



2019-2020 Handbook

We have many performing groups in the Oxford Band Program.

- Competitive Marching Band that plays at football games, as well as, competitions
- Symphonic Band
- Concert Band
- Indoor Percussion
- Indoor Winds
- Indoor Color Guard

Students audition for each group, and those who score the highest earn spots in each ensemble. Regardless of the group, all students will have weekly assignments to pass off for their grade, which is in two parts.

1. One-half will be based on their weekly participation, and
2. One half will be based on the pass-off of the their assignments.

Communication Opportunities

- Band website: www.oxfordsd.org/domain/168
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChargerBand
- NETMA (Nobody Ever Tells Me Anything): This is our mass email system. If you are not receiving these, please send an email to Kim Ling (klings@olemiss.edu).
- Twitter: @bandchargers
- All students and parents will need to sign up for Dragonfly

Tryout Process

For Marching Band

Students playing their instrument (same as concert tryout), as well as their ability to move (Marching style), and maturity during rehearsal time will be combined into an overall score. That score will be compared to others in their section to dictate their chair.

For Concert Band

Students will play multiple scales, as well as sightread a short piece of music they have not seen before. The staff will judge mastery of scales, technique, tone production, process and the finished product of their sight reading. A students' behavior, grades from other classes, and attitude from the fall will be taking into account before a final decision is made.

New students After the tryout process, the staff will make contact with former school/ band director to get an understanding of the student's past behavior. If the student is on grade level and does not have a behavior problem, they will be allowed to enter the program.

Expectations and General Rules

Excused Absences

The only excused absences include the following:

1. Illness serious enough for a doctor's visit. A doctor's note will be required upon returning to band stating the absence was necessary.
2. School-approved trip or athletic performance. State and/or national competitions may be counted as excused absences if the staff is given adequate notice of the event's dates and importance.
3. Death in the family

The staff understands there are times you are too sick to come to rehearsal but not sick enough to go to the doctor. This is the same policy the school has for absences. We do not want a sick student to infect other students. Understand if a student is sick, another student may march their spot.

Marching Alternate

An alternate position is given anyone who:

- Missed practice time (unexcused), and/or
- Did not perform well enough on the exit exam, and/or
- Is involved with other activities that will require them to miss rehearsal time

The responsibilities of the alternate are the same as every other band member. They are required to attend and participate in all band practices and performances unless they have an approved school activity. ***All students will participate at home football games and play in the stands.***

General Expectations

All students are expected to:

- Act and speak professionally.
- Help keep the band room clean and orderly.
- Keep their storage areas clean and orderly.
- Keep their equipment in excellent working order. If a student uses a school-owned instrument, they must tell the staff immediately if they are having any problems with the instrument.
- Be honest and loyal to the band.
- Wear their hair as required by staff.
- Follow ALL school rules. The school handbook supersedes the band handbook.

Students may NOT:

- Display relationships during rehearsals or in uniform at public events.
- Wear ANY jewelry, accessories, or anything that is un-uniformed, including, but not limited to non **natural colored hair, face piercing**, etc. If a student tries to evade this policy, it could prevent them from performing, which would consequently, hurt their grade.
- Use foul language.
- Have possession, consume, or distribute any alcohol or illegal substances.

**If any of these expectations are not met,
the student(s) may be subject to expulsion from the band program.**

All parents should:

- Encourage their children to work hard and practice regularly.
- Encourage their children to practice 20-30 minutes each day.
- Attend band booster meetings. The Oxford Band Booster Organization will have meetings during the school year. There is no charge to be a part of this organization; however, students receive extra credit for parental involvement.
- Arrange for their children to be picked up in a timely manner at the school after band events. Itineraries are given out a week before events so parents know when to pick up their child. Please respect the staff's time as the days are already very long.
- Maintain current contact information with the band staff so they can be notified of band events. Communication is very important so everyone is on the same page. Students should NOT use the school phone to call parents to come pick them up. Home football games will be over at approximately 10:15 p.m. For away games and trips, please refer to itinerary or website. Many students have cell phones and will be instructed to call or text when we are 30 minutes away from the band hall.

School-Owned Instruments

School-owned instruments are to be taken care of as if they were personally owned. Any damage up to \$200 will be the responsibility of the person who checked it out. Every check-out form states this, and the parent who signs it agrees to pay this amount if needed.

Band Camp

- Band camp is **mandatory** for all members who expect a spot in the competitive marching show.
- Students should be on time to all rehearsals.
- Students should be mentally and physically prepared for the demands of camp.
- Students should keep up with music at all times.
- During breaks, students should keep the band room quiet. Extra practice is encouraged, but the band room is to be a silent rest area.

It is unacceptable to simply not show up for a day of camp. If a student wishes to drop out of the band program, they are expected to act professionally and declare their intentions to the director. This way the director can be prepared for rehearsal the next day and make appropriate preparations. (See grading policy)

Rehearsal

- All students are required to attend sectionals and/or after school rehearsals. (See grading policy)
- All students should be on time and prepared for rehearsal.
- Students should have their music and a pencil for every rehearsal.
- Students should stand still and quiet when called to attention.
- No student should be disrespectful to a staff member.
- Students are expected to maintain a high work ethic and great attitude.
- Students should not do anything that will hinder rehearsal productivity, such as, speaking out, talking, chewing gum, not being ready to play when asked, etc.
- When a student is asked to do something, they should respond in a timely manner.
- If a student misses the final run-through before a performance (excused or unexcused), they will be unable to perform.
- No tardies are excused except those with a teacher's note and time.

Letter Jackets and Pins

To earn a letterman jacket and/or pin, a student must have a grade of 93 or above in band on April 1 with no discipline issues.

Any student, regardless of class (Freshman, Sophomore, etc..), is eligible to letter in band.

The boosters will purchase basic letterman jackets (plain jacket with letter) for each student who earns that distinction. An addition items the student wants on the jacket will be at the students expense.

Football Games

- For home games, students should report to the band hall on time.
- For away games, inspection (making sure each student has all materials needed) will take place before getting on the bus.
- Students must ride the bus to all football games. (school board policy)
- Students must present a signed note by a parent or guardian to Mr. Morse (mlmorse@oxfordsd.org) **1 day prior** to the ball game to be allowed to leave the game other than by bus. This will enable the staff to keep up with and protect your child.
- Students may not leave the game with their friends.

- Students are expected to show NO physical affection in uniform or on band events.
- Students will not be allowed to eat or drink in uniform or in the stands, with the exception of third quarter. Please do not ask your parents to bring you anything to eat or drink. The band boosters will provide water for you throughout the game.
- **Only clear beverages to drink. No mustard or nacho cheese sauce will be eaten while in uniform. Students are 100% responsible for all stains that are unable to be cleaned. If the uniform is stained beyond the point of cleaning, the student's family will be required to pay for a replacement uniform.**
- Students are expected to be respectful to directors, staff, fans, parents, players, and cheerleaders.
- Students are responsible for making sure their equipment is loaded and unloaded. If you leave the game early, you have to take your equipment with you.
- Students are expected to be ready to play as soon as the staff and/or drum major calls up a song.
- Students are to stay in their own sections during the game.
- Non-band members (even ex-band members) are not allowed to sit inside the band area.
- All members are expected to play in the stands.
- Any choreography will be done by the entire band and at the discretion of the staff.
- Students must be back from third quarter break with 2:00 minutes on the game clock. Students returning late will forfeit their third quarter break the following game.
- Students are not to switch instruments during the game.
- Students who are unwilling to participate during the game will forfeit their third quarter break. This will be at the staff's discretion.
- From the band hall to the stadium and from the stadium to the band hall, students are required to keep a professional demeanor. This includes marching correctly, remaining at attention, not talking, unified horn carriage, and no horseplay.

Color Guard

Please see Color Guard handbook or Mrs. Roebuck.

Competitions

- All students must ride the bus to a competition.
- Students may not leave the competition with friends.
- If a staff member has to go look for a student, that student will spend the remainder of the time with that staff member.
- Students are expected to show no affection out of uniform beyond holding hands.
- Band council will be the only members that will accept trophies. If a band council member chooses at any time to not go down for awards, they forfeit the right to remain on the band council and any privileges. The band council will be at the directors' discretion.
- Band council is expected to be back in uniform for the awards ceremony by the time the last competing band takes the field.
- If a student has a conflict with any of the competition dates, it is their responsibility to alert the director as soon as possible. Depending on circumstances the student's part may be reassigned to other students who will be there.

Concerts

- All concerts will start at 6:30.
- All students are expected to be ready for warm-up at 6:00 p.m.
- All students will wear the band uniform as it is supposed to be worn.
- If a student has a conflict with any of the concert dates, it is their responsibility to alert the director as soon as possible. Depending on circumstances the student's part may be reassigned to other students who will be there.
- If asked, all students are expected to help clean the auditorium after each concert.
- All students will wear a band uniform. (No drum major, color guard, or majorette outfits.)
- Students are expected to be on time for any morning warm-ups before contest.
- All students must ride the bus to the concert contest.
- Students must present a note signed by a parent or guardian to Ms. Patriquin (cnpatriquin@oxfordsd.org) **1 day prior** to the contest to be allowed to leave other than by bus.
- Students are expected to show no physical affection in uniform.
- Students are expected to show no physical affection outside of uniform beyond holding hands.

Band Room

- Food and drink **ARE NOT** permitted in the band room. The cafeteria is next door and is where all food is to be eaten. If there are unclaimed messes, or if the cafeteria gets dirty, the staff has the right to revoke this privilege.
- Students are expected to keep the band room clean.
- Students are not to participate in public displays of affection in the band hall.
- Students are expected to be neat, orderly, and mature in the band room.
- Students are expected to police and remind other students to be neat, orderly, and mature in the band hall.
- Students are expected to let only band members and band parents in the band room at all times.
- The band room should not be treated as a student's locker. Anything left on the floor is subject to being thrown away.
- If a student's cubby or cubby area is unkempt, they will be assigned a thirty-minute clean-up detention with the director.
- Students may put a combination lock on their cubby. The combination must be turned into Mr. Morse (mimorse@oxfordsd.org). The staff reserves the right to cut or remove the lock at any point.

Uniforms

- Uniforms are to be treated with the highest respect. They cost approximately \$605 each.
- Uniforms should **NEVER** be on the ground. They should be on a hanger at all times.
- Pant length will be uniform with the entire band. (No high waters or saggies!)
- Uniforms must be fully worn at performances.
- While wearing the uniform, the jackets are to be closed and buttoned.
- Hair must be pulled up and tucked under hat so it is not touching the collar.
- Do not eat food that will stain or dirty the uniform. (Nachos, Mustard, Cheetos, Doritos, etc...)
- If the uniform is unable to be cleaned you may be responsible for replacing it.

Coat	\$250
Pants	\$150
Drop	\$100
Hat	\$75
Plume	\$30

- Concert Season - Black band shoes and black socks are part of the uniform and are to be uniformed with everyone. The band staff has gone to great lengths to make sure you are getting the best deal

Trips

- There will be NO coed seating.
- Boys and girls will ride on separate buses. In the event they are on the same bus, boys will be in the front of the bus, and girls will be in the back of the bus. A chaperone will sit between the boys and girls.
- Students will have the opportunity to sit with whom they choose. A bus list will be handed out at the end of band camp. Students with the most stars will sign the list first. However, the FIRST time the staff feels there is a problem with any bus, a seating chart will be created by the staff, and the students will sit accordingly. (Problems may include noise level and/or control.)
- Students will be allowed to bring food and capped drinks on the bus (no cans or cups). However, if at the end of a trip the bus is dirty, this privilege will be revoked.
- No portable listening devices will be used without headphones. The staff will deal with any student that is found to be in possession of or watching any movie that is inappropriate. This could include expulsion from the band program or school.
- No singing and/or screaming on the bus.
- Keep head, hands, and feet inside the bus at all times.
- The band program will not do any fund-raisers unless there is a specific need for extra funds. This would include trips, band uniforms, and any additional costs.

Relationships

- Relationships are not to be displayed in band.
- Students are expected to be professional and represent the band in a positive manner.

Understanding Band Events

This section is for new members and new members' parents to make them aware of what goes on in typical band events.

Band Camp

Band camp is held the three weeks prior to the first day of school. This consists of indoor and outdoor rehearsals to prepare the band for the marching season. We will learn 75 – 80 % of the entire show those two weeks. Therefore, it is essential that all marching members be present for camp. Band camp occurs during some of the hottest days of summer, so be prepared. Please dress appropriately. Light clothes, a hat, tennis shoes, and sunscreen are a must. No spaghetti strap tank tops or sandals. Straps must be two fingers in width. Be sure not to wear hairspray, excessive make-up, or excessive perfume/cologne, as it will draw bugs while students are outside. This is not a social gathering; it is band camp. Band camp is by the far the toughest part of marching season; therefore, some band students question whether they want to be in band during the first few days of band camp. Parents are urged to be supportive of the student's frustration and encourage them to finish band camp no matter what. There is a strong lesson to be learned by finishing what is started. Parents are welcome to come watch all rehearsals. The band boosters will provide lunch for the students during camp. The students will be finished at 5:00 p.m. each day. Please make arrangements to have your kids picked up on time. Please do not put the staff in a babysitting situation.

Rehearsals

The competitive band will participate in two after school rehearsals per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning August 13 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Students are expected to come to rehearsals ready to work. Students should not miss rehearsals for scheduled doctor's appointments or transportation problems. Students should not leave early. Students are expected to come even if they feel "a little sick." Having everyone at band rehearsal is essential to contest success. If you are absent and a student, who marches your instrument, is at practice they will assume your spot until you are healthy enough to return.

Parades

Parades count as full performances grade-wise. All students should arrive in plenty of time to load the equipment and get dressed. We will wear our uniforms in the parade. Guard attire will be at the staff's discretion. Our parade is generally less than two miles. We do a couple parades per year, Olive Branch, Hernando and maybe Southaven Christmas Parades. One to two band parents are welcome to walk alongside the band and help chaperone. Students are not allowed to break out of line or attention during the parade to speak to people on the route.

Football Games

For home games, band students are expected to be ready for inspection at 5:30 p.m. For away games, please refer to the itinerary. Students should wear their uniforms completely until the game is over. No one is to sit inside the band area in the stands, nor are boyfriends/girlfriends allowed to sit beside band members. At half time, the visiting band always performs first and both bands perform facing the home side. There is a total of 15 – 20 minutes for both bands to perform their half-time shows. It is common courtesy to shorten the show during half time to allow both bands equal time on the field if necessary. Students are given 3rd quarter off to go to the restrooms and to get a snack. 3rd quarter is the only time students are allowed to eat or drink in uniform. Please do not bring food or drinks to them at any other point during games. The Band Boosters will provide them with water throughout the game. Students are expected to be back with 2:00 minutes on the game clock. Students should act respectfully toward the game no matter the outcome. Students should dress appropriately under their uniform according to the weather and due to the fact that many times there are no changing areas at other high schools. Students are expected to help clean the band room and buses after each ball game. Students are not allowed to leave games with friends and must present a note signed by a parent or guardian to Mr. Bailey (albailey@oxfordsd.org) one (1) day prior to the game to be allowed to leave other than by bus.

Competitions

The band generally competes in three – four band contests per year. At contest, each band is allowed 15 – 30 minutes of warm-up and fifteen minutes of performance. Band competitions have around seven judges. Three judges rate the band as a whole and four judges rate the percussion, color guard, and drum major. Band competitions give ratings of I, II, or III. I = Superior (85 – 100), II = Excellent (70 –84), III = Good (69 and below). The overall band rating will be an average of the three band judges. Some contest bands are placed into classes based on size. The smallest class is 1A, and the largest class is 6A. At the end of the contest, the band council takes the field to accept trophies. Students should be happy with their performance if they gave all they could and did their best.

Concerts

All the staff asks of each parent is that they are courteous which includes not talking, turning off cell phones, and keeping young children quiet. Warm-up is at 6:00 p.m. for concerts. Concerts will start at 6:30 generally run 1 – 1 ½ hours in length. Students are expected to stay until all ensembles have finished and help clean the auditorium and band room afterwards.

Internet Etiquette

There are an abundance of newsgroups and bulletin boards run by band students and parents. These sites are a great way to hear about what bands are doing around the country. One of the most popular is the BOA website. Though entertaining, these places are littered with posts, which reflect poorly on individuals and organizations. It's obvious that many people either don't realize or don't care that their personal thoughts, when subjective or inflammatory, reflect on their entire group.

Unfortunately, we've had incidents where someone from Oxford posted something they thought was innocent, but it went on to upset others when taken a certain way and drew criticism. Even when not intended, this is embarrassing. The safest way to avoid criticism or scrutiny is NOT to post. However, if you choose to post comments, remember that you are speaking on behalf of the entire Oxford Band Program and we want to continue our first-class reputation. This goes for students and parents.

Internet Pages and Blogging (Social Media)

There is also a basic level of respect to be shown on your social media accounts. **You will be held accountable for what you say especially if it is considered inflammatory, suggests or encourages violence, or in any way speaks negatively about the band program, band members or staff.** Understand when you are making comments on a website (SnapChat, Twitter, Instagram etc..), you are not only speaking for yourself, but also for the band program. You may have the best intentions but what you say can hurt the program. The best way to not have problems is to not make comments about any other program. I think it is great to have pride in our program as long as it is not at the expense of another. You can be for Oxford without being against anyone else. All comments made on these kinds of sites are for everyone to see. They cannot be taken back or apologized for. Please be cautious when making comments on these sites. **Everything you say online will be treated as if you said it in class in front of a teacher. Remember you have the right to say anything you want, but you are also accountable for everything you say and do.** Any comments made about individuals may also cause the administration to get involved. Again, please be cautious when posting.

Questions Students May Have

This section is designed to inform parents and students how to properly handle various situations that may arise.

Q I lost my music.

A You should see the Drum Major(s) to help you find another copy and have it copied. You will be able to find most music and exercises on the web page. It is generally a good idea to copy your music as soon as you receive it so you can have a spare at home to practice. DO NOT come to a rehearsal unprepared and try to fake it.

Q I cannot find a ride to rehearsal.

A Call the band room (662-513-2265) or email mlmorse@oxfordsd.org. We will find one for you. Missing band because you do not have a ride **WILL NOT** be an excused absence. You should make arrangements ahead of time since you have a calendar of all events. Those in the competitive band may be replaced by individuals who can make it to all rehearsals.

Q I am too sick to come to rehearsal or performance.

A You need to go to the doctor and get treatment. You will need a signed doctor's note stating you were too sick to participate. The staff can't make discernments when it comes to being sick. If you are not sick enough to go to the doctor, then you are not sick enough to miss. Please call and let us know. 662-513-2265.

Q I have instrument troubles or my instrument breaks.

A Get it fixed. Amro Music 1-800-626-2676

Q I am going to be late to a rehearsal or performance.

A You should call ahead and let us know. This does NOT excuse the tardy; it simply alerts the staff to the situation. Performances are very important and every effort should be made to get to the performance. If you miss the bus, it is your responsibility to make it to the performance.

Q I need to miss a performance for something unexcused.

A You have to make choices in life. It is professional to honor your first commitments. If you have a commitment on one of the band performances already, you should look at the grading policy and decide if you are willing to accept the consequences. Our area is very small and if you choose to lie, the likelihood of you getting caught is very high. Even if you are honest, however, it DOES NOT excuse the fact you are choosing to miss a performance. ***If you have missed a performance and it is unexcused, you will NEVER be eligible for a captain position, including drum major. If you choose to miss a performance, regardless of your commitment to the band, 20% will be taken off of your nine weeks grade.*** This is one of the most serious offenses in the band program.

Q I see a student commit a dismissible offense.

Dismissible offenses include drinking alcohol, taking drugs, sexual harassment or abuse, and other serious actions. If anything this serious is witnessed, it should be reported to Mr. Morse or any other staff member immediately.

Q I feel like my directors or another member of the band is being unfair.

A We would like all grievances to follow a chain of command. If another band member is giving you a problem, please come to the directors. If you have a problem with an assistant director, please go to Mr. Morse. If your problem is with Mr. Morse go to Mr. Brady Roberson. If you are unable to get satisfaction there, please call Mr. Brain Harvey.

Q I cannot get off work for a band event or rehearsal.

A This is an unexcused absence. You have the schedule ahead of time. Turn it in to your employer immediately. If you let Mr. Morse know, he will be more than happy to speak to your boss to get the conflict resolved. Please do not overload yourself during the school year, especially the fall.

Q I have an athletic practice the same day as a band event.

A The band staff, coaches, and administration have come to the realization that at times they may share students. Due to this, the administration has prioritized the importance of each event. The administration will make the final call on individual conflicts and/or situations.

Q My brother/sister has an athletic game the same day as a band event.

A This is an unacceptable excuse for you to miss.

Q I missed school the day of a band event.

A By school board policy, you will not be able to perform at the event, but you must still attend and “sit the bench.”

Q I can only schedule my doctor’s appointment during band practice.

A That is very rare. Make every attempt to schedule it during some other time.

Grading Policy

1st nine weeks grade is based on completion of assignments, attendance, and classroom engagement.

2nd nine weeks grade is based on completion of assignments, attendance, classroom engagement and tryout grade (Chair test).

3rd nine weeks same as 1st

4th nine weeks same as 2nd

For all minor emergencies please use the [Dragonfly app](#) to inform us of your situation.

Grading Process

The student’s grades are divided into participation and playing excellence.

They will get 100 points per week for how they do in rehearsals. They will lose 5 points for any of the following:

- 1) Having to leave rehearsal early (5 points for every 10 mins missed)
- 2) Not having materials (Pencil, music, dot book, instrument)
- 3) Interrupting rehearsal (talking, distracting others, etc..)

A non-excused absence for an after school rehearsal will result in 50 points being subtracted from the weekly participation grade for that week.

All performances are mandatory. Missing a performance will result in a 500 point deduction for that nine weeks.

If you miss the practice before a performance, you may be unable to perform. If you are too sick to practice, then you are too sick to perform. This also counts on early check outs. Copies of a doctor's note will be necessary for illnesses to be excused.

Reasons for an absence being excused **other school activities, family illnesses/ death or personal illnesses with doctor's note or once in a life time opportunity.**

Family vacations, work, trips with other groups, are not valid excuses. Most of these things do not come up all of a sudden. They are well planned and can be worked out so you do not have to miss any band rehearsals or performances. I will be very happy to speak to any boss and very nicely explain to them that we have a conflict and help figure out the best way for it to be worked out.

The staff gives everyone in this band a detailed plan and schedule. We do this so you know what we know. We do that so we can communicate perfectly. So you know what you are a part of and the time it demands of you. You have made a commitment to the band and to each other to be here and give all the effort you are capable of.

We would like for everyone to be in band, but if you are not able to show up on time or at all, then the band would be better overall without you. These are the commitments that superior bands make to each other to stay at a high level of excellence. A senior who opts out of the spring semester of their senior year may still attend the band banquet and will still be considered in good standing with our band program. Although not playing their instrument that spring semester may hurt their overall chances of receiving a music scholarship, the students will still be eligible to audition for these if they choose to.

Dear Parents & Students:

Hopefully this band handbook has been helpful in addressing any questions and/or concerns you may have about the Oxford Band Program. Following many questions, misunderstandings, and issues in the past over band policies and procedures, the band staff felt it would be helpful to provide you with this overview of rules, expectations, and policies for the 2019–2020 school year. The policies and procedures of the Oxford Band Program were designed to teach responsibility and to provide the most positive and successful learning environment for the band members.

Please sign by Friday, August 16, 2019. Your signature via DragonFly confirms that you have read, understand, and are willing to comply by these rules, expectations, and policies.

Thank you,

Mr. Mel Morse, Director of Bands - mlmorse@oxfordsd.org

Mrs. Jessica Roebuck, Assistant Director - jtroebuck@oxfordsd.org

Mr. Brennen Eaton, Assistant Director - dbeaton@oxfordsd.org

Ms. Catherine Patriquin, Assistant Director - cnpatriquin@oxfordsd.org

Appendix A
Handbook Form

We have read, understand, and agree to comply with the Oxford Band Program rules, expectations, and policies set forth in this handbook for the 2019-2020 school year. Please sign no later than August 16, 2019.

Band Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Band Member Signature

Date