

BANDYS HIGH SCHOOL TROJAN BAND



2025 - 2026 BAND HANDBOOK

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WELCOME!

We are excited about this year's Bandys Trojan Band and the addition of our talented class of first-year marchers and the new freshmen class! With your participation, this is sure to be another great year for our program as we continue to maintain and expand the proud traditions and reputation of our band. We have lots of activities and performances planned for this year that are sure to make this a fantastic year in band!!

PHILOSOPHY

It is the philosophy of the Bandys Band program that the study of music is one of the most important parts of a student's complete and well-rounded education. We believe that students who study music do better in all parts of their education, and that they enter the adult world as more prepared and complete individuals. The band program seeks to foster this education by creating a family environment that involves patience, love, compassion, and understanding, as well as discipline, pride, commitment, and a strong work ethic.

Mission:

- Provide students with an opportunity to learn about music that is both educational and enjoyable, through the study and performance of instrumental music.
- Instill and support student development of communication skills, critical thinking, problem solving, leadership, pride, cooperation, work ethic, and discipline.
- Create a place where individual and ensemble talents can flourish, and where students can create lasting relationships with others who share their love for music.

Goals:

- Develop each performer and ensemble to the best of their potential.
- Help each individual become the best person they can be through a consistent, family environment.
- Maintain a strong reputation of excellence for the band program that all members, directors, friends, and family-past, present, and future-can take pride in.

MEMBERSHIP

The Bandys Trojan Band program is made up of 9–12 grade students with at least two prior years of instrumental music study, or equivalent ability as determined by the band staff. Band is a four-year program, and while certain aspects of the curriculum are similar from year to year, it is important that a student is enrolled each semester to receive the maximum benefit. The physical skills and musical concepts built each semester can only be improved by

consistent, ongoing participation. For this reason, students must sign up for both semesters of band each year. If a student does not enroll in consecutive semesters, they may re-enter the program only by completing one semester of Concert Band upon return.

With careful planning and course selection, it is possible to complete four years in the band program, even with other academic requirements and electives. Many band students continue their involvement with music into college and beyond, and many receive music scholarships and awards for their efforts.

ENSEMBLES

Concert Band I and II:

Designed to create a smooth transition from middle school to high school band, this ensemble is mostly freshmen, plus upperclassmen who are joining color guard or learning new instruments. The course allows students time to adjust to the 90-minute high school schedule, the expectations and rigors of the Bandys program, and the level of playing proficiency required to perform advanced music. The ensemble is a low-stress environment designed to prepare students for the competitive and faster-paced environment of Marching/Symphonic Band. Festival performance is introduced, but the focus is on developing individual and ensemble music skills.

Marching Band:

The Marching Band meets first semester and is composed of all 9–12 grade band members and freshman color guard members. The ensemble performs an average of 20–25 times in the fall, including all home varsity football games, select away games, competitions, and holiday parades. Rehearsals begin with Summer Band Camp (last week of July/first week of August), followed by Tuesday and Thursday evening rehearsals until school starts. During the school year, rehearsals are held in class each day, with after-school rehearsals on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday (3–5 p.m.), dropping Monday rehearsals after September. Sectionals may be scheduled as needed. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances-including Band Camp-is required to ensure a spot in the field show. Conflicts should be communicated well in advance.

Symphonic Band:

This class meets second semester and is our indoor concert ensemble, open to all 9–12 grade band students. The band performs an average of five times during the semester and participates annually in the North Carolina Bandmasters State Concert Band Festival. Students may take band for honors credit, which requires proficiency in all-district scales and auditioning for All-County and All-District bands. The ensemble gives at least two concerts annually, with additional performances scheduled as needed.

Color Guard:

Auditions are held at the beginning of each season, and membership is based on performance. The group rehearses after school throughout the year. Guard uniforms are purchased by the student each season, determined by show design.

Equipment is assigned and must be properly maintained. Guard members are strongly encouraged to enroll in a music class during the spring semester. All returning members must re-audition each year.

BAND STAFF

All student members of the Bandys High School Marching Band are expected to treat every member of the band staff—including assistant directors, instructors, guest clinicians, and other designated adults—with the utmost respect and courtesy at all times. The band staff dedicates their time, expertise, and energy to support your musical and personal growth, and their instructions are essential for the success of the ensemble. Students should listen attentively, follow directions promptly, and maintain a positive and cooperative attitude during all interactions with staff. Talking or disruptive behavior while staff members are instructing is not acceptable, as it detracts from the learning environment and shows a lack of respect for their role. Insubordination or disregard for staff authority will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action, including removal from rehearsals or performance. Remember that the same standards of respect, attentiveness, and professionalism apply regardless of which staff member is leading rehearsal or instruction. By honoring the contributions of all staff, you help create a positive, productive, and supportive atmosphere for everyone in the band. Additional Band Staff include

- Nickey Horner: Director
- Clint Long: Assistant Director. Band Director at Mill Creek Middle School.
- Matt Brotherton: Percussion Instructor. Music Teacher @ Murray Elementary
- Whitney McIntosh: Color Guard Instructor. Music Teacher @ Balls Creek Elementary
- Joe Elliott: Brass Instructor. IT Professional
- Bradley Mitchell: Woodwind Instructor
- Kevin Deal: Marching Tech

GRADING POLICY

Each ensemble follows a similar grading policy. Students earn grades through participation in class and rehearsals, performances, and written/playing tests. Consistent practice at home is expected and is a key part of membership.

- Participation (50%): Daily involvement, punctuality, preparedness, rehearsal etiquette, and positive attitude. Each time expectations are not met, three points are deducted from the nine-weeks participation grade.
- Written/Playing Tests (25%): Includes written quizzes, marching fundamental quizzes, playing “pass-offs,” and tests on theory, history,

scales, and performance excerpts. Students are given prior notice for tests.

- Performance/Exam Grades (25%): Participation in performances, including being on time, having required materials, and proper etiquette. Excused absences require advance approval and a make-up assignment due the day of the missed performance.

Extra credit may be earned by returning signed progress reports and other materials promptly, as well as through other opportunities announced during the year.

ATTENDANCE AT PERFORMANCES

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory for all ensembles. More than two excused absences or any unexcused absences may result suspension, or removal from the band. All conflicts must be approved by the band staff in advance. **Work is not considered an excused absence.** Emergencies will be considered individually and should be reported as soon as possible.

Participation in band is a commitment to others beyond ourselves. Absences hurt the entire ensemble. Band is a commitment to the group, and students are expected to keep that in mind.

REHEARSAL AND CLASSROOM RULES

- IF YOU DON'T NEED IT TO PLAY, DON'T BRING IT DOWN! Only instruments, music, pencils, and necessary materials are allowed in the rehearsal area.
- PRACTICE AT HOME, REHEARSE IN CLASS-KNOW THE DIFFERENCE! Prepare music at home; rehearsal time is for ensemble work.
- BE SUPERIOR IN REHEARSAL AS WELL AS PERFORMANCE. Arrive on time, prepared, focused, and disciplined.
- ACT AS AN INDIVIDUAL GROUP, NOT A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS. Every member's actions affect the whole ensemble.
- SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE, OR DO NOT SPEAK. Only one person speaks at a time, whether it's the director, a classmate, or a guest.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS BEYOND REHEARSAL

- Conduct yourself with pride, commitment, and dedication at all times.
- Punctuality is essential: "If you're early, you're on time; if you're on time, you're late; if you're late, you're in trouble!"
- Be patient with schedule changes; staff will communicate updates as soon as possible.

- Students must travel with the band to all events. To leave with someone else, a travel release form must be completed and signed out in person.
- All Bandys High School and Catawba County School Board policies apply during band activities.
- Students are responsible for the care and return of all issued equipment and uniforms. "You break it, you buy it!"
- Always travel with a "band buddy" during band activities-no exceptions.
- Any form of stealing, vandalism, insubordination, or disregard for policies may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms are issued at the beginning of each performance season:

- Marching Band (Summer): Students purchase white or black tennis shoes, khaki shorts, black gloves, and a Bandys Band Shirt are provided. These last throughout the marching seasons.
- Marching Band (Fall/Winter): Full uniform (suspender pants, jacket, cape, gauntlets, helmet, plume) is issued and stored at school. Cleaning costs are included in the band camp fee. Students purchase **PLAIN LONG BLACK SOCKS** and marching shoes.
- Symphonic/Concert Band: Concert uniforms to be determined during the school year.
- Color Guard: All parts of the uniform must be purchased by the student each season, as determined by show design. Some items can be reused in future years.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

A limited number of school-owned instruments (mainly large or specialized) are available. Students must provide their own method books and materials (reeds, valve oil, etc.). There is no rental fee, but students are responsible for repair costs due to negligence. Instruments are assigned upon return of a signed usage agreement.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Student leadership positions include Drum Major and Band Captains (Hornline, Woodwind, Percussion, Guard), selected by audition and training. Leaders are expected to:

- Provide instruction and assist with rehearsals and performances.
- Maintain discipline and support the band director and staff.
- Set an example in performance, rehearsal, and conduct.
- Coordinate conflict resolution and communicate with other leaders.

All members are expected to:

- Be respectful to peers, leadership, directors, and adults supporting the band.
- Show pride and discipline in all activities.
- Commit to excellence in academics, behavior, and musical growth.

BAND CAMP AND DRESS CODE

For all marching band camp sessions and rehearsals, students are required to wear comfortable athletic shoes, preferably tennis shoes-that provide proper support for extended periods of standing and movement. Clothing should be suitable for the weather conditions and must always adhere to the school's dress code.

For performances, hair must be contained in the marching band hat(shako). All jewelry must be removed.

To help protect against sun exposure during outdoor activities, students are strongly encouraged to bring and wear sunglasses and a hat or cap with a brim. These items will help shield their eyes and face from the sun's rays. Each student must bring their own refillable water bottle to stay hydrated throughout the day. Water coolers will be available on site for refills, but individual bottles are not provided.

Additionally, students are responsible for bringing their own sunscreen or sunblock, as the school is not permitted to supply any type of sun protection product due to health and safety regulations. Please ensure that your student applies sunscreen before arriving and brings extra to reapply as needed during the day.

BAND BOOSTERS ORGANIZATION

The Bandys band program is supported by an active parent organization that provides physical, financial, and moral support. All parents are encouraged to participate. Meetings are usually on the first Tuesday of each month. Boosters assist with chaperoning, building props, sewing, maintaining vehicles, cheering on students, and-most importantly-fundraising.

The marching band fee for 2025–2026 is \$350, due by August 8, 2024. Contact Mrs. Horner if payment arrangements are needed.

Booster Officers:

President: Jessica Wright

Co-Vice Presidents: Shantae Brown, Alicia Lail

Secretary: Shannon Issac, Vice-Secretary Kim Lynch

Treasurer: Lindsey Tibbs

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Band Camp & Rehearsals: Wear comfortable tennis shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. Bring sunglasses, a hat, a water bottle, and sunblock .
- Travel: Only authorized individuals may sign students out from events, with proper forms and advance notice.
- Medical & Emergency Forms: All students must submit completed forms before participating in any band activity.

STUDENT & PARENT COMMITMENT

By joining the Bandys Trojan Band, students and parents pledge to:

- Maintain a positive attitude and consistent, honest participation in all rehearsals and performances.
- Cooperate with and show respect for all members, staff, and volunteers.
- Communicate clearly and promptly about conflicts.
- Practice and prepare music regularly.
- Attend all rehearsals and performances.
- Care for instruments, equipment, uniforms, and music.
- Participate in fundraising activities.

Band membership is a commitment to everyone else involved. Your attendance, effort, and preparation are essential to the success of the entire ensemble.

THE TROJAN PRAYER

Help make me demanding, but understanding.

Help me try while others cry.

Help make me strong when I am wrong.

Help make me a friend to the very end.

Help me care and always share.

Help make me proud, but never loud.

Help me know where life can go.

Help me see what I should be.

2025 Marching Band Schedule

June 2–6, 2025

9:00 am – 2:00 pm - Beginning Marcher/Leadership, Percussion & Guard Camp

July 27, 2025

NightBEAT in Winston-Salem: We will travel by bus to this event. Tickets are pre-purchased, and transportation is provided. Students must pay the \$50 fee by the end of rookie camp.

July 28–August 1, 2025

August 4–8, 2025 8:00 am – 6:00 pm - Full Band Camp

August 7, 2025

8:00 am – 5:00 pm - Parent Preview Day: Students will remain on campus after camp and eat dinner as a group. Please bring \$8 for Chick-Fil-A (to be turned in during the first week of full band camp).

Regular Rehearsal Schedule

Before School August Rehearsal Dates:

Tuesdays and Thursdays:

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

August 12, 14, 19, 21

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays (Beginning August 25th):

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

August Rehearsal Dates:

25, 26, and 28

September Rehearsal Dates:

September 2, 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 16, 18, 22, 23, 25

Tuesdays and Thursdays in October:

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

October Rehearsal Dates:

October 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23

Please note: This schedule is subject to change. Stay tuned for updates from the band staff.

Competitions

Catawba County Preview will be held on September 23, 2025; Rain date is September 30, 2025

1. Mt Airy High School Invitational- September 27th
2. South Davidson High School- October 4th
3. South Caldwell Spartan Classic HS - Oct 11th
4. Cape Fear High School- October 18th (This is an overnight trip which will take place on Sat. and Sunday, returning home Sunday evening around 10pm. We will go to Topsail Beach on Sunday).
5. Northwest Guilford High School- October 25th

Call times for competitions will be determined on when we need to leave for that location. It will be announced the week before the date.

Football Schedule

August 22nd - St. Stephens - Home
August 28th – BYE
September 12th- East Lincoln Away
September 19th- Bunker Hill- Home- HOMECOMING
September 26th- Newton-Conover- Home (8th Grade Band Knight)
October 3rd - Fred T Foard- Away
October 10th - North Lincoln- Away
October 17th- Maiden - Home
October 24th - West Iredell - Home
October 31st - Hickory - Away

Any post-season game will be announced as they come. Please plan for there to be games after the Hickory game for play playoffs.

Parades

Old Soldiers Day Parade August 21, 2025

Catawba Veterans Day Parade November 8th, 2025

Claremont Christmas parade - December 6th. 2025

School-Owned Instrument Agreement

Dear Parents and Students,

We are pleased to provide your child with a school-owned instrument for use in band this year. Many students have volunteered to play these instruments to help balance our band's instrumentation, and we appreciate their flexibility and commitment.

Please note the following guidelines regarding school-owned instruments:

- **Supplies:** Students are responsible for providing their own accessories, such as reeds, valve oil, cork grease, and method books. These items are not included with the instrument, but may be purchased at a reduced price through the school. If you need assistance obtaining these materials, please let us know and we will do our best to help.
- **Rental Fees:** There is no rental fee or up-front cost for using a school-owned instrument, thanks to the support of our band boosters. Unlike many programs, we are proud to offer this opportunity free of charge.
- **Care and Repairs:** All instruments have been inspected and repaired over the summer and are in good playing condition. The band program will cover the cost of normal maintenance and wear-and-tear repairs. However, families will be responsible for any repair costs resulting from negligence or accidental damage caused by the student. Please help us ensure these instruments are well cared for so they remain available for future students.

If you have any questions, please contact the band office or email us at nickey_horner@catawbасchools.net. We are excited to support your child's musical journey and look forward to a wonderful year!

Sincerely,
The Trojan Band Staff

We have read and agree to the policies regarding school-owned instruments.

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

BANDYS HIGH SCHOOL BAND MEDICAL FORM

Please complete this form if you are a student or parent traveling with the Bandys High School Band. All information will be kept confidential and used only to ensure the health and safety of the individual named. Please print clearly in black or blue ink.

Group (circle one):

Concert Band Marching/Symphonic Band Guard Chaperone/Driver

Student Information

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Address: _____ City: _____

State: ____ Zip: _____

Student's Social Security #: _____

Home Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone(s): _____

Other Contact Numbers (work, etc.): _____

Emergency Contact (other than parent/guardian)

Name: _____ Home Phone:

Address/City/State/Zip:

Other Phone(s): _____

Relationship to Student/Family: _____

Medical Information

Medical Conditions/Concerns:

Current Medications & Dosages:

Allergies (food, medications, insects, etc.):

Date of Last Tetanus Shot: _____

Family Physician: _____ City: _____ Phone:

Specialty Physician (if applicable): _____ City: _____ Phone:

Insurance Information

Does the student have school insurance? ___Yes ___No*

*If no, another form of medical insurance is required to participate in band activities. Please provide details below and bring your insurance card and a photo ID for photocopying.

Insurance Company:

Name of Insured: _____ Policy #: _____

Group #: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Please complete the reverse side before submitting to the band staff.)

Emergency Authorization

A. I authorize band instructors and chaperones to administer first aid, seek medical attention from a licensed physician, and arrange transportation to a

medical facility if the person named above is seriously ill or injured and requires hospitalization.

B. I authorize the attending physician to provide any treatment deemed necessary for the individual's welfare. I understand that I am responsible for any expenses incurred.

C. I release and discharge the band instructors and volunteer chaperones from all liability in the event of an accident or injury resulting from first aid or transportation to a medical facility. I also release them from any liability for injuries or damages that may occur.

Signatures

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Student: _____ Date: _____

This version maintains all original requirements and authorizations, ensuring clarity and legal protection for the band and families.

Bandys High School Trojan Band

Nickey Horner, Director

Travel Release Form

Student Name _____

Parent Name: _____

I authorize the following individuals to pick up my student and sign them out from band events instead of returning on the band's activity bus--_____

**Note—Any person not listed on this form WILL NOT be allowed to sign a student out unless a note with a signature matching the parent signature below is turned in and approved BEFORE the event in question. Authorized people must be at least 18 years of age.

I understand that by signing this form, I release Bandys High School from any legal responsibilities. Therefore, I understand that The Catawba County School Board's liability insurance does not cover the use of private vehicles to transport students for school activities.

In addition to this form, for both your child's safety and legal aspects, the band staff must have written permission or a phone call from the parent prior to the activity authorizing the student to sign out, unless their parent is picking up the student from the event. The band staff can be contacted in the band office at 828-241-2118, or via e-mail in advance of departure.

If there is no answer the school office will pick up the line. They will be able to assist you in this matter. In the absence of either a phone call or written permission, your child will have to ride the school's bus home.

I have read the above information and agree to the policies stated in this travel release form.

Parent's Signature

Date

Student's Signature

Date

BANDYS HIGH SCHOOL BAND CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT
FORM

2025 - 2026

The following agreement is meant to increase the efficiency, success and safety of our students and the program. Students and parents should also review the handbook for all policies and expectations before signing this contract. Student band contracts and medical/insurance forms **MUST be signed and presented to the Trojan Band Staff BEFORE students may participate in ANY band activities.**

All band activities will be announced well in advance in order to prevent any scheduling conflicts. The dates will be posted in the band room, announced in class, presented at Band Booster meetings and published in our monthly Band Boosters' newsletter. It is the responsibility of the students to be aware of and attend all activities as the schedule dictates.

Student Name (print)_____

Instrument or section in the band_____

Secondary Instrument I am willing to play if needed:_____

Home Phone_____ Cell Phone_____

Home Address (Mailing Address):_____

Student E-mail Address:_____ Parent E-mail (if different)_____

Any known conflicts with rehearsals or performances? Write here _____

I will need a school owned instrument assigned to me. Yes No

Band Staff/ Program Pledge

To honor the inherent worth and dignity of all our students and their families
Quality musical learning experience in a compassionate family environment
Multiple performances each year with opportunities for showcasing individual and ensemble achievement
Music selected from standard band repertoire or with educational value
A comfortable, well-lit and safe rehearsal space
Well-planned and maintained rehearsal each school day
Timely communications with families through parent letters and monthly Booster letters
Percussion and selected concert instruments for student use
At least one fundraising opportunity per semester

An opportunity for students to make lasting friendships and feel at home while at school

Student/Parent Pledge

- A positive attitude toward learning and rehearsal
- Consistent, honest participation in all rehearsals and performances with your best effort given at all times
- Cooperation with and consideration for other members of the band program
- Respect for and cooperation with all band program staff, guest instructors, parents, chaperones and volunteers
- Clear and timely communication with band staff regarding problems, concerns or conflicts, especially in relationship to performances
- Regular practice and preparation of music being performed by your ensemble
- Impeccable attendance at all rehearsals and performances
- Proper care and maintenance of your instrument
- Proper care and maintenance of all equipment, music, uniforms, etc. issued by the band program
- Participation in one fundraising opportunity per semester, and more if able to do so

Being in the band program is a commitment to everyone else involved that you will attend rehearsals consistently, put forth your best effort to improve yourself as a performer and your ensemble as a group, and that you will be present at all performances on the schedule. We want this to be an organization that you are proud to be a member of, and it is our intention to not have any absences during performances this year. You should also be aware that the band boosters have a considerable time and financial investment in each band member (approximately \$500 per member annually). Hopefully this shows you how important each of you is to our program, and how committed we are to making this something special for you to be a part of.

I understand the policies of the Bandys High School Trojan Band and the Catawba County School Board outlined in the band handbook and those listed above. I agree to adhere to these policies and understand the consequences if they are not followed. I also agree to the commitment I am making as it is outlined above.

Parent Signature
Date

Parent Name Printed

Student Signature
Date

Student Name Printed