

Boardman Band

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The Boardman Band is a very active organization with many responsibilities for school and community performances. Thus it becomes the responsibility of every band member to help the Band fulfill its obligations. Membership in the Boardman Band is demanding, but the benefits of membership far outweigh the disadvantages. The success of the Band is dependent upon its members understanding, accepting, and prioritizing the attendance requirements.

The first thing that band members and their parents must know is that all rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Likewise, students must not be late to any rehearsal or performance. Each member will be given a calendar of band functions. Any changes to the calendar will be given to the students with as much advance notice as possible. In case of a conflict, students must submit an **EXCUSE REQUEST FORM** to the Band Director as soon as possible but **at least two weeks** before the date in question. The digital form is always available in the Notices section of the BAND app.

In case of an emergency, parents should call the band office (phone: 726-3420, e-mail: tom.ruggieri@boardmanschools.org) as soon as possible. Even in the case of an emergency, an **EXCUSE REQUEST FORM** must still be submitted so as to provide the Band Director with an explanation of the emergency or illness.

The Band Director decides whether the request is excusable or not. Approved requests are kept on file in the band office. Denied requests will be returned to the student. Absences will have an effect on a student’s Band grade based on the following guidelines:

- EXCUSED ABSENCE or TARDINESS No effect on grade if work is made up*
- 1st UNEXCUSED ABSENCE Two letter grades lower for the grade period
- 2nd UNEXCUSED ABSENCE Automatic failure for the grade period
- 2nd UNEXCUSED TARDY (Rehearsal OR Performance) One letter grade lower for the grade period

In addition, unexcused absences will result in the loss of a student’s marching position or chair placement. Positions and chairs can be regained via the Band Challenge System.

*Just like any other class, work missed due to an excused absence must be made up. Upon returning to school after an excused absence from a performance, the student must submit a video recording of him/herself playing through the music for the missed show. This make-up performance will be graded. Make-up points may also be obtained through Additional Activities.

SPECIAL SUMMER PRACTICE CONCERNS

In order to be prepared for marching band season, a schedule of summer practice sessions is necessary. Just like any rehearsal or performance, summer band is mandatory. Schedule conflicts must be handled according to the Attendance Policy. **Excuse forms must be submitted for all absences.** Student athletes should try to work out a compromise between their two activities. They may include all members of the team on Band Excuse Request Forms.

Band Camp is MANDATORY. ONLY EMERGENCY ABSENCES WILL BE EXCUSED. Other absences will affect the student’s first 9-week grade and will jeopardize the student’s permanent spot in the field shows.

To preserve the quality of performance, the morale of the entire group, and the dignity and integrity of the educational values, full attendance must be required.

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Grading Policy

Band and Jazz Ensemble are performance ensemble classes. Assessment and feedback are ongoing and constant. Tests and exams happen in public with every performance. Individual and group achievement is proven with successful performance. That is why grades are based mostly on daily participation and attendance. When students are participating in class and at performances, they are learning and are getting constant feedback from peers, directors, and even audiences.

While the overall impression given by our groups is always quality performance, there is great diversity in the level of skill and achievement of individual musicians and marchers. Poor musicianship may not be indicated by low grades in the class. However, each student will receive feedback and assessment of their ability and progress. By recalling their interaction with teachers in class, they will know their strengths and weaknesses and know what they need to practice.

Daily, informal assessments and feedback will be given by staff members and will include:

Musical elements

- Tone Quality
- Notes
- Rhythm
- Dynamics
- Posture
- Articulation
- Intonation
- Phrasing
- Tempo
- Form
- Sight-reading

Marching elements

- Marching in step
- Horn angle
- Choreography
- Standing at attention
- Height of step
- Sharpness of turns
- Knowledge of drill
- Memorization of music

Non-musical elements

- Physical presence at rehearsals and performances
- Participating fully and positively
- Being on time
- Having all necessary equipment, music, and supplies
- Being properly uniformed
- Professionalism

Non-compliance of the non-musical elements will result in point deductions from the total. Remember that an unexcused absence results in an automatic two letter grade penalty.

Any student who earns a failing grade during any grading period preceding or during the annual band trip will be ineligible to go on the trip.

Additional Activities points can be earned by students who need them. Proof of private lessons, written review of an out-of-school concerts, and participation in extra band activities will be worth extra points. Students may also participate in independent projects for extra credit. Such projects must be pre-approved by the director.

Standards, Rules, and Guidelines

Instead of a long list of written rules, students should always use common sense, morals, ethics, and the standards of decent society to guide their behavior. Of course, all school rules are always in effect. There will be many others given as the various circumstances require. Boardman Band students should be a reflection of the very best young people in any school and community. Students should think before they do or say anything and remember that any behavior which causes or is likely to cause disruption, destruction, annoyance, and/or injury is prohibited.

Consequences for Misbehavior

Consequences will range from the simple (a stern look or verbal reprimand) to the extreme (being removed temporarily or permanently). Some misbehaviors must be dealt with more harshly than others. Insubordination, or refusing to follow any rule or directive, is one such behavior that will be treated as an unexcused absence. Infractions of the Boardman Schools Code of Conduct and bus rules will be treated likewise.

Band rules and guidelines are designed to maintain the highest standards of spirit, appearance, professionalism, and performance. In short, they are designed to make the band better. If a student chooses not to obey the rules, it will be assumed that they do not care to be a contributing member of the band and they will be removed. A *pattern* of minor misbehaviors will also be grounds for removal.