

The Bentonville Band

Member Handbook

2023 – 2024

State Marching Champions 2016, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

7A and 7-DD State Concert Honor Bands - 2022

St. Louis Super Regional Finalist – 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023

St. Louis Super Regional Medalist - 2022

Grand National Semi-Finalist 2015, 2018, 2024

Grand National Finalist - 2024

OVERVIEW

Bentonville Pride Marching Band

The Bentonville PRIDE Marching Band is a co-curricular organization designed to combine dance, music and visual arts to create a large-scale theatrical production on the football field. The experience your child will gain through this activity will lead to a strong sense of discipline, commitment, time management, character, and confidence at a crucial time in their development; giving them the necessary tools as they venture into their adult lives.

The PRIDE is a family atmosphere that believes in positive experiences for your student. We inspire student leadership and believe that all students in our program, no matter their role, have value and are integral members of our organization. We believe in creating performance experiences that will impact your child and leave them with lifelong memories and friends.

Pre-Game Band

The Pre-Game Band is designed for **ALL** Students in the Bentonville band program (except football and cheer) to participate in football games and be a part of the band program experience. Regardless of a student's exemption status, they are required to attend football games, parades and attend pregame rehearsals. All Pregame Rehearsals are on Friday Home Games.

Concert Band

Concert Band is for all students in the Bentonville Band Program. It is the primary performing organization of the Bentonville Band Program. The Concert Bands meet during the school day and are ability-based ensembles.

- I. Wind Ensemble – The highest musical ensemble at Bentonville High School. Requires the **highest commitment** from students and is a college level class in terms of preparedness, expectations and level of musical literature performed. Students must be committed to daily practice to be a member of the Wind Ensemble. Private Lessons are preferred, but not required.
- II. Symphonic Winds – Is an honor-based ensemble at Bentonville High School. It requires a high commitment from students. Students must come prepared to class and will perform Grade 4-5 literature. Students are expected to practice daily. Private Lessons are preferred but not required.
- III. Symphonic Band – Is a high school level band class that focuses on continued student growth on their individual instruments. The class requires student preparation at a moderate level, practicing at least 4 times a week. Students will perform high school appropriate literature at a Grade 3 level.
- IV. Concert Band – Is our high school ensemble that focuses on students' continued growth on their individual instruments and gaining skills to be in our honor ensembles. Students will perform appropriate literature for their skill sets at a Grade 2 level.

Colorguard/Winterguard

Students in grades 9-12 who are interested in dance, choreography, and movement may choose to audition for our marching band Colorguard and Winterguard. Commitment and performances are the same as the Bentonville Pride Marching Band. **Students who are in Colorguard ARE REQUIRED to be in the Colorguard class.** Fees Apply

Students who wish to be a part of the Winterguard **must** participate in the Colorguard, unless they are new to the program.

Private Lessons

Private Lessons are **HIGHLY ENCOURAGED** for **ALL STUDENTS** in the Bentonville Band Program. Private lessons on an instrument are the best way to improve individual performance skills. The one-on-one approach with a qualified lesson teacher allows the student more individualized instruction over that of a classroom of 30 or more students.

91% of the students in the Bentonville Band program who made the Arkansas All-State Band took private lessons.

School Instruments

The Bentonville Bands provide high quality instruments for students to rent per semester. Instruments will be cleaned once a month by the student and are to be returned in the condition in which they were received (all slides working, valves move freely).

NO STUDENT SHOULD EVER LET ANOTHER STUDENT PLAY THEIR SCHOOL INSTRUMENT

Students will be responsible for repairing damage to school instruments when in their possession.

In the case of abuse of a music instrument, the student will be charged for all repairs and will no longer be allowed to rent from the school for the remainder of their high school career.

STAFF

The Bentonville High School Band Staff is composed of respected and dedicated educators.

Mr. Tim Hendrix	Mr. Philip Shewmaker	Mr. Nick Fernandez
Director of Bands	Associate Director of Bands	Director of Percussion
thendrix@bentonvillek12.org	pshewmaker@bentonvillek12.org	nfernandez@bentonvillek12.org

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Mr. Jack Loyd	Mr. Greg Puckett	Dr. Martin Reynolds	Mr. Matt Peoples
Principal	Assistant Principal	Director of Fine Arts	Asst. Director of Fine Arts
jloyd@bentonvillek12.org	gpuckett@gmail.com	mreynolds@bentonvillek12.org	mpeoples@bentonvillek12.org

GENERAL POLICIES

Organization Philosophy

Our goal is to build the best musicians and people. We strive to develop important life skills and appreciation for the value of music in each student's lives. Through hard work and dedication, each student will have a sense of belonging and accomplishment through their own efforts and participation in the Bentonville Band Program.

Year at a Glance

July	August	September	October
Personal Practice Summer Camp Starts	Band Camp Parent Performance School Starts	Football Games Competitions Start Homecoming	Contest and More Contest Fall Band Concerts Bentonville Marching Invitational
November	December	January	February
Football Playoffs All-Region Jazz Band Auditions Winterguard Season Starts	Junior High All-Region Auditions Parades Winter Concerts	Senior High All-Region Auditions All-Region Clinic Winterguard Competitions	All-State Auditions All State Music Conference Winterguard Competitions Jazz Competitions
March	April	May	June
Concert Assessment Winterguard Competitions Jazz Competitions	State Concert Contest Concert Band Auditions Pride Marching Camps Jazz Competitions	Spring Concerts Graduation Pride Marching Camps	Enjoy your summer! Pride Sectionals

PE Credit for Marching Band

Students must enroll in a summer course, free of charge, that will be 2-6 weeks of asynchronous learning focusing on student health and exercise to receive credit. Students are required to enroll in the Google Classroom by June 1st. Google Classroom Code:

ATC5CKX

Important: Any student who does fulfill their season commitment will lose their PE credit and will be required by the district to fulfill their PE credit through a traditional course.

EXPECTATIONS

We have a saying, “Expectation is Love”. These are the expectations of the Bentonville Band Program

- Be on time to all rehearsals and performance. “To be early, is to be on time.”
- Come to rehearsal prepared. Not just materials, but prepared in mind, attitude, and readiness to perform.
- Students should not “hack” on their instrument when moving from one rehearsal area to another.
- At the end of rehearsal all materials are put back where they belong.
- Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work. No excuses!
- Have and show respect to oneself and to others.

Rehearsal Policy

The Bentonville PRIDE maintains a standard of excellence. For us to maintain that standard we must insist that ALL students are present during rehearsal times. Please schedule your vacations, doctor, dentist, and other necessary appointments during a time we do not have rehearsals scheduled.

Though we understand that conflicts are sometimes unavoidable, please keep in mind that your child is a part of an organization that depends on the participation of all its members at a high level. They are not more important than the group.

Conflicts with other school activities must be resolved no later than 2 weeks in advance. We have an excellent working relationship with other arts and sport activities in school and we ask that you respect all organizations’ times by having fair compromises. Fair compromises are equal time split. *Non-school functions are not in accordance with school attendance policy and will not be allowed for excused absences from rehearsal or performances.*

Excused Absences

The only excused absence allowed are **pre-arranged** unless it is a sudden death in your family, or illness (must be accompanied with a doctor note). “*I don’t feel good*” is not an excused absence.

It will never be “OK” to miss a rehearsal. Never ask, “Is it OK that I miss?”

Missed Performances

Is considered a level 3 infraction in the Band Program and will be grounds for suspension or removal from the program under the discretion of the Director of Bands.

Facilities

The Bentonville PRIDE Marching Band practices on the South Parking Lot aka “The Skillet” (because of the black asphalt surface) adjacent from the East/West Gyms on the Bentonville High School Campus from 4:30 to 6:30 pm on Monday, Thursday and Friday. We also practice at Tiger Stadium on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 9:00 pm. We are very fortunate the school allows us the opportunity to be at the stadium. We ask that all students and parents treat the facilities with the highest respect and do not leave trash or personal belongings at these sites after rehearsals.

All students and parents are to respect the school policy of no alcohol beverages or tobacco products of any kind while on the Bentonville High School campus. This includes any type of vape or e-cigarette.

Uniform Etiquette

As a member of the Bentonville PRIDE, the most visible element of our ensemble is our uniform. The uniform is a trademark of our excellence in performance and appearance. The following guidelines are to be followed always when wearing and caring for your uniform.

Each uniform consists of a plume, shako, shirt, sliders, jacket, gauntlets, pants, black socks, black shoes and gloves. Uniforms are required to be stored properly (hung on issued hanger) after each performance. Uniforms items are never to be thrown in a bag and wrinkled.

The uniform should be a consistent image of the ensemble, no embellishments or enhancements to the uniform can be made. If a member wishes to wear any good luck charms or mementos, we ask they be kept non-visible.

Please, refrain from coloring your hair during competitive season unless approved by the directors.

Students are never to present themselves “out of uniform”. Uniform jackets must be on and zipped along with all proper wear. Students cannot wear tennis shoes, flip flops or any other footwear while in uniform except for their viper marching shoes. Students who are caught out of uniform will be considered a level 1 infraction.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Though the goal of excellence through music and performance is a priority, above all things, building respectable citizens is the focus of the Bentonville PRIDE Marching Band.

Marching Band is a team sport and as a collective, we depend on each member to perform at his or her highest level possible. With the 250 members of our organization, we must all adhere to the same policies and guidelines as stated.

Bentonville High School and Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) has the highest standard of conduct that we will adhere to.

THE USE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Students found engaging any illegal use of alcohol or drugs will be removed from the program immediately for Level 4 infraction.

Manners: How we interact with people is extremely important. We encourage manners and politeness through how we talk and act toward each other. We are grateful to have a team of extremely hard-working volunteers that will be always treated with respect by students and directors.

Student Dress: Students will not be allowed to wear jeans with holes or rips at competitions or when we are traveling with the band/guard organization. Students will not be allowed to wear shirts that promote controversial subjects or are suggestive. **Attire must maintain the school policy as outlined in our student handbook.**

Attitude: The attitude that you bring and develop is extremely important. We consider your attitude when it comes to leadership positions and solo positions. Though you are an individual, you are a part of something larger than yourself. We all will work hard and dedicate ourselves to a common goal of excellence. Negative attitudes toward others or staff will not be tolerated.

NO COMPLAINING!

There are many other hard-working and excellent groups in the country. We ask that you always respect their performances and applaud their efforts and achievements. **We are not in competition with these ensembles; we are in competition with ourselves.**

We are a family, and like all families, we have our good and bad days. You will make lasting friendships through this activity that will last long after your high school experience. **DO NOT OVERREACT TO THINGS YOU HAVE NO CONTROL OF.** Only concern yourself with your own efforts.

ENJOY THE MEMORIES THAT YOU WILL MAKE FROM THIS WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE!

TRAVEL POLICY

All our travel will either be on school buses or Charter buses. We will adhere to school and charter policies when traveling. Any student who engages in activity that is against these rules will result in disciplinary action through the school.

1. NO JUMPING ON SEATS.
2. NO STANDING WHILE THE BUS IS MOVING.
3. NO LOUD TALKING OR DISRUPTIVE NOISES ON THE BUS.
4. Do NOT open or operate emergency devices on the bus.
5. The restrooms on the bus are not to be used except for emergencies only.
6. No objects are to be thrown on the bus or outside of it.
7. Trash is to be kept and disposed of properly. Students will not be allowed off the bus from trips until the bus is clean.
8. Students are always to maintain healthy hygiene.

When going on overnight trips, student bags will be checked for any contraband substances. Energy drinks or any caffeinated beverages are not permitted on band trips.

HOTEL CONDUCT

We will be staying in hotels overnight for our trips. We ask that all students respect the facilities that we always use. Any student who engages in activity that is against these rules will result in disciplinary action through the school.

1. Students are always to maintain professional decorum.
2. No yelling or loud talking in hallways.
3. No loitering in hallways or small public spaces.
4. No stealing of hotel items.
5. Lights out by 10:30 pm, unless otherwise stated.
6. NO LEAVING YOUR ROOM AFTER LIGHTS OUT EXCEPT FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCY
7. NO students of the opposite sex are allowed on your floor.
8. NO students of another school are allowed in your room.
9. NO parents are allowed in their child's hotel room for ANY reason.
10. Students are always to maintain healthy hygiene.

NOTICE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS: While your child is on a school activity trip, they will not be allowed to be checked out until the event is over and we are leaving the performance site. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS made for students and families who wish to leave after the student performance. Contests and/or Concerts are not opportunities for family vacations.

EXEMPTION POLICY

The Bentonville Band Program does have an exemption policy from COMPETITIVE marching band activities. This does not excuse students from participating in football games, pregame marching band, pep-rallies, basketball games, or any other function or rehearsal outside of the competitive PRIDE Marching Band program.

The following are reasons for exemption:

1. Students are taking 3+ AP courses. PRE-AP **does not** apply.
2. Students are involved in an **IN-SCHOOL** season activity such as Football/Cheer/Dance.
3. Students have a family financial hardship where they are required to work to help their family with bills.

All exemptions must be declared by June 1st by filling out our EXEMPTION FORM

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Level 1 Infractions

Result in conference between the band director and student musician. Directors may determine the consequences for Level 1 Infractions. This could include but not limited to extra conditioning and suspension from a performance.

Examples of Level 1 Infractions

- Violation of individual team rules set by the band director.
- Unexcused absences from school or practice
- Forgetting practice gear/game gear
- Violation of dress code
- Disrespectful to directors, staff or band students
- Minor infraction of social media acceptable use practice
- Disruptive during school, practice, games, or other activities
- Minor academic eligibility concerns
- Detention or In-School Suspension (loss of playing time if practices or games are missed due to detention or in-school dates)

Level 2 Infractions

Result in conference with parent, student musician, and band director.

The Director of Bands and Administration will determine the consequences of Level 2 Infractions. Consequences may include 5 school day suspension from band activities along with extra conditioning. Examples of Level 2 Infractions

- Repeated violations of Level 1 Infractions
- Academic issues that could affect eligibility.
- Use or possession of tobacco, vaping products, accessories, and/or paraphernalia.
- More serious violations of social media acceptable use practice
- Bullying/harassment/slander of band students or directors or staff
- Arrested for any reason (School officials must have proof of arrest)
- Out of school suspension

Level 3 Infractions

Result in conference between parent, student musician, band staff and administration.

Consequences of Level 3 Infractions include temporary removal from the band program. Before a student musician can be reinstated, they must complete: 1) 24 hours of community service 2) Apology letter to the band and directors 3) Conference with school district counselor 4) Administration and Director of Bands will determine game suspension and extra-conditioning. A minimum of 5 school day suspension from interscholastic/extracurricular activities for level 3 infractions. Examples of Level 3 Infractions

- Repeated violations of Level 1 or Level 2 Infractions
- Violation of drug and alcohol policy
- Stealing
- Serious misconduct of the social media acceptable use practice
- Serious violation of bullying/harassment/slander of bandmates, directors or staff ● Convicted of serious misdemeanor

Level 4 Infraction

Results in conference between parent, student musician, band staff, and administration. Students

will be removed from the Bentonville Schools Band Program. Examples of Level 4 Infractions

- Repeated violations of Levels 1-3 Infractions
- Use and/or distribution of drugs or alcohol at school or AAA sanctioned events including practice, travel, and games.
- Stealing from fellow band students.
- Convicted of a felony.

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCEPTABLE USE PRACTICE

An AUP (acceptable use practice) must be maintained when using social media to post pictures, blogs, e-mails, text messages, or videos. Student musicians should not post negative comments about peers, band mates, the school district, or their teachers/directors. Members of the band program should not be associated with posts involving tobacco, vaping, drugs, alcohol, or sexual content. Posts involving cyberbullying, slander, or harassing behavior are not permitted. All social media posts are subject to a 365-day statute of limitation. Social media violations that are determined to be more than 365 days old may not be considered a level 3 or 4 infraction, though a conversation may occur to notify the student of the AUP violation.

Anyone reporting an inappropriate picture or social media post must file the report with Bentonville Schools Administration and Band Directors within 5 days after the discovery of the violation. If it is determined that the reporting party has been in possession of the material for more than 5 days, the administration may not act on the violation.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:

- Photos, videos, comments or posters showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs, vaping, and tobacco e.g., no holding cups, cans, shot glasses etc.
- Photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
- Pictures, videos, comments or posters that condone drug-related activity. This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.
- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another institution; taunting comments aimed at a students, directors or team at another institution and derogatory comments against race and/or gender). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, illegal drug use).

ATTENDING SCHOOL AND PRACTICE

To maintain their status as a team member, students are required to regularly attend and participate in practice sessions. Failure to attend practices may result in loss of a competitive spot or being removed from the program. Any student who fails to attend school (excused or unexcused) on the day of a school-sponsored activity shall not be eligible to participate or compete in any extracurricular activities scheduled after school hours. This also includes practice sessions. On a case-by-case basis, the Director of Bands or his/her designee may approve an exception to allow participation based upon special circumstances. A student who participates in any practice session in violation of this policy shall be suspended from participation in the next scheduled practice.

Any student who participates or competes in a game, competition, or other school-sponsored activity in violation of this procedure shall be suspended from participation in the next scheduled game, competition, or activity (other than practice).

MEDICATION

Students are not able to self-medicate while on school travel events. Students who take prescribed medicines will have to check that into a designated school official and will be administered under the supervision of an adult during a routine schedule.

Students who have been prescribed medicine will need to fill out the overnight prescription drug form 72 hours in advance of any travel. Any prescribed medicine that is found on a student who has not followed appropriate procedure will be handled in a manner that is within school policy under confiscated prescribed drugs.

PRIDE FEES/BAND FEE

It is important that students and families keep their accounts current and in good standing. The “fare share” fees go to student lodging, travel, goods and meals for the season. The fees schedule is outlined in your PRIDE contract and agreement. Students and families that have financial restrictions must communicate with the Director of Bands and must actively participate in fund-raising activities to receive a scholarship.

Pride Fees are outlined in your Student Contract Agreement. SCA are due by May 15th, 2023.

STUDENT HEALTH

Your student safety is paramount to our organization. All our staff is First Aid and CPR certified in the case of emergency. Students are to maintain high health standards during summer “off time” to prepare themselves for the rigor of marching band rehearsals. While students are present at rehearsal, we ask that these guidelines be followed.

- Students must eat a nutritious and balanced breakfast and lunch.
- Water is always to be kept on the student.
- SPF 30 or higher sunscreen must always be applied.
- Sunglasses should be worn during rehearsal.
- Athletic shoes must always be worn; students who wear any footwear will be dismissed from that rehearsal to get appropriate footwear. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
- Have a healthy sleep cycle.
- Protect your body against chafing.
- If you have any chronic condition such as joint and muscle weakness discuss with your family physician ways in which you can improve your participation in this activity.



Missed rehearsals because of sun burns acquired while rehearsing will be considered un-excused absence. It is YOUR responsibility to take care of your skin.

HEALTH GUIDELINES

According to the American Pediatric Association, a healthy Male should maintain 12-16% body fat and Females 16-22% body fat.

Aerobic Activity is any exercise that maintains your optimal heart rate for 30 minutes between 60 – 80% of your safe maximum heart rate. Your maximum heart rate formula is $220 - \text{your age} = \text{MHR}$

HEAT RELATED INJURIES

Each body responds similarly to heat by dilating the blood vessels that increase your heart rate and cause you to sweat. Sweat is a very important function to maintain a healthy body temperature. If you are not sweating, then you are not properly hydrated, and you must not do physical activity.

Students are to drink 8 ounces of water per 45 minutes of physical activity in the heat.

Please be sure to monitor and be mindful of what your body is telling you when it comes to heat. Though we admire your dedication to “push through” your health is the most important thing that you have. Do not compromise it by being irresponsible.

We follow Arkansas Activities Association and Bentonville School District [policy](#) in regard to excessive heat and follow these guidelines. In the areas it says no practice, that is regarding outside activity. We will still rehearse, but indoors.

PLEASE EXERCISE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS AND MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE OUTDOORS REGIME

SUPPORT/BENTONVILLE BAND BOOSTERS

Our organization could not exist without the support and dedication of our band parent organization. All parents whose children participate in the PRIDE are expected to take an active role in supporting their student’s endeavors. Whether it is volunteering in the concession stands, band feeds, chaperoning an event, building props or supplying water for football games, no job is too small or too big!

Bentonville Boosters General Meetings are on the 3rd Monday of each month @ 6:30 in the Bandroom, BHS Campus.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

We keep our website current at www.bentonvillepride.com. Please visit there for important information and any necessary forms needed.

We also use Instagram and Facebook as a means of outreach and communication with our public.

Facebook – BentonvillePride

Instagram - @BentonvillePride

REHEARSAL UNIFORM

Pride Members have a specific rehearsal uniform that they must wear. This is so we can clearly identify performing members.

Pride Winds/Percussion:

White Shirt/Tank Top Athletic Shorts

Socks and Tennis Shoes

Fanny Bag w/ required contents Water Jug

Pride Guard

Black Shirt/Tank Top Athletic Shorts

Socks and Tennis Shoes

Fanny Bag w/ required contents Water Jug



BAND APP

Mobile communication app primarily used during Marching season that provides one-way communication for band families. Official communication on events, travel updates, itineraries, and key volunteer needs.

Download on your mobile device and request to be a part of the “Bentonville Pride Parents Group.” It is recommended that you allow notifications to be kept up to date on postings



Bentonville Bands Parent Group



Bentonville Pride Student Group

CUT TIME

Cutime is a management system that allows you easy access to sign important documents, view student account information and pay student fees via debit/credit card. This will also be where you will receive general announcements for the band program each week right at the tip of your fingers through your cell phone. No required username or password!

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I HAVE DISCUSSED AND REVIEWED ALL THE INFORMATION IN THE HANDBOOK WITH MY SON/DAUGHTER, AND I UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS AND MY RESPONSIBILITY AS TO THESE POLICIES AND CONDITIONS. MY SON/DAUGHTER HAS MY PERMISSION TO ATTEND DISTRICT AND OUT-OF- DISTRICT TRIPS AND SCHOOL-SPONSORED EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND COCURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. I UNDERSTAND THAT BENTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL WILL NOT BE LIABLE FOR INJURIES AND MEDICAL COST FOR STUDENTS. MY SIGNATURE ALSO SERVES AS AN UNDERSTANDING TO THE COMMITMENT IN GOOD FAITH TO SUPPORT THE BENTONVILLE PRIDE MARCHING BAND.

Student Name (Print)_____ Parent Name (Print)_____

Signature: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE TURN IN THIS PAGE TO MR. HENDRIX BY May 15th