

# Boardman Band

Boardman High School  
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Grammy Signature School



THE GRAMMY  
FOUNDATION®

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## INFORMATION FOR CURRENT 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE BAND STUDENTS AND PARENTS

### The FACTS

- The NUMBERS say it all. At almost 200 members, the Spartan Marching Band is the **largest** class, organization, performing group, or activity in which a student can be involved in the Boardman Schools.
- We are **NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED!** The BSMB, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Ensembles and our reputation for excellence are well-known throughout the state and the country.
- We offer the most **AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES.** Band and Jazz students have performed for a sitting U.S. President. They have performed at the Indy 500, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Tournament of Roses Parade, the Citrus Bowl Parade, Disney World, B.B. King's Blues Club and Swing 46 in NYC, The Blue Wisp Jazz Club in Cincinnati, and many more. They have played for the Cleveland Indians, the Cleveland Cavaliers, the Pittsburgh Steelers, the Cleveland Browns, the Cincinnati Bengals, the Buffalo Bills, and more.
- **COLLEGES KNOW US.** Participation and achievement in the Band and Jazz Programs will give students an edge when applying for college and for scholarships.
- **BAND and JAZZ are FUN!** Think about the numbers again. Students only need one fine arts credit to graduate. If it wasn't fun and worthwhile, they would drop out after their first year and the band would be no more than 90 students.

# Did You Know?

- About 35% of Band members also participate in BHS athletics each year. That INCLUDES varsity football and cheerleading.
- Band counts as a gym credit at BHS! Stay in Band and you'll never take a gym class in high school.
- You can also be in the BHS Symphony Orchestra as a woodwind, brass, or percussion player.
- Band members can also participate in the award-winning BHS Jazz Program, sports pep bands, small ensembles, 2k2x Pop/Rock Band, and Pit Orchestra for the BHS Drama Guild's Fall Musical.
- Many of the top 100 seniors are in the Band.
- The Boardman Music Department is the recipient of a Grammy Award!

## COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL BAND MEMBERSHIP

### **Is band just an extra-curricular activity?**

No. Band is a class that meets every day during the school day. Students are graded and earn credits toward graduation. Band performances are considered co-curricular, thus grading procedures apply to all scheduled performances.

### **What class do I choose for my schedule?**

**Varsity Band** is the name of the course for Band. It is a year-long course that includes summer practice, marching band, and concert band. Students may not enroll in marching band only or concert band only. Marching band begins in August and lasts through football season. When school starts, the entire band meets during 4<sup>th</sup> period every day.

### **Can anyone join Band?**

Enrollment in the Boardman Band is open to high school students who have participated in middle school band at least during 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students who were not in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band must audition and be able to play at the same level or better than students their age.

### **Do I have to Audition to be in Band?**

Not to BE in Band, just to STAY in Band. Percussion students must audition to determine marching instrument placement. When we transition from marching band to concert band, all Band members must audition to determine chair placement. If a student does not turn in an audition, he or she will fail the class.

### **Are there rehearsals after school?**

No, not for Band! The 2k2x Pop/Rock band practices 2 days a week right after school and the Drumline, Spartan Sweethearts, and Spartan Silks might schedule some after school practices; but regular band members will not have after-school practices.

### **Is band going to take up too much of my time?**

Band takes about as much time as any extra-curricular activity. Many students are concerned with the amount of time it will take at the beginning of the school year. That is our busy season. When marching season ends, band takes up considerably **less time** than any extra-curricular activity. Think of it this way – if band is such a time-consuming burden, why is the Spartan Marching Band still the single largest organization at Boardman High School?

### **Can I be in more than one music class?**

Yes! A second music class like Jazz Ensemble 2 or Symphony Orchestra is available by recommendation or audition. We strongly encourage our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Jazz and Orchestra Winds students to continue these additional playing opportunities in high school.

### **How am I going to balance my schedule; especially if I want more than one music class?**

The Guidance Department suggests that students “backload” their schedules. That means to postpone scheduling some classes until junior or senior year. Most seniors find that their class load is too light and cannot find courses to fill up their schedule. The fact that marching band counts as gym credit really frees up your schedule.

### **Is summer practice and Band Camp mandatory?**

Yes. In order to begin performing at band nights and football games before the start of the school year, it is essential to have rehearsals in the summer and attend Band Camp. Summer band consists of two weeks of rehearsals at school, one week of Band Camp, and then a small number of rehearsals during the last weeks of August.

### **What if my family is going on vacation in August?**

We hope that you can plan vacations around the band schedule. If this is not possible, please contact Mr. Ruggieri to discuss options for working around the conflict. We would rather work out some arrangement than lose a good band member.

### **How do I become a Spartan Sweetheart, Silk, or Twirler?**

You can audition for these units after serving as a regular band member for one year. There are some other requirements including academic eligibility. These squads as well as Drum Major, Field Conductor, and Band Vocalist are ONLY available to band members.

### **Does band conflict with athletics and cheerleading?**

There have always been minor conflicts with various rehearsal and performance schedules. Our philosophy is that we would rather work out these conflicts than lose a good band member. Any conflict with fall sports will only last for the first quarter of the school year. Band lasts the whole school year. It seems ridiculous to drop the entire year over a 10 week conflict. Students CAN participate in Football and Band. Football players may be excused from summer practice, Band Camp, and football game performances based on the recommendation of the coach. These students will be expected to practice with the band daily during the band period and participate in non-football game performances.

With all conflicts, we only expect consideration and professionalism. Compare your Band schedule and other schedules as soon as you get them, then give us sufficient notice of any conflict.

### **Is there any type of "freshman initiation" at Band Camp?**

NO! There are special activities in which the freshmen participate at band camp such as the wearing of name tags and Freshman/Senior Buddies. These are fun and harmless activities.

### **Does the band take a trip every year?**

Yes! Part of the band's "Tradition of Excellence" comes from the many prestigious out-of-state performances in which the band has participated. The Boardman Band has achieved numerous honors and awards by appearing in the most famous parades and performance venues including the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Orange Bowl Parade, the Citrus Bowl Parade, the Fiesta Bowl Parade, and the Tournament of Roses Parade. Traditionally, we try to alternate between a large trip and a small trip each year. In addition to the yearly band trip, we travel to Cedar point each May, and try to schedule an overnight trip for the Jazz Ensembles each year.

The performance integrity of the Band on a trip depends on each student's participation, so we hope that all students will go on the trip. HOWEVER, we cannot make band trips mandatory. Students will be given an opportunity to "opt out" of the trip at the beginning of each school year.

### **Do the students raise money for the trips?**

Students will be given many opportunities to participate in fundraising projects each year. Profits go toward lowering the cost of the trip for all students. Fundraising projects are not mandatory. If students choose not to participate, they must pay the total cost of the trips out-of-pocket.

### **Are private lessons required?**

Private lessons are strongly recommended for all band students. Besides the benefit of individual instruction which the band staff doesn't have time to give, private instruction is one of the things that count toward students' grades.

### **Can I be in Jazz Ensemble 1 or 2 if I am not in Band?**

No. The only non-band students allowed in Jazz Ensembles 1 and 2 are those who play instruments not found in a marching band (piano, guitar, bass); and then, only if needed. We've been lucky recently to have band members who also play some of these instruments.

### **Can I be in 2k2x?**

This pop/rock band is rooted in the BHS Jazz Program so most of its members come from Band/Jazz. Non-Band/Jazz students can audition to participate on any instrument, but especially rhythm section and vocals.

### **Are there extra expenses for Band and Jazz?**

There are some. Uniforms, accessories, Band Camp, banquets, and trips all cost money. Some things are optional. There is a page below called Fee Payment Structure. It contains last year's prices but it will give you a general idea of some of your starting costs.

### **What is BBOP?**

The Boardman Band and Orchestra Parents group is basically the parent booster group for Band and Orchestra. They have regular meetings (usually the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in the High School Band/Orchestra Room). Besides raising money for uniforms, equipment, and anything else the Board of Education doesn't provide, BBOP provides chaperones for Band Camp, trips, games, etc. They also act as supporters and advocates of the Boardman Band and Orchestra Program. Help is always needed and appreciated; parents are encouraged to get involved.

### **Is there a way for parents to get more information?**

The best information is always just an email away! [tom.ruggieri@boardmanschools.org](mailto:tom.ruggieri@boardmanschools.org).

We may offer a parents Q&A session at one or more of our summer Pre-Practices for freshmen and new marchers.

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Mr. Ruggieri's Thoughts:

For Students...

We are very eager to have every middle school band member continue with band through high school because it promises quality and worthwhile music education AND it continues to be one of the most fun activities at Boardman High School. We have so many students who were thinking about quitting band after 8<sup>th</sup> grade but are glad they decided to stay. If you are not sure whether you want to continue, give it a try. In the year you use as your "trial period" you will perform exciting halftime shows and quality concerts, learn more music than you ever thought possible, and go on a great trip. Every Boardman High School student must have one credit in Fine Arts to graduate anyway. It might as well be Band since you have already been trained for it.

For Parents...

The transition from junior high to high school can be stressful for students and parents. I remember my children making that transition and wondering about the new friends they would meet and what types of new influences they would experience. We worried about their desire for more freedom and less supervision.

I felt very safe knowing that their first interactions in high school were here with good Band students, caring staff members, and nurturing parent chaperones. Your child's new social schedule will be filled with Band events in August and through the fall. By the time our activities slow down and your child has more free time on the weekends, their circle of friends and activities will be well-established. You might even get to know their friends' parents through Band.

You can get more information about the Boardman Band program by visiting the Band web site. You'll find pictures, music, schedules, and much more at:

**[www.boardmanband.org](http://www.boardmanband.org)**

## See and hear the groups for yourself...

Get on YouTube and search for Tom Ruggieri. You will find over 70 videos of the:

- Spartan Marching Band
- Jazz Ensemble 1
- Jazz Ensemble 2
- Basketball Band
- BHS Drumline

You will also find the Music Department videos specially produced for this year's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation. If you don't see it, type

[bit.ly/boardmanmusic](http://bit.ly/boardmanmusic)

into your browser. At the end of the department introduction video, click the link to the specific video about Band.

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## FEE PAYMENT STRUCTURE

When you come for Uniform Distribution, you can pay for lots of other things besides the uniform fee and items. To avoid bookkeeping confusion, we ask that you be prepared to write separate checks for various items. Use the following to figure out what you may need:

### 1. Uniform Check

- Uniform fee - \$50 – everyone pays
- Dinkles (marching shoes) - \$32 – if needed
- Extra Band t-shirt - \$6 – if needed
- Extra gloves - \$4 – if needed
- Long-sleeve Band t-shirt - \$12 – optional
- Boardman Band knit hat - \$10 – optional
- Head band - \$2 – optional

### 2. Account Check

- Band Camp - \$255 – everyone pays
- Outstanding account balance - \$? – if needed (cashier at Distribution will have a list)
- General account payment/trip deposit - \$? – optional

### 3. Band Council Check

- Current year's Boardman Band Hoodie - \$25 – optional
- Senior T-shirt - \$18 – Seniors only, optional

### 4. Merchandise and Accessories Check

- Band Dude Water Jug - \$5 – optional
- Band Dude Car Magnet - \$7 – optional
- Band Dude Sticker - \$1 – optional
- Band Yard Sign - \$20 with name/instrument sticker – optional

## Specific Information for 2021-2022

- **Pandemic Issues**

Many things changed due to the pandemic for this school year. We had to drastically change our summer schedule and football game procedures. Student travel to Band Camp, away games, and trips were canceled. We still do not have a plan to do an indoor concert. That was the bad news.

In spite of all the challenges, we were able to do some summer rehearsals. We produced a field show, played at the home football games, and even managed to do a special band show to dedicate our brand new marching uniforms!

Like the entire world, we have no idea when things will be back to normal. Thus, we are anticipating the possibility of similar changes for next school year. We learned a lot about what we can and cannot do in the process of providing a positive and fun experience for Band students. No matter what, we are committed to preserving the quality and integrity of the Boardman Band. Although we don't know exactly what it will look like, we will have summer band and as normal a school year as possible.

- **Pre-Practice Sessions**

These sessions in July are for our incoming freshmen and new Band members on some Monday evenings in July. These optional – but recommended – sessions will get our newest band members acquainted with some basic marching skills and a sneak peek at some of the music we will play in marching season.

- **Mini-Camp Sessions**

Similar to Pre-Practice, but for the whole band. These are for full-band review and basics. They will allow us to jump right into new material when mandatory summer practice begins.

- **Mandatory Summer Band**

Traditionally, we have one week of “double sessions” followed by a week at Band Camp. Every event from the first day of double sessions through the end of the school year is considered mandatory which means conflicts must be handled according to the Attendance/Grading Policy. Basically, students must request approval for missing a rehearsal or performance. Unexcused absences count against a student's grade.

- **Marching Percussion Auditions**

Percussion students must audition to determine instrument assignments in that section. Music and instructions will be given to students before the end of this school year and an audition date will be scheduled. Any student who is out of town on that date must arrange an early audition time. No late auditions will be allowed. A percussion student who does not audition will not be assigned an instrument in the percussion section. If the student stays in the class, he or she will be considered an alternate and will be used to fill in an empty spot when a student is absent.

- **Student Accounts**

Families of current 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students are welcome to start building their child's high school band account. Send money to me in the band office and I will apply it to your child's band account to use for Band Camp, uniform fees, and the trip(s). Just make sure the student's name is on the check; especially if it does not match the name printed on the check.

- **Band Trip for 2021-2022**

Well, we're just not sure. We went to Florida in 19-20. We were slated to appear in the televised Thanksgiving Parade in Detroit this year. That got canceled. Traditionally, this would be the year for the Chicago Thanksgiving Parade. No one knows if things will be safe enough to schedule that. For now, we will just remain hopeful that we can take some kind of trip next school year.

This information is from the Boardman High School Course Offering Catalog.

### BOARDMAN HIGH SCHOOL BAND COURSE OFFERINGS

Course Offerings	Grade	Prerequisite	Credit	Period
Varsity Band	9-12	Previous year's participation in Boardman or audition	1 credit	4
Jazz Ensemble I	9-12	Audition, Band membership	1 credit	7
Jazz Ensemble II	9-12	Audition, Band membership	1 credit	6

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#### THE BOARDMAN BANDS

Band includes marching band at the beginning and end of the school year, and one of two different concert groups in the winter and spring.

**Spartan Marching Band** - The Spartan Marching Band is the representative marching unit of the Instrumental Music Department. The Band performs at all regularly scheduled Varsity football games, and various other events including, but not limited to: band festivals, pep rallies, community parades and events, college and professional football games, and national parades and events. The educational goals of marching band focus on coordinating physical movement with music, as well as showmanship and entertainment value. The Spartan Marching Band may have as many as 25 performances in a school year.

**Concert Bands** – Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band begin rehearsing and performing at or just before the end of marching band/football season. Because the groups are smaller than the marching band, they offer students opportunities to explore instrumental music in greater depth and detail than in marching band. There are fewer performances for the concert bands than the marching band. The educational goals of the concert bands deal with individual musical achievement, refined knowledge of one's instrument, greater exploration of the elements of music, knowledge and appreciation of band literature, and basic music theory and history. The concert bands perform 2 evening concerts per year. Wind Ensemble also participates in District Band Contest and Boardman's Memorial Day Ceremony each May.

Placement in Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble is determined by audition. Audition requirements and music will be made available in September of each year. Recordings and/or live auditions will be due by a specified date and time in October.

#### Additional Band Ensembles

Many other smaller groups are formed out of marching and concert band including but not limited to: Pep Band, BHS Drumline, Christmas Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Instrument Demo Groups, Brass Choir, Flute Choir, and many small instrumental ensembles.

#### THE BOARDMAN JAZZ ENSEMBLES

The jazz program is for students who desire training and experience in exploring and performing America's musical art form. The jazz ensembles perform at concerts in the school and in the community, and at high school and college jazz festivals. The educational goals of the jazz program include: appreciation of jazz history, theory, composers, performers, and various jazz styles. The program also encourages individual creativity via improvisation. Students should schedule an audition with the Band Director prior to requesting Jazz 1 or Jazz 2.

**Jazz Ensemble 1** is the top group at Boardman and one of the best high school jazz ensembles in the state. It is the group that has performed at numerous high-profile jazz venues including many well-known jazz clubs in the country. The group has performed with many famous jazz artists and groups. Jazz 1 plays mostly professional and college level music.

**Jazz Ensemble 2** is the secondary jazz group but performs as much, if not more than Jazz 1 because it plays at many girls and boys home basketball games. For concerts, Jazz 2 plays medium-easy to medium-advanced level jazz literature. At basketball games, the group plays a wider variety of styles including pop, rock, and even rap.



**2kxx** is a pop/rock group that also serves as Boardman’s basketball pep band. This after-school ensemble is open to Jazz 1 and Jazz 2 students. Band students not enrolled in a jazz class may audition to get into the group. The group rehearses on Mondays and Tuesdays from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. In addition to playing at many home basketball games, 2kxx also plays at other school and community events.

**Summer Jazz Ensemble** is basically Jazz Ensemble 1 but can include recent graduates of the program and incoming members of the band. Reviving much of the music played during the school year, the group plays three or four times in a summer at local parks, events, and festivals.

## Scheduling Information for Boardman Band Students

Boardman High School Graduation Requirements			20 credits required*
4 credits - English	3 credits - Science	1 credit - Health/Phys. Ed.	at least 4 credits - Electives
4 credits - Math	3 credits - Social Studies	1 credit - Fine Arts	

\*Band satisfies the Phys. Ed. requirement

The following schedules show how one or more music classes can fit into your four years of high school. The combinations of academics and electives including Foreign Language are based on traditional choices of Band students.

Four-Year Schedule with Band only			
Freshman Year	Sophomore Year	Junior Year	Senior Year
1 English	1 English	1 English	1 English
2 Math	2 Math	2 Math	2 Math
3 Science	3 Science	3 Science	3 Science or Elective
4 <b>Band</b>	4 <b>Band</b>	4 <b>Band</b>	4 <b>Band</b>
5 Social Studies	5 Social Studies	5 Social Studies	5 Social Studies or Elective
6 Health (1 semester)/S.H.	6 Foreign Language	6 Foreign Language	6 Elective or S.H.
7 Foreign Language	7 Elective or S.H.	7 Elective or S.H.	7 Elective or S.H.

Four-Year Schedule with Multiple Music Classes (Band and Jazz)			
Freshman Year	Sophomore Year	Junior Year	Senior Year
1 English	1 English	1 English	1 English
2 Math	2 Math	2 Math	2 Math
3 Science	3 Science	3 Science	3 Science or Elective
4 <b>Band</b>	4 <b>Band</b>	4 <b>Band</b>	4 <b>Band</b>
5 Social Studies	5 Foreign Language	5 Foreign Language	5 Social Studies
6 <b>Jazz Ensemble 2</b>	6 <b>Jazz Ensemble 2</b>	6 Elective	6 Foreign Language or S.H.
7 Health (1 semester)/S.H.	7 Social Studies	7 <b>Jazz Ensemble 1</b>	7 <b>Jazz Ensemble 1</b>

Four-Year Schedule with Multiple Music Classes (Band, Orchestra, and Jazz)			
Freshman Year	Sophomore Year	Junior Year	Senior Year
1 <b>Symphony Orchestra</b>	1 <b>Symphony Orchestra</b>	1 <b>Symphony Orchestra</b>	1 <b>Symphony Orchestra</b>
2 Math	2 Math	2 Math	2 Math
3 Science	3 Science	3 Science	3 Health (1 semester)/S.H.
4 <b>Band</b>	4 <b>Band</b>	4 <b>Band</b>	4 <b>Band</b>
5 Social Studies	5 Social Studies	5 Foreign Language	5 Foreign Language
6 <b>Jazz Ensemble 2</b>	6 <b>Jazz Ensemble 2</b>	6 English	6 English
7 English	7 English	7 <b>Jazz Ensemble 1</b>	7 <b>Jazz Ensemble 1</b>

Please note that you are allowed to simply sign up for Band but Jazz Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra require Director consultation and/or audition. The Jazz classes shown are just examples. Placement in Jazz 1 or 2 depends on available positions and each student's skill level.

## **ATTENTION: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Members AND Parents**

**I need to be in touch with you!** During this pandemic, we have found that the students do not always check their Boardman Schools email address. Although I've had issues with the school's system, I would like to continue to trust that I can communicate with parents and students through email.

I can keep as many addresses on file for you as you'd like. The best way for me to get them is for you to send me a quick email from all the email addresses you'd like me to have. Type "current 8<sup>th</sup> grade band member" as the subject and type the student's name in the message body. Send these emails to:

tom.ruggieri@boardmanschools.org

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### **The BAND App**

I also use something called the BAND app to communicate with the entire membership of the Boardman Band, including parents.

<https://band.us/@boardmanhsband>



When you join and create your profile, your screen name **MUST** be your first and last name. I will not accept members whose names I do not recognize. We've had problems in the past!