

# Thomson High School “Bulldog Brigade” Band Handbook

Rudy Falana, Principal  
Jessie Morlan, Director of Bands  
Emme Hines, Assistant High School Band Director  
Trent Henderson, Middle School Band Director  
Becky Morlan, Auxiliary Director  
Richard Williams, Percussion Coach

The most important qualities in an award-winning band are:

1. **ATTENDANCE**- at Practice and Performance
2. **DISCIPLINE** – Team approach
3. **DEDICATION** – Finish what you started
4. **A POSITIVE ATTITUDE** – Have fun

## 2009- 2010 PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

### **\*\*Band Camp 2009 - 2010**

7:30 AM till 3:00 PM (Lunch 11:30 till 12:30 on your own)

July 23 and 24 - Auxiliary, Leadership and Drumline

July 27 thru 30 - Every one..... Pecknel will be here on July 28 for you to purchase flip folders, lyres, etc

Selected Members will play for the BOE Meeting - TBA

Aug 3,4, and 6 – Regular Rehearsal begins (Mon, Tues, and Thur 3:30 pm till 5:00 pm) 5:00 PM till 5:30 PM will be used as sectional time if needed.

### **Events – 2009 - 2010**

**\*\* Marching Band** – (See football schedule on [www.bulldogbrigade.org](http://www.bulldogbrigade.org) )

**\* Marching Band Competition** – Oct - TBA – Location pending on what competitions are available. *These events will be for the Competition Marching Band Only*

**\*GMEA District 10 - All-State Jazz Auditions: October 12 at THS**

**\*\* Christmas Concert - December 3 at 7:00 PM THS Auditorium**

**\* GMEA District 10 HS All-State / District Honor Band Auditions: December 12 at THS**

**\* UGA HS Band Jan Fest: January 21-24 at UGA**

**GMEA District 10 Jazz Auditions - Feb. 8 at Evans HS**

**\* GMEA District 10 Honor Band clinic: February 18-20 at West Acres Baptist Church, Evans**

**\*\*\* THS Band Festival - Feb 27 time TBA - Selected THS student volunteers will work the Festival all day.**

**\* GMEA HS All-State Band and Orchestra: March 4-6 in Savannah**

\*\*\* GMEA Band Festival - March 17 thru 19 (one of these dates) - Burke County HS

**Spring Trip - April 5 thru 10 – HAWAII !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

\* Jazz Band/ Percussion Ensemble/ Tri-M Concert Night - April 29 at 7:00 PM THS Auditorium

\*\* Concert Band and Symphonic Band Concert - May 6 at 7:00 PM in the THS Auditorium

THS Band Banquet - May 13

\*\*\* Graduation - May 22 at the THS Brickyard Call Time 7:15 PM

\* = Required Performance if you are a member of this group.

\*\* = Required and graded performance

\*\*\* = Required performance and counts as a double test grade

## **GOALS OF THE THOMSON HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM**

1. To provide positive musical training, quality life skills and musical skills through performance and daily instruction.
2. To offer each student in McDuffie County the opportunity to experience the musical art form through performance.
3. To teach the value of working with others, to build leadership skills and develop a sense of teamwork.
4. To teach responsibility.
5. To perform with “**Pride.**”

## **BAND RULES**

1. All policies of Thomson High School are in effect during all rehearsals, trips, and performances.
2. Smoking, drinking of alcoholic beverages, or use of illegal drugs while representing the band or school is NOT permitted.
3. Follow instructions of band directors and adjunct staff.
4. Whether you are using your instrument or a school instrument, you are required to maintain the instrument in proper playing condition. There will be inspections to monitor instrument care. **Student’s will be required to sign out instruments and return them with a contract.**
5. Uniform must be worn properly while in public. (Example: coats zipped, and no ball caps) **Student’s will be required to sign out instruments and return them with a contract.**
6. Each horn line and percussion line student will be issued a uniform at no cost to the family or student. Each student is responsible for the cleaning and care of the uniform. Students are responsible for any lost or damaged parts of their uniform.

## **RULES FOR REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES**

1. Be on time or early to rehearsals. (EARLY is on time)
2. Leaving rehearsals early (except emergency) will count as ½ an absence. Two missed rehearsals equal one absence.
3. Show proper rehearsal discipline and respect.
4. Proper shoes are to be worn in marching rehearsals. (Ask a staff member for clarification of proper footwear if you are unsure.)
5. Comfortable and proper clothing to be worn at all times.

**The normal Marching Rehearsal schedule is Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 PM till 5:00 PM. 5:00 PM till 5:30 PM will be used as sectional time if needed. This schedule is good till the end of the marching season.**

**TUTORING SCHEDULES will be worked out with the THS Administration and academic teachers to ensure that students will be able to use after school tutoring while missing the least amount of band practice as possible.**

## **FOOTBALL GAME / COMPETITION / STAND BEHAVIOR**

A. Guests (boyfriends / girlfriends) are not allowed to sit with you during the game or travel with us on the bus.

B. You must sit with your section in the stands!!!

C. Ball caps are not to be worn at or during performances.

**D. YOU SHOULD PLAN ON RIDING THE BUS TO AND FROM EVENTS.**

**(Exceptions are made for emergencies as needed) YOU CAN ONLY BE RELEASED TO YOUR PARENTS OR GUARDIAN. MR. MORLAN OR ONE OF THE STAFF MEMBERS MUST HAVE A NOTE FROM A PARENT AS WELL AS A PARENT PRESENT PICKING YOU UP. THE SCHOOL CAN NOT RELEASE RESPONSIBILITY (FOR YOUR SAFETY) TO ANYONE ELSE BUT YOUR PARENT OR GUARDIAN!!!**

NOTE: This is the most commonly asked question, "Can my child ride home with another, they are spending the night together?" The answer is **NO**. We can only release you to your parent.

## **THE THURSDAY RULE**

An excused absence from Thursday practice for any reason will require you to sit out of that week's performance. **THIS IS NOT A PUNISHMENT. A student will only be allowed to march if he or she gets prior approval of the absence and makes up the practice time before the day missed.**

Reminder- Unexcused absences can not be made up and could result in removal from the marching band. If you are asked to sit out for a performance you are still required to be at the performance.

## **A GOOD REHEARSAL**

- \* You are on time and ready to rehearse
- \* You pay attention and take notes of instructions
- \* You have a positive attitude and try what you are asked to do
- \* You do not cause a behavior problem
- \* When rehearsal is over go home and practice

## **EQUIPMENT**

1. Do not damage school property or instruments. Do not use other student's instrument. (Willful damage of band or personally owned equipment is grounds for automatic dismissal from the band.)
2. All rules of common sense apply!
3. Load and unload your own equipment. Percussionist, Sousaphones, Baritones must remain after a performance to load their equipment.

## **TRAVELING AND BUS RULES**

1. All McDuffie County bus and transportation rules apply to band trips.
2. You must follow all chaperone instructions at all times.
3. You may only ride on the bus you are assigned.
4. The bus must be clean before the group is dismissed. Bus Captains may assign clean up crews.
5. Roll is to be taken before we depart and return from our trip destination.
6. All medical and release forms must be read, signed, understood and turned in before you can go on a trip.
7. Keep talking to a minimum level when on the buses. Please do not yell or scream.
8. Be courteous of your band mates around you.

## **THE BANDROOM RULES**

**IF YOU USE IT.....PUT IT UP!**

**IF YOU MESS IT UP.....CLEAN IT UP!**

**IF YOU DAMAGE IT.....YOU'RE GONE!**

## **BAND GRADING**

**Band is co-curricular. All rehearsals and performances are required and figured as a major part of your band grade. Band performances are a direct outgrowth of materials learned during the band class.**

STUDENTS WILL BE GRADED IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

(Directors will explain in detail at the first rehearsal)

1. Daily grade based on your class participation or lack of participation
2. Playing grades or passing off music. Marching music will be passed off for a **director or section leader**.

3. Concerts, concert festivals, competitions, graduation performance and ball games count as major test grades. Major test grades will make up 40% of your band grade. A student missing a performance with an excused reason will be allowed to make up that grade with **ONE** hour of practice. This practice time will be in the mornings before school and/or on Wednesday afternoons.

A student missing a rehearsal with an excused reason will be allowed to make up the rehearsal time with practice equaling the time missed at practice.

NOTE: All make up practices are due within **one week** of the absence. Make up practices will not be accepted late unless special arrangements or exception is granted.

A student missing a performance with an **UNEXCUSED** reason will not be allowed to make up the performance and will receive other disciplinary action. **UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM A PERFORMANCE IS JUSTIFICATION FOR REMOVAL FROM A PERFORMANCE BAND AND A SIGNIFICANTLY LOWERED GRADE.**

THREE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM REHEARSALS IS JUSTIFICATION FOR REMOVAL FROM THE PERFORMANCE BAND AND A LOWERED GRADE. PART OF YOUR WEEKLY GRADE IS YOUR ATTENDANCE AT OUTSIDE REHEARSALS (MOSTLY MARCHING SEASON). EXAMPLE: REHEARSALS, MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND FRIDAY PERFORMANCE. BEFORE THE GAME = TOTAL OF 100 POINTS. SO, IF YOU ATTEND ALL REHEARSALS YOU RECEIVE A 100. IF YOU ARE ABSENT FROM ONE, YOU RECEIVE A 75 FOR THAT PORTION OF YOUR GRADE.

### **WHAT IS AN EXCUSED ABSENCE?**

1. A medical emergency.
  2. A death in the family.
  3. An extreme family emergency.
  4. A family member getting married / prior notification well in advanced needed
- (All excused absences require written documentation)**

### **WHAT IS AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE?**

1. Work or jobs are not excused
2. Personal appointments (hair cut, etc.)
3. Vacation
4. Forgot

The above reasons are not all of the possibilities. If you need more information, ask before the crisis or absence.

## **BAND COUNCIL**

The band council is the governing body of the band and is comprised of officers both appointed and elected. This group will meet, discuss, and work on band issues. Issues dealt with are both fun and work related.

## **CHAIN OF COMMAND**

1. Section Leader
2. Band Captain
3. Band Vice President
4. Band President
5. Drum Major
6. Director / Staff
7. Principal
8. Superintendent

Please follow the chain of command when a problem arises.

## **OFFICER SELECTION**

1. Students will nominate themselves with an open letter to the band.
2. Students will rank the nominated students in a confidential vote.
3. Directors may need to interview students.
4. Students will audition or submit a playing test.
5. A combination of student vote, audition or tryout, and Director's recommendation will be used to select officers. Officers may be relieved of duty by the Director of Bands at anytime if needed.

## **PERFORMANCE GROUPS**

Students enrolled in the band program are expected to participate in both concert and marching bands. Exceptions are THS football players, THS cheerleaders, THS Softball players, THS Competition ROTC Drill Team and anyone with a handicap or severe health problem (must have a doctor's note). Auxiliary members are part of the band and satisfy the marching requirement.

### **Performance groups are:**

Marching band, Percussion Ensemble

Symphonic band, Advanced band, Honors Ensemble, Brass/Woodwind Ensemble, Jazz ensemble, and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert Band.

### **Intermediate Band Status:**

Students are allowed to be in the Band Program and not be a part of the Marching Band. These students will be considered as INTERMEDIATE STATUS and will only be allowed to participate in the school Christmas Concert, Local Concert Festival, Spring Concert and Graduation. . INTERMEDIATE STATUS Band students will participate in Band Classes during the regular school day and receive grades for the scheduled classes. INTERMEDIATE STATUS band students are not allowed to participate in the top performing ensemble classes or travel with the band – this includes the Spring Trip. Students in top performing classes will be required to perform in after school events, GMEA events, etc.

### **AUXILIARY GROUPS**

Auxiliary members are selected from the band membership through a separate tryout procedure. The rules of the band apply to all auxiliary groups as well. Auxiliary info can be found on the band webpage under the Aux section.

### **DISCIPLINE**

Discipline is necessary to insure a smooth running band leading to superior performances. The rules have been set up to help this happen. No student will be allowed to continue in the band if he/she continues to disrupt, disrespect, or destroy any part of the band rehearsal or equipment.

**YOU WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE BAND FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

1. Destruction of equipment
2. Smoking, illegal drugs, or alcohol while participating or representing the band
3. Attendance problems at rehearsals or performances
4. Unexcused absence from performances
5. Disrespect or inappropriate attitude or actions toward a staff member

**A DETAIL OF PERFORMANCES AND A CALENDAR SCHEDULE WILL BE GIVEN OUT ALONG WITH THIS HANDBOOK.**

### **MERIT POLICY:**

Every student needs 10 merits to go on the main yearly band trip. This merit system is designed to increase student and family participation in the band. Its purpose is not intended to be a means of earning excessive amounts of money from the band. Any money given by the Band Booster club is done so as a token of appreciation for donated time towards the support needed to run the entire Band Program.

The merit policy will be given out at the beginning of the school year. The booster club needs to vote on the policy first.

Note: For booster fundraising and merit-earning activities, “family member” is considered to include actual and step-parents/guardians, siblings and grandparents. The Booster Club Board of Directors can, on a case-by-case basis, approve fundraiser activity

merits for extended family member participation.

## **NOTE TO CHAPERONES**

When chaperoning a band trip you will be expected to:

1. Help monitor students on the bus (guidelines will be provided)
2. Help with moving and traveling logistics
3. Help with loading and unloading
4. Other tasks appointed by the director

## **COMPETITION MARCHING BAND, MARCHING DRUM LINE and AUXILIARY CORPS:**

Students that are involved in any extra curricular activities that conflict with Marching band will be ineligible for these units. Auditions will be held during band camp to select students of this group. Students selected for the competition group must demonstrate the ability to be among the best at Marching, Playing their instrument and able to dedicate their extra time to the group. Auditions for Aux units will be selected prior to camp.

Example - If you plan on playing softball, running cross country, competition drama or participating in any school activity that has a regular conflict with marching rehearsal, you will not be eligible to be in these groups. Students that do not qualify for these groups will be considered alternates for the Marching competition Group as Brass or Woodwind players and will make up the Football Marching group.

## **FOOTBALL MARCHING BAND and Alternate PERCUSSION PIT:**

This group will contain all members of the band that are not playing football, part of the cheerleading squad or not in the COMPETITION Group. Every band member is given a chance to march and be in the football half time show.

Special note - We will alternate shows during the games at the Director's discretion. When the Competition Marching Band marches, the alternates will help out as directed by the staff.

**SYMPHONIC BAND and HONORS ENSEMBLE** – This is the top ensemble in the McDuffie County Band Program. All members must try out for the District 10 Honor Band. The audition material will be covered in class. More info on the audition will be given at a later time. The time of the audition is already printed in the performance dates above. Audition materials will be the same as regular class requirements.

## **TRI M Honor Music Group:**

Members will be selected at the beginning of each school year. Members must be able to perform all major scales and be prepared to perform a solo or ensemble recital piece for a live audience.

**Spring Trip 2009- 2010**

- 1. All students participating must pay or fundraise their way in order to go**
- 2. All students participating must earn 10 band merits.**
- 3. All students participating must be in good standing with THS and the Band program.**
- 4. If students become ineligible for the trip after payments are made by the boosters, a refund will not be possible. The student can repay the parent thru their own means.**

PLEASE KEEP THIS HANDBOOK FOR REFERENCE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR.

Please print out the next three forms and turn them in on the first day of Band Camp with your \$50 Band Camp Fee.

***Responsibility Band Handbook Form***

I HAVE READ THE POLICIES AND RULES OF THE THOMSON BAND PROGRAM.

I / WE AGREE TO FOLLOW AND ABIDE BY ALL RULES AND POLICIES STATED IN THE BAND HANDBOOK.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN

Print Parent/ Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE)

Print Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(STUDENT SIGNATURE)

MEDICAL INFORMATION: Please print or type ( For quick reference)

LIST MEDICATION ALLERGIES:

LIST ANY MEDICAL CONDITION WE MAY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT:

**MEDICAL RELEASE:**

I \_\_\_\_\_ GIVE *JESSIE MORLAN*,  
( PARENT OR GUARDIAN)  
DIRECTOR OF BANDS, OR HIS DESIGNATED AGENT PERMISSION TO ACT ON  
MY BEHALF IN THE CASE OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY. MY CHILD IS

\_\_\_\_\_  
( CHILD NAME )

EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSONS:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Please Print  
Parent /Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone:

Home \_\_\_\_\_

Work \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE)

**Notary:**

## **GENERAL STUDENT INFORMATION:**

Please Print  
Student Name:

Last \_\_\_\_\_

First \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

Please Print  
Parent /Guardian Names:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Marching Instrument / Auxiliary Group:

Secondary Instrument:

Grade for 2006-2007:

Please Print neatly

Student Email:

Parent Email: