

***Band Handbook***

***2020-2021***

**Preface**

This handbook describes the Basha High School Band Program (Basha Bands) and its policies, rules, and regulations. The high school band program includes the following classes/ensembles: Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Colorguard/Winterguard, Percussion Ensemble, and Marching Band. Band members are required to follow the policies, rules and regulations of the Chandler Unified School District (CUSD) and the Band Program. School rules and policies are in force at all times that a member is directly or indirectly involved in any activity sponsored by or in the name of Basha High School. School policy shall have priority over band policy in the event of any policy conflict. The band directors shall have authority to suspend or amend any band policy at any time deemed necessary in the best interest of the overall band program.

**To Band Members**

What is the High School Band Experience? Unlike most other classes, band offers a wide variety of opportunities for the student. Band is one of the few classes where excellence is not only expected, but also essential to success. Imagine if an English teacher graded everyone in the class to the level of the weakest student! In band, everyone MUST perform at the highest level of excellence or a performance will sound terrible. Even one person making a grade of 60% on a piece of music means 40% of the notes were played in error…not pleasant to hear! In addition to teaching performance skills, band teaches the student to be an active, thinking person. For each note played, there are numerous considerations and instantaneous decisions to make. How loud or soft? How fast or slow? How does the note start? How does it end? Who else plays it? Am I in ­tune? Nowhere else on campus is the demand for active thought any stronger. Band also teaches life skills. Communication is the main component of music. The rehearsal and performance schedule of the band demands planning and time management…skills that will be valuable all through life. Goal setting, problem solving, peer interaction… all of these develop quickly as a part of the band experience. The band program at Basha strives to be one of the finest in the Nation. Few other activities offer the travel opportunities, the chance to meet and interact with the legends in the field, and the satisfaction of knowing that your time, talent, and effort have paid off through the highest levels of achievement.

**To Parents**

Welcome to one of the most exciting organizations available to your student! The band program at Basha High School offers many varied performance opportunities and gives members the chance to learn with each other and grow closer to one another. We strive to offer the best available instruction and the widest array of events for our members. We strongly believe that there is a place for everyone in the band. We have hundreds of success stories. Many times, members who thought that they were not interested have become some of the most dedicated members once they have been a part of the experience. If you choose to participate, you can reap a variety of rewards. In addition to all of this, you become a member of a very active, multifaceted family. The band program at Basha has established itself as one of the finest available in our area, with superb performing ensembles in marching, symphonic, color guard and percussion activities. We hope that you share our excitement in creating these phenomenal opportunities for the students. We encourage parents to be active supporters of our efforts through booster club participation (the Basha Band Boosters), assistance in fundraising, and through volunteer work such as chaperones, equipment crew, or and countless other roles and duties. We also hope that you will be the most visible supporters of the students by attending as many performances as possible. This handbook should help orient you and your student to the many different aspects of the band program. Attendance at band parent meetings is still advised. The band program produces a calendar kept on our website and you’ll want to keep it nearby or uploaded to your phone. Feel free to call any director or Band Boosters officer for help and remember to come to the meetings to get the latest information about each event. Rarely do you see such a large group of students assembled in one organization with such a strong focus on achieving excellence. Take the opportunity to get to know the instructors, other parents, and the members who make our success a reality.

**Basha High School Band Course Descriptions**

**Marching Band**

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval; Audition may be required

Fee required.

The marching band is a service organization to the students, school and community. Marching band consists of band musicians and color guard students. Students will perform at athletic events, parades, pep assemblies and marching band festivals throughout the fall semester. It may be necessary to rent instruments, purchase cleaning or maintenance supplies, and buy instructional materials. Additional fees are required for extra-curricular activities. Class will meet for approximately five seat hours per week during the marching band season that goes through football season (not including evening rehearsals or sectionals). Morning rehearsals, sectionals, evening rehearsals, evening performances and weekend festivals may be required for all students. Please consult the instructor’s syllabus for the practice schedule of your school. If the student successfully completes three semesters of marching band, one credit of PE will be waived.

**Concert Band**

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Audition

This is a learning and performing group. Emphasis will be on basic musicianship including technique, musical style and appropriate literature. This class will perform many times throughout the school year. Participation in performances and festivals is required.

**Symphonic Band**

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Audition

This advanced musical ensemble is a group of select musicians. Students will have the opportunity to study the music and transcriptions of the masters along with fine marches, pop selections, and contemporary literature. This group will perform in concerts, at musical festivals throughout Arizona and may tour in the spring. Participation in all performances and festivals is required.

**Jazz I**

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Audition

This ensemble gives students the opportunity to learn basic concepts of jazz through performance. Participation at concerts is required.

**Jazz II**

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Audition

Jazz II Band provides students the opportunity to study and perform music of the “Big Bands” from the 1920’s to the present. The emphasis in this group is to perform the different styles of music (swing, rock, blues, and popular) with understanding. Students will also learn to improvise their own solos with good technique and understanding. Participation in all performances and festivals is required.

**Percussion Ensemble**

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Percussion and Instructor Approval

This advanced music ensemble is a group of select musicians. Students will have the opportunity to perform and study the music of percussion composers and arrangers of classical, avant-garde, world/ethnic, and contemporary styles of percussion music. This group will perform in concerts, at musical festivals throughout Arizona and may tour in the spring. Participation in all performances and festivals is required.

**Color/Winterguard**

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Audition

The guard is an auxiliary unit that performs with the marching band at all football games, parades and band festivals. A student must successfully complete three semesters of flags to have one full credit (one year) of PE. Does NOT meet Fine Arts requirement for Arizona university entrance requirements.

**Intro to Music Theory**

Grades: 10 -12

Music theory is learning another language. This introduction to Music Theory would offer the basics of what is needed to be successful in a Music Theory class. The class will establish a necessary foundation of music theory concepts across the musical arts curriculum (Choir, Band, Orchestra, and Guitar)

**Grading Policies**

The band, like other musical organizations, is unique in that members are at varying levels of playing ability and experience. As a band member, one should be able to earn the grade of "A" even if you do not play as well as other members. Conversely, it follows that even if you are a fine player, your grade may be lowered with excessive absences and tardiness, poor rehearsal habits, and a poor attitude. The success of the band as a whole relies on the commitment of each individual; therefore, each member is responsible to the group for attendance, attitude, preparation and adherence to established policies**. Grades are based on the following: attendance, promptness, playing test scores, and compliance with policies and procedures. These criteria are evaluated for rehearsals AND performances.**

**Grades:**

Basha High School has established a grading policy that will be followed for both semesters of this course:

1st Quarter Grade 40% A = 90 to 100

2nd Quarter Grade 40% B = 80 to 89

Final Exam 20% C = 70 to 79

D = 60 to 69

3rd Quarter Grade 40% F = 0 to 59

4th Quarter Grade 40%

Final Exam 20%

If a student is unexcused absent from a class, there will be NO opportunity to make up missed points. If a student is excused absent, they may make up the work missed with no penalty. Late work will also be accepted for a lower grade.

Parents are able to access their student’s grades and assignments through the Parent and Student Infinite Campus Portal <https://www.cusd80.com/Page/38658>

**AMEA/G.P.A. Eligibility Policy** - The Arizona Music Educators’ Association (AMEA) governs all standards with respect to performance eligibility. AMEA has stated that each individual district will determine the policy for themselves; as such, GPS has elected to continue with the application of the AIA rules regarding “no pass-no play” for rated and ranked music activities. Band students MUST keep their grades up or the entire band suffers when they are ineligible due to low grades!

The following events WILL BE affected by GPS eligibility requirements:

All Band Days (NAU, ASU and U of A)

Area Concert Band Festival

State Marching Band Festival

State Concert Band Festival Solo

Ensemble Festival

Area Jazz Festival

Regional Honor Band Festival

State Jazz Festival

All-State Honor Band

Any other RATED or ADJUDICATED event

**Attendance Policy:**

Band is an activity that requires commitment and planning. We plan rehearsals to minimize the time requirement and maximize the productivity of the band. **When any person is absent from a rehearsal, whether it be for legitimate reasons or not, it affects the group in many ways.** Class rehearsal will follow the school attendance policies, found in the Basha HS Student Handbook. Excessive absences may result in removal from performances.

Tardiness will result in a conference with the teacher. On the fourth tardy, students will receive a written referral and the office administration will determine the appropriate consequence. Being tardy to a concert or performance will result in a lowered grade for that event. Please note that work is not an excusable absence. Excusable absences are for emergency situations.

Conference period will be on Wednesday and Thursday from 9:17 - 9:45. During these times, students are only allowed into the band room if they have a band pass.  Students should use this time to study, practice, or read.  The band will check out 20 passes for Wednesday and 20 passes for Thursday, which enable students to come to the band room to practice or have sectionals.

**Classroom Policies and Procedures:**

* All rehearsals and performances are required.
* Respect yourself, others, and the facilities. This includes the use of profanity, personal technology, and other distractions to the learning environment.
* Be on time and prepared for class, rehearsals, performances, events, and all other band activities.
* Follow all Basha High School and CUSD Rules, Policies, and Procedures.
* Absolutely NO food, candy, gum, or beverages (except water in a sealed container) are allowed in the band room or school facilities.
* All students are expected to have a pencil available during every rehearsal.
* No extraneous public display of affection (PDA). This applies to all functions sponsored by Basha High School
* Maintain appropriate conduct when it comes to social media. Negative, inappropriate, disrespectful or harassing posts on Facebook, Twitter, text message or any other form of social media are not acceptable.
* Failure to adhere to the Classroom Policies and Procedures may result in student teacher, parent teacher, or administrative conference, as appropriate.

\*Failure to adhere to the Classroom Policies and Procedures may result in a student/teacher, parent/teacher, or administrative conference as deemed appropriate.

**Diversity Statement:**

All individuals have a right to an educational environment free from bias, prejudice and bigotry. As members of the Basha High School educational community, students are expected to refrain from participating in acts of harassment that are designed to demean another student’s race, ethnicity, religious preference, disability or sexual orientation.

**Guidelines for Participation Rehearsals**

1. Be on time and prepared for class.

* Be in the room when the tardy bell rings.
* Be in your seat and ready to play 3 minutes after the tardy bell rings.
* Be prepared with all equipment: instrument, music, pencil, accessories extra reeds, neck strap valve/slide oil, mutes, etc.
* Be mentally prepared and have a positive attitude.

2. Be respectful to the teachers.

* No talking during rehearsals.
* Listen and pay attention.
* Play instruments only when instructed to do so
* Rehearsal disruptions, inappropriate responses and/or behaviors will NOT be tolerated.

3. Follow classroom rules.

* Basha High School dress code policies are strictly enforced.
* No gum.
* No food or drink allowed in rehearsal rooms or adjoining hallways.
* Respect all school and personal property. (Destruction or defacing of any property will result in discipline referral.)
* Play your own instrument ONLY.
* Do not do homework from other classes during rehearsal.
* No rough play or running in the band room.
* Only band members are allowed in instrument storage areas.
* No phones during rehearsal unless they are being used as a tuner or drill book

4. Consequences

* First violation -Verbal reprimand and Grade lowered
* Second violation -Parent notification and Discipline referral
* Third violation -Discipline referral and Removal from class

**Concerts**

Basha High School holds four home Band Concerts each school year in the auditorium. Cost is free to all spectators. See band calendar for current school year concert dates. Generally, students have a call time at 6:00p with concerts starting at 7:00p. Concerts last approximately two hours. All band members are expected to perform at every concert. Each performance is equivalent to a test grade; 15% of the total grade is based on concert attendance. Students are required to attend the entire concert, including the parts in which the student is not performing.

**Concert Attire**

Concert dress will be discussed per each performing group well in advance of concert date. If a student is unable to provide the appropriate clothing for concerts, directors must be notified in advance so other clothing arrangements can be made. Performing ensembles follow these general guidelines.

Girls: Black slacks, knee length black dresses/skirts, blouses, socks, black close toed shoes

Guys: Black Pants, shirt, black socks, black shoes, tie, black closed toed shoes

Notes for all groups: NO jeans, NO T-shirts, NO sneakers, NO shorts. Students must remain in required dress for the entire concert.

**Festivals / Performances**

Most concert ensembles participate in at least one festival each year. These are considered school functions; therefore, ALL school rules are followed and will be enforced at ALL times.

* Food and drink are allowed on the buses at the discretion of the driver.
* Avoid unnecessary commotion, loud noise, etc.
* Inappropriate language will NOT be tolerated.
* Treat chaperones with respect and follow their directions. \* Remain seated while bus is in motion and keep body parts inside windows.
* All students are expected to ride the buses to and from the performance sites.
* Only band members, staff, and chaperones may ride the buses.
* Band students may not exit the bus, until told to do so by a director or chaperone.
* When students are not performing, they are expected to watch the other performances.
* When in public, students are expected to behave in a manner that is representative of Basha High School and the Basha High School Band.

**Note:** Students using alternate transportation to or from a performance must get approval IN ADVANCE from the Band Director AND the BHS Principal.

**Note:** Students may depart from a performance site with a parent ONLY if the Band Director has been notified IN ADVANCE. Parents must provide signed notification to the Band Director before the event AND must confirm their departure with the BHS Band Director.

**Other Contests**

**ABODA Area and State Concert Festivals**

The ABODA Area and State Concert Festivals are held in the months of December, February, and April. The concert bands travel to local high schools where they perform and are critiqued and rated by judges. Each 4 band performs their concert music followed by an instructional clinic or sight­ reading portion of the contest. For the sight reading at the State level, the band is given music they (or the directors) have never seen or heard and have 5 minutes to talk their way through the piece. They then receive a “one­ time­s hot” at their performance. Many do not understand that ABODA concert contests are open to the public. Even though performance times are sometimes inconvenient, parents are encouraged to come listen to and applaud the bands.

**AMEA Solo and Ensemble Contest**

These contests are sponsored by the AMEA. These contests give the band member and director a good idea of how each member is progressing musically. The first round of the Solo and Ensemble contest is conducted via video submission. Our first concert of the year in November is where the performances are recorded. Students receiving a recommendation for advancement based on their video submission will be allowed to perform live at the State Solo and Ensemble Contest in January or February. Students will be given plenty of time to prepare a solo or ensemble performance. All band members must participate in these chamber music ensembles but submission for contest is optional and requires a small entry fee. Regional and All-State Ensembles Individual band members are strongly encouraged to tryout for these bands. Pre­selected tryout music is available to all students during the summer. The regional tryouts are held in January and students that successfully make the Regional Ensembles are then eligible to audition for the All­ State ensembles in February. Band members who become Regional and All ­State musicians are highly praised and honored. The bands and orchestras made up of these wonderful musicians represent the top high school band members in the state of Arizona. Advancing to All­ State is the highest individual honor a high school musician can achieve.

**Special Events**

From time to time, special events may arise in addition to school ball games, contests, parades, concerts, and other such appearances. Participation in special events not previously scheduled will be at the discretion of the band director and school officials after conferring with the band regarding the feasibility of the event. The band is not able to accept all invitations for obvious reasons and is not able to do instant performances. It is the policy of the band to cooperate as much as possible with special requests for performances.

**Graduation Performance** All band and orchestra students combine to perform at the Basha Graduation Ceremony. It is not necessary for parents to attend unless they desire. Seniors perform during the special musical selection in the middle of the ceremony before returning to join their class.

**Private Lessons**

Private lessons give the student a chance to progress at an accelerated rate towards the mastery of his/her instrument. The private instructor is able to work with the student on an individual level, gearing the lessons to fit the specific needs of the performer. The student is able to hear the improvement in playing almost immediately, unlike the full band setting where players can “hide” or cover their areas of inexperience by allowing stronger players to carry the weight of the section. Students with the benefits of private lessons have a history of becoming top players in the program (and sometimes become private lesson instructors themselves while in college). The cost per lesson varies with the instructor, as does the location. Some teach at home, others at area music stores, and some at our neighboring universities. It is well worth the time and effort of scheduling lessons if the student can achieve higher ranking in their musical ensembles.

**Basha High School Instruments**

The Basha High School Band Program owns certain instruments and equipment, which can be rented to students for a cost of $40 for the year. The large, more expensive, instruments such as percussion, tuba, baritone, horn, baritone saxophone and bass clarinet are available from the BHS Band Program for student use. Other instruments can be provided by the school, based on a student's needs and individual circumstances. However, these instruments may be lower quality than instruments that are purchased or rented from outside sources. Due to the limited number of school-owned instruments, a student may be asked to share an instrument with another student or encouraged to choose a different instrument.

The Band Director is responsible for issuing instruments and equipment to students. The school-owned instruments and equipment are maintained each year and are in good condition when received by the student. **Each student (family) is financially responsible for the repair of any damages to the instrument caused by misuse or neglect. The student is also financially responsible for any maintenance necessary to keep the instrument/equipment properly working and in good condition.** The Band Director will provide the names of specified repair shops authorized by the Chandler Unified School District to work on school owned instruments and equipment. Students are expected to respect and properly care for all Basha High School equipment to ensure that it will be available to benefit future band students.

**Instruments and Equipment**

**Equipment List**

The following items will allow students to maximize their instructional time and take on new challenges without delay. Students should be prepared with proper equipment for daily rehearsals and performances.

Flutes

* cleaning / tuning rod in case
* handkerchief or small cloth to swab flute and wipe keys

Reed Woodwinds

* swab - correct size for your instrument
* reeds - have THREE reeds at all rehearsals. NO Rico reeds.
* reed holder or case (oboes & bassoons)
* mouthpiece -recommended type (see list below) in good condition

Brass

* valve oil or trombone slide oil/cream
* tuning slide grease (NO Vaseline)
* flexible cleaning swab or "snake"
* spray water bottle (trombones)
* rotary valve oil (horns and trombones with F attachments)
* metal straight mute (trumpets and trombones)
* mouthpiece - recommended size (see list below) in good condition

Percussion

* stick bag with snare sticks (Vic Firth SD1 General)
* hard bell/Xylophone mallets (Cannonball)
* yarn Marimba/Vibe mallets
* hard or medium timpani mallets (Vic Firth T1 General)

Recommended Mouthpiece List

* Clarinet Van Doren B45
* Bass Clarinet Selmer C-star
* Saxophone Selmer C-star
* Trumpet Bach 3C
* Horn Giardinelli C8
* Trombone & Baritone Bach 6-1/2 AL
* Tuba Schilke 67, Conn Helleberg

**Storage Lockers**

Students will be assigned to an instrument storage locker. Students will be given a school lock and combination. Lost locks will be charged to the student at $5 per lock. It is their responsibility to keep these. Items stored in lockers MUST be limited to band equipment and instruments -NO textbooks, binders, backpacks, clothing, or personal items. Disturbing, destroying or tampering with the personal property of another individual will result in a discipline referral and possible police involvement. Lockers provide MINIMAL security, at best, and the Chandler Unified School District, Basha High School and/or the Basha High School Music/Band Program ARE NOT LIABLE for stolen property or personal items. Students SHOULD NOT leave valuable items or money in the lockers at ANY time. Instruments should be stored in the instrument storage lockers in the band room during the school day. All items left in lockers after the school year will be discarded or donated.

**Technology Needs:**

All students will need a Schoology account (free) and a microphone (smart phone is ok). You can visit www.schoology.com for more information and to set up an account. This will be the platform used for performance assessment submissions. Access codes will be provided next soon in classroom.

**Fees & Other Costs**

• Competition/Festival Trip Fee: Each student will pay a fee that in turn will offset the cost of t transportation for all competitive events.

• Out ­of ­State Trip Fee: Each member pays their share of the overall cost for the Regiment to travel to an out­ of state event. This cost includes transportation, lodging, meals, entertainment, etc. for the entire trip. While extended out ­of­ state trips are nice, they are not guaranteed to occur every season

**The Basha Bear Regiment (BBR)**

This section contains information about participation in the Basha High School Regiment Marching Band, which includes wind players, percussionists, Drum Line and Color Guard members. All Chandler Unified School District and Basha High School policies and procedures for attendance, grading, discipline and behavior apply to students in the BBR. Students are also expected to adhere to the following requirements and guidelines for the Basha Bear Regiment Marching Band.

**Marching Band Attendance**

The Basha Band Program attendance policies apply to students in marching band. Due to the nature of this activity, it is very important that band members attend ALL rehearsals and performances. No one can do your job for you! Attendance IS MANDATORY at ALL rehearsals and performances. Exceptions to the mandatory attendance rule are severe illness or death in immediate family. Illnesses must be excused with a doctor note. Attendance problems will affect a student's grade (see grading policies) and may result in permanent dismissal from the performing ensemble. The following actions are grounds for dismissal from the marching band:

* Three (3) unexcused absences from rehearsals
* One (1) unexcused absence from a festival/competition performance, parade, or football game.
* Suspension from school

Please email Mr. Denny at [Denny.miles@cusd80.com](mailto:Denny.miles@cusd80.com) to report any absences or discuss attendance issues.

**Rehearsals**

Students with ANY UNEXCUSED ABSENCE(S) from rehearsals during the week will NOT perform at the next football game or show. However, the student is still required to attend the game or event, IN UNIFORM, to support their peers and actively represent the Basha Band Program. Students with illnesses or excused absences, that have missed rehearsals involving considerable changes or progress in the marching show or drill routines, may be omitted from an upcoming performance at the discretion of the Band Director and Staff.

**June Training**

Although the main purpose of the June “Chop Shop” days is to introduce incoming prospective members to marching techniques, the full band is required to attend if in town. These days will also serve as auditions for field spots within the Regiment. The older members are a tremendous help with the teaching process while building camaraderie with the new band members. The camp is traditionally held on **Tuesday nights in June from 5pm to 9pm.** If you anticipate any problems with attendance, please contact one of the directors. It is strongly recommended that you attend for best possible placement potential.

**July Summer Band Camp**

The 2nd week of July is the beginning of our busy marching season. **Attendance at this camp is mandatory so plan vacations accordingly.** Speak to the directors with any concerns. The summer band camp will consist of the most concentrated rehearsal time for the entire season. During this time, we build fundamental skills and teach a large amount of the competitive marching show. As you can imagine, this puts important emphasis on this camp. The dates and times vary, but get ready for 13 hour days, 8am ­-9pm. Comfortable tennis shoes, sunscreen, light colored clothes, and a cap and or sunglasses are the best type of attire. A gallon sized water jug with water is MANDATORY! Have your band member check with their section leaders for other good advice.

\*Note –End time of 9pm does not mean pickup time. This applies year round. Typically, the band is dismissed 10-30 mins after that time due director information sessions and/or instrument cleanup/storage.

Some of the things happening at this camp include:

* Final Marching tryouts
* Learning show music
* Learning drill
* Uniform distribution
* Learning “stand tunes” (music for football games and pep rallies)
* Purchasing of any accessories that may apply to your specific section
* Lots & lots of bonding between old and new band members.
* The final Friday night of camp, we will host a Band BBQ in the cafeteria. RSVP of the number attending in your family may be required for planning purposes. Band SWAG will be available for purchase. Following dinner, the BBR will be doing a showcase performance for all parents and family as a kickoff to the season. Bring lawn chair and bug spray as we will be in the Basha practice field.

**Football Games, Festivals, and Competitions**

One of the primary roles of the BBR is to provide entertainment and team support for ALL Basha HS football games, both “Home” and “Away”. The BBR performs at all games and provides the spirit and fun in the stands. The Basha Band Boosters have their own section in the stands, so make sure to wear your booster T-shirt or Show Shirt and sit with the rest of the parents.

**Rules and Regulations for Performances**

* CUSD and BHS policies will be enforced at ALL Basha Bear Regiment activities and performances.
* No food, drinks (besides water/Gatorade provided), or gum while in uniform.
* Band members are expected to remain in full uniform until notified by band staff.
* For each performance, students must check out their uniforms during the specified times and return them to the Uniform room after the activity. (Students arriving late for uniform call time will not perform in the show in addition to the consequences defined in the band policies.
* Students with hair below chin length must take measures (pin hair up, tuck hair inside hat) to insure uniform appearance of all band members. Color Guard will appear with performance make-up and hairstyles as determined by the Guard staff.
* NO jewelry, watches or sunglasses are worn during performances. Students are not permitted to carry bulky objects, large wallets or phones in uniform pockets.
* All band members must remain in their assigned seats in the stands at football games.
* Band students will play their instruments ONLY when directed by band staff or drum majors.
* Band members are REQUIRED to ride buses to and from performances. Students not present on the bus will NOT perform at the activity. Students must ride on the same bus to and from the site.
* Students may leave a performance site with a parent ONLY if notification with parent signature is submitted prior to the activity. Departure must be confirmed with the band staff.
* ONLY individuals currently affiliated with the Basha Bear Regiment are permitted to sit with the band at performances.
* Students will show respect for ALL chaperones and comply with their requests and directives.
* Vulgar language and offensive behavior WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
* Use of tobacco, alcohol, or other illegal substances is STRICTLY prohibited and grounds for dismissal from the band along with other school consequences and legal actions.

Failure to comply with any Basha Band rules and policies will result in disciplinary action by the Band Director or BHS administrator commensurate with the infraction. The Basha High School Bear Regiment has a long tradition of excellence on and off the field. It is the responsibility of each member to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the goals of the program and representative of the Basha Bear Regiment.

**Uniforms**

Marching Band uniform fittings are scheduled during July. Pants, jackets and hats are the property of Chandler Unified School District and are stored in the BHS Band uniform room when not in use. Color Guard uniforms will be ordered for each student participating during the marching season. They will be handled in the same manner as the band uniforms. Students will need to pick up their uniform before each performance and return the empty garment bag to the room/rack. At the end of the event, students will pick up their empty garment bag, neatly hang their uniforms and turn them back in to the uniform room/rack. Students are NOT permitted to take their uniforms home. (Special circumstances may be considered by the Band Director.) Identification numbers are recorded for all uniform items issued to each student. Altering, modifying or trading of uniforms is NOT permitted. Uniforms are kept in garment bags that are provided by the school and labeled with each student's name. The Basha Band Boosters will be responsible for repairs and maintenance of band uniforms. Cleaning fees are charged by the program and are included in the band fee. Students should report uniform problems such as stains, loose snaps or buttons and repair requests as soon as possible. Cleaning and repair fees will be assessed to any student who intentionally damages or purposefully abuses any uniform items. Each student will receive a pair of gloves with their uniform. Lost gloves will be replaced at the student's expense. **Students must purchase black Vipers (shoes), full length black socks and black compression shirts and black shorts that are worn underneath the uniform.**

**Note\*** - Student fees and responsibilities with regard to uniforms will change according to the needs of the program, and its continual growth. Please be prepared for cleaning fees, accessory purchases and various costs associated with participation in a school performance organization.

**\*Note** – BBR will dress in full uniform for all games in which the temperature is under 105 degrees at game start. Most games in August or first week of September may be in “casual” uniform. Casual uniform consists of Green Dri-Fit Basha Band T-shirt (given out by the band director) khaki shorts (in which you provide) and supportive athletic shoes with good traction.

**\*Helpful Hint:** Former band students and parents have suggested purchasing two sets of compression gear and black socks, one for Friday’s games and one for Saturdays’ competitions.

**Competitions**

In the music world, festivals and competitions are more important than football games! Competitions are usually on Saturdays and can easily be all day events. Check our Basha Band calendar often for updates to call times and performances. Volunteers and fans are need to help the band and cheer from the stands. Be sure to wear your Basha Band show shirts! Unlike football games, competitions are serious business for the band, and follow all ABODA (Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association) traditions and protocols.

**Q: What is ABODA?**

**A**: ABODA is a professional organization that oversees music events. It is not the only one in

Arizona, but it is the biggest and most established, and the one behind most of the events we are attending this year. It is comprised of directors from all over Arizona.

**Q:** **What are the “Caption” awards?**

**A:** Caption Awards are awarded to the band (or bands) that presented an outstanding

performance in a specific category. Essentially, each judge can select a band or bands that was the most outstanding for the category which they were judging (see below for Judges and captions.) For example, a Music Judge can choose which band had the best Music performance of the event. They can award a few Captions Awards or none at all, at their discretion.

**Q:** **What are the Divisions about?**

A: In ABODA events, the Divisions are based on the size of your band, by the total number of

students performing on the field. The current breakdown is as follows

* Division I – 110 performers or greater
* Division II – 81-109
* Division III – 61-80
* Division IV – 60 or less

**Q: Tell me about judges.**

**A:** The adjudicators are usually band directors and other marching band staff members from around the community. There are some smart rules about not judging groups with which a judge may be affiliated, to avoid conflicts of interest. For bigger events, like the State Festival and State Championship, ABODA will fly in judges from other states.

ABODA events have 6 judges:

Music (2 judges) – They assess the quality of the music performance. Things like tone quality, intonation, phrasing, dynamics, expression, blend and balance, rhythmic interpretation, articulation, ensemble cohesiveness (timing and togetherness), and more.

General Effect – This judge looks at the various effects that a performance can elicit from the audience. Emotional, aesthetic, and intellectual elements of the design, production and execution of the show. For example, a combination of smooth movement, beautiful flags, and a well-played ballad might create emotional and aesthetic effects (oooh, aaah). A show that applies music selections in a clever way to reinforce a thematic concept might create an intellectual effect (oh, clever!). The effectiveness of the music score is assessed, including the style, pacing and continuity, and impacts and flow from one featured moment to another.

Visual – This judge assesses the visual components of the show, from drill / formations design to body movement elements, to color guard, to props and design elements (like color palettes), to the way visual elements coordinate with, and reinforce, musical and conceptual elements. For drill and movement, they look at precision and uniformity of individual technique, like pointed toes and smooth steps, and execution of forms, like straight lines, smooth curves, consistent intervals between people in lines, etc.

Percussion – This judge looks at many aspects of the percussion performance. Uniformity and precision of individual technique, as well as quality of the ensemble as a whole. Similar to the Music judges, they assess phrasing, dynamics, expression, blend and balance, rhythmic interpretation, articulation, ensemble cohesiveness (timing and togetherness), and more. At some events, this judge may stand on the field, near the Front Ensemble, so they can better hear and see the details of the performance at the sideline, and on the field.

Auxiliary – This judge assesses the quality of the color guard performance. Everything from body movement and dance, to use of equipment, like flags, rifles, sabers, etc. Individual precision and quality, as well as uniformity and ‘cleanliness,’ or togetherness, of execution within the whole color guard section. This judge’s score also counts for only a small percentage of the overall score. Each judge needs to assess all these several different aspects of their caption, and assign scores based on a rubric. Their score, out of a possible 100 points, is computed on a weighted scale, with some captions counting for more than others, to arrive at a total score for the whole band, out of 100 points.

**Q: Why are we so concerned about timing and getting off the field quickly?**

**A:** Each band has a scheduled time slot. We have 15 minutes to get on, perform, and get off. That provides some flexibility as to how much of that time is actually performing time. Some bands used to try to play 13 minutes of music. Most bands these days opt for less than 10 minutes of music: to give more time to enter and exit the field, and to have less material to learn and clean. In some competitive circuits, there may be a minimum performing time. These timing rules are enforced in the performing venue, by Timing and Penalty officials.

As we enter a stadium to perform, we are guided as to where the ‘starting line’ is. We will hold there until the previous band has started to leave the field. Usually, at that time, we can cross the starting line to begin setup, but have not actually started into our time slot. Stepping across the starting line while the other band is still performing will earn us a penalty. In the transitional setup time, anyone stepping ON the actual football field will trigger our time-clock to start prematurely, so students, pit crew, and prop crew need to be careful during that set-up time.

When we are finished performing, we need to get all people, instruments, and props off the field before our time slot expires, or we will receive a numerical penalty. If timing is running tight for some reason, the students and crew may be told to get off as quickly as possible. In this case, they might go directly to the closest sideline or end-zone to try to get all feet and parts off the actual football field. In some venues, the penalty line may be actually off the side the of the field, so we need to get off the football field, but also off to one side of the stadium.

Timing penalties are deducted from the final tabulated score, and can make huge differences in Ratings and Rankings.

**Q:** **Explain the ‘Pit’ or ‘Front Ensemble’ to me**.

A: Marching band evolved from military bands and parade bands. Everyone moved, and all instruments were carried. As recently as the early 1980s, bands and drum corps still carried bells, xylophones, and even timpani (1 per player) on and off the field. As field pageantry became more theatrical and moved beyond traditional Sousa march music, composers and arrangers liked the idea of using more orchestral percussion instruments. Thankfully, they started parking the large instruments on the front sideline, to contribute to the musical score, but not necessarily be a big part of the visual production… like a ‘pit orchestra’ in music theatre. These front-sideline percussion instruments and players are often referred to as the ‘pit,’ like the ‘orchestra pit.’ We see several timpani (‘kettle drums’), grand marimbas, vibraphones, tubular chimes, giant concert bass drums, gongs, electric guitars, and much more in a modern band.

Another thing you might notice: Many bands also use electronics and amplification in the front ensemble. There are many reasons for this, including using microphones to amplify wind instrument soloists, adding synthesizer and sampler sounds to the show, and amplifying the pit instruments

**Student Leader Positions**

**Drum Major:**

Students interested in auditioning in the position of drum major for marching band should fill out a drum major application form. This form is available from the director. Auditions will consist of conducting, calling commands, marching, demonstration of a salute and an interview. Auditions are done in a group. Each candidate will call the others through a series of commands, then conducts two pre-designated selections that are pre-recorded. Typically, three to five adults will judge the drum major candidates; input is taken from all the judges, with the final decision being made by the director. Optional clinics will be scheduled prior to the audition so potential candidates can learn the skills necessary for the drum major position.

**Section Leaders:** Section leaders will be chosen by the staff members during by the director and other staff members through an audition process. If you are selected for this responsibility, the expectation is that you will set the best example for the other band members as a leader, mentor and musician.

Qualifications include: 1 year or more of experience in marching band or one of the concert groups, a good attitude and a willingness to work hard. Student section leaders are not necessarily the “best” marchers or players; they are students who will dedicate themselves to making the band program better for EVERYONE. The director retains the responsibility of approving the final selections for section leaders.

**Band Council:** Those interested in becoming a member of the band council should fill out a student leadership application. This can be obtained from the director. The BHS Band Council is elected from the members of the band program each year. The officers and representatives of the band council function primarily as liaisons between the director and the band members.

Suggestions, questions and concerns regarding the band program can be referred to any council member for consideration. Band council members will have specific responsibilities as listed below:

**President**

Provide positive leadership for the band. Organize and run weekly council meetings. Make announcements about various events to the band.

**Vice President**

In charge of publicity for band activities (i.e., homeroom announcements, school paper, posters, etc.). Maintains in-room and online calendar and bulletin boards. Acts as president in the president’s absence.

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Possesses good typing skills; takes notes at all band council meetings and is willing to assist the band director with filing and data entry when necessary. Also keeps records of all money owed to the band, maintains a record of all income and expenses of the program, and keeps track of money earned from fundraisers.

**Librarian**

Maintains the music library, including the digital database. Assists with filing music, copying music, maintaining folders and also passes out and collects music for the bands. **Historian/Morale Officer**

This individual is in charge of boosting band morale in an appropriate way, and maintaining a photographic record of the band’s activities through the year. As morale officer, responsibilities include keeping track of band member birthdays and acknowledging them, making motivational signs for the band’s efforts and plans all the band’s social activities. As historian, he/she is in charge of photographing the band (or arranging to have photos of the band in action taken), acts as a liaison between the band and the school newspaper and yearbook staff, and should own or have access to a good quality digital camera. The historian will also assist in producing the band’s annual scrapbook.

**Drum Major** The Drum Major will also be considered a member of Band Council and serves as a primary liaison between the Marching Band and the Director. During the off-season the Drum Major may act as a representative of the Winter guard and Winter Drumline as well, if he/she is involved in the activity.

**Band Council Election Procedures:**

Potential officer candidates are asked to fill out and turn in a student leader form. If for any reason the director feels a candidate should not be considered for a particular office, the candidate will be informed in private by the director. Students will vote by secret ballot. The candidate is selected by majority vote. Election results are announced at a time and date decided by the director. The director retains final authority on the selection of band council members.

**Bear Regiment Creed**

We are the Basha Bear Regiment

Every member serves their role,

Our musicianship and movement

Come from the heart and soul.

Be true to yourself

And help your new friends,

Make every day your symphony

Before your time at Basha ends.

Seek guidance from your mentors

And express gratitude for all good things,

Make every note and movement golden

Until the crowning chord rings.

Give full and relentless efforts

Where most walk, the Bears will run,

But no matter the tempo of our song

Our hearts beat as one.

**Basha Band Boosters**

The Basha Band Booster organization is made up of parents just like you. It is a non-profit, incorporated organization that works with the Basha High School band director to assist in providing financial and volunteer support for the Basha High School Band Program.

If your student is enrolled in any of the BHS band programs, you are already a band booster, and we encourage you to get involved! If your student is new to the band program, don't be afraid to reach out, ask questions, and volunteer. Whether you're in the stands at a football game or organizing a candle sale at a band concert, any current booster active with the program will tell you - not only is it a great way to bond with your musician, it's also a fantastic way to meet other band parents and make great new friends.

**2019-2020 Basha Band Boosters**

**2019-2020 E-Board**

**President:** Eric Mesnik **–** [BBRpres2019@gmail.com](mailto:BBRpres2019@gmail.com)

**Vice President:** Victoria Johnson - [Vicki0728@yahoo.com](mailto:Vicki0728@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer:** Travis Breedlove – [BBR.Treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:BBR.Treasurer@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Tracy Buquo – [Azbuquo@gmail.com](mailto:Azbuquo@gmail.com)

**Members at Large**: Justin Ponikvar – [Jnaponikvar@yahoo.com](mailto:Jnaponikvar@yahoo.com)

**2019-2020 Committee Chairs**

**Concessions:** Tracy Buquo - [Azbuquo@gmail.com](mailto:Azbuquo@gmail.com)

Jennifer Cabrera- [Cabrera.jennifer@CUSD80.com](mailto:Cabrera.jennifer@CUSD80.com)

**Feed the Bears:** Tracy Conell - [Tracyconell@rocketmail.com](mailto:Tracyconell@rocketmail.com)

Danielle Olsen – [DanielleGOlsen@gmail.com](mailto:DanielleGOlsen@gmail.com)

Jennifer Cabrera - [Cabrera.jennifer@CUSD80.com](mailto:Cabrera.jennifer@CUSD80.com)

Kate Lynch – [Katashaly@hotmail.com](mailto:Katashaly@hotmail.com)

**First Aide:** Carolyn Morey - [Cnkmorey@gmail.com](mailto:Cnkmorey@gmail.com)

Erin Hull – [Dejchull@gmail.com](mailto:Dejchull@gmail.com)

**Fundraising:** Victoria Johnson - [Vicki0728@yahoo.com](mailto:Vicki0728@yahoo.com)

**Hospitality:** Renee Mesnik - [Rdmesnik@cox.net](mailto:Rdmesnik@cox.net)

**Hydration:** Kevin Morey [-Kevinmorey1@gmail.com](mailto:-Kevinmorey1@gmail.com)

**Pit Pushing:** Danielle Olsen - [DanielleGOlsen@gmail.com](mailto:DanielleGOlsen@gmail.com)

**Props/Equip repair:** Bobby Buquo - [Azbuquo@gmail.com](mailto:Azbuquo@gmail.com)

**Social Media:** Renee Mesnik - [Rdmesnik@cox.net](mailto:Rdmesnik@cox.net)

**SWAG:** Wendi Morris – Bashaswag@gmail.com

**Transportation:** Corey From – [Corey.from@outlook.com](mailto:Corey.from@outlook.com)

**Uniforms:** Amanda Ponikvar – Jnaponikvar@msn.com

**CBS Rep:** Eric Mesnik - [BBRpres2019@gmail.com](mailto:BBRpres2019@gmail.com)

**CBS Alternate Rep:** Travis Breedlove - [BBR.Treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:BBR.Treasurer@gmail.com)

**Can you help Basha Bands?**

Yes! We need you! Our program is great because we have fantastic parents that want to support both their student and the program. We cannot do this without your help! Any parent that has a student in the Band Program is automatically a Booster! Basha Band Booster parents are asked to volunteer and /or donate to help the band during almost all our events and will be prompted to do so via a sign up on Sign up Genius in advance. Lists usually go out 1-3 weeks in advance of the performance. Students really enjoy the support we provide them, and the parents enjoy the camaraderie and fun.

**Feed the Bears (FTB)**

One of the most important aspects of our amazing Band Booster program is Feed the Bears. This is the volunteer program that helps prep, serve and clean up meals and /or snacks provided to the students either before or after games and competitions. Signups for donations and/or help go out weeks in advance and are absolutely crucial to the overall health of the band. We do not want our students going hours without a snack or meal.

**Percussion/Pit Crew**

This is a specialized group of people that assist the auxiliary percussion section. These instruments are stationary, and therefore are called “the pit”. The instruments are big and heavy and sometimes need assistance to be rolled onto the field prior to the performance. (See Pit Crew for details)

**Hydration**

Water! Water! Water! During the hottest months of the year, we dress our kids in long sleeve, wool uniforms and ask them to carry heavy instruments! As you can imagine they get very thirsty and it’s a health concern to all of us that the students have plenty of cold, clean water to drink. Parents will be asked to assist with hydration during the games. The Hydration chairperson will provide large coolers of water each event and the helpers will be needed to fill, pass out, and refill many water bottles to the students in the stands. We also do hydration before and after competitions and during band camps. Our water vendor is Water and Ice located near the corner of Gilbert & Riggs.

**Pluming and De-Pluming**

The unique headwear our students wear is known as “Shakos” (a military style hat with a brim and plume). Signups for helping go out 1-3 weeks in advance via the Signup Genius.

Approximately 3-4 parents wearing the provide plastic gloves are needed to insert a “Plume” into every student’s Shako just prior to the performance. Then, each student must be “De-Plumed” immediately following the performance. It’s an easy and fun task just about anyone can do.

**Videography and Photography**

Check with the band director as to the needs of this position.

**First Aid**

Here we seek out qualified trained professionals in the medical field to volunteer at major events/shows we host and help keep several first aid backpacks fully stocked at all times. They do not ride with the band nor are required to be at all games and competitions.

**Props**

One of the most important aspects of a fall Marching Band show is the props used to help tell the story. This is an area in which your skill in construction, design, woodworking and welding come in very handy. You will help build props used, help to move them on and off the field for performances and keep them maintained so our students stay safe.

**SWAG**

Here we are looking for a volunteer or two to help sell and order our Basha Band Swag at major events such as the BBR BBQ at the end of Band Camp and various points throughout the year.