



Welcome to the BAND!

I am a graduate of Hartselle High School, class of 2000, and am an alumnus of the Hartselle Band Program. I earned my Bachelors degree and teaching certification at UNA and a Master's of Educational Leadership from the University of West Florida. My teaching career as a band director began in fall of 2006 and in the past 16 years as an educator, I've taught public school bands from grade levels 6 thru 12. My wife and I live here in Hartselle with our two children. Finally, and most importantly, I love teaching young people!

The Hartselle Band **will be a fun and rewarding** experience for parents and students. We will work hard together and have fun! I encourage all parents to connect with the Hartselle Band Boosters to help support our organization. The boosters stay active in fundraising, organizing, and supporting our program. The booster communication platform is through an app called "BAND". See the end of this document for instructions to join the "BAND" app.

Rehearsal, Classroom & Practice Expectations

All band students are expected to be in the Bandroom, with their **shoes on the carpet** when the tardy bell rings. 90 seconds after the bell the downbeat of warm ups and/or instruction will begin. All musicians should **have all supplies necessary at the ready and begin playing at this defined moment**. School policy will be followed in regards to tardies. Students should always be ready to learn, ready to work together, and ready to make music.

Safety, Clear Communication, and Compliance with teacher expectations are very important. Every student must take responsibility for their own behavior and be aware of how their actions affect others. When all band members work together for our common good, we can become an impressive group of musicians. In 3 words, Band Students will be Respectful, Responsible, and Resourceful.

On a regular basis, all students will be expected to prepare some musical content on their instrument, outside of class. This means that your child will need to make arrangements to practice their instrument at home and regularly complete a recording assignment on Google Classroom. As a general rule, students need to have their instrument available at home to practice and develop some essential skills. Some students practice everyday, and others practice every other day.

Grading Policy

Daily Participation - 5 points: All students will receive a daily participation credit of up to **5 points per day**. The students can earn full credit by having all needed supplies in rehearsal AND engaging in all musical activities.

Quizzes/Written Assignments - 25 up to 50 points: Periodically throughout the semester, the students will complete written work to learn music theory, ear training, music history, and rehearsal/concert etiquette. These will range in value from **25 to 50 points** per assignment.



Performance Assessments - 100 points: This type of assignment is CRUCIAL to our success as a band. Using the google classroom platform, students will perform and record an excerpt of music and submit it to Mr. Nix for assessment. ***If your child needs access or resources to complete these assignments; time and resources WILL BE PROVIDED to your child to complete these assignments during their class period.*** Once completed and returned, the students may resubmit work up to three times to improve their grade, if needed. I will accept past due assignments, but credit will be deducted for late submissions. These important assignments are **worth 100 points per assignment**.

Concert Attendance - 100 points: We prepare for these moments daily in class, and we need everyone to be there. Criteria for this includes being punctual, dressed appropriately, bringing needed materials, and staying through completion of the event. If your child misses a concert, I will need a written/typed, signed, and dated document from a parent or guardian providing a reason to excuse the students absence. Once excused, an alternative assignment will be assigned to the student. These are **worth 100 points per concert**.

****Students scoring 85% or higher in Daily Participation AND Quizzes/Written Assignments will be eligible to drop their lowest Performance Assessment grade from the 9 weeks average.****

Name Brand - Preferred Instruments vs. “Economically Priced” Instruments

In my years of experience teaching band, I’ve seen instrument vendors on the internet target a low price niche in the market. This market has grown within the past 10 years, but the quality of the instrument has remained low. I’ve witnessed the frustration a band student experiences when trying to make these low quality instruments function in a band setting. If you are buying used, please discuss with me the type and age of the instrument. I will be glad to inspect an instrument that you may be interested in purchasing. Below is a list of band instruments that come from brands that are known for great quality construction and performance.

Flute: Gemeinhardt, Artley, Yamaha, Armstrong

Clarinet: Normandy 4, Noblet, Yamaha, Selmer, Buffet

Trumpet: King 601, Yamaha, Conn, Holton, Bach, Getzen

Trombone: King, Yamaha, Conn, Holton, Bach, Getzen

Percussion: Mapex, Pearl

Communication Methods

- **Google classroom, Student school email accounts, Parent email accounts** - formal and official means of communication between Mr. Nix, Parents, and Students.
- **“Remind” text messages** will be an informal form of communication between Mr. Nix, Parents, and Students. I use remind frequently to contact our people.
- **“Band” app** - managed by our band boosters and is a private communication platform for the HIS and HJHS Bands. Please download the app!
- **CHARMS** - When fundraising through the Band Boosters, a platform called “Charms” is used to account for the profits of our band fundraisers. Parents must provide the boosters with a completed data sheet to participate in fundraising.

REMIND AND BAND APP ACCESS IS POSTED ON <https://www.hartselletigers.org/domain/184>



Ryan Nix, Director
Email: ryan.nix@hartselletigers.org



Hartselle Band Booster Communication

The Hartselle band boosters are an organization of parents whose purpose is to support all band students, grades six through twelve. If you have not received it already, you'll get an information sheet to complete for the band boosters. The information requested is "Directory Information" only and nothing protected or private will be shared with the booster organization. **Your child's name, grade level, and instrument will be shared with them.**

1. Please join the remind group.
2. Download the "BAND" app & Join the group for your child's school.
3. Mark you calendars for the main events for this years school year.
4. Finally, complete the Teacher/Parent/Student contract and return by Monday, August 12, 2024

THANK YOU! You are now officially a band parent, which makes you extra special to me! I look forward to teaching your child this year and working with you!



ALL OF THE FOLLOWING PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED MAJOR GRADES FOR ALL 2nd & 3rd YEAR HJHS BAND STUDENTS

2024-2025 School Year HJHS Band Performance Schedule

HJHS Band Outdoor Pep Band Performances:

- ★ Thursday, August 29, HJHS Football VS Decatur @ JP Cain Stadium
- ★ Thursday, September 12, HJHS Football VS Florence @ JP Cain Stadium
- ★ Saturday, September 21, Depot Days Performance @ The Depot
- ★ Thursday, October 3, HJHS Football VS Jasper @ JP Cain Stadium
- ★ Thursday, October 10, HJHS Football VS Austin @ JP Cain Stadium
 - NOTE: The HJHS Pep Band will also perform at HJHS Pep Rallies. These are hosted on campus of HJHS at the end of the school day. Band students who are also student athletes are expected to attend the pep rally with their team(s), unless that team is not in season or the focus of the pep rally. For example: softball players who are in the band will play with the band during a football season pep rally.

HJHS Concert Band Performances:

- ★ Monday, November 4th, 6:30PM @ HJHS Pettey Center Gym
Concert in Honor of Veterans Day, for the general public, family and friends.
- ★ Thursday, November 7th, 9:00AM @ HJHS Pettey Center Gym
Schoolwide Veterans Day Program, attendance by special invitation only.
- ★ Tuesday, December 17th, 6:00PM @ Hartselle High School Auditorium
*Christmas Concert with HIS and HHS. *THIS IS THE FALL SEMESTER EXAM**
- ★ Saturday, February 1, specific times for each individual TBA (option 1 of 2)
All State and Honor Band Auditions at Huntsville High School
 - If your child makes it into the District 1 Honor Band, it will be held at Grissom High School February 21-22.
 - If your child makes it into the All State Honor Band, it will be held in the Arthur Outlaw Center in Mobile AL from April 10-12. A Parent must travel and attend with their child.

Every 2nd and 3rd year student is expected to participate in EITHER All State Auditions OR perform a Solo in Solo and Ensemble. Your child may participate in both if you want.

- ★ Tuesday, February 25th, 9:00AM @ Hartselle High School Auditorium
Alabama Bandmasters Association, State Music Performance Assessment - Hosted by Hartselle Band Boosters at HHS Auditorium. (volunteers will be needed 2/24 thru 2/27)
- ★ Saturday, April 5th, specific times for each individual TBA (option 2 of 2)
Solo and Ensemble Festival @ Liberty Middle School in Madison AL.
- ★ Thursday, April 17, 6:00PM @ Hartselle Junior High School
Evening with the Arts



- **SAVE THE DATE for Spring Trip - *pending approval* - Friday, April 24-26**
- **Monday, May 5th; 6:30PM at HHS Auditorium: Spring Concert (final performance of the school year**

*****Other performances may be added throughout the school year. Every effort will be made to give parents time to prepare; usually 3-4 weeks prior to the event.**

- **Band Performances that conflict with seasonal sports EXCLUSIVELY within HJHS Athletics will be taken into consideration by Mr. Nix and the coach of that sport to make adjustments within the best interests of the student and team. Activities associated with Rec leagues, travel leagues, and club leagues take a lower priority and should be scheduled secondary to all HJHS Band performances.**