

BELLS



BHS
BAND

Handbook

2009 – 2010

The success of the BAND will depend on the **LOYALTY, COOPERATION,** and **DEDICATION** of each and every band member!

Music Philosophy

The purpose of music education is to encourage individuals and create different ways to stimulate the mind and increase learning potential. I believe that the physical and mental requirements that music education demands improves focus and performance in all academic areas. The creativity that music inspires can also prepare the student for challenges they will face in their future careers and will stay with them throughout life. Studying music literature, the composition of musical pieces and the physical activity it takes to play an instrument promotes confidence, encourages growth and a willingness to think outside the box. A piece of music can express a person's emotion, their opinions, or an epic story, and students are taught musically how to express that.

Playing in the band teaches students the importance of working with others and helps them to develop the social skills necessary to be a part of a performing organization. Instrumental music engages students in a group activity that allows them to use their free time constructively.

The **Bells Band program** provides students the opportunity to express themselves in some form of musical activity and in group and individual settings as they mature and grow into productive members of society.

"Life is a Song, Love is the Music"

Dear Band Member,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Bells “Panther” Band! We are at the beginning of a new year, one that will present us with many great experiences. I am pleased to announce that you will have a brand new band hall to perform in.

It is my belief that we can develop one of the finest high school band programs right here in Bells! The idea this year is to take the band to the next level and that presents a serious challenge. We must make positive strides to establish and maintain great attitudes and work habits. Our commitment to excellence must always be present. We must never settle for mediocrity!

Because of the nature of the organization, band students and their parents must be willing to accept the ideals, principles and rules of the organization. All of us must be willing to go that extra mile!

I am thrilled to be a part of such a great team of students and look forward to our first year together, in our strive for excellence.

Tim Fulton

Director

Bells Panther Band

Participation Expectations

A yearly band calendar is enclosed for use in planning your family schedule for the 2009-2010 school year. Each band student is important to the success of our many activities. We must be able to count on 100% attendance at all rehearsals and performances. If a family emergency occurs unexpectedly, PARENTS, please call the band hall at xxx-xxx-xxxx ext. xxx. Occasionally, there may be family commitments (weddings, graduations, etc.) in which case, we will try to be flexible and work with you on an individual basis. This must be discussed in detail and well in advance of the conflicting date (i.e. a month or more). Student job commitments are NOT reasons for an excused absence from band performances or rehearsals. Many band students work and participate successfully in band. We suggest that these students take a copy of the yearly band calendar to his/her employer and clear all band performances and rehearsals. Most employers are very understanding and flexible if they know of band commitments well in advance. It is helpful that they are educated to the fact that band performances are a required and vital part of the course work.

Responsibilities: Behavior and Discipline

Responsibilities as a Band Member

1. Show respect for teachers and students
2. Be prompt in attendance for rehearsals and performances
3. Follow all classroom procedures and school rules
4. Cooperate with fellow band members
5. Be responsible for your actions
6. Maintain a positive attitude
7. Make an effort to learn and improve each rehearsal
8. Read and play music with insight and expression

Band Room Behavior and Etiquette

Students should remember that the band room is a place to make music. Rough play, running, throwing items, loud talking, abusive language or vulgarity is UNACCEPTABLE. Using or

tampering with any equipment located in the band room that is not a personal possession is not allowed without the permission of the owner. You will respect other students' property, **especially instruments!** Do not touch any percussion equipment, any electrical equipment or any instrument that is not your own. School equipment will be assigned to students.

The appearance of our band room is a reflection of the Panther Band Program. This includes the rehearsal room, storage areas, practice rooms and practice field. Please help keep it clean! We are all responsible for keeping our area trash free as well as keeping the arrangement of the chairs and stands in their appropriate places. The chairs in the band room are for sitting only. You are to sit properly in the chair with all four feet on the floor. Music stands are for music only and not to be used as desks.

Gum, food, and drinks are not allowed in the band room at any time, with the exception of water bottles.

The band room area is off limits for students who are not band members because of the expensive equipment.

There are six basic rules that must be adhered to during rehearsal:

1. While the director is on the podium, he will have your undivided attention
2. Do not talk during rehearsal; if you have any questions that need to be asked, you should raise your hand and be called upon.
3. Do not play your instrument unless instructed to do so.
4. Be prepared for each rehearsal by bringing the proper equipment, materials and supplies to class and rehearsal.
5. Cells phones or any other electronic devices are not to be used during class.
6. ALWAYS HAVE A PENCIL!!!

Discipline

The director holds all members of the Bells Band Program to high standards of discipline. The actions of each member of the band program affect the overall image of the band in the school and community. When dealing with the band and thousands of dollars worth of equipment, it becomes necessary for each member to always behave in a mature manner.

When dealing with disciplinary problems, the director will follow a discipline that includes counseling with the student, demonstrating appropriate behavior, assigning written work, contacting parents, extra duty referring the student to the administration and the use of a demerit system that will affect the student's band grade. However, if the band program is to develop high levels of excellence, discipline problems should be nonexistent. If the actions of a student become a problem, a conference may be arranged with the parents and the student may be permanently removed from the band program.

GRADING and Eligibility

Grades will be weighted according to the following:

1. Daily Grades – performances in rehearsals during the school day, written or playing test, equipment checks, and materials brought to class and participation.
2. Weekly Teacher Assessment – students will be evaluated weekly through a variety of musical activities.
3. Playing Grades – these grades will come from periodic playing tests. They may be administered in class, or when the director deems necessary.
4. Participation Grade – part of each student's band grade is awarded for participation in rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. The grade is based on attendance, punctuality, effort during the session and being prepared for each session. This preparation includes knowing the assigned music, having show music memorized and bringing the proper materials.

Eligibility

No Pass/ No Play – If a student fails any six week period, they are ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities during the next three week period. There is a weeklong grace period to become eligible or ineligible. Following the three week period of ineligibility, students that were ineligible become eligible if they are passing all of their courses at the end of the three weeks. It is very important to our band program that band students stay academically eligible.

Rehearsal Schedule

Marching Band Season-The Panther Band will have Monday night rehearsals from 6:30pm to 8:30pm and morning rehearsals Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, beginning at 7:00am to 7:50am and during the school hours. The morning rehearsals will be devoted to sectional work, so not every band student will be required to come every morning. However, the director reserves the right to request the presence of any band member or section to attend any and every morning rehearsal, especially during the week of a competition. There will be a schedule posted in the band room to indicate which section will practice on what days.

Attendance for every band member is **mandatory** for each and every rehearsal. All extra rehearsals should be considered as required attendance rehearsals. Unexcused absences from rehearsals are cause for grade reduction.

Absences and Tardies for Out of School

Rehearsals and Performances

Absences and tardies for any reason should be kept to an absolute minimum. If a student is absent from any Monday night practice, morning rehearsals, or one performance for any reason, other than illness or family emergency, must have a written note from their parents. Removal from the performing unit of the band will be at the discretion of the band director(s). Students may be placed in an alternate position for violation of the absence and tardy policies. If a band student acquires more than three tardies or one unexcused absence during the school week will lose their third quarter break during the next football game. If a student has an unexcused absence on a Monday night, their third quarter break will be taken away.

To be on time is to be late. To be early is to be on time!

Assembly, Briefing, Dressing

At home football games, the band will meet at the band hall to dress in uniform and then assemble for instructions unless otherwise instructed. For out-of town football games, the band will meet at the band hall and load all equipment and uniforms and then assemble for instructions. These assemblies are required and mandatory. Instructions for all other band activities will be given before the activity begins. All instructions for times, dressing, loading procedures, etc. will be posted on the marker board ahead of time. Band members must be on time to dress and meet for instructions. THE 3 TARDY POLICIES WILL APPLY HERE.

Non-Participation by Band Members

Band members should inform the band director of any inability to participate in any activity (rehearsal or performance) as soon as it is known to the student. Non-participation should be kept to an absolute minimum. Those who continually do not participate will be taken from the performing unit or the class. It should be kept in mind that band is a class for a grade, that the success of the band is dependent upon team work by all members, and therefore all activities are considered a part of the requirements for the band class.

Reasons for non-participation should be limited to primarily medical reasons. For any non-participation lasting over one day, students must have a permit from their doctor stating why they may not participate and how long they are to be inactive. Students should bring a note from their parents for any non-participation on a one day basis.

Participation in the Performing Units

There will be times when the type of half-time show, eligibility of a student, lack of uniformity, unbalanced instrumentation, lack of preparation on the students part, etc. will require that some members of the band not participate in the performing unit. During football season, if a student is not marching for any reason other than eligibility or disciplinary action, the student will be required to be a part of the band at the game, be in uniform, and play their instrument in the stands with the band. Student participation at all activities will be determined by the band director on an individual basis.

Involvement in Other Activities – Band Members

Band members will be encouraged to participate in other activities. All band members may serve as club, class, or student council officers, etc. and participate in other activities providing these activities do not interfere with the performance of their duties in their respective band positions.

Band members may also be members of the football, volleyball, and basketball teams. Those players will be expected to be in all band rehearsals when they are not in an organized sport workout. This includes practices during the August rehearsals. Students may serve as trainers. Students are encouraged to participate in any other athletic activity during the year since there will be very few conflicts with time after football season.

Every effort will be made to work out conflicts between activities, but excessive interference from other activities will cause the student to have to make a choice between activities. Band members are responsible for making sure the band director(s) is aware of any conflicts with plenty of time given to allow for a solution to be worked out.

Dress Code - Marching shoes for practice should always be tennis shoes. NO sandals, flip flops, slip-ons, slippers, heeled shoes, and any other non-tennis shoes.

Students will be expected to dress properly for any band function. The manner of dress must meet school guidelines and regulations. If a specific style of dress is required for any activity, it will be explained by the band director before the activity. Band members must wear a band T-shirt under their uniform. Hair bows, flashy jewelry, bright colors of nail polish and makeup, caps, bandannas, etc. are not acceptable when the band is in uniform and are not to be worn. The band travel shirt will be used through-out the school year, not just marching season.

Travel

When traveling with the band, all school rules and policies apply. All students will be expected to follow a higher standard of conduct when traveling with the Panther Band as they are representing Bells High School.

1. Only Bells High School band students, school personnel, and chaperones are allowed to ride the bus.
2. Students will go and return on the same bus.
3. Students may return with a parent only if they have arranged to do so in advance and a note from the parent.
4. Students will stay in their seats while the bus is in motion.
5. Loud and profane language will not be tolerated.
6. Students will follow requests of the chaperones.
7. Students will be notified in advance if food and drinks can be taken on the bus.
8. There are to be no tobacco products or alcoholic beverages on band trips.

9. Stereos, CD players, headphones are allowed only if nobody else can hear them.
10. Upon arrival at a destination, students are to remain seated until given permission from the director.
11. All students need to clean their area of the bus.
12. As a general rule, all band members will travel to and from all events with the band. All transportation must be approved by the band director(s).
13. No student may ride in private transportation without the permission of the band director(s) and in no event will a student be allowed to ride in private transportation unless it contains an adult chaperon approved by the band director, principal, and parent of the child. No student will be allowed to ride in private transportation unless written permission from the student's parents, band director, and principal is given to the director before the trip begins. If any of these factors are not followed, then the student may not ride home with anyone but the band. No exceptions! This is for the student's safety.
14. PDA (Public Display of Affection) - Absolutely NO PDA will be tolerated. If there are any instances of PDA it will force the whole band to be separated by male and female buses.

Contests, Concerts, Trips

The band will participate in various contests and other performances during the year which will be selected by the band director(s). These will include events such as U.I.L. competitions, invitational festivals, parades, etc.

The band will also give concerts at various times of the year which will be open to the public. Dates and sites for these concerts will be selected by the band director(s).

The band will go to all football games. The "Big" trips for the band will be limited to approximately every 2 years in an effort to save on expenses. In the event of a "special" invitation, this policy could be revised as needed. The band will participate in the area matching contests, state marching contests, or state solo and ensemble contests each time

they qualify.

All band members are expected to participate and perform in all of the band activities. Students with conflicts in other school activities that are occurring at the same time as the band activity will need to get with the band director(s) as soon as the conflict is known. UIL activities will take precedent over all other activities.

Overnight Trip Regulations

When the band is staying overnight on a trip, in addition to all of the normal regulation, the following regulation will be observed:

1. Boys should never be in girl's rooms, girls should never be in boy's rooms. Exceptions would be while carrying in or out luggage, or when a sponsor is present in the room.
2. Curfew is to be strictly observed; students should be in their rooms at the designated time and remain there until the designated time to leave the room.
3. Students should never go places by themselves and always stay in groups for safety.
4. Students should never leave the designated areas.
5. Students should always take care of the property of the host.
6. Students should avoid making excessive noise that would disturb other guests.
7. Students should observe all school and band regulations so the school and band will be represented properly.

Sitting in Band Section at Band Activities

The band will sit in formation in the stands at football games, pep rallies, etc. Only band students will be allowed in the band sections. Band members are not to leave the band section or change places in the seating formation without permission. Members should ask to leave the band section only in case of an emergency.

Uniforms

The school will furnish a performance uniform for each of the band members and the Drum Major. All other uniforms, shirts and accessories will be furnished by the students. Band members must furnish their own band shoes and high top socks. The shoe style will be black shoes which the students may order from the band director. All uniforms, shirts, etc. that are identifiable as representing the band must be approved by the band director(s). All uniforms will be worn in the manner prescribed by the band director(s). All accessories will be decided upon by the director(s) including socks, jewelry, jackets, etc. Bright colored nail polish or lipstick (make-up), hair bows, flashy jewelry, etc. will not be acceptable when in uniform.

Regular band uniforms will be issued by the school to each band member on a seniority basis beginning with the seniors. All uniforms will be kept in the band hall storage area. Uniforms may be checked out for special activities such as pictures, etc. by making arrangements with the band director(s). Students should notify the director of any problems of any problems with their uniforms (dirty, buttons missing, torn, etc.)

The uniform will be cleaned periodically during the year. All measures should be taken to keep the uniform clean and pressed.

Any misuse of the uniforms may result in the forfeiture of the student's rights to wear the uniform and/or the forfeiture of the student's position in the performing unit.

BAND LETTER JACKET POLICY

Bells High School can award one letter jacket to students who meet the lettering criteria for a high school organization. Once a student is awarded a letter jacket by an organization, no other organization may duplicate that award.

To receive a letter jacket from the Bells High School Panther Band, a student must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. Advance to and audition at the Area auditions for the All-State Band.

2. Receive a 1st Division on a solo or ensemble at the State Solo & Ensemble Contest.
3. Perform with the marching band at the UIL State Marching Band Contest.
4. Perform with both the marching and concert ensembles for three consecutive years.

Students who are awarded a letter jacket will receive the jacket, a letter, and a music emblem for the letter. Any other patches or decorations for the jacket must be purchased by the student. Ordering of letter jackets will be at the discretion of the Director of Bands.

This policy will go into effect for the class of 2013.

Bells Panther Band Contract

Student/Parent Authorization & Release for Off-Campus Activities

The Bells Independent School District (BISD) offers a variety of learning activities at designated off-campus locations in which students will have an opportunity to participate. I hereby give permission for my son/daughter to participate in the various off-campus activities associated with the Bells "Panther" Band. I understand that BISD may not provide transportation to and from all activities. Students are expected to use school transportation to and from ALL activities, if provided. In the event that BISD does not provide such transportation, I further understand that I must provide transportation for my son/daughter as a condition of his/her participation in that activity. In consideration for allowing my son/daughter to participate in off-campus activities, I knowingly and voluntarily agree to assume full responsibility and assume all risk for any accident, loss, damage, and injuries he or she may sustain as a result of or arising out of any aspect of the activity. Furthermore, I, on behalf of myself, my son/daughter named below, our respective family members, and our respective heirs, legatees, executors, administrators, and assignees, hereby agree to release, acquit, discharge, and hold harmless BISD, the BISD Board of Trustees, the Bells "Panther" Band Directors, and any agents, employees, representatives, insurers, successors, and assignees of the entities just named from any and all claims, demands, liabilities, actions or causes of action, of whatever kind or character, whether known or unknown, whether arising out of federal, state, or local statute or common law, including claims resulting from negligence, that I or my son/daughter may sustain arising out of any aspect of the off-campus activity, including, but not limited to, driving or riding to or from the off-campus activity.

PARENT/GUARDIAN – STUDENT RELEASE & AGREEMENT

I have discussed and reviewed all the information in the handbook with my son/daughter, and I understand its contents and my responsibility as to these policies and conditions. My son/daughter has my permission to attend all Bells “Panther” Band trips. I understand that Bells ISD, Bells High School, and the Bells “Panther” Band will not be liable for injuries and medical cost for students. My signature also serves as permission for my son/daughter to obtain medical treatment on a Bells “Panther” Band trip.

Student Name (PRINT)

Parent/Guardian Name (PRINT)

Student SIGNATURE

Parent/Guardian SIGNATURE

Date

Date

HEALTH AND MEDICAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Student's Name: _____ Sex _____ Date of Birth _____
 ____/____/____
Last First MI

Present Address:

_____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parents or Legal Guardians: _____ Home #: _____ Cell #: _____

Other Emergency Contact: _____ Home #: _____ Alternate #: _____

Health Insurance Co.: _____ Policy Number: _____ Health Ins. Tel. _____

Medical History of Student: (Please check Yes or No)				** Please check medication your child can receive					
	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No	
Diabetes	_____	_____	Dizziness	_____	_____	Acetaminophen (Tylenol)	_____	_____	
Drug Allergies	_____	_____	Convulsions	_____	_____	Ibuprofen (Advil)	_____	_____	
Asthma	_____	_____	High Bld Pressure	_____	_____	Throat Lozenges/cough drops	_____	_____	
Epilepsy	_____	_____	Heart Disease	_____	_____	Antacids (Tums)	_____	_____	
Fainting Spells	_____	_____	Stomach Disorder	_____	_____	Lotions, Creams, ointments	_____	_____	
Kidney Disease	_____	_____	Hay Fever	_____	_____	Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)	_____	_____	
Liver Disease	_____	_____							

Parent/Guardian Signature									

Surgery/ies (within the last year): _____

Emotional problem (i.e. hyperventilation, hysteria): _____

Serious medical problems not mentioned above: _____

Tetanus (last injection date): _____ Allergies to drugs: _____

Allergies to foods & other agents: _____

List ANY medications the student might have cause to use on a trip (i.e. anti-convulsive, anti-histamine, insulin, any tranquilizer, etc.)

Please describe any medical/mental problems which the student might have which have not been covered on this form and about

which you think the directors should know.
