHS Band Program tradition of excellence is attributed to the high level of expectation that is shared by directors, students, administrators and parents.

### **YEARLY OBJECTIVES OF THE AJHS BAND PROGRAM**

The objectives of the AJHS Band program are:

- To teach music through actual performance.
- To develop individual performance skills & technique.
- To acquaint students with elements of music theory, aural skills, cultural diversity, and music history and how they relate to performance.
- To develop the ability to function as a responsible member/citizen of a group, enhance interaction, and develop cooperation with their classmates.
- To foster leadership skills and mental/physical discipline within each student.
- To provide students with a worthy use of their time, a means for self-expression, and a healthy social experience.
- To provide for the musical needs of our school and community.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Joshua Wine - Director of Bands - [Jrwine@auburnschools.org](mailto:Jrwine@auburnschools.org)

STUDENTS can communicate safely with Mr. Wine about concerns within our online learning system **Schoology**.

## **PROGRAM STRUCTURE**

### **CONCERT ENSEMBLES**

Students at AJHS are auditioned and placed into one of three concert ensembles: Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Symphony.

Placement in these three ensembles is designed not to divide students within the program, but facilitate the most successful learning environment for students and fulfill the instrumental needs of the ensembles. This allows for students to learn alongside students that are most like them in ability level, fostering the maximum level of progress. All ensembles play a variety of challenging music, spanning multiple styles and genres, and all groups are equally integral parts of the AJHS band family.

### **PERCUSSION METHODS**

All AJHS Percussionists are enrolled in a Percussion Methods course. Since the skills involved in playing percussion are so vast and so much different than winds, a separate course is offered to give those students the attention needed for well-rounded Percussion instruction. While in this course, Percussionists will be assigned which concert group they will perform with on concerts, but will learn that music in the context of Percussion class to allow for varieties in learning pace.

### **JAZZ BAND**

The AJHS Jazz Band is a unique supplementary ensemble that meets before school during zero period to study the genre of jazz and its importance in American culture. This group explores and performs a variety of styles including but not limited to: jazz, swing, latin, rock, pop, and many others. This ensemble functions using mostly traditional jazz instrumentation (trumpets, trombone/baritone, saxophones, bass, guitar, drum-set, percussion, and piano).

### **ALL-STATE, DISTRICT, AND HONOR BANDS**

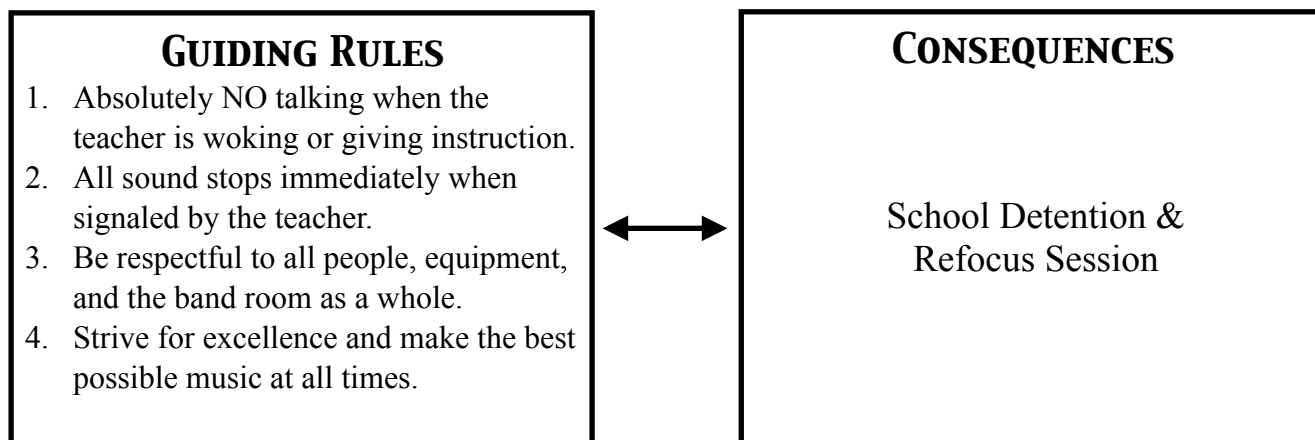
Members of the band program are eligible to apply and audition for the all-state and district honor bands. District/All-State auditions are held early in the spring (January). Students are encouraged to inquire with the director to obtain audition materials. Other honor bands sponsored by regional universities are also encouraged for students to apply and audition.

### **SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL**

Students from all over our district have the option to travel to Montgomery on a Saturday in April to play solos and small ensembles (Duets, Trios, etc.) for an adjudicator and will receive feedback on their performance, including a rating. Students who receive a Superior rating (I) on their event will receive a medal to commemorate their achievement.

## **BAND RULES AND CONSEQUENCES**

\*These classroom rules are in *addition* to those set out in the  
AJHS Pupil Progression Plan (PPP)



### **DISCIPLINE**

Consequences for students who fail to abide by guidelines listed above may include, but not be limited to the following:

- Phone call, note, or e-mail to parent/guardian
- Formal conference with parent/guardian
- School detention
- Referral to school office
- Loss of Trip/Performance Opportunities
- Dismissal from the Band Program

### **CARE OF FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT**

- No gum, food, or non-clear drinks in the Band Room except when authorized by Mr. Wine.
- All trash should be thrown away immediately in the designated trash cans without being asked.
- Students should never touch an instrument that does not belong to or not assigned to them.
- Small rehearsal/practice rooms can only be used with permission from Mr. Wine.
- No students in the Music Library/workroom without permission from Mr. Wine.
- Percussion Studio and Instrument Storage Locker areas are not social spaces.

## **ATTENDANCE**

The AJHS Band program follows the attendance policies and procedures set forth by the Auburn City Schools student handbook. All other emergency absences may be excused only with parent/director communication. Failure to have all required materials at rehearsal will result in the student receiving a lowered daily class grade. All unexcused absences will affect the students grade and/or participation in band. Excessive absences, whether excused or unexcused, may affect the student's performance eligibility and/or placement within the Auburn Band Program. Specifics on attendance for zero-period jazz band can be found in the zero-period contract.

## **GRADING**

Students' grades in band will be composed of the following areas:

### **CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION**

- The student will be on task and focused during all rehearsals/class.
- The student will have instrument, music, pencil, and supplies.
- The student will be prepared to play his/her part successfully.
- The student will be evaluated on improvement of his/her ensemble skills during daily rehearsals.
- Student posture, hand position, embouchure, tone production, and articulation will be constantly monitored during rehearsals for improvement.

### **SKILLS ASSESSMENTS**

- The student will be expected to improve individual music skills and prove that through diverse assessment.
- An evaluation of this improvement may include pass-offs, recorded music tests, listening activities, individual playing tests, section tests, scale tests, bell-ringers, and written tests.

### **CLASSROOM EXTENSIONS**

- This essentially means selected after-school rehearsals, master-classes, the annual marching band experience, and concert performances, which are extensions of the classroom.
- The student will receive a grade for certain after-school rehearsals (close to performances), masterclasses with guest clinicians, and performances during a grading period.

### **GRADING SCALE**

90-100 (A)    80-89 (B)    70-79 (C)    60-69 (D)    59 & below (F)

## MATERIALS NEEDED FOR CLASSES

### ALL STUDENTS

- ✓ Instrument/case (with a name tag)
- ✓ Band Notebook (*provided by Mr. Wine*)
- ✓ Method Book (*provided by Mr. Wine*)
- ✓ All Required Music/Materials
- ✓ Plastic Sheet Protectors
- ✓ Pencils (must have in every rehearsal)
- ✓ Instrument Accessories (valve oil, reeds, tuner, mutes, etc.)

### PERCUSSION STUDENTS

- ✓ Vic Firth SD-1 General Snare Drum Sticks (used at ESS)
- ✓ Rubber tipped Xylophone Mallets (ex. Mike Balter 4B used at ESS)
- ✓ Snare Drum Stand (used at ESS)
- ✓ 12" Double-Sided Practice Pad (ex. Vic Firth or Evans "Real Feel" Pad)
- ✓ Medium-Hard Yarn Marimba Mallets (ex. Balter Ensemble Series Birch 13B)
- ✓ Stick/Mallet Bag

## ORDERING SUPPLIES

Technicians from Art's Music in Montgomery and Gadsden Music in Gadsden come to the school each week on Thursdays and Fridays to bring supplies and to repair instruments. If you need to order supplies, please feel free to call these companies to order them. They will be brought to the school. You may send a check (payable to the company) to pay for the supplies.

- **Art's Music Shop (Montgomery) - 1-800-341-2787**
- **Gadsden Music (Gadsden) - 1-(800) 264-7228**

Music Stores in Auburn:

- **Spicer's Music - (334) 329-7529 [www.spicersmusic.com](http://www.spicersmusic.com)**

Web-based dealers:

- **Woodwind and Brasswind - [www.wwbw.com](http://www.wwbw.com) *\*free shipping for orders over \$49***
- **Steve Weiss Music (mostly for Percussion) - [www.steveweissmusic.com](http://www.steveweissmusic.com)**

## FINANCIAL OBLIGATION – “FAIR SHARE”

Every band member is responsible for a “Fair Share” band fee of \$70 for the school-year. This fee is used for the purchase of the student’s black binder, band T-shirt, method book, sheet music, and a myriad of other yearly supplies. A check for these fees can be made out to AJHS or e-payments will be available on MySchoolBucks.com

Additional Fees (If Applicable)

- **Uniform Fees (See “Uniform” Section Below)**
- **Instrument Rental Fees (See “Instruments” Section Below)**

The Auburn Junior High School Band is structured to be available to **ALL** students who wish to participate, regardless of family financial situations. If an expense causes a legitimate and dire financial hardship, **please reach out to the band director**. Arrangements can be made for extended payment time, delayed payment, or other means of financial assistance.

## CONCERT UNIFORMS

The formal concert uniform for the Auburn Junior High School Band is as follows:

For Young Men:

- White Dress Shirt, Long-sleeved
- Black Dress Slacks
- Black Dress Shoes and Socks
- Black Bow Tie (Can be ordered through Mr. Wine for \$5.00)
- Black Concert Vest (Must order through Mr. Wine for 25.00)

For Young Ladies:

- Black Concert Dress (Must order through Mr Wine for \$55)
- Black Dress Shoes

A check for these amounts can be made out to AJHS and e-payments will be available on Myschoolbucks.com. The student/parent is responsible for coordinating all of the student’s uniform parts.

## TRAVEL

When traveling with the AJHS Band, always recognize that your behavior never reflects only upon yourself, but on the AJHS Band, Auburn Junior High School, and our community.

Here are some ground rules to observe and follow:

- Listen to and respect all chaperones and bus drivers at all times.
- Be in rooms with lights out at the times assigned.
- Bring all necessary items (instruments, music, uniform parts, etc.).
- Always be attentive and ready for instructions.
- When allowed free time, always travel with a chaperone or a large group, never alone.

## **INSTRUMENTS**

School-owned instruments will be assigned to the students that require them. An instrument rental fee of \$60 per instrument is required for the whole year. Instruments are expected to be cared for, cleaned, polished, and stored in a proper manner to maximize performance efficiency. All repair needs and accidents are to be immediately reported to the Band Director for evaluation. If it is determined by the band director that negligence on the student's part has led to misuse of this equipment, then the student will be held responsible for paying to have the equipment repaired or replaced. The band director will determine where the equipment will be repaired or from which company it will be replaced.

Any lost equipment will be paid for by the student to which it was checked out. Every student's instrument case should have a tag attached with his/her name and Auburn Junior High School Band written clearly on the tag. Each student should record their instrument's serial number and keep this in a safe place.

## **PRACTICING**

In order for the AJHS band, or any performing group for that matter, to reach its full potential, careful time must be taken outside of class to practice music. Remember that performing music is more fun when you do it well. Success in music requires you to set goals and practice regularly. Constant progress and growth is a huge part of what we try to achieve. This effort and progress will be monitored by regular playing assessments. A recommended regular practice time for junior high students is 20-30 minutes per day.

## **PRIVATE LESSONS**

Private study outside of class with an instrumental professional can be extremely beneficial. Though private lessons are not required for band membership (except in the case of late entrance by a beginner), those families who elect to invest in private lessons tend to see their student excel at a much faster rate. There are many qualified professionals in the area who provide private instruction at very affordable rates. There is a comprehensive list of private instructors on our website, [www.ajhsbands.com](http://www.ajhsbands.com)

## **AFTER-SCHOOL REHEARSALS**

After-school sectional and full band rehearsals are necessary to work out logistics and allow the students to practice the music together in preparation for concerts. As this is an extension of the classroom, **attendance at after-school rehearsals is REQUIRED and GRADED**. The only excuses for missing after-school rehearsals is illness, a game/tournament with a school-sponsored sports team (not practices or work-outs), or representing the school in some other official capacity (Science Olympiad regionals, etc.). Conflicts with sports practices must be handled on a case by case basis to ensure that time is split fairly. Band and sports work very well together as long as all parties involved communicate.

## **CONCERTS & PERFORMANCES**

- Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm up, performance, and listening
  - “Listening” means supporting the other groups in our band family by being attentive and knowledgeable audience members, even after our part of the performance is over.
- Punctuality is essential! A concert concludes when the last group performs and director has given permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students.

## **PARENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND**

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in the syllabus are followed and that the form at the end of this syllabus is signed and returned. This states that you understand the policies set within and that any questions are to be directed to the band director. Each parent is responsible for the attendance of his or her child at all band functions. It is the responsibility of each parent to see that the child practices his or her instrument daily. The band cannot reach its full potential without the help of our students’ biggest advocates, their parents.

## **HOW PARENTS CAN HELP!**

- Show an interest in the musical study of your child.
- Help arrange a regular time for your child to practice.
- Find a quiet place where he or she can practice without interruption.
- Listen to performances of practiced material when asked.
- Help keep the instrument in good paying condition.
- Help remind your child to be prepared and on-time for every rehearsal or lesson.
- Make faithful attendance at all band activities important.
- Please consider your child's band performance schedule when setting dental/orthodontic work/appointments.
- Notify the director in advance if the student is to be absent from rehearsal.

## **CHECK-LIST OF HOW TO STAY INFORMED**

- Make sure contact information is always up to date in **CHARMS** (the system we use to send weekly emails). Need help on how? Check [ajhsbands.com](http://ajhsbands.com) for instructions.
- Turn in the Syllabus Contract, Medical Information Form and any applicable Band Fees within the first few weeks of school.
- When dealing with students, Mr. Wine will primarily use the online learning system, Schoology, that was adopted by Auburn City Schools.
- Check the calendar on [ajhsbands.com](http://ajhsbands.com) regularly for upcoming events.
- Sign up for easy text message reminders from Mr. Wine (instructions on [ajhsbands.com](http://ajhsbands.com))



- For the Social Media-minded: Follow the AJHS Bands on Twitter @AJHSBands and Instagram @AuburnJHBands
- Keep an eye on INOW (ACS' online grade book) to make sure that students are submitting all required assignments.

### **AUBURN BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION (ABPA)**

You are already a member of the Auburn band Parents Association, so get involved! This organization advocates on behalf of the students to serve all of the bands in Auburn City Schools and keep band fees some of the lowest of band program of this size in the state. For more information please visit their website at [auburnbands.org](http://auburnbands.org) or follow them on Facebook!

## **AJHS BAND SYLLABUS CONTRACT**

*AJHS Band Syllabus can also be found at [ajhsbands.com](http://ajhsbands.com)*

(Please remove, sign, and return to Mr. Wine within the first few weeks of school)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, accept membership in the Auburn Junior High School Band and understand I am responsible for all policies set forth in the band syllabus. **I fully agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my ability.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I, the undersigned parent or guardian, have read and understand the policies as set forth by the band syllabus. I also grant full permission for my child to be an active member of the Auburn Junior High School Band. In addition, my child has full permission to attend all band functions and trips. Furthermore, **I understand that I must meet all financial obligations.**

In granting this permission I hereby expressly waive my claim for liability against Auburn City Schools, the Board of Education, including its employees and representatives, and release them from all liability in connection with these activities.

Further, I assume full responsibility for any damage to persons or property caused by my child/ward. I further expressly agree that when traveling, in the event disciplinary action may be necessary, my child/ward may be forthwith returned home at my expense.

It is further warranted that if this CONSENT FORM is signed by one of two parents or guardians, it is with the authority of the other.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# AUBURN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

## MEDICAL FORM

(Please remove, sign, and return to Mr. Wine within the first few weeks of school)

### STUDENT INFORMATION

STUDENT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTH DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

### EMERGENCY NAMES AND PHONE NUMBERS

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

### HEALTH HISTORY (Please check those that apply)

ALLERGIES

HEART DEFECT/DISEASE

SEIZURES

STINGS/BITES

PENICILLIN

OTHER DRUGS (list) \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

HAY FEVER

INSECT

DIABETES

BLOOD CLOTTING DISORDERS

CHRONIC OR RECURRING ILLNESS (Please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

### DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

NAME OF FAMILY PHYSICIAN \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU CARRY FAMILY MEDICAL/HOSPITAL INSURANCE?    YES                  NO

IF SO INDICATE:    CARRIER \_\_\_\_\_

POLICY OR GROUP NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT:** PLEASE NOTIFY THE BAND DIRECTOR IF THIS BAND MEMBER HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO ANY COMMUNICABLE DISEASES DURING THE 3 WEEKS PRIOR TO ANY BAND FUNCTION.

### **PARENT'S AUTHORIZATION:**

THIS HEALTH HISTORY IS CORRECT IN SO FAR AS I KNOW. I HEREBY GIVE MY PERMISSION TO THE PHYSICIAN TO ORDER X-RAYS, ROUTINE TESTS AND TREATMENT FOR THE HEALTH OF MY CHILD/WARD. IN THE EVENT I CANNOT BE REACHED IN AN EMERGENCY, I HEREBY GIVE PERMISSION TO THE PHYSICIAN SELECTED BY THE BAND DIRECTORS AND/OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVE TO HOSPITALIZE, SECURE PROPER TREATMENT FOR, AND TO ORDER INJECTION AND/OR ANESTHESIA AND/OR SURGERY TO THE BAND MEMBER NAMED ABOVE.

### **PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURES**

\_\_\_\_\_