

**Troy Buchanan High School and  
Ninth Grade Center**

**Band Handbook**



**Symphonic Band**  
**Concert Band**  
**Ninth Grade Band**  
**Jazz Ensembles**  
**Trojan Pride Marching Band**  
**Color Guard**

**We Are What We Repeatedly Do.**  
**Excellence, then is not an act, but a habit.**  
**-Aristotle**

Welcome to the Troy Buchanan High School Band Program. We are thrilled that you are part of the band program here at TBHS. In this handbook you will find answers to most of your questions about the band program. If you have any additional questions don't hesitate to ask.

There are many performance opportunities at TBHS and the NGC. Below you will find a brief description of each of our performing groups.

**Symphonic Band**

The Troy Buchanan Symphonic Band is one of three concert ensembles at the high school level. The Symphonic Band will begin their rehearsals at the conclusion of Marching Season. Auditions for selection into the band and chair placement for Symphonic Band will occur near the end of October. The auditions are over the chromatic scale, major scales, and excerpts from the district packet. This band will perform at school concerts. All performances are required.

Students in this group are encouraged to audition for the Northeast All-District Band, as well as the Missouri All-State Band. Students are also encouraged to participate in solo/small ensemble contest in the spring semester.

An honors section of Symphonic Band is also offered for students who wish to study and perform at a higher level. The honors section is open to any junior or senior that meets the prerequisites and has instructor approval.

**TBHS Concert Band**

The Concert Band at TBHS is one of three concert ensembles at the high school level. The concert band will begin their rehearsals at the conclusion of Marching Season. Auditions for chair placement will occur near the end of October. The auditions are over the chromatic scale, major scales, and excerpts from the district packet. This band will perform at school concerts. All performances are required. Concert Band members are eligible for and encouraged to audition for the All-District and All-State Bands and to participate in solo/small ensembles.

**Ninth Grade Band**

The Concert Band at the NGC is one of three concert ensembles at the high school level. The concert band will begin their rehearsals at the beginning of the school year. This band will perform at school concerts. All performances are required. Concert Band members are eligible for and encouraged to audition for the All-District and All-State Bands and to participate in solo/small ensembles.

### **Trojan Pride Marching Band**

The Trojan Pride Marching Band is comprised of all students in the band program grades 10 through 12. This ensemble represents Troy Buchanan High School not only at home football games, but also in local parades and a variety of regional festivals. Emphasis is on combining the discipline necessary to excel musically with the physical discipline required to create visual excitement. All performances and rehearsals are required.

### **Jazz Ensembles**

There are two jazz ensembles at Troy Buchanan High School. These classes will be focused in two areas: ensemble performance and solo improvisation. While students might not feel comfortable improvising, the knowledge with which to do so will be taught as part of the course. The jazz ensembles will perform at local performances as well as regional festivals. The jazz ensembles are by audition and auditions will occur every spring for the following school year.

Students in the Jazz Bands are eligible for and encouraged to audition for the All-District Jazz Band and All-State Jazz Band. All performances are required.

An honors section of Jazz Band is also offered for students who wish to study and perform jazz at a higher level. The honors section is open to any junior or senior that meets the prerequisites and has instructor approval.

### **Color Guard**

The TBHS color guard serves as an integral part of the high school band program. The color guard is a class that meets through the fall semester only. Color Guard is a by audition group and auditions will occur every spring for the following school year. The guard's main goal during the fall semester is to add visual enhancement to the marching band show.

### **Pep Band**

This group is open to any member of the band program. This volunteer group is responsible for playing at Boys and Girls basketball games through the winter sports season. There will be one rehearsal prior to the beginning of the basketball season. The emphasis of this band will be playing well and having fun supporting our winter sports teams.

### **All-District & All-State Band Organizations**

During the fall semester each year, students from high schools all over the region gather at an area high school (Moberly) to audition for the Northeast All-District Band and Jazz Band. While students are not required to audition for these ensembles, students are strongly encouraged to participate. Students who are selected for one of these ensembles then become eligible to audition for the Missouri All-State Concert/Jazz Bands at Hickman High School in Columbia the first Saturday in December. The audition material for both levels is the same material, and is given to all students during the fall semester. Transportation for both the All-District and All-State auditions is provided.

Students achieving All-District or All-State distinction often receive mailings in regard to this honor. Colleges and universities are regularly sent lists of members of these ensembles, and students are then added to college/university recruitment mailing lists. This is a great way to get a “foot in the door” at many institutions of higher learning, whether or not one plans on becoming a music major.

Both the All-District and All-State honor bands will perform a concert during the winter. Those who are recognized as members of an all-district or all-state organization are required to perform with those ensembles.

### **District and State Music Festivals**

Do not confuse All-District and All-State events with District and State Music Festivals. District and State Music Festivals, sponsored by the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHAA) are held each spring for high schools throughout the state.

Students can participate as a soloist, or as a member of an ensemble at the MSHSAA District and State Music Festivals. High schools are limited in the number of entries that are eligible to attend from each school. We will use student scores from their chair audition assessment to determine which students will be participants in the solo and ensemble festival. Solo and ensemble pieces must be selected from a list approved by the Missouri State High School Activities Association. Mr. Blankenship and Mr. Barchesky will guide students in the music selection process.

Participants will receive a I (Superior), II (Excellent), III (Good), IV (Fair), or V (Weak) rating. Those receiving a “I” rating are eligible and expected to advance to the State Music Festival at MU-Columbia, which occurs the last week of April.

### **Letter Award in Band**

Students must meet specific requirements on a yearly basis to earn a letter award in band at Troy Buchanan High School. Students receive points for participating in different band events and students must receive a total of **75 points** and **have perfect attendance at all required band performances** to letter in band. Points are assessed as follows.

Jazz Band Member	25
Pep Band Member	25
Musical Pit Member	25
Drum Major	25
Section Leader for Marching Band	25
Consistent Private Study (documentation required)	25
College/University Band Camp (not ours)	25
Member of a Drum and Bugle Corp	25
Band Librarian, equipment manager, etc.	25
Audition for All-District Band	25
Member of All-District Band	25
Member of All-State Band	50
Solo or Ensemble rating of I, II, or III at District	25
Solo or Ensemble rating of Silver or Bronze at State	25
Solo or Ensemble rating of Gold at State	50
Attend College/University sponsored honor band	25
Regular performances at church on your band instrument	25
A+ or CYV in an instrumental music class	25

### **Students may carry over a maximum of 50 unused points from a previous year.**

Students will be responsible for preparing an application for lettering that will include all completed activities. The band office will provide this application in the spring semester.

Students that earn a letter award will receive a certificate to recognize their achievement. Students who wish to purchase an actual chenille letter can do this in the band office for \$12.

### **Student Eligibility**

Band at Troy Buchanan High School is an activity that is part of the Missouri State High School Activities Association. All students must meet the MSHSAA eligibility requirements to participate in MSHSAA competitions. This includes Marching Band Competitions, Jazz Festivals, All-District and All-State Band, as well as Solo and Ensemble Contest. Eligibility requirements do not pertain to home football games, concerts, and other non-competitive band events. Questions about individual student's eligibility should be directed to the activities office at Troy Buchanan High School.

**Symphonic/Concert/Marching/ Jazz**  
**Syllabus and Grading Policy**

**Textbook:** The only official text is the sheet music assigned to folders and special handouts. Students will be responsible for bringing his or her folder to class daily. Music will be turned in at the end of the semester.

**Course Objective:** The purpose of these classes is to assist students in the development of both their individual musical skills and those skills necessary to perform in a large ensemble. Included will be a study of many of the elements of music, including music terms, symbols, and concepts. Students will develop an appreciation for and understanding of a variety of music through rehearsal and performance experiences.

**Fees:** Band members will need to wear required black shoes and black socks for Marching Band and Symphonic/Concert Band performances. The band activity fee is \$50 for all band members. The fee goes for dry cleaning and maintenance of the band uniforms as well as pays for our band t-shirts and marching band registration at festivals. Students are also required to purchase a pair of black marching band shoes. Marching Band shoes will be ordered in a mass order during band camp and cost \$25.

**Grading:** Grading is based upon those personal factors that contribute to individual musical growth and the success of the bands.

**Grading System:** Students will earn points each quarter for participation in co-curricular performance/rehearsal activities, technical proficiency, and daily classroom participation. Each quarter's activities may vary; therefore grades will be assigned by a percentage of points possible.

**Point Values:**

Technical Proficiency (Playing Tests)	+100 ea
Memorization (when required)	+100
Performance	+200
Additional rehearsals	+50
Daily class-prepared	+10
Late Assignments	-10 a day

**Percentage Scale:**

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

Each student is required to participate in performances pertaining to the group of which he/she is a member. An unexcused absence from any performance will result in complete loss of performance credit points. (Since students will receive a schedule of performances at the beginning of the semester, they are responsible for arranging their schedule accordingly.) Work is not an excuse. Extreme illness or death in the family are examples of excused absences. Notify a teacher in advance whenever possible for these types of absences. Students who miss a performance due to an excused absence will be given an alternative assignment to make up the points they have missed.

**Expectations for Band**

1. You will be marked tardy if not in the room (on the field during the marching season) the time the bell rings.
2. You will be marked tardy if not in your seat with instrument ready by the time the director begins.
3. When ANY conductor is on the podium, cease all playing and talking.
4. We do not have time to work just on your part; your homework assignment is to have your music in your folder technically prepared for class rehearsal.
5. This is a performing ensemble; therefore you will be expected to be prepared for performances. Attendance at performances is required.
6. Gum, Food, or Beverages are not to be brought into any part of the rehearsal room.
7. Always keep your instrument in your assigned locker and LOCKED. Many students will use this classroom and we want your instrument to remain safe at all times.
8. Percussion: All equipment is to be stored correctly at the end of each rehearsal/performance. EVERYBODY HELPS!

### *Game Day Regulations/Expectations*

1. You will be in full uniform from the time pre-game starts until the end of the game.
2. You will sit in the stands during the game, by your assigned seating arrangement.
3. Those who are not band members will not be allowed to sit with the band during the game.
4. You will play whenever the full band plays while in the stands.
5. Only percussionists are to be in the percussion section.
6. You are not to leave your seat except for emergencies, and then only after you have received permission.
7. Uniforms must be worn correctly. Look first class; be first class.  
Students are not to consume any food or drink other than water while in uniform.
8. No visual jewelry during performances.
9. Upon the conclusion of games make sure that you put everything all the way away.
10. No one is allowed to play their instrument while the ball is in play.
11. As a Member of the band, you are an important part of the “home game” atmosphere. We want our football team to sense a definite home field advantage. Get involved.... it makes the whole game much more fun.