

# BAND HANDBOOK

## Burlington Community High School

### Introduction

Every year brings new opportunities for the continued growth of our band program. To take advantage of these opportunities, it is important everyone is aware of the goals, expectations, and procedures of our band members.

### Calendar of Events

<https://gobound.com/ia/schools/burlington/calendar>

Notify me as soon as possible of any potential conflicts for your student. It is vital every member of the band be present at our performances as each individual is important to our success. Students interested in earning a letter in band should pay attention to the requirements listed on the band letter form located in the download section of [grayhoundbands.org](http://grayhoundbands.org).

### Contact Information

Feel free to contact me at any time during the school year if you have any questions or concerns.

**Derrick Murphy**

[grayhoundbands.org](http://grayhoundbands.org)

derrick.murphy@bcstds.org

Ph. 319.753.2211 x 1151

---

## SYLLABUS

### Expectations

To ensure the success of our ensembles, each member is expected to:

1. **Maintain High Standards:** Represent Burlington Community High School with the highest physical and emotional standards, comply with all high school rules and regulations, and adhere to the Band Handbook policies, including appropriate concert attire.

2. **Attend Rehearsals:** Be present at every rehearsal. If temporarily unable to perform due to illness, follow along with your music and make necessary marks.
  3. **Be Punctual:** Be in your assigned place with music and instrument ready at the beginning of each rehearsal. Tardies will be made up in an amount of time equal to or greater than the time late.
  4. **Participate in Performances:** Inform Mr. Murphy of irreconcilable conflicts within the first 2 weeks of the term (if possible). Absence from a performance after this deadline may result in a grade deduction.
  5. **Be Prepared and Responsible:** Bring a pencil to each rehearsal, number all measures of each piece of music, and replace lost music or folders at a cost of \$5.00 or the actual replacement cost, whichever is greater.
  6. **Show Respect:** Raise your hand and wait to be called upon if you have a question or comment. No talking when Mr. Murphy is giving instructions. Mobile phones and other electronic devices are not permitted in rehearsal without special permission.
  7. **Attend Sectionals and Lessons:** These are for your benefit and the entire group's. Section leaders will schedule sectionals throughout the term and track attendance.
- 

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Concert Band**

Open to students in grades 9-12. Traditional band literature is studied and performed. Includes participation in marching band (first trimester) and pep band (second trimester). Attendance at all performances and scheduled activities is required.

### **Jazz Band**

Students perform and study several styles of jazz music. Basics of jazz improvisation and jazz theory are also covered. Attendance at all performances and scheduled activities is required.

### **Marching Band**

Occurs during the first trimester. All band students participate. Performs at all home football games and 2-3 parades.

### **Pep Band**

In December, every student is assigned to one of two Pep Bands, which perform at all home varsity basketball games and occasionally other winter sporting events. Each student must attend an average of six games.

### **Brass, Woodwind, and Percussion Ensembles**

Students study the history of their instruments and perform literature written for their respective ensembles. Participation in the Iowa High School Music Association Solo and Ensemble Festival in mid-April is expected.

---

## **CHAIR AUDITIONS**

### **Tryouts**

Held near the end of marching season and before the second trimester. Private lessons are encouraged. Challenge system available to improve chair position. Audition materials include scales, a prepared etude, and sight-reading.

---

## **REHEARSAL SCHEDULE**

### **Concert Band**

Meets daily during Period 1. Students are given two minutes after the tardy bell to assemble their instruments and prepare for rehearsal.

### **Jazz Band**

Meets on alternate days in the Band Room during Zero Period. Rehearses on Combination B Days.

### **Marching Band**

The season begins in August with a five-day camp. Rehearsals during the school year are during Period 1 with occasional Zero hour rehearsals for special events.

---

## **FOOTBALL GAMES**

- Play only when directed by a drum major or director.
- Perform when signaled by the director or drum major.
- Sit in the bottom north bleachers and remain in seats until halftime.
- Wear the uniform properly at all times. Shako off when sitting in the stands.
- Only water is allowed in the stands.

---

## CALL TIMES

- **Football Games:** 6:30 PM at Clark Field House (subject to change)
  - **Concerts:** 30 minutes prior to performance
  - **Basketball Games:** 6:15 PM in the Band Room (subject to change)
  - Call times for other events will be announced during rehearsals and posted online.
- 

## TRAVEL

- All students must use school transportation to music events. Exceptions at the director's discretion.
  - Alternative transportation requests must be submitted 48 hours prior to the event.
  - Medical Form signed by parents must be on file.
  - Follow general rules for bus trips to ensure safety and fairness.
- 

## MARCHING BAND UNIFORMS

- Assigned items: jacket, jumpsuit, shako, plume, and hanger. \$15.00 fee at registration.
  - Purchase black marching shoes, black socks, and black gloves. Shoes must be clean and polished before every performance.
  - Inspections will be conducted before every performance.
  - Uniforms must be hung neatly in the trailer after every performance.
  - Any loss or damage is at the student's expense.
- 

## SCHOOL EQUIPMENT USE

- Only the student to whom the instrument is issued may use it.
  - Students are responsible for necessary supplies.
  - Any loss or damage to equipment is the student's responsibility.
  - School-owned equipment must be locked and properly put away each day.
- 

## SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

## **Concert Bands**

- Brass: valve or rotor oil, mutes, slide grease, slide cream, and spray bottle.
- Woodwinds: 3 reeds, cleaning swab, cork grease, neck strap.
- Percussion: medium sticks, wire brushes, yarn mallets, xylophone mallets, stick bag.

## **Jazz Bands**

- Brass: same as above plus Harmon mute and plunger.
- Woodwinds: same as above plus jazz mouthpiece.
- Percussion: same as above plus light model drumstick.

## **Marching Band**

- Everyone needs to purchase a lyre and flip folio.
- 

## **AT-HOME PRACTICE**

- Students should practice at home to prepare their music correctly for school.
  - Aim for a minimum of three days per week for forty-five minutes.
  - Set a regular practice schedule to develop a habit.
- 

## **FEES AND LOCKERS**

- \$50.00 fee for using a school-owned instrument. Forms are due by the end of September.
  - Lockers are issued at the beginning of the school year for instruments and music items. Lock your lockers and do not store food or drink.
  - Lockers will be periodically checked.
- 

## **GRADING**

- Grades reflect effort and achievement. Based on daily rehearsals, lessons, written work, and performances.
- Students must attend a minimum of 3 lessons per trimester.
- Participate in all scheduled performances.

- Grading Scale: 100 (A+), 94-99 (A), 90-93 (A-), 87-89 (B+), 84-86 (B), 80-83 (B-), 77-79 (C+), 74-76 (C), 70-73 (C-), 67-69 (D+), 64-66 (D), 60-63 (D-), 59 and below (F)
- 

## **DISCIPLINE POLICY**

- Follow rules as outlined in the BHS Student Handbook.
  - No food, drink, or gum in the band room, rehearsals, or performances.
  - Show respect for each other.
  - Be on time.
  - Be quiet and attentive when a teacher is on the conductor podium.
- 

## **COMMUNICATION**

- Contact Mr. Murphy at 753.2211 x 1151 or [derrick.murphy@bcsds.org](mailto:derrick.murphy@bcsds.org).
  - Stay informed through the band page at [grayhoundbands.org](http://grayhoundbands.org).
- 

## **STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING**

- Understand band is a co-curricular activity requiring both in-class and out-of-class time.
- Participate in scheduled performances and rehearsals.
- Failure to participate will reflect in the student's grade.

### **Acknowledgment Form**

We have read the Band Handbook and understand the attendance guidelines. We are aware band is a co-curricular activity and will participate in performances and rehearsals as scheduled. Failure to do so will affect the student's grade.

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_