



2020-2021



Superintendent: Mr. Chris Fleming

Principal: Mr. Ben Stigler

Asst. Principal: Ms. Brandi Freed

Directors: Aaron Bailey, Pam Jackson, Thaddeus Moss

Band Students and Parents:

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! I can think of many adjectives to describe the year already: unusual, different, trying, crazy...the list could go on forever, but I want to put some different adjectives here before the school year is over! I believe that there is a great opportunity for us as a band and a community to come together, to try new and different things, and to grow as leaders and community. I think that we will forever look back on the COVID-19 virus as a watershed moment in education. We, as students, teachers, and administrators have a choice to make: either we adapt and change, or we try to continue the way we have in the past. If we choose the latter, we will surely fail. Band will look different this year. We will rehearse differently than in the past. Because of the difference in the way school has to be, more of the responsibility will fall to the students themselves. More initiative will have to be taken by students outside of the band hall and rehearsals led by staff. However, I promise you all that our desire to help mold students into not only great musicians but also great people is still going strong. We will grow from this experience and ,with the students and parents working alongside the band staff, the band will soar to new heights! Please join us on this journey!

Everyone should read the information in the handbook, even veteran students and parents. Much 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. It is designed to answer any questions you might have concerning the band program. Policies will be adjusted from year to year, as the need arises, to clarify issues within the program. It is our 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; please 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, though incomplete, was full of successes by the students. In all areas of the program, there was growth and indications that the program is only going to continue to prosper. We went to our State Marching Championships for the first time in school history, and placed third overall, second in music, first in percussion, and fourth in guard. We had a small taste of the level of competition that is out there, and we found out that we are right in the thick of things. Though there will be no championships this year, we can continue to grow both musically and as leaders so that when we return, we are stronger than ever. Please read all of the information, sign the Band Handbook Agreement Form in the back of the book, and return it as directed. I am honored to be your band director, and I am looking forward to another great year!

Sincerely,

Aaron Bailey

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

Student Handbook

Band Policy

In order to assist band members in understanding the areas of responsibility within the band program, a statement of band policy is herein set forth.

We firmly believe that students improve through regular practice. We want each student to understand and put into practice good work ethic, a strong sense of purpose, and commitment to others. Responsibility is the focus behind any level of achievement in a band program. We will be intentional in conducting ourselves in a manner that facilitates the learning and growth of all students. We feel this policy affords each individual student the necessary tools to be a strong member of the high school band, and to become both a better person and a better musician in the process.

Purpose

It is our goal to build and maintain a superior quality band program, to further the music education of each band member, to teach music by its actual performance, and to provide for the musical needs of the school and community. We also feel that it is important to educate students about more than just music. It is of the utmost importance to us for our students to learn cooperation and hard work to achieve success in all undertakings and to develop individual leadership skills. We want to provide all students with a worthy use of their time, a means for self-expression, and a healthy social experience. We call this a "culture of excellence".

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

Due to copyright laws and personal decisions of parents about photos of their children, 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, YouTube, 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 usually attend MHSAA state Marching Festival as well as other contests. Due to the COVID 19 virus, neither State Marching Festival nor Championships will be held. This year we will focus on improving each student's individual musicianship.

All-State, Region, and District Bands

Members of the band program are eligible to audition for the Mississippi Lions All-State Band. The first round of auditions are held in November, with the final round of auditions one week later. The All-State Concert Band will then be made from the top players of the Lions Band. This band, along with three other clinic bands, will practice and perform at the Mississippi Band Directors' Clinic, held each year in Natchez, MS. There are also several regional honor bands available for audition by our students, including Hernando Desoto Honor Band, I-55 Honor Band, and several college honor bands, where scholarship auditions are available for seniors.

Responsibilities of Band Members

Responsibility to Ourselves

We owe it to ourselves to make the most out of every opportunity in our education. Part of getting the most out of your music education is using the proper equipment so you can achieve. Whenever possible, you should avail yourselves of the best possible quality instrument you can afford. Some brands are inexpensive because their construction and materials are substandard. Some brands cannot be repaired because parts cannot be obtained. Another part of getting the most out of your music education is working hard so that college scholarships will be available to you. 100% of our band students who audition for a college scholarship receive an offer. 100%! Be dedicated to working hard, using the best quality instrument you can obtain. Be accountable. No one ever looks back in life and wishes they hadn't tried so hard.

Responsibility to Our 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 to Our Program

Two essential facts are vital to the success of our organization - promptness and commitment. 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.** Your commitment in attendance and effort makes a difference. Since there is no “bench” in band, every person is important all the time. The person next to you is depending on you to do your part. Take your commitment to them and the program seriously; we do.

Financial Responsibility

We must be responsible for the costs of our uniforms and equipment, as well as transportation and maintenance of the 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 want each and every parent to join this group and to help with its activities. The students have the opportunity to participate in

fundraising events each year. We believe that it is reasonable to expect each band 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 band program. Absences are permitted in the event of PERSONAL ILLNESS OR DEATH IN THE FAMILY. All requests for excused absences of these kinds must be presented in writing (by email) prior to the missed rehearsal/performance. Excessive absences, even for these reasons, will cause problems and can result in loss of position or rank within the organization. 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 and may also result in removal from the band program. It is impossible to “make up” a performance since a performance is a live event. As a student member of the Senatobia High School Band, please understand, a performance culminates everything we work so hard for during the year. It is, therefore, essential to your fine arts education that you experience the actual performance of your art.

In case of emergency or sudden illness before an after-school rehearsal or performance, please email Mr. Bailey immediately. His email address is abailey@senatobiaschools.com. This is the best way to reach him, since his email comes directly to his phone. He will see it much quicker than if you call and leave a message on the school phone.

Our school prides itself on encouraging students to be involved in multiple activities. Being involved in multiple activities may present conflicts in scheduling. Resolving the 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. It is the policy of the band directors to assist students when conflicts occur within the scope of the band policy. If a conflict should arise with another school activity, please notify directors as soon as you are aware of the conflict so that we can work with the coach or sponsor to resolve the conflict in a manner which best serves both activities. While students may have a job in addition to school, work cannot be an excuse for missing band activities as our schedule is sent out with ample time for students to schedule work around band.

Private Lessons and Musical Enrichment

The entire band program benefits from the improvement of the players. Individual practice is the main component to improvement. In the classroom, our work is mostly with entire bands and small sections of instruments. The greatest potential growth possibility lies in individual practice AND private lessons together. Private lessons provide feedback and assignments catered to the student instead of the group. On a musical instrument, it is the best way to improve performance skills. A recent survey of the All-State Band revealed that approximately 85% of the students in that band study privately. The band directors will be more than happy to assist you 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.)

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 directors and school administration feel that removal is warranted. We reserve the right to remove any student from the band program as necessary. 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
Face Mask	\$10
Sight Reading Factory	\$5
Personal Instrument Needs (Reeds, valve oil/cleaning kit, drum sticks)	\$30

Total	\$75
-------	------

Payment Schedule:

Payment #1—by 9/4/20	\$20
Payment #2—by 11/6/20	\$20
Payment #3—by 1/15/21	\$20
Payment #4—by 4/9/21	\$15

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, music, and other items students will need. 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. Rather than paying the entire fee at the end of the year, **we are asking** for it to be paid in 4 installments, one each nine weeks. This way we can afford to order the things that everyone will need on the front end. We also hope the payments will be more manageable this way. You can certainly pay the entire amount at the beginning if you prefer. If paying by check, 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 is neither easy nor inexpensive. 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 occasional fundraisers in order to be able to provide the best for our students.

Fundraising opportunities will be provided for the members of the Senatobia High School Band and the 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 profit of the fundraising goal. A student may also choose to fundraise a portion of his/her band fee and then pay the balance. It is imperative the schedule of payments be maintained for us to operate.

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. Should a family experience difficulties in paying the installments on time, please contact the band hall, and we will be happy to work with you. **Students will not be allowed to go on any optional trips or participate in events which require the band to leave the school campus if there fees are not up to date.**

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, a 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 (3rd 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. Buses 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. We 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.

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. 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. 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@senatobiaschools.com

662-562-9494

Pam Jackson, Assistant Band Director

pjackson@senatobiaschools.com

662-562-9494

Thaddeus Moss, Assistant Band Director

tmoss@senatobiaschools.com

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

Remind: text to 81010 @hsband2k20

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 _____

2020-2021 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.