



Taylor County Bands

Taylor County High School | 24 Oak Street Butler, Georgia 31006 | Phone: 478-862-5234



Director of Bands, Eric Vogel

478-862-5234

evogel@taylor.k12.ga.us

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance Policy	7
Band Officers	10-11
Conduct / Behavior.....	9-10
Ensembles.....	5-6
Football Games.....	9-10
Grading Policy.....	6
Instruments / Equipment	11-12
Mission Statement.....	3
Quality Assurance Program (QAP)	8
Expectations	7
Student Accounts	16
Uniforms.....	13-15



Mission Statement:

“Providing a comprehensive artistic education through musical and visual excellence”

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Dear Band Members and Parents:

Welcome to yet another exciting year here at Taylor County. There is a lot to look forward to with the betterment of our program. We have the potential to be one of the most successful and well renowned programs here at the high school and will reach our goals with the hard work and dedication of every new and returning member.

This handbook is a way to get a glance at what you can expect from this program over the course of this upcoming year. There are several different points of key interest that you may find in the table of contents. It is our expectation here at Taylor County that students will adhere to all rules set in this handbook. There will be a contract that every student must turn in at the beginning of the fall term.

Two of our biggest events we want to work hard for each year are the marching and competitive season as well as GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluation. These events are very important to our program and the students because it gives the community a chance to hear our progress and the students an opportunity to perform for many people. We have a great selection of music lined up for each ensemble to challenge all of our musicians. This is going to be a very rewarding year for the Viking family as we enter our 1st year together. I look forward to making wonderful music this year.

Sincerely,

Eric Vogel, Director
24 Oak St
Butler, Georgia 31006
evogel@taylor.k12.ga.us

Organizations

- **Symphonic Band:** *the Symphonic Band is the high school ensemble. Students are expected to practice on their own time to ensure productive rehearsals in class. Students will be piloting a newly implemented program called The Power in Progress System. Chair positions will be determined by points alone. This program offers students the opportunity to earn points every week. Every student is expected to have 9 pass offs completed every nine weeks. Students that are eager to sit at the top of their section may complete more than the required number of pass offs to surpass their peers. This ensemble will usually perform two to three concerts per year and participate in at least one festival.*
- **Concert Band:** *the Concert Band is the middle school ensemble. Students will be using The Power in Progress System. Chair positions will be determined by points alone. This program offers students the opportunity to earn points every week. Every student is expected to have 9 pass offs completed every nine weeks. Students that are eager to sit at the top of their section may complete more than the required number of pass offs to surpass their peers. This ensemble will usually perform two to three concerts per year and participate in at least one festival.*
- **Marching Band:** *The marching band is an extra-curricular activity comprised of the playing members (winds and percussion) and the visual ensemble. This organization meets after school hours. All members of the marching band (winds/percussion), excluding auxiliary units, must be enrolled in a band class. The marching band begins preparation for their fall season during the summer. The marching band performs at each Taylor County High School football game, various parades throughout the year, pep rallies, and usually at two to three contests / festivals during the fall. All rehearsals and performances are mandatory for membership in this group.*
- **Jazz Band:** *the Jazz Band is an ensemble that rehearses before school. This is an audition only ensemble. The Jazz Band is a new ensemble that will perform at various functions around the community and surrounding areas.*

Other opportunities are available for any student that is interested. These are as listed:

- All District Honor Band
 - *Fee and Audition Required*

- All State Honor Band
 - *Fee and Audition Required*
- Private Lessons
 - *Fee and Travel Required*
- Solo and Ensemble Competition
 - *Fee and Travel Required*

Students are very encouraged to participate in one if not more of these ensembles. The All-District and All-State Honor Bands is a great way to play and perform with your peers from all over the state and district. The performance opportunity is great as you will rehearse with guest conductors from respectable programs at universities, orchestras, high schools, etc. Students will also find great benefits from taking private lessons. This can be costly but is well worth it to see growth in you as a musician.

******Grading Policy******

The grading system for the Central High School Band classes is based upon individual playing/performance tests/pass-offs, after-school rehearsal and performance attendance, practice record, and exams. This is broken down as follows.

Class Participation: 30%

Power in the Progress System: 30%

Performances: 30%

Final Exam: 10%

Students may earn extra credit by participating in such events as private lessons, all-state band auditions, district band auditions, honor bands, solo and ensemble workshops, clinics, etc.

Expectations

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Respect each other and all property.
2. Remain quiet when the director is presenting material.
3. Be prepared for class.
4. Bring your pencils!
5. Bring a positive attitude and be ready to create music.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance at all rehearsals, performances, and other official band functions is **REQUIRED**. An absence will not be excused unless the student has provided the director with a written notice from the parent at least **ONE WEEK PRIOR** to the absence as to the reason of the expected absence. Absences for students due to personal illness, death in the family or an emergency will be excused. We expect that students and parents will take into consideration the official calendar so that doctor or dentist appointments will not conflict with rehearsals or performances. If there is an unavoidable circumstance, students must provide an official doctor's excuse within one week of the absence. Any absence that is not mentioned above will be considered unexcused.

Excessive excused absences will not be tolerated. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal will result in the student not participating in the next performance. Two excused absences within a one-week period may also result in the student not participating in the next performance, if the director feels the student is unprepared. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in the **suspension** of the band member for a period of time to be decided by the band director. Excessive unexcused absences and/or tardies will possibly result in the **removal** of the student from the ensemble/ activity or band program. An unexcused tardy to a rehearsal, performance, or other function will result in the issuance of a detention to the tardy member and if needed will be handled further by the band director. Two unexcused tardies will be treated as one unexcused absence. If a student arrives to a rehearsal late (including class rehearsals), it is the responsibility of the student to check in with the person in charge of attendance for the ensemble. **Absences from a Thursday evening rehearsal will result in the student not participating in weekend performances.** ALL ABSENCES, EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED MUST BE MADE UP AT QAP, WHICH IS HELD ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS. (SEE BELOW)

QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

The “Quality Assurance Program” (QAP) is designed to help ensure quality performances by the Marching Vikings. Students, who miss a Monday or Thursday rehearsal, whether excused or unexcused, will be required to attend QAP to make up work missed. Students who miss Monday and Thursday rehearsal will have to serve two sessions of QAP, one for each rehearsal missed.

Students having trouble with marching or music may also be assigned QAP to receive additional help. QAP is not designed as a replacement to the regular rehearsal scheduled. It is used as a program to help students with an absence stay caught up with the marching band. Thursday missed rehearsals will have to be made up at QAP but students will not be permitted to march that following weekend. (see attendance policy).

QAP is for the occasional absence. Excessive absences will result in dismissal from the marching band. QAP may not be used to make up more than one rehearsal during that week. Participation in QAP is not a punishment. It is an opportunity to receive extra help to help ensure a successful marching band. QAP will be held on Wednesday’s.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

All students who participate in extra-curricular activities (Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble, etc.) of the band program must meet the eligibility requirements under the guidelines of the Taylor County School System, Taylor County High School, Taylor County Middle School and the Taylor County Band Program.

1. All students involved in extra-curricular activities are under the jurisdiction of the Taylor County and Taylor County High/Middle School discipline policies; in addition to Band rules and regulations.
2. Students are expected to dedicate a great deal of time to their studies. Tutoring is available through the band program.
3. Students who fail a class on any official report card at Taylor County HS/MS will be REQUIRED to attend the tutoring/study hall session every week until a passing grade is achieved. (Study Hall will be every rehearsal day prior to the start of rehearsal.)

GENERAL BAND CONDUCT

You are expected to conduct yourself as a lady or a gentleman at all times, in all band activities. Always remember that you are a representative of your school and community. Dress and behave accordingly. Be proud, but never arrogant. You never get a second chance at a first impression. The following rules are in addition to any policies set forth by the Taylor County Board of Education and Taylor County High/Middle School. Detentions may be issued to any student(s) who are in violation of these rules.

BEHAVIOR IN AND CARE OF THE BAND ROOM

1. Do not leave instrument, equipment, music, or any personal belongings out in the band room.
2. Food or drink is not allowed on the carpeted areas.
3. Put anything that you use back in its proper place.
4. Do not use others' belongings without their permission. (This includes school-owned equipment)
5. Gum is not allowed in the band room,
6. Keep your band room in such a condition that you can be proud if a visitor should come by. The condition of your band room reflects the pride that you have in your band.
7. Anyone found to be damaging or destroying band / school owned property will be required to repair and/or replace the equipment.
8. Each section will be responsible for a week during marching season for band room clean up. This schedule will be posted the first week of school.

BEHAVIOR DURING REHEARSALS

1. Immediately get quiet when a conductor (director, drum major, guest) steps upon the podium or in front of you.
2. Questions should be directed to the podium, not your neighbor.
3. No playing or talking while a conductor is on the podium, unless under his/her direction.
4. No facial jewelry will be worn during rehearsals (one stud earring in each ear will be allowed)

FOOTBALL GAMES

1. Students must use provided transportation to all football games.
2. Any student who wishes to return from the ball game with his/her parent must provide the director with the official Performance Check Out Form (located in the band room) from the parent BEFORE we leave for the performance. It is also the responsibility of the student to check

out with the head chaperone on their bus BEFORE leaving. Students will only be given permission to ride home with parents after performances.

3. All band members are to remain in their sections of the bleachers during the ball games.
4. No solo or small group playing in the stands that has not been approved by the band director. (Small group playing will be approved if it has been worked on and is appropriate)
5. No one is to leave the bleachers without the permission of the band director.
6. No non-band personnel are allowed in the band area of the bleachers at any time.
7. Always return to the stands following the half-time performance.
8. You will usually be given the third quarter off, in which case you are to be back in your seat two clock minutes before the fourth quarter begins. Failure to do so will result in the loss of this privilege.
9. We are at the football games to perform for the public and to support our team. All members are expected to be attentive and ready to perform in the stands at all times.
10. No food or drinks in the stands without the permission of the band director.
11. No band members are to completely dress/undress on the bus
12. No facial jewelry will be worn (one stud earring in each ear will be allowed)

BAND OFFICERS

SELECTED THROUGH AUDITIONS & INTERVIEW:

DRUM MAJOR(S) – (must be a playing member with at least one year of marching experience)

1. Responsible for the band while on the performance field, stands and parades.
2. Responsible for the band during marching band rehearsals and at other times as appointed by the director.
3. Responsible for uniform inspections.
4. No outstanding fees due to the band program.

SELECTED THROUGH ELECTIONS AND INSTRUCTOR APPOINTMENT:

DRUMLINE / VISUAL ENSEMBLE CAPTAIN(S) –

1. Responsible for the drum line / visual ensemble at all times.
2. Instructs, rehearses, and coordinates the drum line / visual ensemble under the direction of instructors.
3. No outstanding fees due to the band program.

SECTION LEADERS –

1. Leaders may be appointed by the band directors for each playing section of the band. It will be the duty and responsibility of these individuals to be in charge of their respective sections during full band and sectional rehearsals. No outstanding fees due to the band

program. In addition, the section leaders and the other officers of the band shall be responsible for the following areas of the band program as appointed by the director:

Rehearsal Field:

- A. Seeing that the band field is kept in good condition and report any needed repairs to the band director.
- B. Marking and lining rehearsal field.
- C. Taking water to field for marching band rehearsals.

Rehearsal Hall:

- A. Organizing and supervising all matters dealing with the visual appeal, organization, and cleanliness of the band room and surrounding area.
- B. Maintenance and storage of music stands.

Drill Instructors:

- A. Teaching basic marching maneuver to band members.
- B. Teaching drill maneuvers to their squad of band members.

INSTRUMENTS

- I. Where do I get my instrument?
 - a. School owned instruments will be assigned on the first day of classes.
 - i. There is a finite supply of school owned instruments that will be signed over to students at the beginning of the school year. There will be a onetime \$35 rental fee for the year. This cost goes to cover maintenance of that instrument. Parents may make two payments. Due dates: December 1st and May 1st.
 - 1. This cost goes to normal wear and tear of the instrument. Any damages to a school owned instrument that are deemed outside of the “normal wear and tear”, the parent will be responsible for the repairs, or in extreme cases, the replacement of the instrument.
 - b. Arts Music Shop will be our vendor for rentals. The representative will be in class during the first week of school to discuss rentals. Students will bring home an information packet with all information pertaining to this process.
 - c. If you decide to purchase your own instrument, make sure the instrument is in working condition and of a reputable brand.
 - i. When purchasing an instrument, be certain the store offers a plan for instrument repair. Be advised that instruments purchased from retailers who do not specialize in selling band instruments (JC Penny, Amazon, Wal-Mart, etc.) may be of low quality and sometimes replacement parts and repairs are unavailable. If you have any questions about whether a

certain brand or instrument is a good value for the money and is of quality, please contact the band director.

SUPPLIES

- a. Reeds (REEDS WILL BE SOLD BY THE BAND BOOSTERS. PLEASE ASK MR. VOGEL PRIOR TO REHARSAL FOR A WORKING REED. PRICE VARIES BY BRAND AND TYPE.)
 - i. Clarinets-
 - 1. Vandoren 3 ½
 - 2. Please have 5 working reeds at all times.
 - ii. Saxophones-
 - 1. Vandoren 3
 - 2. Please have 5 working reeds at all times.
- b. Brass Mouthpieces
 - i. Mouthpieces will be inspected on the first day of classes. If there is any reason for a student to acquire a new mouthpiece, reasoning will be explained to the parent and student and a recommendation for a new one will be provided.
- c. Valve Oil
 - i. Synthetic Only
 - ii. All brass musicians must have valve oil. The brand does not matter as there are many to choose from and some oils work better for different instruments/musicians.
- d. Swabs
 - i. The following instruments will need to have swabs.
 - 1. Flutes, Clarinets, Saxophones, Oboes,
 - ii. Swabs are important because if the remaining condensation on the inside of the horn is not dried, it can/will create mold, fungi, and other nasty things Use a swab please.
- e. Snakes
 - i. It is important that brass musicians run a snake through their horn a few times a month. As with woodwind instruments, the remaining condensation can/will generate molds, fungi, etc.
 - ii. Trombones, Trumpets, French Horns.
- f. Mouthpiece Brushes
 - i. Any instrument with a mouthpiece should have a brush to clean any built up residue on the inside of the mouthpiece.
- g. Percussion

- i. Two pair of snare sticks, one pair of yarn mallets, one pair of rubber mallets, practice pad, and a bell set are required.

Note: All recommendations will be given to students and parents through a variety of resources. No specific brand is required and there are no brands that will be turned away. Any recommendations in this handbook are of that of the director. Students are not limited to these selections.

MATERIALS

Method books will not be used in high school band. Ensembles will work out of chorale books and play sheet music. All music will be provided to students.

Sheet music must be kept inside of the music folder that is distributed at the beginning of the school year. All music will be turned in at the end of each concert cycle so be sure to take care of your music. And major folds, tears in the music, or markings written in anything other than PENCIL will result in the student having to purchase that sheet for \$0.25.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Concert attire is very important as we want everyone of each group to look the same on stage so there are not visual distractions. Any student that is unable to get the appropriate attire for that ensemble should notify the director as soon as possible. Any student that shows up to a concert not in their specified uniform will be dealt with on an individual basis as it result in the lowering of their grade.

Symphonic Band

The following is the only acceptable dress for all musicians in the Symphonic Band unless otherwise instructed. It is the responsibility of the students to rent/buy their designated outfits. Opportunities to raise funds for the purchase of these are offered through several fundraising events. The student will be able to use the same tuxedo/dress all four years in the program as the style does not change.

Female:

- Any head bands/hair bows must be black
- Studs only in ears
- Long black dress/evening gown
- Hose (black)
- Black dress shoes (closed toes, conservative heels)
- No colognes or perfumes

Dresses may be purchased for \$50.50. Purchases will be through Southern Performances at www.southernperformances.com.

Male:

- Black tuxedo pants and jacket
- White tuxedo shirt
- Bow tie and cummerbund (black)
- Black dress shoes (patent leather) and socks
- No colognes or perfumes

To purchase a tuxedo, it will be \$105.00 and rentals are \$90. This includes the entire tuxedo (jacket, pants, shirt, bowtie and cummerbund). Shoes are not included. Rentals do include shoes. It is advisable to younger students to purchase, as you will use this tuxedo multiple times in your high school career. Rentals will be through Allie-David Formal Wear in Thomaston. Purchases will be through Southern Performances at www.southernperformances.com.

Note: All purchases and rentals for both dresses and tuxedos are done through Formal Wear in order to remain uniform throughout the years. The choice of this vendor is predetermined and will not change unless certain circumstances provide.



Concert Band

- No colognes or perfumes
- All head bands or hair bows will be black
- Studs in ears only. No other piercings allowed.

All members of the Concert Band will be required to purchase black dress slacks, black belt, black calf-length socks, black dress shoes, and the Taylor County Middle School Band performance polo shirt. All shirts will be tucked in. The polo shirt will be \$21.00. Purchase forms will be distributed early in the year.

Jazz Band

- Jazz band Shirt
- Light khaki pants
- Black dress shoes with black socks

Jazz Band members are responsible for attaining all required dress items. Jazz band shirts are \$18.00. Purchase forms will be distributed early in the year.

STUDENT BAND ACCOUNTS

During the course of the year, band members and parents are given the opportunity, through band sponsored or organized events, to raise funds to assist in off-setting the cost of participation in the band program. These costs may include band fees or dues, camps, trips, uniform fees, accessory fees, etc.

Funds raised through these means are placed in the student's individual band account which is established when they become a part of the band program. The following regulations are in effect for all student accounts and any money deposited into the account.

1. Funds raised through the band sponsored/organized event must be placed into student's individual account. It may not be given directly to the student, parent, etc.
2. A deposit may be made to the student's account at any time. Please record on any check the name of the band member. Any funds in the student's account will stay in that student's account and cannot be removed without the parent's/guardian's permission.
3. Funds deposited into the student's account may only be used only toward expenses for the student's participation in Taylor County Bands.
4. If a student quits or is dismissed from the band program, all money from his/her student account will go into the general operating account.
5. When a student / parent would like to use funds in the student's account for band expenses over \$50, the parent must sign an Account Transfer Form (see appendix).
6. Fund raising profits designated to student accounts will be FORFEITED to the Band Booster Club general account if the money is turned in AFTER the due date.
7. Money from the student accounts may not be given directly to students or parents, including after graduation from the band program. Student account funds may only be used for band-related expenses.
8. Returned checks from student account fundraisers will not count towards profits earned until the check clears the bank. Student accounts will be charged a \$25 fee for returned checks.
9. Any outstanding band fees/expenses not paid after 30 days may be withdrawn from student account money by the booster treasurer.