



**2019-2020**



**Superintendent:** Mr. Jay Foster

**Principal:** Mr. Ben Stigler

**Asst. Principal:** Ms. Brandi Freed

**Directors:** Aaron Bailey, Pam Jackson, Thaddeus Moss

## Band Students and Parents:

Welcome to one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences in which you can be a part—the band! Now, more than ever, we have information to justify why we participate in this demanding activity. Experts have concluded that the study of music helps with spatial reasoning, test taking, and overall quality of life! Factor in social skills, emotional development, leadership training, group interaction, aesthetic perception, music-making, and the discipline of being in a band program, and I don't know why anyone would not want to be involved in a successful band program like the one we have here at Senatobia. The ultimate goal is a lifelong understanding and appreciation for high-quality music and a high level of self-respect, honor, and empathy towards everyone we meet.

Everyone should read the information in the handbook, even veteran students and parents. Some of the information has changed, so make sure you're informed. For those new to the program, this is the "band bible," which keeps us running smoothly and efficiently. Most questions can be answered by consulting the handbook, and policies will be adjusted from year to year as the need arises to clarify issues within the program. It is my hope that the information contained in this handbook will both inform and inspire! The section "How Parents Can Help" is designed to give guidance to parents; read it carefully to gain important insights. Students need to know we think that what they do is important! By becoming involved with our booster organization and encouraging your children, you will quickly find that band is truly a family in and of itself!

I know that this past year was full of success by the students at Senatobia High School. In all areas of the program, there was growth and indications that the program is only going to continue to prosper. As of this writing, we are looking ahead to some wonderful opportunities for the upcoming year. I hope to begin to make the Senatobia High School Band more competitive with other schools by going to our State Marching Championships, and by continuing the focus on great music education. I also hope to take the band on a trip to Orlando, Florida this year to perform outside our state. This handbook is designed to answer any questions you might have concerning our band program. Please read all of the information, and sign the Band Handbook Agreement Form in the back of the book and return it, along with the Medical Release Form, on the first day of band camp. I am honored to be your band director and I am looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Aaron Bailey

"If better is possible, then good is not enough!" --John Buchanan

# Student Handbook

## Band Policy

In order to assist band members and parents in understanding the areas of responsibility, a statement of band policy is herein set forth. Becoming familiar with this policy will enable each individual to make the most of this great opportunity to be a member of the high school band program, becoming a better person and a better musician in the process.

We firmly believe each student should improve through regular practice. When the student has lost the will to improve him or herself or to make a better contribution to the band, he or she is wasting the time and effort of fellow members and the community by continuing in the band program. The happiest student is one who improves through regular habits of practice and daily progress. He or she must not only know right from wrong but must be able to stand for principles and develop a high sense of purpose toward which he or she is willing to work. Responsibility is the focus behind any level of achievement within this program. We intend to conduct ourselves in a manner that will facilitate the learning of all students.

## Purpose

As band director for Senatobia High School, I feel that it is important to educate students about more than just music. It is of utmost importance for these students to learn cooperation and hard work to achieve success in all undertakings. It is my goal as Director of Bands to build and maintain a superior quality band program and to further the musical education of each band member, to teach music by its actual performance, to provide for the musical needs of the school and community, to develop leadership skills within each student, and to provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self-expression, and a healthy social experience. When I say, "Culture of excellence," this is what I am referencing.

**Motto:** Excellence is a habit!

## The Importance of Attitude

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is attitude. The kind of person you are is an individual choice, and how you feel about something is one of the few actual independent choices you have in life. The right attitude must be present along with sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the basic foundations of a successful band program. The band can do much for you. Make the most of every rehearsal!

## Media Postings

All photographic, sound, or computer-generated images of any group/individual of the Senatobia Band Program must be approved by the band directors and school administration prior to any postings for public view. Public postings include, but are not limited to, the following: television broadcast, radio broadcast, newspaper photographs-articles, and/or various internet postings through social-media such as Facebook, Twitter, web-pages, etc.

# The SHS Band in Brief

## Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is the primary performing organization in the instrumental music department during the winter and spring. Membership is by audition only. The Symphonic Band will be comprised of students with the performing ability necessary to play level IV to V literature.

## Concert Band

The Concert Band is comprised of students with the performing ability necessary to perform level II / III music. Membership is by audition only.

## Marching Band

Membership in the marching band requires strenuous physical exercise and the ability to play the difficult literature encountered in the activity. All students enrolled in the band program are required to march. The marching band performs primarily in the fall where we attend MHSAA state Marching Festival as well as other contests.

## All-State, Region, and District Band

Members of the band program are eligible to audition for the Mississippi Lions Band. Auditions are held in November with "finals" auditions one week later. The State Band clinic is held at Natchez, MS and the All State Band will meet and rehearse there. The All State Band is a concert band made from the top players of the Lions Band. There are also several other honor bands which students can audition for including Desoto County Honor Band, I-55 Honor Band, and several college honor bands.

# Responsibilities of Band Members

## RESPONSIBILITIES TO OURSELVES

We owe ourselves the benefit of proper equipment and proper lessons. Whenever possible, you should avail yourselves of the best possible quality instrument you can afford and endeavor to take private lessons. Group lessons at school only teach at a moderate level. YOU have the primary responsibility for learning and contributing your talent to the group.

## RESPONSIBILITY TO THE SCHOOL

The school district provides the necessary setting and facilities for our performances and some of the larger, more expensive equipment. The Band Boosters are largely responsible for many large purchases. We, then, have the obligation to provide the best possible performances for the school, community, and citizens of our area. This means you agree to GIVE UP SOME OF YOUR FREE TIME ON HOLIDAYS AND VACATIONS FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT OF OTHERS. IT ALSO MEANS THAT IF THE SCHOOL OWNS YOUR INSTRUMENT, YOU ARE WILLING TO TAKE PROPER CARE OF IT—INCLUDING REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT IF NECESSARY.

## RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROMPTNESS AND COMMITMENT TO THE PROGRAM

These are two essential facts vital to the success of the organization. Many times, we are leaving the area to perform. It is obvious that if you are late, you are left behind. YOU MUST arrange your schedule so you are able to honor your commitment to the performing group. Report times are the times that you are to be in your position, ready to perform. Remember – **To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is unthinkable.**

## FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

We must be responsible for the costs of the uniforms and equipment, as well as transportation and maintenance of equipment. While we receive some financial support from the school, it is not nearly enough to support the program to the extent that the community and the members themselves deem necessary. We have a very active and supportive booster organization. We expect parents to join this group and to help with its activities. The students have the opportunity to participate in several fundraising events each year. We believe that it is reasonable to expect each member to participate equally in these projects or to simply donate an amount equal to their peers.

## RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTENDANCE

Attendance at regularly scheduled rehearsals and performances is required for membership in the program. Absences are permitted in the event of PERSONAL ILLNESS OR DEATH IN THE FAMILY. Excessive absences, even for these reasons, will cause severe problems and will result in loss of position or rank within the organization. All requests for excused absences must be presented in writing as soon as the schedule for the semester is received. Failure to appear at a scheduled practice without proper notice will result in suspension from the performing group for an amount of time deemed reasonable by the band directors and administrators as well as a reduction of grade for that grading period. Failure to appear at a scheduled performance will result in the grade being reduced to by one letter grade for that 9 week period and may also result in removal from the program. It is impossible to “make up” a performance, and the other members carry an extra burden because of someone else’s inconsideration. As a student member of the Senatobia High School Band, please understand the performance culminates everything we work so hard at during the year. It is therefore, essential to your fine arts education that you experience the performance of your art.

In case of emergency or sudden illness before an after-school rehearsal or performance, please email Mr. Bailey immediately. My email address is [abailey@senatobia.k12.ms.us](mailto:abailey@senatobia.k12.ms.us). This is the best way to reach me. My email comes directly to my phone so I will see it much quicker than if you call and leave a message on the school phone.

Resolving conflicts between band and other activities or events is the responsibility of the student. Rehearsal and performances schedules are given out well in advance so that arrangements can be made. Students should not become involved with activities that directly conflict with band activities. When outside activities create hardships concerning band, unless it is a situation that should only happen once, the student will need to consult with Mr. Bailey about a possible alternative. Students should have a calendar and be aware of all band dates well ahead of schedule. It is the policy of the band director to assist students when conflicts occur within the scope of the band policy. Students are reminded that band is a very demanding activity and that involvement in outside activities should be limited to those compatible with the band schedule. All conflicts with performances must be resolved in favor of band participation. Work is not an excuse for missing any band activity as our schedule is sent out with ample time for students to schedule work around band. If a conflict should arise with another school activity, please notify Mr. Bailey as soon as you are aware of the conflict so that I can work with the coach or sponsor to resolve the conflict in a manner which best serves both activities.

## Private Lessons and Musical Enrichment

Students, as well as the entire Band program, benefit from better players. As one might expect, private lessons on a musical instrument are the best way to improve performance skills. The one-on-one approach allows the student to benefit from individual attention as opposed to being one in a class of more than fifty. A recent survey of students in the all-state band revealed that approximately 85% of the students in that band study privately. Students are generally more inclined to practice diligently for a weekly music assignment, and this discipline increases the student’s enjoyment with the instrument. The band directors will be more than happy to assist in the selection of a private teacher.

## GRADING PROCEDURES

A STUDENT'S OVERALL GRADE WILL BE LOWERED BY 5% FOR EACH UNEXCUSED MISSED PRACTICE AND STUDENTS MISSING A PERFORMANCE WILL HAVE THEIR GRADE LOWERED BY ONE LETTER GRADE.

2/3 Test Average: football games, concerts, parades, pep-rallies, community event, auditions, scale pass-offs, music pass-offs, term tests, etc. (Winter and Spring concerts, solo etudes, and or written tests may be counted as the semester exam grade.)

1/3 Daily Average: Participation- Simply put, this is how you conduct yourself during daily rehearsals, and having all materials needed for rehearsal. (instrument, music, pencil, etc.)

It is the belief of the Senatobia band staff that the "PERFORMANCE" culminates everything that we work for in rehearsals and is a VITAL part of the student's high school music education! Missing a performance is the equivalent of receiving an "F" on a major test in any other academic class and cannot be made up! Extreme special circumstances for missing a performance should be discussed with Mr. Bailey on an individual basis as soon as you know there may be a conflict. If a student cannot make the commitment to attend performances, he or she should consider removing themselves from this PERFORMING ARTS course.

## Disciplinary Procedure

1st offense – Reprimand

2nd offense - Conference with director (parent will be called)

3rd offense - Conference with director and principal (parent will be called)

4th offense - Removal from program (parent will be called)

Note: Any of these procedures may be skipped if the director and school administration feel that removal is warranted. The band directors reserve the right to remove any student from the band program as we see fit. Being a participant in this program is an honor and the integrity of this program must remain intact!!

## TOTAL EXPENSES

All Band Students:

Member shirt                      \$15

Show Shirt                         \$15

Travel, Contest Entry Fees,

Uniform Cleaning, Drill,

and Music                          \$45

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Total                                 \$75

## Optional Fees/Purchases

Camp Lunches                      \$40 (\$20 per week)

Band Shoes                         \$38

Orlando Trip                        TBA

The band shoes will be sized and purchased on Wednesday, July 17th at 3pm. The cost of the shoes will be \$38. Each Student must have black Velocity Band shoes. There is a letter about this in your packet. If a student already has their shoes from a previous year and does not wish to purchase new shoes that is certainly acceptable however they must be Velocity Band shoes!

## Band Fees

All students will be required to pay a \$75.00 band fee per school year. This fee will be used to cover the cost of band shirts, uniform cleaning, contest entry fees, music, and travel. This fee may be paid in cash, check, and/or fundraised. If using a fundraiser, only the amount listed as "profit" will count toward the student's band fee. Band fees will be due before September 30, 2019. After attending band camp, students that drop or are removed from band will still be responsible for payment of the band fee.

Please make checks payable to the SHS Band.

## Fundraisers

We believe all the necessary resources are available in Senatobia to be competitive at the regional and state level. We have talented children, supportive parents, a great band staff, and a great school administration. The one thing we lack, on a guaranteed basis, is funding. The goal of excellence neither comes easily nor inexpensively. Sacrifices and commitments must not only be set, they must be maintained and fulfilled. The hard work and dedication of our students will be the cornerstones of our success; however, the success of our student organization depends upon the tools with which we are provided. Unfortunately, the district does not possess enough of the funds necessary to purchase all of these tools. In almost any school district in the state of Mississippi funding for the Arts is limited. While we certainly have better funding than many, we still need a band fee and will still need to occasionally do fundraisers. The only way to be able to provide the best for our students is through fundraising or donations.

Fundraising opportunities will be provided for the members of the Senatobia High School Band and Boosters. Some parents may prefer their children not fundraise. In this event, we ask that you make a payment in an amount equal to the fundraising goal. A student may also choose to fundraise a portion of his/her band fee and pay the balance. At the conclusion of the fundraiser, the student will then turn in fundraised monies for his/her fee as well as any balance remaining. It is imperative this schedule be maintained. We will not be able to operate if these installments continue to get behind schedule.

If a student raises money beyond what is needed, it may be used in several ways:

1. Forwarded toward the next year.
2. To help pay for parent travel and lodging if that parent is serving as a chaperone on a competition or trip.
3. To assist a fellow Band member meet his/her fees.

Each student in the high school band has a fundraising goal of \$75.00 (band fee). A student may fundraise this entire amount, or any part of it. If the student has not raised the full amount by the date due, then that student should pay the remaining balance. This program allows those who do not wish to fundraise the opportunity to exclude themselves by simply paying their fee. This program also ensures that everyone does his or her part in making sure that the opportunities afforded each student continue to match the expectations of the members and parents of the Senatobia High School Band program. **No student will be removed from the band program because they cannot pay their fee; however, students who choose not to fundraise or pay their band fee will not be allowed to go on any optional trips or participate in events which require the band to leave the school campus.**

# Symphonic and Concert Bands

## Chair Placement

At the end of football season, auditions will begin for symphonic and concert chair placement. ALL BAND MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO AUDITION. These auditions will determine chair placement. Seating of the Symphonic band will be placed according to desired amounts of each instrument. Seating will be adjusted by the director according to musical progression and preparation.

Musical material will be distributed in advance of the auditions. Material will consist of scales, prepared piece, and sight-reading. The director will assign students to parts in order to achieve proper balance. Generally, students will be seated in order; however, some sections may be staggered to provide the best sound.

## Challenges

Students who feel they are deserving of advancement within the section may challenge the person sitting one chair ahead of them. The challenge procedure is as follows:

1. The challenger must fill out a challenge form and return it to the director. Both members involved MUST sign the form.
2. The challenge will be held within one school week after the form is returned at a time agreeable to both persons.
3. Both members being challenged will choose one piece of music from the folder and list the selection. The piece should be between 8 and 16 measures in length. The challenge will also include scales and sight-reading. The audition etude is also acceptable as the prepared piece.
4. The loser of the challenge must wait one week before submitting another form.
5. A forfeiture will result if the member being challenged refuses to sign the form, or if either has an unexcused tardy or absence for the challenge. Time limit for a tardy is 10 minutes.
6. In case of a tie, the players will retain the same seating prior to the challenge.
7. All challenges will stop at least one month before State Band Festival or at the discretion of the director.

## GENERAL POLICIES FOR SPECIAL SITUATIONS

1. TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, DRUGS, DANGEROUS OBJECTS: All school guidelines are in effect for all Band activities.
2. PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION: Holding hands, hugging, kissing is NOT permitted. The Band staff will determine the boundaries of acceptable behavior.
3. CANDY, GUM, DRINKS, SNACKS: At no time will these items be permitted in the band hall. NO FOOD OR DRINK is permitted on the busses unless students are specifically instructed differently.
4. PLAYING YOUR INSTRUMENT IN THE STANDS: All performances will be done in an orderly manner. You are NOT permitted to play another student's instrument. We only play as a group in the stands.
5. REFRESHMENT PERIOD: Performers are usually permitted a portion of each event (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter) where they may obtain refreshments and use facilities for whatever is necessary. This period will be designated at each event. At no other time may a student eat or drink in uniform.
6. ASSEMBLING TO PERFORM: The group will assemble together and move in an orderly manner to the designated area. This includes riding buses to performance venues. All students must ride the bus to contests and festivals unless given special permission by the directors.
7. We will sit together at football games. No visitors in the area. We are there to support the team.
8. Remember that when you travel with the band, you represent Senatobia High School. Anything you do, in or out of uniform, will reflect on the people you represent.
9. Make-Up, jewelry, excessive facial hair, and unnatural hair color are not permitted for performances unless it is part of an approved costume. Appropriate grooming for performances is always expected and enforced.

## TRAVEL PROCEDURES

1. A MEDICAL RELEASE FORM must be signed and on file with the Band Director before any student may participate. Special health problems should also be noted so that adequate care can be provided when away from home. Please update the form during the year if necessary.
2. Adult supervision is provided on all Band trips. Students traveling to an event with the music group must return in the same manner, with the following exception: students may return with their own parents or guardian if an email has been sent to the band director prior to departure. The parent or guardian must pick the student up at the bus after their duties are complete.
3. BOARDING AND EXITING BUSES: Students will not board until instructed to do so. Students will remain on the bus and seated until instructed otherwise.
4. GENERAL CONDUCT: No foul or abusive language or gestures are permitted. YELLING IS NOT PERMITTED AT ANY TIME. THIS CAN CAUSE SERIOUS ACCIDENTS. All body parts must stay inside the bus. Moving from seat to seat is not permitted. No singing, clapping, or flash photography while on the bus.
5. UNIFORM/GUARD COSTUME CARE: Jacket and pants or costumes will be properly hung when not being worn. Hats are placed in hat box and uniforms hung in uniform room.
6. All students will be assigned to a specific bus prior to departure. Switching of busses is NOT permitted. Return to your seat quickly so that attendance may be checked. You are required to obey the driver and staff member or person in charge of the bus in a courteous manner.
7. The Directors and Band Boosters organization assumes no responsibility for any personal items taken on trips. It is suggested that valuables be left at home.
8. Quiet Zone rules will be in effect when traveling. Talking is allowed only while the bus is traveling on the freeway; students must be quiet when the bus is on surface streets.
9. Busses are to be clean and free of trash at the end of all trips. There will be assigned cleaning crews for each trip.
10. Students are responsible for loading and unloading their own equipment, personal belongings, and equipment before and after all events.
11. At the conclusion of all events, students should arrange to be picked up at school promptly at the designated pick-up time. Pick-up times are listed in the itinerary that will be sent home with students prior to the event.

## How Parents Can Help

1. Student attendance is important—don't allow students to miss school. Please help us by helping your child keep track of all of their commitments. Remind them of the band calendar and rehearsal schedule.
2. Students should practice as often as possible. Have your student play for you occasionally. Encourage excellence from them!
3. Become involved with your child's Band activities. Your presence at our events means a lot to your child and the other students in our program. Volunteering is a great way to be involved. Extra help is always needed!
4. Make positive and encouraging comments about competitions and performances. Our attitudes reflect on the students, which in turn affects their performance.
5. Many people are needed to volunteer in the concession stand during football season to keep it staffed and functional! Please help our booster organization with this. All the proceeds go directly to bettering your child's band experience. This revenue is what allows us to keep the band fee as low as possible so please consider helping out if asked.

Parents should encourage their children to achieve excellence in whatever they do. In the music program, practice and attendance at both rehearsals and performances is mandatory and will require parental support. Without your encouragement, children often fail to take into account the long-term goals they set in favor of a few fleeting moments of fun. I believe that it is our duty as adults to remind them of the long-term goals and to help keep them on track for success. I know many times I told my parents "I don't want to go" or "It's too hard" and, much to their credit, they made me go or made me tough it out. Looking back those were some of the best times of my life!

Parents are encouraged to become members of the Band Boosters organization. All Boosters are encouraged to volunteer their time and effort in the support of these young people. The Booster organization is a great way to meet fellow parents and become more involved in what your child is doing. All rehearsals are open to the parents and I encourage you to volunteer whenever you are able. Attendance at performances and competitions is an enjoyable activity and an excellent way for parents to show support of their child's talent and interests. Believe me, it means a lot to your child to look out and see or know that their mom or dad is there to see them perform.

## Important Contact Information

Senatobia High School  
221 Warrior Drive  
Senatobia, MS 38668

High School Office—662-562-4230

### Band Directors:

Aaron Bailey, Head Band Director

abailey@senatobia.k12.ms.us

662-562-9494

Pam Jackson, Assistant Band Director

pjackson@senatobia.k12.ms.us

662-562-9494

Thaddeus Moss, Assistant Band Director

tmoss@senatobia.k12.ms.us

662-562-9494

### Senatobia High School Administration:

Ben Stigler, Principal

bstigler@senatobia.k12.ms.us

Brandi Freed, Assistant Principal

bfreed@senatobia.k12.ms.us

### Senatobia Band Boosters:

Angel Boling

aboling94@icloud.com

Valerie Burns

vburns@senatobia.k12.ms.us

Website: [senatobiaband.com](http://senatobiaband.com)

Remind: text to 81010

Parents: @pts2k19    Students: @hsband2k19

## Parent Profile Form

I believe that the key to a successful program is the support of staff, students, and, especially, the parents. If you can be of assistance in any of the following areas, please volunteer your time and talents. There is nothing more rewarding than being an active member of a great organization, and your involvement speaks volumes about how you value the choices your child makes. Please indicate any task in which you are willing and able to help during the year by checking the box next to the appropriate activity.

- Helping with water/food during band camp
- Uniforms
- Bus driver
- CDL Truck Driver
- Newsletter/graphic design
- Video/computer
- Website design/upkeep
- Publicity/communication/public relations
- Painting
- Band banquet committee
- Assist directors with clerical tasks/entering information into spreadsheets
- Chaperone
- Sewing uniforms/guard flags
- Making props/carpentry
- Fundraising
- Legal/notary public
- Help pick up/load/unload concession stand food supplies
- Help write/secure grants to support the band program
- Nurse
- Sound equipment
- Other Skills you thing may be helpful to the band program\*

\*Please list: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_

## 2019-2020 Media Release

There are several times throughout the school year in which pictures and/or sounds are recorded for the purpose of notifying the community of accomplishments and /or upcoming event. Occasionally, a reporter may ask to interview a member of our band or print a picture image for the newspaper. This media-release form will serve as permission to post such information for public view.

I hereby give permission to the Senatobia School District to photograph, record, and interview my child. It is my understanding that these images/sounds or portions thereof may be used for public view.

I agree to participate in these projects without financial remuneration and I understand that this agreement releases the school district, photographer, recorder, interviewer from any future claims, as well as from any liability, arising from the use of the said image or sound.

## Senatobia Band Contract

My signature below indicates that I have read, understand, and will fully comply with all of the procedures, guidelines, expectations, fees, and policies stated in this handbook.

(Please make sure that both student and parent have read the handbook before signing.)

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

This contract as well as the medical release form must be signed and returned in order to participate in any activities of the Senatobia High School Band.