

**Olive Branch High School
BAND PROGRAM**

The Olive Branch High School Band program provides an opportunity for students to develop an appreciation for music and encourages the skills and discipline necessary for achieving musical success throughout a lifetime of experiences. Students learn the importance of a cooperative team effort while working with fellow members to accomplish the shared goals of the Band and Color Guard.

Band students have fun meeting new friends and traveling to new and exciting places. In addition, the program challenges students in areas of personal growth and musicianship.

The OBHS Marching Conquistadors is composed of members of the Marching Band and Color Guard team. During the fall season, they perform at football games, parades, and competitive events throughout Mississippi and Tennessee. During the spring semester, Band members and Color Guard members play in one of the concert bands. Members of this group have the opportunity to audition for various clinics throughout Mississippi as well as solo and ensemble festivals.

Purpose

As Band Director for Olive Branch High School, I feel that it is important to educate the students in music education. It is of utmost importance for these students to learn cooperation and hard work to achieve perfection 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.

Sidney L. McNeil, Jr.
Director of Bands
Olive Branch High School

MOTTO:

PRIDE THROUGH DEDICATION

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF A MEMBER

The Band program at Olive Branch High School forms a vital and important part of the total high school experience. This group represents a large, colorful, visible, and highly disciplined segment of the school groups.

School life, and many of the programs and traditions of the school, would seem dull without this presence. The Band's appearances at sporting events, concerts, parades, contests, as well as community and civic events, add a great deal of color and life to the community.

The main emphasis of the Band program is on musicianship and pride of accomplishment, followed closely by citizenship, tradition, morale, spirit, and loyalty. It is the pride of a job well done and the accomplishments achieved that make the sacrifices worthwhile. It is possible, by setting your schedule in a reasonable manner, to have a highly successful band career and still maintain high scholastic standing. The success of the organization will lead to the success of the individual and vice versa. **Welcome to the Olive Branch High School Band!**

As members, we have earned various rights and titles through effective performances and musical contributions to the community. We must temper these rights and privileges with several areas of responsibility.

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 TO MUSIC AS AN ART FORM: The performing arts have always been a vital part of humanity. YOU possess a very special talent. You now have the obligation and responsibility to use that talent for the betterment of your community and your country.

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RESPONSIBILITY TO EACH OTHER: Getting along with each other in our complex society is indeed a difficult task all by itself. You have the obligation and responsibility to respect the rights of others. Antisocial behavior will only breed the same from others. Excessive talking, rumor, bad manners, are all examples of antisocial behavior. Both in and out of uniform—treat others as you wish to be treated.

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. Call 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 – to be late is unthinkable.**

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: This is a serious problem throughout our society. 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 funds, 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, supportive booster organization. We expect your parents to join this group and to help with its activities.* The students have the opportunity to participate in several fundraising events each year. It is reasonable to expect each member to participate equally in these projects or to simply pay the specified fair share amount.

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 and a reduction of grade for that grading period. Failure to appear at a scheduled performance will result in the grade being reduced to “F” for that 9 week period which will 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 OBHS **Performing Arts Department**, 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 call the band office and leave a message: (662)892-6135.

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TOTAL EXPENSES

All Band Students:

School Band Dues	\$25.00 / this is a county-wide fee This is to cover travel and contest fees
Band t-shirt	\$15
Uniform Cleaning	\$50
Camp lunches	\$25
Fair Share	\$150

Total **\$265**

The fees will be broken down into fundraiser dates. Here is the breakdown:

<u>Fundraiser</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Required Sell</u>	<u>Monetary value</u>
Corky's	July 20-27	10 butts	or \$120
Maestro Pizza	Oct 27-Nov 6	\$80 profit (+/- 40%)	or \$80
Corky's	March 22-29	6 butts	or \$65

SOI's will need to sell 2 more butts or \$25 for this fundraiser

Money will be collected **up front** for all fundraisers.

Any fair share balance is also due on completion date of fundraiser.

Note: SOI's are fees for those who play school owned instruments. This fee is to cover cleaning and maintenance. This fee is for those who play instruments that are owned by the school such as percussion, tubas, baritones, bass clarinets, french horns, etc. This fee will be added automatically to the student's account regardless of what semester the instrument is played.

Band shoes must be paid separately. This is the only expenditure that cannot be paid through fundraising means. All other fees may be paid through fundraising. The band shoes will be sized and purchased at the beginning of school at the band hall. We will let you know the date later. **Each Student must have black Drill Master BAND shoes.** You will receive a letter about this.

FAIR SHARE

We believe all the necessary resources are available in Olive Branch to be competitive at the regional and national levels. 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 are the cornerstones of our success; however, the success of our student organization depends upon the tools with which we are provided.

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Unfortunately, the district does not possess enough of the funds necessary to purchase all of these tools. I believe Superintendent Kuykendall and our local administration are doing everything they can to provide us with funding. However, in a school district this large (and growing at a phenomenal rate) funding for the Arts is extremely limited. The only way to be able to provide the best for our students is through fund raising.

Fundraising opportunities will be provided for the members of The Olive Branch High School Band and Boosters. We ask each student to fundraise the amount needed for his/her Fair Share installment. Some parents may prefer their children not fundraise. In this event, the installment may be paid by cash or check. A student may also choose to fundraise a portion of his/her account and pay the balance in cash. This is also acceptable. At the conclusion of the fundraiser, the student will then turn in fundraised monies for his/her installment. It is imperative this schedule be maintained. We will not be able to operate if these installments get behind schedule.

If a student raises monies beyond his/her account expectations 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 trip.
3. To assist a fellow Band member meet his/her Fair Share Band Account Quota.

“Fair Share” simply means that each student will be responsible for raising his or her fair share through our fund raising efforts. Each student in the high school band will have a fair share total of \$265.00. Each student may fundraise all of this amount. If the student has not fundraised the full amount of the installment by the due date, then that student must make a payment for the remaining balance. This program allows those who do not wish to fund raise the opportunity to exclude themselves by simply paying their fair share of \$265.00. This program also insures that everyone does his or her part in making sure that the financial status of the Olive Branch High School Band program remains in tact. **Failure to meet the current installment of the fair share amount will result in that student not being allowed to participate in any band events until the balance is paid.** This is a great program that is working for us, as well as all other band programs in Desoto county, so please help us by cooperating and let’s all do our **“Fair Share!!”**

Remember, the Corky’s fundraiser is due Monday, July 27th (the first day of full camp) with the money for the fundraiser due up front. The profit for each butt is \$12. Please make sure that your child has sold 10 butts or has the remaining balance of that portion of the fair share (\$120). Some of this money will be used to feed the students during camp. We do this for safety reasons as we wish for all students to remain on campus during lunch at band camp. Also, if you do not have Drillmaster band shoes, you **must** purchase them on the date given later.

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GENERAL POLICIES FOR SPECIAL SITUATIONS

1. **TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, DRUGS, DANGEROUS OBJECTS:** All school guidelines are in effect for all Band activities.
2. **CANDY, GUM, DRINKS, SNACKS:** At **no time** will these items be permitted in the Band Room. NO FOOD OR DRINK is permitted on the busses unless students are specifically instructed differently.
3. **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 play as a group or not at all!
4. **REFRESHMENT PERIOD:** Performers are usually permitted a portion of each event 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.
5. **ASSEMBLING TO PERFORM:** The group will assemble together and move in an orderly manner (march when permitted) to the designated area.
6. We will sit together at football games. No visitors in the area. We are there to support the team.
7. Remember that when you travel with the Band, you represent the Band. Anything you do, in or out of uniform, will reflect on the people you represent.
8. All music must be returned or paid for.
9. Any instrument or music left out in the Band Room or instrument room will be confiscated. Music will cost you 50 cents to retrieve; an instrument will cost \$1.00; music folders will cost \$15.00. Put things away.
10. **Make-Up, Jewelry, 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.
11. **Absolutely no cell phones are allowed in rehearsals.** In the event that a cell phone is seen or heard during rehearsal, that phone will be confiscated by the director and will be given back at the director's discretion. The only exception to this rule is on trips. Cell phones may only be used on trips for the sole purpose of calling parents for transportation purposes. There will be no warning given for this rule.

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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. The Desoto County School District is responsible for each student traveling with the group. 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 a note has been given to the bus chaperone prior to departure, relieving the District of all responsibility. **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. **PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION:** Holding hands, necking, hugging, kissing is **NOT** permitted. The Band staff will determine the boundaries of acceptable behavior.
5. **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. Quiet talking is permitted. No screaming. No flash photography.
6. **UNIFORM/GUARD COSTUME CARE:** Jacket and trousers or costumes will be properly hung when not being worn. Hats are placed in hat box.
7. 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. We are usually in a hurry and this can be very time consuming. You are **required** to obey the driver and staff member or person in charge of the bus in a courteous manner.
8. The Band Boosters organization assumes no responsibility for any personal items. It is suggested that valuables be left at home.
9. 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.

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10. Busses are to be clean and free of trash at the end of all trips. There will be assigned cleaning crews for each trip.
11. Students are responsible for loading and unloading their own equipment, personal belongings, and equipment before and after all events.
12. 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 is sent home with students prior to the event.

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GRADING PROCEDURES

A STUDENT'S GRADE WILL BE LOWERED BY ONE FULL GRADE FOR EACH UNEXCUSED MISSED PERFORMANCE.

It is the belief of the Olive Branch 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. McNeil on an individual basis **at least two weeks** before a scheduled performance. *If a student cannot make the commitment to attend performances, he or she should consider dropping the **PERFORMING ARTS** course.*

A student's grade starts with the consideration that they are at least average, "C," when they walk through the door at the beginning of the school year. The student must show a desire to perform.

Showing up for **ALL** rehearsals and performances **ON TIME** (without behavior or social problems), completing practice assignments, and attending sectionals will maintain a student's "average" status. In other words, participation is worth a "C."

To receive a "B" or "excellent," the student must show genuine signs of effort for the "C" grade, along with the following:

- No absences
- Practices at home
- Has a good attitude and rehearsal habits
- Volunteers for special projects
- Completes all proficiencies* (second semester)

**Proficiencies are scale and arpeggio studies that are memorized and performed in front of the Directors.*

To receive an "A" or "superior," the student must not only display effort for the "C" and "B" grades, but in addition, must have evidence of accomplishments for his or her efforts. Examples of this may include, but are not limited to:

- Exhibits musical excellence through performance and tests
- Good attitude and willingness to help others in the pursuit of excellence
- No absences
- Takes private lessons (optional but strongly recommended)
- Completes all proficiencies (second semester)

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In the unlikely event the student is unable to maintain the “C” level work, the grade “D” or “poor” will be given, with the suggestion that improvement is necessary if the student wishes to remain in the program.

The grade “F” or “fail” will be given in situations where flagrant violations of Band policy exist, including, but not limited to, the student who:

- Willingly causes injury to another member of the group
- Misses required rehearsals or performances without prior consent by the Directors
- Is pulled from a performance because of behavior or discipline problems
- Fails to pass or take required tests and pass-off assignments

It is the student’s responsibility to make up any missed tests or assignments due to illness or excused absences in a timely fashion!

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Band Officers

Band officers include a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Drum Major, and Flag Captain, Co-Captain and Chaplain. Below are the requirements for each office.

President - Open to grades 10-12; a member of the OBHS Band for one year; student representative of the band; reports to the director any problems or suggestions for improvement of the band; possesses leadership qualities through example and action.

Vice-President - Open to grades 10-12; a member of the OBHS Band for one year; assumes the duties of President in his/her absence; is responsible for cleaning details; is in charge of Loading Crew.

Secretary - Open to grades 9-12; takes attendance at all rehearsals; keeps minutes of all band council meetings; is responsible for bulletin boards.

Treasurer - Open to grades 9-12; is responsible for collecting money for activities. Is in charge of all librarian duties.

Drum Major - Open to grades 10-12; is selected by audition; serves as Field Commander of the band; assumes responsibility in the absence of the Band Directors.

Flag Captain and Co-Captain - Is selected by audition; represents the interests of the auxiliary.

Chaplain – Open to grades 10-12; responsible for organizing any student-requested sacred activities.

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**Symphonic and Concert Band
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 16 and 32 measures in length. The challenge will also include scales and sight-reading.
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 one month before State Band Festival or at the discretion of the director.

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Uniforms and Instrument Care

Uniforms must meet required standards for all performances. Band uniforms will be dry cleaned by the director at appointed times. The uniforms will remain at the band hall at all times unless otherwise told. The fee for this is \$50.00, which can be paid through fundraising means. While in uniform, members are no longer “individuals”, but representatives of this Band, this school, and this community. This is to be remembered always. Band members are in the spotlight because of the uniform worn. The impression generated, good or bad, is the impression the spectator will form of our Band, our school, and our community. That impression must always be a good one.

Each Band member will be issued a uniform consisting of a jacket, trousers, and shako (hat). Students must **always** wear their Band t-shirt and tight-fitting shorts (such as work out shorts or bike shorts) under their uniform. Each Band member must wear their black **band** shoes and **black** socks. Uniforms are worn at all parade and field show competitions, and at most football games.

It is the student’s responsibility to see that his or her uniform remains in good condition. Students and/or parents are financially responsible for any damage caused to the uniform due to negligence or misuse. Uniforms will be stored at school in the uniform room. Students will return uniforms, properly hung on the hanger, to the uniform rack at the conclusion of each Band activity.

Here is some additional information:

SHOES

Band shoes will be ordered at the beginning of school. Shoes are to be perfectly cleaned before each performance or competition. They may need to be replaced occasionally. All shoes look alike! Label shoes with student’s name.

HAIR

While in uniform, hair length for Band students will be above the collar. Hair longer than this should be worn so that it can be easily tucked up under the hat. Unnatural hair colors are not permitted during competitive activities.

MAKE-UP

Make-up, nail polish, and jewelry of any type are not allowed while in uniform. Please remember to leave your jewelry at home. Chaperones will not be responsible for lost items.

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INFORMATION ESPECIALLY FOR PARENTS

PARENT GUIDELINES

1. Student attendance is important—don't allow students to miss school.
2. Students should practice as often as possible. Have your student play for you occasionally. Encourage excellence from them!
3. Your child is not Superman/Superwoman! Avoid overloading them with too many extra activities. Their performance will suffer overall.
4. Become involved with your student'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.
5. Make positive and encouraging comments about tournaments and performances. Our attitudes reflect on our students, which in turn affects their performance.
6. Each family involved in the OBHS Band must work at least twice a year in the concession stand during football season.

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.

The purpose of the Band Boosters organization is to promote and support the activities of the band students and performing groups of the Olive Branch High School Band Department. The Band Boosters promote and encourage:

- musical excellence in the program
- teamwork and cooperation in all activities
- an environment of mutual respect and dignity
- the communication of the exceptional quality of the program to the community at large.

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.

Attendance at performances and competitions is an enjoyable activity and an excellent way for parents to show their support of their child's talent and interests.

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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 so wishes.

The band director has the right to remove any student from the band program as he sees fit. Being a participant in this program is an honor. The integrity of this program must remain in tact!!

One of the disciplinary actions that the program uses is the running of laps. Any student that refuses to run laps may suffer serious disciplinary action.

Private Lessons and Musical Enrichment

Private lessons

Students, as well as the entire Band program, benefit from better players. Private lessons provide students with the tools necessary to make these advancements. The band director can recommend an instructor.

Music Enrichment

The more a student is exposed to outstanding performances, the better the concept the student has of how his/her instrument should sound. To encourage this, for each concert or recital a student attends, three points will be added to the six weeks grade. Two programs attended each six-week period will be allowed. A program supplied from the performance will serve as proof of attendance.

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MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

I, _____ (Parent/Guardian's Name) hereby give permission for any and all medical attention to be administered to my child _____ (Child's Name) In the event of accident, injury, sickness, etc., under the direction of the person(s) listed below, until such time as I may be contacted. I also assume the responsibility for the payment of any such treatment. This release is effective for the period of one year from the date given below.

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBERS:

INSURANCE COMP:

POLICY NUMBER:

In case I cannot be reached, any of the following persons is designated to act on my behalf.

Sid McNeil – Director of Bands
Aaron Bailey – Asst. Director of Bands
Jim Mayo – Asst. Director of Bands
Marie Pokorski – Asst. Director of Bands

Any chaperone attending trip

PHYSICIAN: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

KNOWN ALLERGIES OR MEDICAL PROBLEMS:

SIGNATURE (PARENT/GUARDIAN) _____

DATE _____