

# Boyertown Junior High Schools Band and Marching Unit Handbook 2016/2017

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## Marching Unit

The Boyertown Junior High School East/West Marching Unit is an integral part of the Instrumental Music Program at the junior high schools. The Marching Unit regularly participates in the Boyertown Annual Cavalcade in September and will perform for the community as a Marching Unit at a number of other events during the school year. These include two Halloween Parades in October (Bally and Boyertown) as well as our community's dedication to our veterans, the Memorial Day Parade and service (May).

Due to the fact that an organization like this exists, we find it necessary to give whatever time and energy is required to create a performance that is well prepared and entertaining. In order to be prepared for the Fall marching season of each year, it requires the staff to begin preparation during the Spring and Summer of the year before. Each of the Marching Unit's members is expected to put forth their best effort to make this organization as successful as possible. In order to properly prepare a Marching Unit, members must be committed to begin preparation annually during the month of August. With this in mind, what follows is a general schedule that is followed from year to year.

## Practices

### Summer Schedule

Band – Optional Summer Music Program consisting of lessons and ensemble rehearsals. Schedule changes on a year to year basis.

Color Guard – Same as Band.

Uniforms – To be distributed during the first two weeks of school.

Shoes and Gloves - Fitting done during uniform fitting. Gloves always available for \$2.

### Fall Season

Weekly – The Marching Unit will rehearse Tues. and Thurs. from 3:00-4:30pm. (see monthly calendars for specifics) Rehearsals will include both music and marching preparations.

Concert Band – The Concert Band will begin rehearsing in late October. Brass, Woodwind, and Percussion sections may rehearse on different days. (See monthly calendar for times and dates).

Color Guard – Will rehearse with Marching Unit up until the completion of all Halloween parades. Rehearsals may be added at the discretion of the director.

# *Marching Unit*

## 1) General Rules/Information

- a. ATHLETES – Students participating in both sports and band in the fall have an option as to their marching band participation. Students may elect to split the time between the two activities (almost all students do this), or students may opt to participate only in the sport. The students must communicate their decision to the band director at the beginning of the year so the director can plan accordingly.

b. EXCUSED ABSENCES

1. Family *Emergency*
2. Illness
3. *Emergency* Doctor Appointments
4. Absent from School

Directors are understanding of emergency and urgent situations, but please let the director know in writing about missed rehearsals so that his/her grade will not be negatively affected.

**Home-schooled Marching Unit Members** are also asked to submit excuse forms. Please telephone the director's office if a rehearsal will be missed.

Junior High East Music Dept. Office –

Mr. Michael Agatone – (610) 473-3964

[magatone@boyertownasd.org](mailto:magatone@boyertownasd.org)

Junior High West Music Dept. Office –

Mr. Michael Jordan - (610) 473-3749

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- c. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES – Those reasons not listed in the previous page will be recorded as Unexcused Absences. Some reasons that have been given in the past but are unacceptable include the following: work (job), meetings, homework, parties, lab classes, etc. If you are unsure whether or not your reason is Excused or Unexcused, please contact the Unit Director.

Unexcused Absences will be discussed in the section of this handbook entitled Grading Procedures.

- d. LATE ARRIVALS – To determine whether a student is recorded as Unexcused or Excused, please refer to criteria stated under C.
- e. EARLY DEPARTURES – Notification must be given to the director in writing before the rehearsal or performance.
- f. TRANSPORTATION – It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to pick up or arrange for transportation for their son/daughter **promptly** when practice has concluded or when the Unit has returned from a performance or trip.

For any performances not held at the junior high school, students will be given an estimated time of return during the week preceding the performance. Either the Director or one of the Advisors will remain at the school until all students have been picked up.

Parents are expected to pick up their children promptly at the conclusion of a rehearsal or performance. If this presents a difficulty, arrangements should be made in advance.

- g. EQUIPMENT – All students are expected to use the same standard of care with all band equipment as would be used toward their own valuable property. District-owned instruments in need of repair or damaged within the normal course of Unit functions will be the responsibility of the District. However, students will be held responsible for misuse of their instrument. It is the responsibility of every member of the Marching Unit to make sure that equipment is secured at the close of the rehearsal. This includes all instruments, music, lyres, yard markers, etc.

The band room is to be kept in an orderly manner. All equipment is to be placed in proper storage areas until the next time it is needed. This includes instruments being placed in instrumental lockers, marching music stored with instruments, flags, rifles, and batons returned to proper storage areas, all trash put in trash cans, and, most importantly, all uniforms are to be worn home after each performance and hung properly so that they are able to dry and do not become wrinkled. Remember that the Band Room is a shared space, so we need to do our part to keep it neat and clean.

# *Care and Repair of Instruments & Equipment*

Each band member is expected to follow a consistent schedule of maintenance for his/her instrument and equipment. There will be case and instrument inspections periodically throughout the year. In order for an instrument to function properly, it must be cared for and properly maintained. An instrument that does not function the way it was originally designed affects the performance of the student and therefore, the overall performance of the Band.

Instrument Inspection: (periodically throughout the year)

- a. Instruments must be clean, shined, and free of dust, dirt and debris.
- b. All moving parts must be in working order
  - a. Valves
  - b. Slides
  - c. Key mechanisms
  - d. Tenon corks greased
- c. Mouthpieces clean. Brass shanks round. Woodwinds free of dried saliva.
- d. Reeds (*wooden, not plastic*) must be in good condition, and free of lipstick, etc.
- e. Lyres must be securely attached to instrument when in use.
- f. Percussionists:
  - a. Cymbals polished
  - b. Shells of drums are to be shined
  - c. All hardware cleaned and shined
  - d. Collars on bass drums are to be painted
  - e. Concert percussion is to remain free of dust, tuned, and stored properly
  - f. Mallets matched – Please do not touch felt heads of timpani mallets.

## **School-Owned Instruments**

Students using school-owned instruments must take care of the instrument as if they had purchased them with their own money. These instruments are costly to maintain. Any repairs due to carelessness and misuse will be the responsibility of the student using the instrument. All students are encouraged to purchase their own instrument when possible. The school district only provides “color” instruments that add a greater range of colors to the band.

## **Percussion Equipment**

Major percussion equipment is supplied by the school district. The percussion section leader is responsible for the maintenance of the percussion equipment. All equipment is to be stored properly in their cases, cabinets, and closets following each rehearsal. This includes mallets, beaters, snare drums, marching drums, cymbals, traps, and any auxiliary equipment. All concert equipment is to be covered when not in use.

*Policies for use of percussion instruments:*

- a. Only percussionists may use percussion instruments.
- b. Covers are to be on instruments when not in use.
- c. Keyboards and timpani tops clear.
- d. Use the proper mallets/sticks on the correct instruments.
- e. Do not lay snare drums on the floor.
- f. Concert Snare Drums are to be placed in the drum closet at the end of rehearsals

- g. Instruments not commonly used should remain stored in drawer of cabinet.

## **Suggested Periodic Maintenance Schedule**

### *Daily*

- Check condition of reeds
- Check valves, lubricate when necessary
- Wipe outside with soft cloth
- Woodwinds swab out instrument and mouthpiece following each playing session

### *Weekly*

- Clean valves with soft cloth and lubricate
- Clean mouthpieces thoroughly with brush, soap, and warm water
- Clean key mechanisms for dust and fuzz
- Check for loose screws
- Check case latches and handles
- Break in new reeds as necessary

### *Monthly*

- Give horn a bath. Brass should use water. Woodwinds use cloth and Q-Tips.
- Lubricate slides
- Vacuum inside of case

### *Semi-Annually*

- Visit repair shop for cleaning, adjustments, and inspection.

## **Chairs and Stands**

Always return chairs and stands to their proper place if they are moved. Keep stands free of markings.

## **Instrument Storage**

Every member has a shelf available for his/her instrument. Please store your instrument in one of the closets for the safety of your instrument and the other students. Music folders are to be stored in the folder slots.

## **Marching Music/Folder**

At the beginning of the season, each Band member will receive a flip folder and music for the season. Each member is responsible for his/her flip folder and the music in it. You will receive, and later return, one copy of each piece of music. You are responsible to have your own music and lyre at every rehearsal, and performance. Any flip folder and/or music that are not returned must be replaced.

## **Concert Band Music/Folder**

Each Band member will be assigned a Concert Folder and a slot number. All members will have their own folder, slot, number, and music. Music and *other important information* will be distributed by placing it in the slots. You are responsible for all music and folders distributed

to you. All materials will be collected at the end of the year, or replaced, at the student's expense:

*Concert Folder: No charge*  
*Individual parts: TBD*  
*Warm-Up Books: Varied, depending on cost of replacement book*

- h. ATTITUDE/BEHAVIOR – Parents share the responsibility for students' promptness at all required functions. For our organization to function effectively, parents also need to stress the importance of following the rules and regulations of any organization and agree to reinforce the disciplinary measures listed below. Students who do not act responsibly will be presented with the following consequences:
- a. First Incident – Student will be reprimanded at the time of the offense and will meet with the Unit Director afterwards to discuss students' behavior as well as what is expected appropriate behavior
  - b. Second Incident – Student will be reprimanded at the time of the offense and parents will receive notification via telephone, e-mail, or letter.
  - c. Third Incident – Student will be reprimanded at the time of the offense and parents will be telephoned to schedule a meeting with parents and student.
  - d. Fourth Incident – Student may be dismissed from the Marching Unit for the remainder of the season. This decision will be left to the discretion of the Unit Director.

These actions for the Third and Fourth Incidents will be decided in coordination with the Assistant Principal and / or Head Principal at each respective school. Remember that all rules listed in the Boyertown Junior High School Handbook are applicable to band rehearsals both during and after school.

## **B. UNIFORM CARE & WEAR**

Each band and color guard member is responsible for his/her uniform. Upon receiving their uniform all students had their uniform numbers recorded and received a Uniform Policy page and are responsible to return the *same* uniform at the end of the school year. All uniforms are identified with numbers on the pants, jumpers, coats, hats, and sashes.

**BAND MEMBERS** receive the following: 1) Wool jacket; 2) wool pants; 3) sash; 4) hat and plume.

**COLOR GUARD MEMBERS** receive a color guard uniform.

### **1. WOOL UNIFORM**

- a. Unit members are responsible for keeping their uniforms clean throughout the entire year. Dry-cleaning is the only proper method for cleaning Marching Unit uniforms.
- b. Parents and Guardians are responsible for checking the length of the pants, jumpers, and coats and to adjust appropriately when necessary.
- c. Students are responsible for all buttons on their uniforms. The Unit Director has buttons available upon request to replace missing buttons.

- d. Students are responsible for any damage to the uniform that is a result of irresponsible behavior.
- e. All uniforms are to be returned to the school no later than the first Wednesday in June. Uniforms must be dry-cleaned after the last performance (Memorial Day parade) and must remain in their plastic covering provided by the dry-cleaner.
- f. Home dry-cleaning kits are not an acceptable method of cleaning. \*

2. SHOES

- a. Beginning with each incoming 7<sup>th</sup>-grade class, each band member will wear the same style black shoe. Students will be fitted for shoes at the same time they are fitted for a uniform. Cost of the shoes is approximately \$33.00 but will be determined on a yearly basis.

3. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- a. HATS – Band Members will be directed to choose a hat that fits and to take it home with them. They must be kept clean and outfitted with a clean and “healthy” plume. Plumes are available from the Band Director upon request. The same hat is to be returned in June with the rest of the uniform.
- b. SHOES AND GLOVES – A shoe order will be taken at the beginning of the year after all students have been fitted. White gloves are available from the Director. Color guard members need to purchase a plain white sneaker (KEDS style) to wear with their uniform. These shoes and gloves are to be kept clean for all inspections and performances.
- c. SOCKS – Band members must wear black socks (not dark blue) whenever in uniform. All Color Guard members will wear white anklets socks.
- d. WHITE SHIRT- Band students should wear a WHITE shirt underneath their band jacket.
- e. STOCKINGS – Color Guard members wear stockings that match the color of their skin (“nude” color is strongly recommended). Members wear stockings only when it is very cold and when permitted by the Advisors.
- f. HAIR – Students’ hair is not to touch the collar of their uniform. Band members are to have their hair “up” in their hat. Band Front members are to have their “up” in one Black or Red “scrunchy”. Long bangs must also be pulled back.
- g. JEWELRY – Jewelry, including earrings, watches, necklaces, rings, and bracelets is not to be worn with the uniform. The one exception is the majorette who is permitted to wear stud-style earrings.
- h. “BLOOMERS” – Band Front members must wear black bloomers under their uniform.

4. PERFORMANCES

- a. All students are to report to school in partial uniform (excluding hats, coats, and sashes).
- b. INSPECTION: AWAY EVENTS – Permission may be granted to remove gloves, hats, and/or coats. Students are to remain in full uniform until instruction is given by either of the Unit Directors. These items are to remain in the laps of their owners.
- c. INSPECTION: HOME EVENTS – Students are to remain in full uniform until after performance. At this time, permission will be granted by the Director to remove specific articles of the uniform.
- d. Marching Unit members are to remain in Full Uniform at performance events.

# *Marching Unit*

## **BOYERTOWN JUNIOR HIGH MARCHING UNIT**

### **Uniform Policy**

Students are responsible for wearing the Marching Unit uniform with pride.

- 1) Students are to wear a uniform that has been pressed and free of wrinkles.
  - a. Band members are to wear their uniform pants so that the crease in the front and the stripe on the side remain straight. The pants should come to the top of the shoe, touching it.
- 2) A regular WHITE shirt should be worn under the back jacket. This may be covered by a sweatshirt or turtleneck in cold weather. T-shirts should be tucked into their pants.
- 3) Students are to wear BLACK socks with clean black shoes.
- 4) When students change out of their uniforms, they are to do so completely. For example, students may not change to “street” clothes and then wear their uniform coat for additional warmth. They should be prepared with appropriate, non-uniform attire.
- 5) Baseball-style hats are not to be worn with uniforms.
- 6) Wind instrument players wear clean, white gloves. Clarinet players may cut off the glove fingertips at the first knuckle.
- 7) All types of jewelry (including wristwatches), fingernail polish, and make-up are not part of the uniform. Please remember to leave jewelry at home.
- 8) Color Guard members are to wear unmarked, clean, white sneakers as part of their uniform. They will also need to purchase a long-sleeved white turtleneck and black tights for under the skirt / jumper.
- 9) All uniforms must be dry-cleaned and returned to the Unit Director by Monday, June 5th in order for students to receive their report cards. This includes all band and color guard uniforms from all members regardless of grade.
  - a. The protective plastic from the dry-cleaner should remain on the uniform and it should be labeled with the member’s name. Hatboxes should also be labeled.



# Concert Band

The Boyertown Junior High School East and West Concert Bands are another important part of the Music Program in the junior high schools. The Concert Bands, along with the Boyertown Junior High School East and West Choirs and Orchestra, provide an annual Concert Series for family and friends of members in these organizations. These Concerts are open to the general public.

The Series includes the annual Christmas / Holiday Concerts featuring traditional Holiday music with which we are all familiar. Many of the “old” Holiday classics are usually featured in some creative manner. Each school’s annual Spring Concert completes the second half of the Series and is usually held in April. These concerts feature many different styles of music ranging from “serious” music to the Classical composers to marches, solos, TV / Movie theme music and contemporary “programmatic” music – music that has a story to tell. The Spring Concerts also feature a performance by the full Marching Unit, including the Color Guard, as well as the combined East & West Jazz Ensemble.

Preparation for these Concerts begins in Late September and continues through April. Most of the preparation time is during the school day when the full Concert Band rehearses and small Group Lessons work through the more difficult aspects of the music. Group Lessons Attendance is required and is included in the grading process as well as is any practicing homework or testing that is assigned during these lessons. Absences from Lessons, Excused or Unexcused, can be “made up” during the week during at other times during the school day (i.e. study hall) and after school by appointment.

Please check calendars for extra rehearsals immediately preceding a concert. The dress rehearsal held before the concert is an extremely important final run-through of the concert, so please mark it into your calendar and your assignment book.

# Concert Band

## Grading Procedures

Members of the Junior High East and West Bands will be graded on a numerical system. This numerical grading system enables the Director to grade the band students on an objective basis. This system will be reviewed each year and revised as necessary. If you have any questions about your child’s individual circumstances, please feel free to contact the Director.

### **Class Attendance (9<sup>th</sup> Period)**

Students will receive points based upon promptness, and their preparation for class. 10 points are awarded for each class attended. 4pts are deducted for not having an instrument, 3 pts for not having music, and / or 2pts for not having a pencil on the music stand during class.

### **Instrumental Lessons**

Based upon your child’s schedule, they will be scheduled for instrumental lessons during the school day. Students will need to be scheduled on a “rotating” schedule. This means that they will have their lesson during different days of the cycle, and / or different periods during the day so as not to miss the same class more than a couple of times during each marking quarter. Playing tests may consist of memorized marching music, scales, concert band music, and technical exercises. A student may “make up” a missed test after school by scheduling an appointment with the Director.

Grading for Lesson Attendance is as follows:

Students will receive 30 points for each lesson attended.

Playing Tests = points will vary depending on each test given

### **Rehearsals**

In-school Rehearsal = 10 points (No instrument = -4, No music = -3, No pencil = -2)  
Sectionals (marching or concert) = 30 points (No instrument = -12, No music = -9, No pencil = -6)  
Dress Rehearsals (2, annually) = 75 points (No instrument = -30, No music = -23, No pencil = -15)

### **Marching Rehearsals and Performances**

Marching rehearsals are held once or twice a week during the fall season. Members of the marching unit are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Students participating in athletics should split their time between their sport and band at the discretion of their director.

### **Performances**

Assemblies (pep rallies, end-of-year assemblies, etc) = 50 points  
Winter Concert = 100 points  
Spring Concert = 100 points

### **Absences – Un-Excused / Excused: Tardiness**

- 1) Rehearsal schedules are published and distributed at least one week prior to the beginning of each month. The sequence / pattern of these rehearsals remains consistent throughout the year. Doctor, dentist, and orthodontist appointments should be scheduled around these rehearsals.
- 2) Excused Absence – an Excuse Form or written notice has been submitted to the Director in advance, or within 2 days after the event in case of emergency. An “Excused Absence” consists of a child’s illness or a family emergency. If your child is absent from school on the day of a rehearsal or performance, they are considered “excused” from those events.
- 3) Un-Excused Absence – a student misses an event without submitting an Excuse Form prior to the event or, in the event of an emergency, does not submit one within the 2-day grace period. Un-Excused Absences will result in the student losing all of the points assigned to that event.
- 4) Students arriving late to Rehearsals or Performances (or leaving early) may have 10 points deducted from their total. This decision will be left to the Director’s discretion.

### **Extra Credit**

Students may receive extra-credit points by doing the following:

- 1) Jr. County Auditions = 50 points; Students must receive permission from director and be thoroughly prepared for the audition
- 2) Inter-County Band = 50 points; Students are chosen to participate in this activity. Points are awarded for full participation only. Event occurs in January.
- 3) Concert Attendance = 25 points possible; Students must receive permission initially for a concert event, then must write a one-page review of concert and provide ticket stub / program.
- 4) Scales = 10 points each; Students may perform any of the major scales above and beyond the requirements for the audition.
- 5) Assigned Music = 15 points each; Students may schedule an appointment with Director to perform any of the assigned Concert Band music.

**A. CONCERT BAND – THE CLASS**

Concert Band, the class, is held during the 9<sup>th</sup> Period of Days 1, 3, and 5 at JH East, and Days 2, 4, 6 at JH West. Students must be prepared for class with their instruments, music, pencil, and a *cooperative attitude*. Points will be deducted for not being prepared for class. 2 points will be deducted for not having a pencil, 3 points for not having music, and 4 points for not having an instrument.

**B. INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS**

Schedules will be created and distributed in mid-September. Students will be scheduled on a rotating basis depending on the schedule of the Director. Absences will be excused for reviews, tests, academic difficulty, and labs. Students are required to ask their classroom teacher to call or e-mail the Director if they will be forced to miss a lesson. All absences must be made up at other times during the week. All playing tests must be made-up as they are a significant portion of the students' grade.

**C. REHEARSALS**

Monthly Calendars are prepared and distributed at least one week prior to the beginning of a new month. Please be sure to ask your children to see them every month. This is the most comprehensive method of communicating with parents. After-school rehearsals for the marching season will be scheduled once per week for September and October. Sectionals during Concert Band will be scheduled on an as-needed basis.

**D. HOMEWORK / PRACTICING**

According to the United States Secretary of Education, Music is considered an academic subject in a student's education. As in any other academic class, there is Homework involved with Concert Band, the class. This includes **daily practice**, reviewing concert music, improving technical skills by regular work on scales and any other exercises assigned by the Director. The concert music and various other musical assignments will be tested at different times throughout each marking period. *Remember – music is a completely new language to you. Not only do you need to know how to “speak” the language, you have to learn how to play an instrument in order to properly communicate in this language. To be a successful communicator of the music language, a commitment of time and hard work is required. If you are not spending at least thirty (30) minutes practicing each day (at least 5 days a week), your progress will be extremely slow, leading to frustration and a lack of enjoyment.*

**E. Concert Attendance**

Holiday Concerts and Spring Concerts are mandatory. For Concert Band, these are your “final exams.” The **Memorial Day Parade** is a mandatory performance. The date is **Monday, May 29th, 2017.**

**F. CONCERT ATTIRE – (Subject to Change)**

Holiday Concert	-	Guys: Dress pants, Collared shirt, Tie, shoes. No jeans or sneakers.
Spring Concert	-	Girls: Dress or Skirt and Blouse, Stockings, Dress Shoes Full Marching Band Uniform (no hats or gloves for band)

# Concert Band

## Boyertown Junior High East / West

### Concert Band Playing Tests

<u>Sections of Judging</u>	<u>Points</u>
Scales or Rudiments	20
Sight Reading	15
Rhythm	10
Intonation (how well you play in tune across the range of your instrument)	10
Technique (correct notes, fingerings)	10
Articulation (tonguing, slurring, staccato, legato, etc)	10
Dynamics	10
Tone (do you have the proper sound for your instrument)	10
Interpretation (are you playing in the style, feeling intended by the composer)	5

- All Major scales are to be tongued with quarter note on bottom and top and eighth notes in between. *Scales played 2 or more octaves must have quarter notes at the beginning of each new octave.*

9<sup>th</sup> Grade – Both Requested scales should be played (2) octaves (when possible).

8<sup>th</sup> Grade – At least one of requested scales must be 2 octaves.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Both requested scales must be played at least one octave.

- All Chromatic scales are to be slurred and played with straight eighth notes.

The following instruments are responsible for knowing the following scales (and their key signatures) by memory:

FLUTE -	C Major (2), F Major (2), Bb Major, Eb Major (2), Ab Major, G Major (2), D Major (2); Chrom. G-G (2)
OBOE -	C Major (2), F Major, bb Major, Ab Major, G Major, D Major; Chrom. C-C (2)
CLARINET -	C Major (2), F Major (2), Bb Major (2), Eb Major (2), G Major (2), D Major (2), A Major (2); Chrom. C-C (2)
BASS CLAR -	C Major, F Major (2), Bb Major, Eb Major, G Major (2), D Major, A Major, Chrom. G-G (2)
SAX -	C Major (2), F Major (2), Bb Major (2), Eb Major (2), G Major, D Major (2), A Major; Chrom. C-C (2)
TRUMPET -	C Major, F Major, Bb Major, Eb Major, G Major (2), D Major, A Major, Chrom. G-G (2)
FR. HORN -	C Major, F Major, Bb Major, Eb Major, G Major (2), D Major, Chrom. G-G (2)
TROMBONE -	C Major, F Major (2), Bb Major, Eb Major, Ab Major, Db Major, G Major; Chrom. F-F (2)
BARITONE -	Same as trombone
TUBA -	C Major, F Major, Bb Major, Eb Major, G Major, D Major; Chrom. Bb-Bb (1)

**Percussionists** are responsible for knowing the following rudiments of drumming, starting with alternate hands:

Single-Stroke Roll	7-stroke roll	Flam Tap (alternating)	Ratamacue
Long Roll	9-stroke roll	Flamacue	Ruff
5-stroke roll	Flam (alternating)	Paradiddle	

# Boyertown Junior High Schools Band and Marching Unit Handbook

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## *Jazz Ensemble*

The Boyertown Junior High East / West Jazz Ensemble is a select ensemble composed of the best performers of the standard Jazz Ensemble instruments from the two Junior High Schools. Instrumentation will vary from year to year depending upon the music to be played by the Jazz Ensemble. The Jazz Ensemble performs at the Spring Concert, local events, and a number of one-day festivals and competitions. Students from within the two Junior High Schools will be invited to audition for this group. The best players available are selected. Students do not need to participate in band to audition for this group. We always need guitar, bass, piano, and drummers to audition.

Audition music will be distributed in October. Auditions normally occur during the first week of November. More information will be distributed as the audition approaches.

### A. REHEARSALS

Rehearsals will be held on Thursdays directly after school with specific times to be announced. They will be held in the West band room. As this is an elite performing group, ensemble members are required to make a **strong** commitment to this group. **Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances.** Members participating in athletics need to make Jazz Ensemble their first priority.

### B. PRACTICING

Due to the “elite” nature of this ensemble, members are expected to practice above and beyond the normal 30 minutes per day 5 days per week. Since the group rehearses once per week, it is vital that all students prepare their music as if each rehearsal is a performance. In a Jazz Ensemble it is usually one person to a part, so it is important that each person plays their part.

### C. PERFORMANCES

There will be at least two (2) performances for the Jazz Ensemble. These will take place during the Spring Concert, and during one or more Jazz Festivals during March or April. Other performance opportunities rely on the quality of the music preparation.

### D. UNIFORMS

All members are required to purchase a pair of black pants. An example will be shown to the group at the first rehearsal. Members will be also required to provide half of the cost of the jazz ensemble shirts that are purchased. Members are to also wear black shoes and black socks.

# General Information

2016-2017

## Boyertown Junior High Schools Marching Unit / Band Performance / Special Rehearsal Schedule

### Field Show Exhibition

Boyertown Cavalcade of Bands at **BASH** Saturday, Sept. 24 Times TBA

### Halloween Parades

Bally Tuesday, October 18 Times TBA

Boyertown Saturday, October 22 Times TBA

### Concerts / Dress Rehearsals

Holiday Concert: **JH East** *Dress Rehearsal* *Time and date TBA*  
Concert Friday December 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm

**JH West** *Dress rehearsal* *Time and date TBA*  
Concert Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm

Chicken Dinner **East/West** Concert Saturday, March 4 TBD

Spring Concert : **JH East** *Dress Rehearsal* *Time and Date TBA*  
Concert Friday, May 5 7:00pm

**JH West** *Dress Rehearsal* *Time and Date TBA*  
Concert Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm

### Memorial Day Parade

**Memorial Day Parade / Service** **Monday, May 29th, 2017** **Morning Times TBA**

#### Note to all Marching Unit Members:

Uniforms must be dry-cleaned and returned **On or Before** Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup> 2017. Dry-cleaning receipts and plastic wrap (with name clearly printed) are required when returning uniforms. Uniforms and hat boxes should be clearly labeled with student's name. Black drumline shirts are school property and must also be returned.

# *General Information*

There are a number of performance opportunities available to students outside of the school-run ensembles. The following ensembles are available to students that demonstrate the consistent practice and focus that is needed to attain a high level of musicianship on their instrument. Ask your director for information concerning each ensemble.

**A. INTER-COUNTY JAZZ BAND**

Inter-County Jazz Band is an ensemble for which students must audition. Students from Boyertown's two junior high schools will compete against students from eight other middle or junior high schools – Pottsgrove MS, Pottstown MS, Phoenixville MS, Perkiomen Valley MS, Arcola Intermediate School, Owen J. Roberts MS, and Upper Perkiomen MS. Students will receive audition music prior to the auditions and must prepare the music to the best of their abilities. Transportation is normally provided for the auditions unless *except when those auditions are held at either of Boyertown's junior high schools, Pottsgrove MS, or Pottstown MS*. When auditions are held at these schools, students are expected to provide their own transportation. This group rehearses on a regular basis from November through the end of January. Rehearsal schedules will be distributed on the evening of the auditions when the auditioned Jazz band members are announced.

**B. INTER-COUNTY BAND**

Inter-County Band is an ensemble featuring many of the best players from each of the above-mentioned schools. Members are chosen by their directors based on their playing ability, musicianship, attitude & behavior (good representatives of each band program), and grade-level. Each director will attend the Director's Meeting in November with a list of students and, as a group, will determine the make-up of the IC Concert Band based on the number of representatives from each school and the instrumentation desired for the selected music. These students will then be informed by their individual Directors. All students in this ensemble are expected to be in attendance for each of the three (3) rehearsals and the concert. Transportation is normally provided for the Saturday rehearsal as well as the two (2) rehearsals held during the school day. Transportation not provided for Saturday rehearsals held at either of the two Boyertown schools, Pottsgrove MS, or Pottstown MS.

**C. BERKS COUNTY BAND AND ORCHESTRA**

The student members of the Annual Berks County Band and Orchestra are determined by audition. Students will compete against their fellow peers from approximately 50+ other Berks County schools. Students will perform required scales, a required solo, and a piece of sight-reading during this audition. Auditions are held at Governor Mifflin High School each February. Transportation is always provided for the night of auditions as well as each rehearsal. All students accepted in this elite performing group are expected to prepare the selected music on their own and are required to attend the two (2) rehearsals prior to the concert. These rehearsals occur in the first week of April – one taking up a full day of school and the other on the following Saturday morning, the day of the concert. All necessary information, including required scales for each instrument as well as the required solo for each instrument, can be found at [www.berksmusic.com](http://www.berksmusic.com)



# Parent / Student Acknowledgment

Below is a cutout form that is to be returned to your Marching Unit Director as soon as possible. Please check to make sure your son / daughter / parent / guardian has read the information contained in this Handbook. Both students and parents are responsible for being familiar with this material. If you have additional questions please contact Mr. Agatone at East or Mr. Jordan at West.

Mr. Agatone at Junior High East - (610) 473-3964  
[magatone@boyertownasd.org](mailto:magatone@boyertownasd.org)

Mr. Jordan and Junior High West - (610) 473-3749  
[mjordan@boyertownasd.org](mailto:mjordan@boyertownasd.org)

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Please cut along dotted line & return to Band Director

\_\_\_\_\_ We have read the 2016-2017 Junior High Schools Band and  
Marching Unit Handbook

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent / Guardian Signature*

Please include me in the e-mail list: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent E-mail Address*