

THUNDERBIRD

HIGH SCHOOL

BAND PROGRAM

MARCHING * CONCERT * JAZZ



HANDBOOK

2008 - 2009

June 9, 2008

Dear Music Students and Parents,

It is my mission as a teacher to develop in the students a life-long love for the performance, study, and the wonders of music, while equipping them with the tools that are essential to individual growth and success in life.

It is my personal goal to develop in my students the belief that they can achieve anything in life through dedication, perseverance, and self-discipline, which comes only through a strong work ethic and a strong value system. This includes a high sense of respect for their fellow human beings, the environment in which they live, and most of all, for themselves.

There are many important qualities and expectations included in this handbook. Please review it carefully. It is my intent to provide for you the best musical experience possible, and believe the following guidelines and information will help accomplish these intentions. Please return a signed handbook signature form to me as soon as possible.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding my expectations and highly encourage open communications with you. Please contact me direct at (623) 915-8900 ext. 7101 or e-mail me at tkmattes@guhsdaz.org to discuss any concerns. The main source for parent information will be our Web Site, which is www.thunderbirdbands.org.

If we all work together, we can make this a terrific year for the students of the Thunderbird High School Band Program. Thank you for your support in making our musical experience the best it can be.

Sincerely,

Tim Matteson,
Director of Bands, Thunderbird High School

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WHY STUDY MUSIC?

MUSIC IS A SCIENCE. It is exact and specific. A conductor's score (which represents a musical composition) is a chart and graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, and harmonies all at once, with the most exact control of time.

MUSIC IS MATHEMATICAL. It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions, which must be done instantaneously in the brain, not worked out on paper.

MUSIC IS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE. Most of the descriptive terms used in a piece of music are in Italian, German, or French, and the musical notations themselves are certainly not in English. Musical notation is a highly developed form of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The language of music is the most complete and universal language of them all.

MUSIC IS HISTORY. Music usually reflects the environment and historical times of its creation, often revealing the political and social sentiments of its era.

MUSIC IS PHYSICAL EDUCATION. The performance of music requires fantastic coordination of the eyes, fingers, hands, legs, lips, and facial muscles. In addition, it also takes extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles. All of these physical actions then respond instantly to the visual and aural prompting of the eyes and ears and are immediately interpreted by the mind.

MUSIC IS INTERACTIVE. Performing a piece of music in a group setting takes an extremely high level of physical, aural, and interpretive cooperation between all members of the ensemble.

MUSIC IS FUN. This one is self-explanatory.

Music is all these things, but most of all **MUSIC IS ART.** It allows a human being to take all of these physical attributes and techniques and use them to *communicate* and *create* emotions, thoughts, and ideas. This is what differentiates us from computers and machines. Music is proof positive of a distinctive quality we possess... humanism.

THAT IS WHY WE STUDY MUSIC!

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

1. **Show an interest in your student's musical endeavors .**
2. Arrange a regular time for the student to practice.
3. Find a quiet place where they can practice without interruption.
4. **Help the student keep a record of their practice routine and habits.** Good practice involves a good warm-up with technical studies (scales, arpeggios, etc.), a review of current music being studied, intense isolation of difficult sections in the music, and exposure to new material. If they are merely playing through the music and ignoring those parts of the music that are challenging, they will feel no sense of accomplishment. It is important that they develop a routine they can stick with.
5. Make sure they have a safe place to store their instrument at home.
6. **Keep the instrument in good repair** (clean and working properly) and make sure they have all the supplies they need to be successful (good reeds, cork grease, valve oil, mutes, etc.)
7. **Be very careful with school owned and privately owned instruments.** Repairs can be costly.
8. Make sure your child is on time to school and rehearsals every day.
9. **Find a private instructor for your child to study with.** This highly intensifies their musical experience.
10. Encourage the student to play for others whenever the opportunity arises (in the home, at school, in church, or for community events).
11. **Make sure you know your child's schedule of performances** and other school events, and make sure they're on time.
12. **See that they always remember to bring their instrument and music to school each day.**
13. **See that they keep up with their classroom studies.** Your involvement can make a huge difference.
14. Visit rehearsals and lessons periodically and attend performances whenever possible.
15. Join and become an active member of the **Band Boosters**.
16. **Donate up to \$ 250 of your state taxes** to the district in the name of the Thunderbird Band. This is a dollar for dollar tax credit, with every penny going directly into the program. A donation form has been included in the handbook.
17. **Please don't discipline your child by refusing to let them participate in a performance.** This not only penalizes the individual, but it also penalizes everyone else in the group. The students depend on each other for the coverage of parts, and positions when on the field. Disciplinary action is not considered an excused absence and their grade will suffer.
- 18 Please realize that if your child has an "5" in any of their classes, they will not be able to perform. **Help them to succeed by becoming involved in their schoolwork and activities.** Sometimes your support is more important than anything else.



The Thunderbird High School Band Program

Information for Students and Parents

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* Please Note: Participation in marching band is a requirement for all other performing groups.

MARCHING CHIEFS (Advanced Band – Fall Semester)

The marching band is a musical marching unit, which performs in the fall for the duration of the football season. The marching band is considered a “co-curricular” activity, where individual performance levels for both in-class activities and after school activities are included in the grading process. Advanced Band is a pass/fail course.

The marching band provides entertainment at all home football games and several important away games. Every year during marching season, the band performs for thousands of spectators at both football games and marching festivals. Membership is open to all students with previous band experience and/or a willingness to perform. Membership requires total dedication and maximum effort and involvement in all aspects of marching, playing, and performance.

Once school starts, the marching band rehearses daily from 6:30 to 7:40 a.m. through the date of the State Marching Festival in mid-November. All members should plan on arriving on campus by to 6:15 a.m. to ensure that practice starts promptly at 6:30 a.m. The band also rehearses on Tuesday nights in the stadium from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and on Wednesday late starts on an as needed basis. Please check your band calendar for specific meeting dates and dates off. Additional rehearsals and sectionals will be required of all members. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Students’ grades will be affected by their personal attendance record.

CONCERT BAND (Advanced Band – Spring Semester)

The Thunderbird High School Concert Band meets during Zero Hour throughout the spring semester as a part of Advanced Band. The performance repertoire consists of quality contemporary works for band, as well as many well-known and classic works for concert band. The band may perform at annual district and state music festivals in addition to the regular Thunderbird concert series and community performances.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE III (Beginning Jazz Band)

Jazz III is a beginning to intermediate jazz ensemble which focuses on the building of basic musical skills in the jazz idiom. Jazz III will be expected to perform at local and regional festivals at the discretion of the director. Membership in this group is open to all students. This group rehearses daily inside the school day schedule.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE II (Intermediate Jazz Band)

Jazz II is an intermediate jazz ensemble which focuses on the refinement of basic musical skills in jazz. Jazz II will be expected to perform at local and regional festivals at the discretion of the director. Membership in this group is by audition, which is open to all members of the Advanced/Concert Band program. This group rehearses daily inside the school day schedule.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE I (Advanced Jazz Band)

Jazz I is the premier jazz ensemble at Thunderbird High School. This is a very prestigious and nationally recognized group, performing at festivals across the southwest and the nation. A serious effort is made to promote the growth and performance of jazz and related styles of music. Membership is open to all members of the Advanced/Concert Band program, with selection and seating being determined by audition. This group rehearses daily during 1st Period.



EXPECTATIONS

In general:

- Memorize your field music. You will be tested on this for part of your grade.
- Learn and practice your music for concert and jazz bands.
- Practice at home at least 90 minutes per week.
- Attend every mandatory sectional.
- Refrain from talking or playing your instrument during a pause in the rehearsal.
- Any student that misses the Friday rehearsal before a game will not be permitted to perform at that night's performance.

At school & in the band room:

- Get to class on time. This means that you are to be in the room with your instrument out by the time the tardy bell rings
- Bring your materials with you every day. These include your instrument, your music, and for marching band, the proper shoes for participation on the field. If you are without proper shoes, you will not be able to participate on the field.
- You will be held financially responsible for the damage or loss of any instruments, equipment, music, and music folders that you are issued. This includes uniforms.
- Keep your grades up in other classes. You will not perform if you have a "5" in any of your classes.
- Treat all other students with respect.
- Keep your language clean.
- Keep food outside of the band room.
- Make sure your locker has a lock and that it is used.
- Refrain from loud talking, yelling, running, and engaging in any form of horseplay while in the band room.
- Keep all areas of the music room clean at all times. If you make a mess, clean it up, if you see a mess, clean it up, even if you didn't make it. Do not leave any items (including cases) on the floor. Keep your cases and books in your locker at all times. Any items left on the floor will be confiscated and held in the lucky locker. Items will be returned for a fee of 50 cents per item.
- Hazing, or the harsh physical initiation of any freshman student is strictly prohibited. All band members are to be treated with the utmost respect at all times.

At football games:

- Upon completion of warm-up procedures in the band room, the band will assemble outside in block or stadium entry formation. Students will form ranks immediately upon hearing the Drum Major's command.
- The Drum Majors and Section Leaders will conduct uniform inspections prior to the band's departure to the stadium.
- The band will march to the stadium in block formation. Spectators should not be allowed to break ranks or files.
- Purses should not be carried into the stadium but should be left in a secure area found appropriate by the student.
- All extra equipment, including lyres, folios, cases, and shako boxes shall be carried into the stadium by each student 30 minutes prior to stadium entry.

On the field or in the stands:

- Refuse to talk or move while at attention.
- Remain at attention once you are in-place in the stadium seating area until the Drum major gives the command for all to be seated.
- Ranks and files should be kept in perfect alignment while seated or playing in the stands.
- Keep your jacket zipped up at all times.
- Stand at attention when there is an injured player on the field.
- Keep family and friends out of the band's stadium seating area.
- Stay at your seat while the game is in progress.
- Pay attention to the game.
- Help the team and spirit line by taking part in cheers.
- No eating or drinking while in the stands and in uniform.
- Visits to the rest rooms are allowed, but no more than two students may be gone at any one time.
- At away games, students may leave the stands, but must remain in groups of five or more students or must be accompanied by a chaperone.
- Student conduct should be professional throughout the time spent in the stadium. Individual playing or beating of drums is not permitted.
- Students should watch for flash cards with titles of selections to be played and should be ready to get the music up rapidly.
- Band members should treat the other band's members, director, and guests courteously. If something good cannot be said about the visiting band, then don't say anything.

At half-time:

- Band members should exit the stands in a pre-determined orderly manner. Running up and down the stadium steps or seats is not permitted.

- The band should move quickly to form the proper line-up or pre-set formation at the south end of the stadium before the half-time performance (at seven minutes left in the second period).
- After the performance, the band will form a tunnel to bring the team onto the field. At the conclusion of the fight song, the students are to file back into their stadium seating area. At home games, band officers are then to proceed to visit with the visiting band.

On the bus:

- Remain silent when ten minutes away from a performance location.
- Refrain from jumping out of any windows.
- Keep your limbs inside the bus.
- Stay seated while the bus is in motion.
- Choose the seat you want and remain there.
- Clean up your messes and throw away your own trash.

The Marching Uniform:

- Know the number of your uniform and shako, and make sure that they are stored in the proper place when not in use.
- Always wear a tee shirt and shorts under your uniform, along with white socks and clean/polished marching shoes. It is your responsibility to make sure your shoes are polished and gloves are cleaned before each performance.
- A garment bag must be over the properly hung uniform when the uniform is being transported or carried. You may store your gloves in the bag but NOTHING ELSE!
- You are responsible for taking care of your own garment bag, hanger, and clothes while in uniform.
- Shakos must be placed in the shako box and stored correctly when not in use.
- Uniform must be hung up properly and stored in the correct place when not in use. Do not store your uniform in the garment bag until it has been “aired out” for at least 24 hours.
- Long hair must be put up into the shako for performances.
- Uniforms will be worn properly (zipped up) at all times when in public view.
- Eating or drinking is not permitted while in uniform. The only exception is water.
- Uniform pants are to be hemmed to 2 inches of the ground with the band shoe on. This is the responsibility of each individual member.
- Never leave uniform or accessories unattended, as you will be personally held responsible for the cost of anything lost or stolen.

CONCERT AND PERFORMANCES POLICIES

Because performance plays an integral role in any music program, all students are expected to be at every performance or concert. A required performance is one that is listed on the band calendar or one that is added to the calendar with two weeks notice.

Two weeks notice for any absence by a parent is required for most of the excused absences listed below. If parent notification is given to the director and arrangements are made **prior to the performance**, exceptions will be made under the following circumstances:

SEVERE ILLNESS
DEATH IN THE FAMILY
FAMILY WEDDING
FAMILY MILITARY OR MISSIONARY DEPARTURE

Please note that the following excuses are not acceptable:

CONFLICT WITH WORK/JOB SCHEDULE
FAILURE TO GET A RIDE
DISCIPLINARY ACTION (On the part of a parent or the school)

If a performance or rehearsal is missed, whether or not the absence is excused, the student will be granted five days to make up any missed points as stated in the GUHSD policy statement.

While at performances, the following is also important and will be graded:

- 1) Promptness. Unless otherwise noted, all band personnel will be required to arrive **one hour prior to field entry** or performance time for dress and warm-up
- 2) All students must stay for the completion of the entire performance or concert. Leaving early will result in a partial loss of credit for that performance.
- 3) All students must display proper performance and concert etiquette:
 - A. Proper concert attire/dress.
 - B. Staying seated in the hall or in the stands at all times (except when playing).
 - C. Movement in and out of the concert hall is permitted during applause only.
 - D. Consideration and sensitivity to the performers *and* audience. Don't talk to your neighbors, fidget, put your feet on the seats, or eat while at a concert.
- 3) Students must ride on the bus with the group for all away performances. A parent release form must be signed for any student wishing to ride in a private vehicle to or from any school-sponsored event. However, this practice is highly discouraged.

LOCKERS AND UNIFORMS

LOCKERS

- Lockers are provided to all students this year, with all lockers being assigned.
- Lockers will be assigned according to instrument size and storage requirements.
- Lockers must be kept clean and orderly at all times.
- Food can be stored in lockers for the day that it is to be consumed only.
- Students are responsible for removing any stickers and/or tape from the front or inside of their lockers at the end of the year.

UNIFORMS

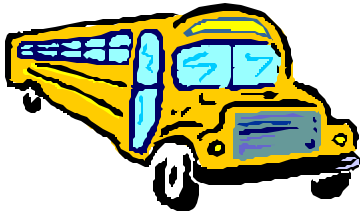
- Concert Band performance attire will be black dress shoes with black socks, a white dress shirt, and black dress pants for the boys. The girls are required to wear black dress shoes and black dresses. **The dress must come below the knees.**
- A Marching Band Uniform will be provided to all students in the marching band and is comprised of the following components:
 - 1) **Band T-Shirt** (current season shirt)
 - 2) **Band Shorts** (summer uniform)
 - 3) **Short White Socks** (summer uniform)
 - 4) **Jacket and Pants**
 - 5) **Shako with Plume**
 - 6) **Black Marching Shoes**
 - 7) **Black Gloves**
 - 8) **Long Black Socks (students must supply these)**
 - 9) **Uniform Bag with Hanger**

Students will be charged with a uniform violation if they commit any of the offenses given below. **A uniform violation is 50 points** (or 50% of that day's performance grade). Uniforms will be checked by section leaders before and after each performance.

- Failing to be fully dressed in all of the items listed above.
- Dirty uniform (shoes, socks, t-shirt, as well as shako, pants or jacket).
- Eating in uniform (includes drinking soda- water is OK).
- Hanging up uniform improperly (see uniform cabinet doors for details).
- Leaving any piece of the uniform unattended in any place other than the uniform cabinets after a performance.
- Uniform on the floor.

All of the components of the uniform are to be kept together at all times.

**SOUND GOOD, LOOK GOOD, AND FEEL GOOD
TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR UNIFORM!**



TRAVEL CONDUCT

When traveling to performances, the students of the music department represent their performance group, their school, and the city Glendale Union High School District. Students will be expected to follow the proceeding travel guidelines when on the road. Any violation of these guidelines may result in the loss of points, expulsion from the music department, suspension from school, and in severe cases, even expulsion from Thunderbird High School.

- 1) Consumption or possession of any illegal substance is prohibited. This includes the distribution or consumption of prescription drugs by any one other than the person for which the medications were prescribed.
- 2) Large ice chests are prohibited on the bus and equipment truck. Small ice chests are permitted on long trips only and must be kept out of the aisle.
- 3) Boom Boxes are prohibited. Walkman-size tape and CD players are OK, provided you are using a pair of headphones.
- 4) Any instrument larger than a clarinet must be stored under the bus or in the equipment truck.
- 5) Students must stay seated while the bus is in motion or on route. Switching seats, standing, sitting in the aisle, and laying under the seats is prohibited.
- 6) Yelling and screaming are definitely out. Anything other than a reasonable speaking voice will not be tolerated.
- 7) Food and drinks are OK, provided you clean up any messes you make and throw any trash you have in the trash bag at the front or rear of the bus. Any food or trash violation will cause the responsible person or persons to be without food privileges indefinitely.
- 8) Parents are to make sure their children are on time for departure and are present upon the group's return. The director is not permitted to leave until all students have departed, and is unable to give students a ride home.
- 9) The director will do his best to return at the scheduled time.
- 10) Pillows and blankets are permitted on long trips only.
- 11) Hands, arms, legs, and all items must remain in the bus and not hanging out the window.
- 12) Emergency doors, windows, and hatches must remain shut, except in the case of an emergency.
- 13) What the bus driver says, goes.
- 14) While staying overnight in a hotel/motel, students of different genders are not permitted in each other's rooms unless under direct supervision of a staff member or chaperone.

GRADING AND ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Philosophy:

Band is a unique class because we have students that vary in grade levels and musical experiences. You should be able to earn a “1” or a “Pass” even if you do not play as well as someone else. Good attitudes and good habits are all that is required for you to do well in band.

Principles of Grading:

Grades will be earned on the basis of music play-offs, performance, attendance, practice assignments, sectional rehearsals, term and semester exams, and on your ability to follow expectations.

Every ensemble at Thunderbird is a performing organization. Your attendance at every rehearsal and performance is critical to the groups’ success. However, due to illness or other situations, you may not be able to attend 100% of the time. Although this is understandable, absences will not be excused when there is a failure to get a ride, when there is a work conflict, or when absences are due to disciplinary action by the school or parents.

Implementation:

FOOTBALL GAME OR CONCERT ATTENDANCE.....20%
Each of these performances will be worth 75 points

BAND DAY & FESTIVAL ATTENDANCE.....20%
During the year, we will have several Band Day/Festival performances. Each of these performances will be worth 250 points.

MUSIC PLAY-OFF.....20%

Marching Band:

Music memorized when required. There will be a 10% grade penalty per week if not completed on time. These play-offs are **pass/fail**.

Jazz Bands/Concert Band:

Music learned when required. There will be a 10% grade penalty per week if not completed on time. These play-offs are **pass/fail**.

WRITTEN WORK AND HOMEWORK.....20%
Written work will include P.B.A.’s (Performance-Based Assessments), and/or written quizzes given periodically. Homework may include scheduled sectionals, scheduled additional rehearsals, and other activities relevant to the music program.

MID-TERM EXAM (Jazz & Advanced band).....10%

A mid-term exam will be given totaling 10% of your grade. This exam will consist of playing ALL Major scales and the Chromatic scale from memory. The exam may also contain additional elements for the jazz ensembles.

FINAL EXAM (Jazz & Advanced band).....10%

A final exam will be given totaling 10% of your grade. This exam will consist of playing one of the All-Regional etudes (for Advanced Band) and a listening test (for Jazz bands).

Since there are varying numbers of performances during each grading period and by each band, the grading scale for each band will be a percentage of the total points possible.

GRADING SCALE

90% to 100%	= 1
80% to 89%	= 2
70% to 79%	= 3
60% to 69%	= 4
Below 60%	= 5

Please Note:

- Students with the grade of a “5” in any of their classes will be unable to perform with the band until their grade is brought up. These students will be required to stand on the sideline in full uniform during the field show.
- The district attendance policy of dropping credit or moving a student to audit status after any combination of 12 tardies or absences will be strictly adhered to.
- The district’s 6-step disciplinary policy will be utilized in all music classes.



AWARDS

John Phillip Sousa Band Award – This award is presented each year to the outstanding band member who displays superior musicianship, merit, leadership, dependability, loyalty, cooperation, and other positive qualities of conduct. The student's name is placed on a plaque permanently displayed in the band room. The director selects the recipient.

Louis Armstrong Jazz Award – Same as above in the area of Jazz.

Outstanding Freshman/Sophomore/Junior/Senior – These awards are presented to a member from each class who displays outstanding musicianship and character.

Outstanding Marcher – One boy and one girl are chosen by the students themselves for this award.



LETTERING

To qualify for a letter in band, a student must accumulate a minimum of 300 points or more during their high school experience. To receive a “bar”, the student must have achieved a letter and accumulate an additional 150 points. The student must also earn a grade of “1” or a “Pass” in band class for the calendar year.

To receive a letter and awards, the student must be enrolled in band for the entire school year and be in good standing with the band, the department, the school and the community.

* The point system for earning letters and bars is given on the following page.

Thunderbird Band Letter/Bar Sheet

SIGNATURE FORM

2008-2009

Thunderbird High School Bands
1750 W. Thunderbird Road– Phoenix, AZ 85023

Please detach and return to Mr. Matteson by July 25, 2008

Student Name _____

Parent Name _____

I have read and understand all of the policies as laid out in this band handbook. I understand that I was given this information so that I would have a clear understanding of what is expected of me and so that my experience may be pleasant, beneficial and successful. I agree to comply with all of these policies, rules and expectations.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____