

Bigfork Bands



A Handbook for Band Students and Parents

2018-2019

Mrs. Randi Tunnell: Director

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The band program at Bigfork Schools forms a vital and important part of the total school life. This group represents a large, colorful, visible, and highly disciplined segment of the school. Together, you and your student have chosen to participate in the Bigfork band program. The growth and success of the band program is a reflection of the support that the school system and parents have given over the years. I, along with school system believe that the many benefits your child will receive from this experience will make the time and effort worthwhile.

This handbook was written to help students and parents better understand the band program at Bigfork Schools. Becoming familiar with this handbook will help each student understand the opportunities available for them through participation in the Bigfork band program as well as becoming aware of the “Do’s” and “Do Nots” of band.

This handbook is a supplement to the Bigfork Schools’ Student/Parent Handbooks. Any rule or regulation within this handbook is in addition to the regular school rules and policies. Read it carefully and completely. If you are unsure of any of the information within the handbook please do not hesitate to contact me with ask questions.

Mrs. Randi Tunnell

Bigfork Schools Band Director
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Bigfork Public School Bands' Mission Statement

The mission of the Bigfork School Bands is to consistently strive for excellence in all we do. Members of the Bigfork Bands operate within an environment of deeply engrained values: Motivation, Dedication, and Musical Development. Along with these values, Bigfork Band members develop the important life skills of time management, leadership, cooperation, humility, and responsibility. We believe these values, when combined with quality music, lead to an exciting and rewarding band experience.

Basic Band Rules

1. **Be prepared for class with instrument, music, and pencil.**
2. **Always respect others-students, teachers, instruments, room, and equipment.**
3. **No gum, food or drink (except bottled water) is permitted in the band room.**
4. **Director gets every student's complete, undivided attention during class.**

Specific Responsibilities of a Bigfork Band Member

1. Follow all school rules in the band room.
2. Be to class on time with your instrument, music, and pencil.
3. Enter the room quietly and calmly, take instrument to your seat, and put your music in order for the day's class.
5. Do not touch or play another student's instrument.
6. Stop talking when class begins.
7. Raise your hand if you have a question or a problem.
8. Do not bring food, gum, or drinks into the band room.
9. Be supportive of each other in the band.
10. Let the director know if you forgot your instrument and/or music or if your instrument is at the repair shop. This should be done before class begins. You may NOT go to the office to call home if you forget your instrument. Students without instruments are expected to follow along with the class. Forgetting an instrument is NOT an excuse to skip class.

11. Label your instrument case with a name tag. All folders and books must also have the student's name clearly written on them.
12. Have at least two good reeds at all times if you play clarinet and saxophone.
13. Keep feet off chairs and other equipment.
14. Be careful with music stands. They are not to be used as desks, played with, or leaned on. Music stands damage easily and are expensive to replace

Disciplinary Action

One of the most unpleasant tasks of any teacher is the necessity to take disciplinary action against a student. The Bigfork Bands operate on excellence and much pride. There are very few rules as we try to operate on the idea that everyone will do their best at all times. When working with a large number of students it is necessary to have certain responsibilities and rules. Each member is expected to uphold and follow these responsibilities and rules. It is the director's responsibility to ensure fairness in the classroom and to act if the criteria for proper class behavior are not followed.

7-12 Grading Policy:

Grades are divided into two parts (playing tests and participation) and will be weighted 50/50. Each playing quiz will be allotted a certain amount of points depending on the difficulty and each rehearsal/performance will also have a designated points value. **SAME AS LAST YEAR:** Playing quizzes/tests will be weighted the same as daily participation. Half of the students grade will be daily participation and half will be their playing tests!

1. Musical Proficiency: This is determined by playing tests given throughout each grading period. Each class is different and what will be tested may change from class to class. The class will be given specific instructions for each playing test well in advance.
2. Participation: Total 5 points per class.
 - A. Attendance: Being on time to class. If a student arrives promptly and is in his/her seat and ready to play. An unexcused absence from class will result

- in the student losing all effort points for the class that day.
- B. Participation: Effort, positive attitude and attentiveness during class.
 - C. Having supplies: Having instrument, music (book, folders, and handouts), and having a pencil.
3. Performance :
- A. Student will be punctual for performances. An unexcused absence to a performance will result in them losing all participation points for the performance. **All performances are required and mandatory!** Dealing with a missed performance will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
 - B. Students must dress properly for performances. Any problems will be noted. The requirements for proper concert dress are detailed on page 6.
 - C. Poor behavior while in public view at performances will be noted and may impact the student's final grade.

Attendance

The success of every music ensemble depends on the contribution of each member. Everyone is important! The following policies encourage commitment and responsibility.

Band members are expected to be at every class and every performance. However, there are circumstances in life that prevent us from meeting all of our obligations. The following policies are established to develop responsibility in students as well as consistency to everyone in the instrumental music program from fifth grade through twelfth grade.

Excused absences from a performance are:

- * Personal illness (confirmed by a note from a doctor)
- *Death or family emergency (note from parent)

Any unexcused absence from a performance will not be tolerated. It is important to remember that each student is a member of a team and it is important that he/she is present to make his/her contribution. The decision on whether an absence is excused is left to the director's discretion.

Practicing

The single most important factor to insure success on an instrument is REGULAR PRACTICE. The goal of practice is the development of the muscles in the mouth, arms, hands and the chest, the improvement of hand and eye coordination, and the development of basic reading skills. Even if someone can “play” every note, real musical growth will only come about with much repetition to gain strength and endurance. The exception should be a missed day of practice, not the other way around.

A student needs a good place to practice. A chair and music stand are ideal. Sitting on the edge of a bed or putting music on the piano or desk top will not develop proper playing habits. When practicing stay away from the TV or any other distracting noises.

Concert Dress Guidelines

****High School Band has uniforms: Black shirts, black slacks, black socks and black shoes****

Middle School: In order to maintain a professional and uniform appearance for the Bigfork Bands it is extremely important that the following guidelines are followed for concerts.

1. No athletic shoes.
2. No jeans, sweatpants, shorts or warm-up pants.
3. No shirts or sweatshirts with large logos or writing.

Boys:

1. Boys must wear dark dress socks. Absolutely no white socks or short “no-show” athletic socks are allowed.
2. A nice button-down dress shirt is appropriate. A tie is optional but strongly recommended.
3. Boys should wear dress pants. Black or dark colored slacks are the best choice.

Girls:

1. A skirt with a dress blouse or a dress. However skirts and dresses must be mid-calf to ankle length.
2. Dress pants with a dress blouse.
3. No jean skirts.

Proper concert dress is part of the performance portion of a student’s band grade. Dress Code rules in the Student Handbook always apply.

Important Dates for 2018-2019

Concerts and Performances:

Middle School:

- October 16th MS Fall Concert (HS Gym)
- December 11th Winter Band Concert (HS Gym)
- March 21st 8th Grade Honor Band-*Select Members Only* (Whitefish)
- March ? (During School) Spring Concert (MS Gym)
- May 21st Pops Concert (HS Gym)
- June 1st HS Graduation (8th Grade Only)

High School:

- Homecoming Parade September 21st
- November 6th Fall Band Concert
- November 10th Veterans Concert**
- UM All Star Ensemble (select group only) November 9-11
- December 11th Winter Band Concert (HS Gym)
- April 2nd Pre-Festival Concert (Performings Arts)
- District Festival April 4-6 (Kalispell)
- State Music Festival May 3-4 (Missoula)
- Pops Concert May 21st
- High School Graduation June 1st

Please sign and return (digitally please!) the BAND CONTRACT page by September 14.

This handbook should be kept for your records.

Band Contract **For the 2018-2019 School Year**

I have read and understand all of the policies stated within this handbook and agree to uphold them as a contributing member of the Bigfork Bands.

Student's Signature

Date _____

Print Student Name

I have read and understand all of the policies stated within this handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date _____

