

Bay Area Christian School Bronco Band

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Dear Parents,

In an effort to keep you informed, we have sent home this packet of information. Your child will be graded on whether or not he or she returns this page. The purpose for this is to make sure that you received this important information. His or her grade will not be affected by whether you choose to enroll him or her in private lessons or choose to join the Band Boosters. Since you are reading this, we know that your child is half way there. Yea! Now all he or she has to do is get it back to us.

The forms are due back to by **Friday, September 28, 2007.**

Please help us out by signing this form and sending it with your child.
Thank You!

The packet of information for band includes:

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(Detach and return by September 28, 2007)

Parent Signature

Date

Student Name (Please Print)

Band

Instrument

THE BANDS

“Our goal is to recruit and retain the brightest, most cooperative and hardest working students in the school. Pursuing this goal will have a major impact on our enrollment in band and on the quality of students that we teach.”

Accredited through the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools

Beginning Band

Sixth grade students are allowed the opportunity to join the Bronco Beginning Band and learn to play an instrument. Each student is assigned an instrument to play based on various factors: the need to create an overall band instrument balance, the student's prior musical knowledge, physical considerations, aptitude, enthusiasm, and student preference. Once an instrument is assigned, each student is responsible for acquiring an instrument (music store rental/purchase plan, school rental, or purchasing one through Ebay, The Greensheet, Craig's List, pawn shops or borrowing from friends/family, etc.), a music book (Enhanced Standard of Excellence), and recommended accessories (available on the order form). See "[Instruments](http://www.broncoband.us)" at www.broncoband.us to view recommended instrument makes/models.

Beginning Band students will participate in school concerts, chapel, possible field trips and an end-of-the-year trip.

Junior High Band

Bronco Junior High Band members are intermediate players and older beginners. They will continue perfecting their skills using the Standards of Excellence Book 2 (Blue). They are ready to do more performing than those in the beginning band classes. Performances for this band include pep rallies (if they can play the music), concerts, and contests. Competitions for the individual musician include the Texas Region Band Try-Outs held in the fall. Junior High band members are not required to participate in these individual competitions but are encouraged to do so. Full band concerts and contests are required.

Junior High Band students will participate in chapel, school concerts, possible field trips and an end-of-the-year trip.

High School Band

This band includes the advanced band player. They will continue perfecting their playing skills. They will participate in pep rallies, football/basketball games, concerts, and contests. High School Band members are **encouraged** to audition for and, if selected, to participate in the Texas Region Band Try-Outs held in the fall and **required** to participate in the TAPPS Solo and Ensemble Contest held in the spring.

High School Band students will participate in chapel, school concerts, possible field trips and an end-of-the-year trip.

2007-2008 Band Calendar

Football Schedule:

August 31, 2007	Home Football Game	7:30pm
September 21, 2007	Home Football Game	7:30pm
September 28, 2007	Home Football Game	7:30pm
October 12, 2007	Home Football Game	7:30pm
October 26, 2007	Home Football Game	7:30pm
November 2, 2007	Home Football Game	7:30pm
November 16 or 17	Bi-District	tba
November 24, 2007	Regionals	tba
November 30, 2007	State Semi-Finals	tba
December 8, 2007	State Finals	tba

Basketball Schedule:

	Lady Broncos	Boys Varsity
November 27, 2007	6:30	8:00
December 4, 2007	6:00	7:30
December 14, 2007	6:00	7:30
December 18, 2007	6:00	7:30
January 10, 2008	6:30	8:00
January 17, 2008	4:30	6:00
January 22, 2008	6:30	8:00

*We will play for any home playoff games. If we go to state, we will travel.

December 19, 2007	Band Chapel
Possible Concerts	League City Christmas Parade Christmas in the Park Kemah Boardwalk Dickens on the Strand
March, 2007	TAPPS District Competition(locally)
April, 2007	TAPPS State Competition
May 2 or 9, 2007	Band Trip to New Braunfels Schlitterbahn
May 13, 2007	Fine Arts Concert 7:00pm

Band Expectations

Above all, a BACS Bronco Band member should exhibit the highest standards of character, honesty, and integrity in everything that he/she does. Every Bronco Band member is expected to follow the guidelines outlined in the BACS Student Handbook.

In addition to classroom guidelines, the following Band Hall guidelines apply:

1. Refrain from food, drink, gum or candy in the Band Hall unless approved by a director.
2. Respect the Band Hall furniture and electrical equipment. Defacing Band Hall equipment will not be tolerated.
3. Only percussionists have permission to touch the percussion equipment at any time.
4. Do not touch another student's instrument, even with his/her permission.
5. For your instrument's protection and your individual practice requirements, instruments are to be taken home daily.

Rehearsal Procedures

1. Enter the Band Hall calmly and quietly; get materials out quickly. Be alert to where the director is, and when the director steps on the podium, all talking should cease. There is to be no talking during class unless a class or individual response is solicited.
2. Behavior that interferes with the learning process or delays the class will not be tolerated.
3. Be in your seat ready to begin with music, pencil, oils, reeds, mallets and/ or sticks, instrument, and whatever else you need to fully participate in class.
4. During class, all instrument cases need to be closed and stored in cubbies except for tubas and percussion. Small instrument cases that can be stowed safely under or beside chair will be allowed in the Band set-up.
5. Play your instruments only when instructed to do so. Do not make any sounds when the director is speaking to the class or working with an individual.
6. Play your instrument to the best of your ability at all times. Making intentionally loud and obnoxious sounds with your instrument is strictly prohibited.
7. When you or your section are not playing, go through fingerings, slide positions, or sticking ...Be ready to play at any moment.
8. Writing on your music is encouraged but it needs to be in pencil.
9. Leave your section clean and orderly when dismissed.

GRADING

Participation in band should be a positive experience and should include flexibility. Therefore, the grading policy reflects this approach.

Daily Participation	1/3%
Practice Record	1/3%
Playing/Performing Grade	1/3%
Extra-Curricular	1 point each event

1. Daily Participation

Each student who comes to band and participates in class and has all necessary equipment (instrument, music book/binder, at least two good reeds for reed players, sticks and mallets, pencil, etc.) and is being cooperative in attempting techniques as instructed by director will receive a 100 for the day. Each item that they are missing is 3 points off for that day's participation grade. Good learning occurs when students are on task and focused during rehearsals.

2. Practice Records

Students will write their practice assignment in the front of their music book (Beginning Band) or on their practice card (JH and HS). The **number of minutes** practiced should be filled in each day. Practice Records will be checked for completion and **parent signature** at sectionals for Beginning Band, Tuesdays for Junior High Band, or Mondays for High School Band. Students may earn exemptions from turning in their Practice Record at various times throughout the year as a reward for their accomplishments (i.e. Region Band Try-Out, Division I Solo/Ensemble, Successful concert performance, etc)

The weekly practice grade is determined by the total minutes practiced each week. One point will be earned for each minute practiced outside of band class. (90 minutes practiced results in a grade of 90 that week). Each student should aim to practice 100 minutes/week for a total of 900/minutes for the nine weeks. This policy works very well for students who need flexibility. (Example: if a student can only practice 30 minutes one week but is available to practice more the next week, this helps them accomplish the requirements with them controlling when the minutes are completed.) They **MUST** however have completed **900 minutes** by the **end of the nine week period** to maintain a 100 for the practice grade).

Extra practice does improve the practice grade. It is cumulative for the nine weeks.

3. Playing/Performance Grade

Consists of weekly assigned material in which students are tested in class, and includes all public performances (i.e. Football and Basketball games, Christmas Concerts, Fine Arts Concert, TAPPS Contest performances, etc.)

***Performances** are culminating events to weeks and months of classroom preparation and are dependant upon the entire ensemble's attendance. They **are NOT optional**. If a student has a schedule conflict, he/she must turn in a note from the parent **BEFORE** the performance explaining the absence. The child will receive a zero for the missed performance, however, a written assignment can be completed and averaged in the grade in place of the missed performance. During Basketball season where several games are played a week, each student will be allowed to sign up for one game/week which best fits their schedule.

4. **Extra Credit:** Musicianship is strengthened when outside opportunities are included. Participation in church or community orchestras, attendance at music concerts (i.e. concerts, symphony, drum and bugle corps, other school football games, etc) helps give valuable musical examples and experiences. Fill out an Extra-Curricular Activity Form when you attend a function and turn it in to Mrs. Berlin to be counted.

Band Awards – Merit and Demerit System

Awards:

Band Pin	25 merits
Band Medal	75 merits
Instrument Pin	125 merits
Band Letter	200 merits

Merits:

Performance.....	2
Solo at TAPPS Solo and Ensemble.....	20
Ensemble at TAPPS Solo and Ensemble.....	15
Accompanist at TAPPS Solo and Ensemble.....	12
Attending Concerts (turn in program) - each concert.....	1
Private Lessons (per semester).....	16
BACS Summer Band.....	25
Participation in community/church band.....	10
Skill test 1: playing all 12 major scales plus 2 octave chromatic.....	26
Skill test 2: playing all 12 natural minor scales 1 octave.....	24
Skill test 3: playing all 12 melodic minor scales 1 octave.....	24
Skill test 4: playing all 12 harmonic minor scales 1 octave.....	24
Attending a university hosted band camp.....	30
Band Council President.....	15
Band Council Vice-President.....	10
Band Council Secretary	10
Band Council Social Director.....	10
Band Council Librarian.....	50
Band Council Equipment Manager.....	10

Merits are accumulated from one year to the next. Unusual situations requiring extra work will earn merits at the discretion of the band director.

Demerits:

Chewing gum or eating candy during a rehearsal (2 at a performance).....	1
Improper conduct during a rehearsal (2 or 3 at a performance).....	1 or 2
Failure to bring instrument/music to rehearsal (includes reeds).....	1
Failure to put music folder or instrument in proper place.....	1
Incomplete Uniform while in public view.....	1
Negative comments about another band member or their skill level.....	1

Band Council

The Band Council will consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Social Chair, Librarian, and Equipment Manager. Each of these offices will be determined by individual interest, availability, and then voted by their peers.

President: To help supervise the activities of the band, tune the band, give announcements; to be a musical and moral inspiration to the band.

Vice-President: To assist the President in the execution of various duties, to communicate needs to the director.

Secretary: To check attendance, collect money and keep financial records.

Social Chair: To plan and organize the social activities of the band. At least one “fun” activity should be planned for each nine week period.

Head Librarian: To oversee all handling of music. To keep all music catalogued and filed. To keep an accurate record of all music handed out and to report any lost music to the band director. To pass out and collect all music and flip folders.

TAPPS Solo and Ensemble Contests

The purpose of this TAPPS music event is to provide each student with an opportunity to learn, grow, and perform. The God-given talents that have been developed with taught skills and the personality of the student is challenged to meet a set standard. The subjective opinion of the judges provides a tool so all who participate can measure their progress. The rating in each event reflects a culmination of the student's accomplishments and the judge's evaluation. Each performer is a success; this event does not create winners and losers. Each director and student leaves the event with information concerning what can be done to improve the skills as well as which areas have excelled.

At solo and ensemble contest, students perform solos and/or ensembles for a judge. ***High School Band members are required to do both a solo and ensemble.*** Soloists are required to perform with an accompanist in front of a judge. ***Junior High Band members participate in the ensemble event only. Beginning Band members do not participate in this event.***

Band Uniforms

Concert Uniforms - Every student will be required to wear the standard concert attire for band concerts. This means black and white. Boys wear black pants, white shirts, black tie, black shoes and black socks. Girls wear a black dress or the black pants and white shirt, black shoes, and black pantyhose.

Pep Rallies - Every student is required to wear a red polo shirt and dark pants for pep rallies.

Sports Games – Every student is required to wear red polo shirts and blue jeans.

Private Lessons

While we offer a well-balanced course of study in the regular band class, children who receive individual attention progress more rapidly than those who do not. The one-on-one attention that they receive in private lessons is tailor-made for the individual student. It reinforces and enhances what is done in class. Lessons lead to better understanding and heightened awareness of proper technique. We hope that all of our parents choose to enroll their children in private lessons.

Private lessons can be offered here at Bay Area or nearby. If you are interested in private lessons, please indicate this on the form provided and I can put you in touch with local teachers. Teachers are specialists on your child's instrument. They are university students or graduates with extensive study on their applied instruments.

Students usually take one private lesson each week. The cost of private lessons varies with the experience of the private lesson teacher. Each teacher has their own fee but usually non-degreed teachers receive around \$13.50/30-minute lesson, and degreed around \$16.50/30-minute lesson.

BAND BOOSTER

Parental support is crucial to any successful child. Therefore, it is equally crucial to any successful band program. The BACS Bronco Band program prides itself on the extensive support of the band parents. There are numerous opportunities throughout the year to become actively involved in your child's band experience. Parent volunteers are absolutely necessary and always welcome. Parent volunteers are welcome at concerts, trips, and activities. If you are interested in planning and/or helping out where needed, please indicate this on the form. We will have a meeting every other month to discuss upcoming band events, needs, ideas, suggestions, etc.

Web Site

This document and other useful information(schedules, up-coming events, interesting articles and links) can be found online at www.broncoband.us. A link is also on the school website, www.bacschool.org

To view weekly homework assignments, go to www.bacschool.org and select "Edline"

(Detach and return by September 28, 2007)

I am interested in Band Boosters

I would like to schedule private lessons