AUBURN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BANDS
BAND SYLLABUS
2017–2018

AJHS MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of Auburn Junior High School, the linchpin, is to assure success by uniting knowledge with passion through a system distinguished by:
• Recognition that time together impacts our futures
• Purposeful innovation
• Appreciation for diversity
• Compassion, respect, and commitment
• Unlimited possibilities through relevant learning experiences

AUBURN JUNIOR HIGH 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’s 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.
• To acquaint students with elements of music theory and history and how they relate to performance.
• To develop the ability to function as a responsible members of a group, enhance interaction, and develop cooperation with their classmates.
• To foster leadership skills and personal responsibility within each student.
• To provide for the musical needs of our school and community.
• To provide students with a worthy use of their time, a means for self-expression, and a healthy social experience.
**Band Rules and Consequences**

*These classroom rules are in addition to those set out in the AJHS All-School Student Handbook*

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**Classroom Rules**

1. Absolutely NO talking when the teacher is working or giving instruction.
2. All sound stops immediately when signaled by the teacher.
3. Be respectful to all people and equipment in the band room.
4. Strive for excellence and make the best possible music at all times.

**Consequences**

- Detention and Refocus Session
  - Scheduled and served in the Band Room with Mr. Wine

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**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
- Referral to school office
- Loss of Trip/Performance Opportunities
- Dismissal from the Band Program

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**Grading**

Students’ grades in band will be composed of the following three 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 mark music and take notes as needed.

**Skills/Performance**

- The student will be expected to improve individual music skills.
- An evaluation of this improvement may include Smart Music tests, pass-offs, recorded music tests, individual playing tests, section tests, scale tests, bell-ringers, and written tests.
• Student posture, hand position, embouchure, air production, and articulation will be constantly monitored during rehearsals for improvement.
• The student will be evaluated on improvement of his/her ensemble skills during daily rehearsals.
• The student will receive a grade for rehearsals, masterclasses, and performances during a grading period.

**Practice Logs**

• Whether paper or electronic, logs should be accurately filled out and **MUST BE SIGNED** by a parent/guardian before they are turned in/ submitted.

**Materials Needed for Classes**

✓ Instrument
✓ Band Notebook *(provided when band fee is paid)*
✓ Method Book *(provided when band fee is paid)*
✓ All Required Music
✓ Plastic Sheet Protectors
✓ Pencils
✓ Instrument Accessories (valve oil, reeds, tuner, mutes, etc.)

**Percussion Students**

✓ Vic Firth SD-1 General Snare Drum Sticks (used at Drake MS)
✓ Rubber Xylophone Mallets (ex. Mike Balter 4B used at Drake MS)
✓ Snare Drum Stand (used at Drake MS)
✓ 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 come to the school each week on **Thursdays** 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**

Music Stores in Auburn:

• **Spicer’s Music - (334) 329-7529 www.spicersmusic.com**

Web-based dealers:

• **Woodwind and Brasswind - www.wwbw.com  *free shipping for orders over $49**
• **Steve Weiss Music - 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, music, and all yearly supplies. A check for these fees can be made out to AJHS and e-payments will be available.

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, work-study, or other means of financial assistance.

**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. 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 your 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.
- Follow all AJHS school rules (our travel locations are extensions of the classroom/school)
INSTRUMENTS

School-owned instruments will be assigned to the students that require them. An instrument rental fee of $40 per instrument is required. These fees should be paid during orientation or during the first week of school. Students are then responsible for said instrument for the duration of the school-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 lead 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/PRACTICE LOGS

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 “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 tests and the completion of weekly practice logs. Whether electronic or on paper, practice logs should be accurately filled out, and MUST BE SIGNED by a parent/guardian before they are turned in/ submitted.

Your first and last name must be printed legibly on anything you turn in. If the director does not know who you are, cannot read the name, or if you do not put your name on a paper, you will not receive credit.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private study outside of class with a 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

AFTER–SCHOOL REHEARSALS

After-school sectional and full band rehearsals are sometimes necessary to work out logistics and allow the students to practice the music together. As this is an extension of the classroom, attendance at after-school rehearsals is REQUIRED.
**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 in the back 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)
- Turn in the Syllabus Contract, Medical Information Form and any applicable Band Fees within the first few weeks of school.
- Check the calendar on ajhsbands.com regularly for upcoming events.
- Sign up for easy text message reminders from Mr. Wine (instructions on ajhsbands.com)
- For the Social Media-minded: Follow the AJHS Bands on Twitter @AJHSBands
- Keep an eye on INOW (online grade book) to make sure that students are submitting all required assignments.
- Many of your student’s teachers will use an amazing online learning system called Schoology to give assignments and organize work for their classes. Mr. Wine will also use this system but in a limited capacity. The first place to look for information should always be ajhsbands.com

**Auburn Band Parents Association**

One of the best ways you can support the band is by joining the Auburn Band Parents Association. This organization advocates on behalf of the students to serve all of the bands in the Auburn City School District 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
AJHS BAND SYLLABUS CONTRACT
AJHS Band Syllabus can also be found at 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 HAY FEVER
SEIZURES INSECT
STINGS/BITES DIABETES
PENICILLIN BLOOD CLOTTING DISORDERS
OTHER DRUGS (list)
OTHER

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 ____________________________

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

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