

Thompson High School Band Handbook

2025 – 2026



t h o m p s o n
WARRCORPS

Thompson High School Band
Thompson High School
1921 Warrior Parkway
Alabaster, Alabama 35007
205-685-6700

Graham Bennett
Director of Bands

Rebecca Reinhardt
Associate Director

Corey Hyman
Associate Director

Jamiah Robbins
Director of Percussion

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Dear Parents and Students,

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a convenient reference for students, parents, administrators, and directors that have questions concerning any aspect of the band program at THS. We have made an honest effort to include and explain every possible facet of the program, however it is impossible to account for every possible scenario that may occur.

It is our hope that as responsible students and interested parents, you will read this handbook very carefully so that you will better understand the entire program. Students, you will be responsible for knowing and abiding by all rules and regulations set forth in this book.

Finally, we welcome each of you to the Thompson High School Band. This will be a great year that you will never forget. We want to challenge you to develop and possess a cooperative attitude in everything you do, and to always put forth your best effort at all rehearsals and performances. We want the band to be an experience in which you gain a working knowledge of true team effort, a taste of life and its blessings and difficulties, a generous knowledge of music and choreography, and an untold number of enjoyable events you will always cherish. You will have plenty of memories this year, we guarantee! We need to continue this fine tradition and strive to be positive role models and leaders which will continue the ongoing success of this band program. Thanks for being a part of something special . . . The Thompson High School Band!

Excellence Through Perseverance and Determination

Musically,

Graham Bennett, Corey Hyman, Rebecca Reinhardt, and Jamiah Robbins

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Directors

Graham Bennett, Director of Bands
Corey Hyman, Associate Director of Bands
Rebecca Reinhardt, Associate Director of Bands
Jamiah Robbins, Director of Percussion

Band Staff

Emily Bennett, Dance Team
Harlie Wilson, Asst. Dance Team
Brandon Cornelison, Color Guard
Gretchen Moore, Majorette

Administration

Dr. Wayne Vickers, Superintendent
Dr. Wesley Hester, Asst. Superintendent
Dr. Wesley Hester, Principal
Mr. Klark Sammis, 9th Grade Assistant Principal
Ms. Lytrice Washington, 10th Grade Assistant Principal
Ms. Kayla Lightsey, 11th Grade Assistant Principal
Mr. Bradley Boy, 12th Grade Assistant Principal
Dr. Kristen Westwood, Curricular Administrator
Mr. Samuel Thigpen, Facilities Administrator

To these ladies and gentlemen we are forever indebted for their continued support.

THS Band Philosophy

All students have the ability to express themselves musically. What this program attempts to do is provide an outlet for the student to reach their full potential musically. To obtain this goal the school system has made available several classes to serve the students in this capacity. Band is a place where students can grow, succeed, and feel accepted each and every day. The goal of the THS Band Program is to allow the students such opportunities.

1. Provide each student with a comprehensive music education by teaching the skills and attitudes necessary to succeed as a young musician and as a young adult.
2. Benefit the school and community through public performance of quality music while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of Thompson High School.
3. Foster the development of essential character qualities including a strong work ethic, a commitment to excellence, personal pride, and a respect for self and others.
4. Provide each student with a worthy use of leisure time, a positive emotional outlet, and a good social experience.
5. Prepare each and every student to be successful in their life goals and aspirations through the experiences gained as members of the THS Band Program.

THS Band Handbook Purpose

Many times a misunderstanding of the rules and regulations or a lack of knowledge can cause problems on the part of the student, the parent/guardian, and/or the directors.

This handbook was written under the direction of the Directors and School Administrators for the purpose of acquainting each new and old band member with his/her obligations and responsibilities to the THS Band. It was written as a supplement to the Student Code of Conduct of the Alabaster City Schools, and at no time does it take precedence over or overrule school policies.

Given the complexity of human behavior, no publication of this nature can completely cover all situations, which affect the learning environment. Thus, the directors will reserve the right and responsibility to address any student behavior which adversely affects the learning environment.

The Thompson High School Band has a long-standing tradition of excellence. We perform at every varsity football game of the season, numerous parades, special events, and ceremonies. Superior ratings, including best in class awards have been consistently earned by this band program. The concert ensembles have received superior ratings at the annual state assessment, performed at state and national conferences, and earned the National Band Association Blue Ribbon. Students regularly participate in solo and ensemble, all-state band, national concert band festival and various honor bands. The band program has also produced numerous musicians who receive countless dollars in college scholarships and who are now music educators and outstanding professional musicians.

Great band programs are built on a foundation of traditions. Traditions become a reality through student pride and involvement. It is the responsibility of every member of the THS Band to honor, uphold, and build upon the traditions of the band and its various musical ensembles.

Directors' Expectations

The list that follows is more than a set of “rules”. These are characteristics that can be found within students in successful band programs everywhere. All THS Band students are expected to be:

1. **Disciplined** – Understand the need for practice and make time for it on a daily basis.
2. **Punctual** – Always arrive early for meetings, rehearsals, and performances. “If you are on time, you are late!”
3. **Well-Behaved** – Be quiet, attentive, and in control of yourself at all times.
4. **Positive** – Smile and understand that you control your emotions, they *do not* control you!
5. **Persistent** – Understand that becoming a good musician is a process. It takes time. *Consistently* work to improve on a *daily* basis.
6. **Honest** – Admit your limitations and mistakes. Take full responsibility for your actions. Do not lie, cheat, or steal.
7. **Responsible** – Do not wait to be told the obvious. Take initiative and do the things that must be done whether you want to or not. With a family as big as ours, it takes everyone watching out for each other to be successful.
8. **Mature** – Think *before* you act.
9. **Committed** – Realize the impact your individual attitudes, actions, and performances will have on the group. Think of the band first.
10. **Polite** – Communicate with one another, chaperones, teachers, parents, & administrators with kindness & respect.
11. **Prepared** – Bring *ALL* materials to rehearsal *each day*.

THS Band Student Leadership

The THS Band Leadership Team exists to serve as a student leadership body that will take part in the decision making process as well as serving as section representatives for each section throughout the band. It is up to the students to strive and work hard for their band program.

The leadership team is comprised of drum majors, section leaders, and section captains. Section Leaders and Captains may have Co-Captains or Co-Section Leaders and/or Assistant Section Leaders based on program needs.

The Band Leadership Team has been organized to make the planning, running, and maintaining of everyday band duties more accessible and attainable. There are several leadership positions, many of which will be in charge of teams with specific duties related to the running of the THS Band Program. Remember, you are a leader regardless of whether you hold a title or not.

Student Leader Responsibilities

I. Leadership Team Duties

- i. The Leadership Team is composed of the section leaders, captains, and drum majors
- ii. Meets Tuesday after practice for up to 30 minutes
- iii. Assists in establishing policy for the band
- iv. Responsible for maintaining esprit de corps!

II. Captains/Section Leaders

- i. Must have participated the full year prior with good grades and attendance
- ii. Members who have been removed or have quit are not eligible for these positions
- iii. Student representative of the band
- iv. Attend band leadership team meetings
- v. Promote band activities
- vi. Help maintain focus during rehearsals
- vii. Acts as a liaison between band and directors

III. Band Officers

a. Drum Major

- i. Must have participated the full year prior with good grades and attendance
- ii. Takes charge of band in all marching formations
- iii. Assists director in marching drills
- iv. Assists in maintaining discipline and spirit
- v. Assists the directors in any task necessary for the good of the band

b. Section Leaders/VE Captains

- i. Maintain section attendance and help with section rehearsal
- ii. Help schedule and run sectionals
- iii. Attend leadership team meetings
- iv. Promote band activities
- v. Help maintain focus during rehearsals
- vi. Acts as a liaison between band and directors

Band Ensembles and Classes

- I. **Symphonic/Concert Band** are classes open to all students in the entire school. Membership is by audition and approval by the directors. Audition material is issued in the Spring of the prior school year. Auditions will be held during the Spring semester. The scales portion of the audition will take place throughout the previous year through class assignments. Placement in the Symphonic/Concert Bands will be determined by prerequisite scales and audition piece scoring. This group performs at various concerts and attends district and state sanctioned festivals and assessments (when qualified). See the section titled *Instrumentalists Expenses Explained* for more information on financial obligation for this ensemble.
- II. **Wind Ensemble** is a class open to all students in band. Membership is by audition and approval by the directors. Audition material is issued in the Spring of the prior school year. Auditions will be held during the Spring semester. The scales portion of the audition will take place throughout the previous year through class assignments. Placement in the Wind Ensemble will be determined by prerequisite scales and audition piece scoring. This group performs at various concerts and attends district and state sanctioned festivals and assessments (when qualified). Wind Ensemble will have required sectionals after school. See the section titled *Instrumentalists Expenses Explained* for more information on financial obligation for this ensemble.
- III. **Jazz Lab (Band Tech Jazz)** is a class open to students who play Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Guitar, Piano, Bass, Auxiliary Percussion, Vibraphone, and Drum Set (any other instrument at band director's discretion). This group performs at concerts, special events, festivals, and competitions. Students can only enroll in Jazz Lab when they are currently enrolled in a concert ensemble or with approval by a director. (Concert, Symphonic or Wind Ensemble)
- IV. **Jazz Ensemble** is a class open to students who play Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Guitar, Piano, Bass, Auxiliary Percussion, Vibraphone, and Drum Set (any other instrument at band director's discretion). Membership is by audition and approval by the band director. Auditions will be based on the all-state jazz audition music. Placement is determined by a point total. Students can only enroll in Jazz Ensemble when they are currently enrolled in a concert ensemble or with approval by a director. (Concert, Symphonic or Wind Ensemble)
- V. **Band Tech (Band Tech)** is a class open to all 10th-12th grade students enrolled in an ensemble class (concert, symphonic or wind ensemble). Students will be allowed to work individually on skills and music of their choice. They will receive individual instructions. To be successful in this course students need to be self motivated. This is not a study hall.
- VI. **Marching Southern Sounds:** Membership in this ensemble is open to everyone, but final approval is made by the band directors. This group performs at THS pep rallies, football games, parades, civic functions, special events, marching contests, and festivals. All students in the Marching Southern Sounds must be present for any and all performances associated with marching for the entire year. Students must also remain for the full duration of every football game. Missing or leaving any performance early unexcused may result in indefinite removal from performance position or the band (at band directors' discretion). MSS is not a class, but students are required to be in a concert ensemble (concert, symphonic, wind ensemble) or the visual ensemble class.

Marching Southern Sounds Shadow System: To provide the best learning experience for all students, the marching band has incorporated the use of the shadow system in the woodwind and brass marchers. The system allows for students to learn and grow at their own pace while not inhibiting other students' progress. For example, if a student has suffered an injury and cannot march for a long period of time leaving a spot in the formation that hinders the members' nearest performance, we will fill that spot with a shadow member to help those closest while upon return allowing the injured member an opportunity to work back into a spot. Shadows will be determined by marching skill, musical performance, attitude and effort. Shadows will rotate during rehearsals and will either have alternating performances or perform simultaneously. The shadow system will only be used with the halftime show and not pregame.

- VII. **Visual Ensemble:** This is the Color Guard, Dance Team, and Majorette Line. The Visual Ensemble is composed of members that perform on flag, rifle, saber, dance, and baton. They are members with the full privileges and responsibilities as that of the other band members, including paying band membership fees. The VE is also

required to be at ALL functions of the Marching Southern Sounds. Visual Ensemble members are required to be in the visual ensemble class.

- a. Membership is by audition only which is held during the prior Spring semester.
- b. Approval is solely upheld by the band directors/band staff/adjudicators.
- c. Full band rehearsal occurs during marching season. Consult the band calendar for more information.
- d. The Visual Ensemble rehearses during class as well as after school. Other mandatory section rehearsals may be called as needed and will be posted with ample planning time.
- e. Practices are to be taken seriously with each member giving 110% of their effort all of the time. Good attitudes, honesty, dedication, and positive feedback are essential. Negative attitudes will not be tolerated and will lead to disciplinary action.
- f. Members are required to dress out for all rehearsals. For in-class rehearsals the visual ensemble must wear dance shoes and appropriate rehearsal attire.
- g. Large jewelry should be taken off for practices.
- h. It is the responsibility of the member to learn any missed work due to absence.
- i. After rehearsal, all VE members are expected to adhere to the duties listed and perform their assigned duties.
- j. VE Members are encouraged to take part in all fundraisers.
- k. All VE Members must participate in the Marching Southern Sounds full band camp to learn choreography for halftime show. See *rehearsal policies* for detailed information.
- l. All VE Members must participate in ALL games and performances.
- m. Members should be prepared. Always remember to bring required equipment.
- n. Each member is REQUIRED to stay for the length of the entire game.
- o. Each member is REQUIRED to stay until group dismissal following every activity.
- p. Members must ask permission to use the restroom and must take a buddy.
- q. Members must wear their VE uniform(s) appropriately at ALL times. At NO time may a VE member wear something out of uniform without the directors' prior approval. ALL VE must match at all times!
- r. Remain spirited throughout the game. Remember, the crowd is watching you!

GENERAL POLICIES

I. Standards of Behavior

- a. The use and/or possession of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drug products, or illegal substances will not be tolerated. Failure to comply with this rule may result in indefinite removal from the band program as well as further action taken by state law enforcement/ACS administration.
- b. The use of profanity, obscenities, racial slurs or derogatory language WILL NOT be tolerated. Failure to comply with this rule can result in indefinite removal from the band program as well as further action taken by ACS administration.
- c. Proper respect for all teachers, administrators, chaperones, and other band members will be shown at all times.
- d. Alabama State mandated academic standards must be maintained for participation in band activities.
- e. Bullying or harassment WILL NOT BE tolerated. Failure to comply with this rule can result in indefinite removal from the band program as well as further action taken by ACS administration.

II. Social Media

- a. Anything posted on social media (including group chats) must be held above reproach. Failure to comply with this may result in indefinite removal from the band program as well as further action taken by state law enforcement/ACS administration.
- b. This includes, but is not limited to posts concerning or containing: racism, foul language, hate speech, harassment, bullying, drugs, alcohol, illegal substances, pornographic images, negative comments about ACS employees/staff, or the THS Band Program.
- c. Affiliation within these posts/actions will incriminate you as well as the one posting. This may also result in indefinite removal from the band program as well as further action taken by state law enforcement/ACS administration.

III. Public Display of Affection

- a. At NO POINT during any band function is public display of affection acceptable. This includes, but is not limited to; travel, practices, games, performances, etc.
- b. Public display of affection consists of, but is not limited to; holding hands, kissing, or sexual contact of any kind.
- c. For the first PDA offense you will receive a warning. Any offense following will be an immediate write-up (disciplinary action), as well as the possible suspension/removal from the band program. The first PDA offense may be skipped directly to write-up (disciplinary action) and/or suspension/removal from the band program if the PDA in question is deemed egregious.

IV. Travel

- a. You may bring electronic devices, but must use headphones. Any lost/stolen/damaged personal items are not the responsibility of the THS Band Program or THS High School/ACS.
- b. On charter buses with DVD players, you will be allowed to bring movies. **NO** rated **R** movies allowed! **ONLY** rated **G**, **PG**, or **PG-13** (if appropriate)
- c. Always be courteous to those around you.
- d. At NO POINT may any couples sit together in the same seat pairing at ANY time.
- e. At NO POINT may any boys and girls sit together in the same seat pairing at ANY time.
- f. At NO POINT may anyone share a blanket or covering.
- g. Everyone must remain seated and keep all body parts in the vehicle at ALL times.
- h. NO disposal of ANY materials out of the vehicle at any time.
- i. For the first offense you will receive a warning. Any offense following will be an immediate write-up (disciplinary action), as well as the possible suspension/removal from the band program. The first offense may be skipped directly to write-up (disciplinary action) and/or suspension/removal from the band program if the action(s) in question is deemed egregious.

- j. Parent/guardian will not be allowed to pick you up from any event without written/emailed parental consent by YOUR legal parent/guardian (on the PowerSchool Check out list). You may only be dismissed to YOUR legal parent(s)/guardian(s).
- k. Make sure to bring cell phone charged or portable phone charger.

V. Rehearsal/Performance Attitudes

- a. Arrive early. ***"If you are on time, you are late!"*** Be mentally alert to your environment. Be prepared in body and mind. All that we ask is that you give 110%. That's all!
- b. Good attitudes, honesty, dedication, and positive feedback are essential. Negative attitudes will not be tolerated and will lead to disciplinary action (suspension, indefinite expulsion, removal from leadership position if applicable, etc.)

VI. Instruments, Music, Drill Charts, Stick Bags

- a. You are responsible for your instrument, music, and your charts. Keep this equipment in good order during rehearsals and all performances. Students are responsible for purchasing basic supplies for playing and maintenance – valve oil, reeds, mouthpieces, ligatures, drum sticks, etc. This is an individual student and parent responsibility. Students and parents are also responsible for repairs to privately-owned (i.e. personal) instruments.
- b. Percussionists are responsible for a stick bag with the appropriate sticks determined by the percussion director. A list will be provided for the percussionist at the beginning of the semester. Students will not be able to participate without their own sticks.
- c. A school owned instrument that is checked out through the THS Band for your use becomes your responsibility. It must be kept clean and in proper working order. Damage through negligence will result in your own repair bill. As noted above, students are responsible for purchasing basic supplies for playing and maintenance – valve oil, reeds, mouthpieces, ligatures, drum sticks, etc. This is an individual student and parent responsibility.
- d. Each member will receive music for the show as well as musical selections for their own use in the stands. Be sure you have all of your music at all times. Each student is responsible for, and must provide their own individual music folder/flip folder.
- e. See "Equipment Management" for further details.

VII. Water Jugs

- a. We ask that each student in the MSS to bring a water jug, preferably ½ gallon or LARGER, to every MSS rehearsal. Water is available from the water fountains, but every student needs a jug. Water bottles are not enough or insulated enough. Students **must** have water jugs at every rehearsal, no matter how long/short! Students are not allowed to share water! Keep water jugs clean (wash regularly)!

VIII. Music Rooms

- a. **Band Room/Jazz Room/Percussion Room:** Band members are to keep these rooms clean and neat, keep the chairs and music stands in place, and use the wastebasket(s) for the items to be thrown away. **NO DRINKS, FOOD, or GUM are allowed in the band room (with the exception of water)!!!**
- b. **Practice/Storage Rooms:** To be used for practice only. You must receive band director approval before using these areas every day. After receiving permission please write your name on the board. Keep these practice/storage rooms neat and clean. Please erase your name after you exit the room. The practice rooms are meant for one student at a time unless given permission by a director. Parents/students are liable for damages done to a practice room caused by their student.
- c. **Storage Areas:** To be used for instrument(s)/music/CLEAN practice clothes storage only. All other items are to be kept in the student's school locker. Instruments must be in cases with cases closed while in the storage areas. **NO PERSONAL INSTRUMENTS TO BE LEFT IN THE STORAGE AREAS OVER THE SUMMER.** Be aware that the district, school, band program, and directors will not be responsible for misplaced or stolen instruments/items left in the band room overnight, over the weekends, or over the summer.

- d. **Cleanliness:** The areas on the THS campus that the band will use must be kept clean and free from litter. Your personal trash does NOT go on the ground! If you cannot dispose of your trash properly, do not take it to the rehearsal area. This also applies to your band locker.
- e. **ONLY BAND MEMBERS ARE ALLOWED IN THE BAND ROOM(S)/REHEARSAL SPACE(S)!**

IX. Equipment Management

- a. Students are responsible for maintaining and treating all THS equipment with respect at all times. This goes for all rented instruments, auxiliary/VE equipment, props, etc.
- b. Abuse of ANY equipment at any time will not be tolerated.
- c. If equipment is negligently damaged/defaced at any point, the person responsible will be held accountable for any costs covering damages incurred.
- d. If it is not YOUR instrument, equipment or responsibility, **DO NOT TOUCH IT!!!**
- e. Damaging equipment can also lead to further disciplinary actions, probation, and/or indefinite removal from the organization as deemed necessary by the band directors and/or administration.
- f. Personal equipment and instruments: Be aware that the district, school, band program, and directors will not be responsible for misplaced or stolen instruments/items left in the band room overnight, over the weekends, or over the summer.

X. Fundraisers

- a. Fundraisers are regularly set throughout the year to help defray the cost of band fees, expenses, and trip costs.
- b. All members are encouraged to participate. If a student has outstanding fees it is required that the student participate in fundraisers to the best of their abilities.

XI. Band Pictures

- a. There will be a representative to take individual band pictures in the Fall.
- b. These pictures will be made available for individual purchase.

XII. Honor Bands

- a. Throughout the year there will be honor ensembles the students are able to participate in. Students must be in good academic standing to participate. They will have to make up the work missed in other classes outside of school.
- b. Students must have their parent or guardian inform Mr. Bennett one week prior to the event to have the dates excused from school.
- c. Any misbehavior at an event could result in suspension from the event and or Band Program and/or consequences as determined by the ACS Code of Conduct.

XIII. Miscellaneous

- a. Arrive early and adhere to all itineraries.
- b. The bus will leave on time!
- c. The uniform is worn properly at ALL TIMES.
- d. Always have rain gear if necessary when arriving at school.
- e. Members must remain in their stadium seating assignment until dismissal.
- f. Breaks for restroom are permitted under the following conditions:
 - i. Chaperone and band directors are notified
 - ii. Only two per section at any given time
 - iii. Members must ask permission to use the restroom and must take a buddy.
- g. Members never travel alone.
- h. Water will be given out during the games.
- i. Horseplay will not be tolerated at any time.
- j. Student leadership is responsible for setting the example and ensuring the band's proper behavior and conduct during all public appearances. The THS band serves as the school's good-will ambassador and an excellent reputation must be preserved and promoted at all times.

- k. Always hold yourself above reproach. This means: don't do anything that you wouldn't want to be announced in church or something you wouldn't want getting back to your parents, the band director, band staff, or the administration.
- l. Each member is **REQUIRED** to stay until group dismissal following every activity.

XIV. Uniforms and Formal Wear

Each student is accountable for the care and appearance of the uniform assigned to them for the year. The students must be responsible for being careful not to spill food or drinks on the uniform. Students also **MAY NOT** sit down on the ground in uniform. The students should always conduct themselves with the highest respect, have pride in being a representative of Thompson High School, and remember that they are an ambassador of the community of Alabaster, Alabama. Shoes are to be cleaned before each performance and always worn with **TALL** black dress socks.

a. Responsibility

- i. Students/Parents/Guardians are responsible for payment of lost or damaged uniform parts from which they are assigned.
- ii. We will replace lost parts only when they are paid for. A cost list can be provided.
- iii. Special care must be taken with these uniforms. If we see a student abusing a uniform in any manner, the uniform will be collected and may not be reissued.
- iv. After each performance the student is responsible for hanging their own uniform correctly on their hanger, and making sure that it is returned to the proper location in the uniform storage facility. **MAY NOT** take uniform home without prior band director approval.
- v. **ONLY** Shakos may be stored in the shako boxes. **NO GLOVES** or **GAUNTLETS**!
- vi. Shakos must be stored in their correct shako boxes after every performance and placed in the uniform storage facility.

b. Wearing the Uniform

- i. Students will wear the **COMPLETE** uniform together at **ALL** times. No single person or section will wear the uniform differently at **ANY** time. If we are finished performing and permission has been granted to change, then change completely out of the uniform (i.e. if weather conditions change).
- ii. No additional clothing will be permitted while wearing the uniform unless approved by the band directors prior.
- iii. Shakos will be worn until permission is granted to remove them.
- iv. Shoes will be cleaned for each event.
- v. Be ready **BEFORE** call time (that includes hair up, uniform, instruments)
- vi. Instrumentalists' facial make-up must be kept to a minimum. Only small silver or gold post earrings should be worn. Long hair will be worn under the hat. **NO** spray in hair colors!
- vii. The proper undershirt **MUST** be worn under the uniform at all times. Students must also wear appropriate undergarments and shorts/pants under the uniform at all times.
- viii. Extra layers of gloves and headgear will be permitted when temperatures are cold. These garments should be either black or Thompson related (no bright colors or patterns). Nothing should cover the outside of the band uniform. Visual Ensemble sponsors will determine the appropriate layers for their teams.

XV. Thompson High School/ACS Handbooks

- i. This handbook is built to coincide with both the Thompson High School and ACS handbooks. See these handbooks for additional information regarding THS/ACS rules and regulations. These rules and regulations also directly apply to this handbook.
- ii. Breaking any rules within any of these handbooks at any time will result in disciplinary action taken by the band directors and/or the THS Administration.

XVI. Disciplinary Action and Consequences

- a. Offense 1 – The student will be given a verbal warning to control their behavior.
- b. Offense 2 – The student will meet with the band director(s) after class/rehearsal. Student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be called and informed of the situation.
- c. Offense 3 – The student will be spoken to, a referral will be sent to the administrator, and parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified. Possible suspension or indefinite loss of performance position/membership at band director's discretion.
- d. Depending on the severity of the discipline issue any of these steps may be skipped at the band director's discretion, which in turn may lead to immediate indefinite removal from the program.

REHEARSAL POLICIES

I. Rehearsal Schedules (On website calendar as well)

- A. **Fall:** Rehearsal schedule: Marching Band 3:30p-5:45p Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday
- B. **Spring:** There will be scheduled after school practices for Music Performance Assessment, Concerts, Trips, etc. Rehearsals will be scheduled with ample time to plan.
- C. **Wind Ensemble:** Tuesdays and Thursdays during Spring semester Woodwinds or Brass/Percussion from 3:30p-4:30p.
- D. **Percussion Ensemble:** TBD

II. Sitting Out - Students may not sit out during rehearsal unless doctor approved or under extreme circumstances (approved by band directors). If a student is experiencing dehydration or other extreme health issues, these must be immediately addressed with the band directors. If sitting out becomes a persistent issue, a student may become a shadow member, and medical personnel will need to be notified.

III. Summer - These pre-scheduled rehearsals are required unless the band directors are notified well in advance that the student will be unable to attend. Any other unique situations must be discussed with the band director(s).

IV. Band Camp - This period is the most important time of the season. Attendance is MANDATORY in order to participate in the Fall. We need this time to prepare for our first performance and the remainder of the season. The ONLY activity that is excusable during band camp is participation in Drum Corps International. The time missed for DCI must be made up on the student's own time.

- A. Wear sunscreen!
- B. Bring bug spray!
- C. Need an appropriate ½ GALLON INSULATED WATER JUG!
- D. Get to know your section leader(s).
- E. Ask questions if you don't understand something.
- F. Have all required materials (instrument/equipment, music folder, drill, etc.)
- G. Dress appropriately:
 1. Everyone must have a shirt on at ALL times.
 2. Closed toed shoes with appropriate arch support are required (no Converse/Vans).
 3. Shorts must meet dress code.
 4. Students recommended to wear sunglasses/hats (not required).
- H. If a student misses any portion of band camp they run the risk of becoming a shadow member. The student will then be required to ghost their replacement until pass-offs to determine who will march that particular performance position.
- I. Please also see "Band Camp Checklist" and Parking/Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures on Pg. 15!

MSS Band Camp Checklist 2025

- ☐ ½ Gallon OR larger water jug (must be insulated!)
- ☐ Sunscreen applied
- ☐ Bug spray (optional but recommended)
- ☐ Hat and/or sunglasses (optional but recommended)
- ☐ Heat appropriate clothing (t-shirt, shorts, tennis shoes)
 - A. ALL CLOTHING MUST BE SCHOOL APPROPRIATE!!!
- ☐ Instrument
- ☐ Music/Folder/Flip Folder
- ☐ Eat a healthy breakfast (no dairy!)
- ☐ Drink plenty of water and replenish electrolytes (days and nights before!)
- ☐ Bring a snack
- ☐ Sections may bring section tents, but MUST be anchored down
- ☐ MUST HAVE CLOSED TOED SHOES WITH ARCH SUPPORT!!!
- ☐ NO JEANS!!!
- ☐ NO SANDALS!!!
- ☐ NO SODAS!!!
- ☐ NO ENERGY DRINKS!!!
- ☐ NO COFFEE!!!

PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCE: PICK UP/DROP OFF PROCEDURES

- I. Pick Up/Drop Off Locations and Procedures** - Parents/students may only drop off/pick up from the student parking lot areas. The side faculty/staff parking lots (next to Band Room/PAC and the JROTC facility) is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**. This is due to the limited space, student safety, parent safety, and driving safety. Picking up and dropping off on the street is also **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** as this disrupts the flow of traffic, creates an unsafe environment for student pick up/drop off, and similar to all other roads is an active roadway. Students must also use and only cross at the designated crosswalks for safety.



- V. **After School** - All rehearsals are mandatory!! Should a student be involved in another school activity that conflicts with rehearsal time, an arrangement between the band directors and the student will be agreed upon. Changes in the schedule may occur. If an after school practice is missed the student will/could be ineligible to perform during the field show at the following week or following weeks performance(s). Attendance at the performance activities is still MANDATORY.
- A. Dress appropriately:
 - 1. Everyone must have a shirt on at ALL times.
 - 2. Closed toed shoes with arch support are required (no Converse/Vans).
 - 3. Shorts must meet dress code.
 - 4. Students recommended to wear sunglasses/hats (not required).
- VI. **Quitting/Removal** - If a student quits or is removed at any time from the band activity it may result in the inability to participate in the band's future ensembles/activities. The inability to participate strictly falls under the discretion of the band directors.
- VII. **Excused Absences**
- A. Illness that causes an absence from school with DOCTOR'S excuse.
 - B. Any note from the DOCTOR explaining an absence.
 - C. Death in the family (this will require a note, email, or call from a parent).
 - D. Any other excuse must be discussed with the band directors IN ADVANCE.
 - E. Excuses must be given to the band directors prior to the event unless it is that of an emergency.
 - F. Emergency excuses must be turned in within the next day that the student is in school attendance.
- VIII. **Tardies**
- A. It is important to always be on time for all practices, performances, parades, etc. If you have an unexcused tardy you will have to run one lap around the band practice field after practice. After three tardies a conference may be called between you, your parents, the band directors, and/or the administration. During this meeting disciplinary actions will be determined. These disciplinary actions could include but are not limited to: probation, sitting out a performance, indefinite removal from the ensemble/line if tardies continue, etc.
- IX. **Unexcused Absences**
- A. Two unexcused tardies equal one unexcused absence.
 - B. One unexcused absence results in a loss of performance spot that week.
 - C. The second results in the indefinite loss of a performance spot.
 - D. Consecutive absences (excused or not) will result in the temporary/permanent loss of your performance position.
 - E. Any absence not notified to the director in advance will be considered unexcused unless it falls under the emergency portion of our excused absences section (at the discretion of the band directors).
- X. **Guidelines for all rehearsals**
- A. Plan to arrive at least 10 minutes early with ALL required materials (binder, pencil, music, instrument, attire, equipment). ***"If you are on time, you are late!"***
 - B. Absolutely under NO circumstance can a student ride in another student's vehicle unless they are in a seat with a seatbelt on, per Alabama State Law. NO students may ride in any other locations (truck beds, etc.)
 - C. Listen for the leader's commands at all times.
 - D. Always be prepared to march. Must have appropriate shoes! (NO SANDALS/FLIP FLOPS/ETC.)
 - E. Every student must be appropriately dressed during rehearsal. Shirts and proper footwear must be on at all times.
 - F. **NO GUM AT ANY TIME!!!**
 - G. **CELL PHONES ARE TO BE USED WHEN INSTRUCTED OR DURING TRAVEL.** THEY ARE NOT OUT DURING ACTIVE REHEARSAL, PERIOD!! BAND DIRECTOR(S)/STAFF WILL TAKE THEM UP AND RETURN THEM TO THE STUDENT'S PARENTS/GUARDIANS.
 - H. Leaving practice early is the same as a tardy and will be counted that way.

- I. Students with after-school jobs/internships. Although we cannot excuse a student from a rehearsal for work; we will assist them by notifying everyone at the beginning of the semester with all known regular rehearsal times/performances. This way a work schedule can be arranged around all known band events/practices. Please discuss your schedule with your employer so that we can help you maintain your position in the band, as well as your job/internship.

XI. Pass-Offs

- A. All students are required to pass-off their music, drill, routines, and work prior to performance. The band staff and section leaders/captains will hold these pass-offs collectively. If the band directors deems that a performer (student) is not performing to the level of their pass-off and ability at any time, they reserve the right to pull them from the following performance(s) until passed off proficiently.

PERFORMANCES

- I. ALL performances carry a mandatory attendance policy. **If you miss a performance (unexcused), your grade will be dropped and you may be removed indefinitely from your performance position.**
- II. During the games the Marching Southern Sounds sit and/or stand together at all times. Stay in your assigned area at all times. Keep one eye on the director and drum major(s) so you will be playing the right song at the right time. **Other people (non-band) DO NOT sit with the band, nor stand in the aisles by the band. Students also MAY NOT leave the stands during the game for visiting/photography.** All visiting/photography must happen before/after the game. Every time you play a note it must produce a quality sound. Keep yourself and your instrument under control at ALL TIMES.
- III. If you have a personal conflict of importance on a performance date, first notify the directors in writing/email AT LEAST two weeks in advance. This will give a shadow member (if any are available) ample time to learn your responsibilities or give directors time to make other arrangements. If the directors consider your request valid, it will be honored if possible without loss of grade or position. In making your request, give the directors enough information to make a correct and fair judgment.
- IV. In the event that a member belongs to another performing organization that should be appearing at the same time as the band, the THS band will take precedence. This is the standard procedure and is accepted as such by all community bands, drum and bugle corps, etc.
- V. Students with after-school jobs/internships. Although we cannot excuse a student from a performance for work; we will assist them by notifying everyone at the beginning of the semester with all known regular rehearsal times/performances. This way a work schedule can be arranged around all known band events/practices. Please discuss your schedule with your employer so that we can help you maintain your position in the band, as well as your job/internship.
- VI. **Guidelines for Absence:** See the attendance policy. When in doubt...ASK IN ADVANCE. In case of sudden illnesses a telephone call and/or email is required. In all cases of absence from a public appearance a written statement/email from the parent/guardian/doctor is necessary.

CONCESSIONS

Concessions Work Requirement

In addition to band participation fees the second major way the band is funded is through home football game concessions (TMS, Freshmen, JV, and Varsity). Given this we **must** have every band student represented by an adult (18 and older) in the concession stands at games as described below.

- Each marching band and/or visual ensemble student family **must** work 1 weekday game (TMS, Freshman, JV) and 1 Varsity game, OR 2 Varsity games.
- Concert Band Only families are only asked to work 1 Varsity Game.

Concession workers will be requested/scheduled via Sign-up Genius and will be tracked by a sign-in sheet at games.

APPOINTMENTS

Doctors and Dentist appointments should be scheduled on Wednesday during the school year if possible.

COMMUNICATION

There are four forms of communication for the THS Band Program. The *marchingsouthernsounds.org* has the yearly calendar, *Remind* for current info, *charms* for emails and financials, and *Google Classroom* for class assignments.

MY SCHOOL BUCKS/CUT TIME

The band uses an online system called My School Bucks/Cut Time for band fee payments. My School Bucks and Cut Time allow you to monitor the status of your student's band account, and to receive band related emails, handouts, and forms. Upon receipt of your *Thompson High School Band Fee and Participation Form* (see pg. 24), your band fees and fundraised money will be applied and visible through My School Bucks and Cut Time. However, Cut Time is the only place you will be able to see overpaid fundraiser credits. My School Bucks AND/OR checks are the only accepted payment methods (see pg. 23).

Remind Text Messaging:

Parents text @mssparent1 or @mssparent2 to the number 81010 (*ONLY PICK ONE; BOTH ARE THE SAME*)

2025-26 MSS Freshman text @mssclass29 to the number 81010

2025-26 MSS Sophomores text @mssclass28 to the number 81010

2025-26 MSS Juniors text @mssclass27 to the number 81010

2025-26 MSS Seniors text @mssclass26 to the number 81010

Wind Ensemble text @thswe25 to the number 81010

Symphonic Band text @thssym25 to the number 81010

Concert Band text @thsconc25 to the number 81010

Jazz Bands text @thsjazz25 to the number 81010

Leadership (leadership students only) text @leadthemss to the number 81010

****Anyone who would like to unsubscribe from the Reminds, simply reply STOP to the messages****

Google Classroom Codes

TBD on Syllabi at the beginning of the school year

Band Boosters

Meetings

Band Booster meetings are typically held each month (except June and December) on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are held in the band room at the high school.

Involvement

If you are a band parent you are a Band Booster! As such you are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings and be actively involved in your student's lives through participation in the Band Boosters organization. Your involvement in the band program and "family" makes this program special for your student. The band "family" needs your help to continue this great band program. There are numerous band booster committees listed below that serve the students and program needs. If you have interests or skills that align with any of these committees you are encouraged to contact the committee chairperson to see where you can contribute. Email addresses for each committee chairperson are located at <http://www.marchingsouthernsounds.org/boosters/>

Committees

- Fundraising – coordinates fundraising opportunities for students to help with fees, trips, and other student expenses
- Concessions – Runs the concession stands at **ALL** home football games (Freshmen, JV, Varsity; is our largest fundraiser!)
- Pride Store – Coordinates ordering and sale of THS Band branded apparel and other merchandise to support and promote the band program
- Transportation – Provides transportation of band equipment to events and assists with halftime show sideline setup
- Chaperones – Schedule and supervise chaperones for band trips/events
- Uniforms – Assist with all aspects of outfitting the bands for performances
- Snack/Meals – Coordinates provision of snacks, meals (as appropriate) and water at band events, game performances, etc.
- Events- Coordinates catering and decoration for special events (Band Banquet, Swing Into Spring, MPA, etc.)

Thompson High School Band — Chaperone Guidelines

To ensure the safety and success of all band activities, the following guidelines apply to all Thompson High School Band chaperones:

1. **Eligibility:** Only legal guardians of current band students are eligible to serve as chaperones. The number of chaperones for each event will be limited based on the needs of the band program.
2. **Stay Positive:** Chaperones should maintain a positive attitude at all times. Encouragement and patience help create a supportive and enjoyable environment for everyone.
3. **No Sibling Attendance:** Siblings of band students are not permitted to accompany chaperones during band events or trips.
4. **Primary Responsibility:** Chaperones are responsible for ensuring that all students have a safe, enjoyable, and well-supervised experience.
5. **Chaperone Needs:** Chaperones are essential for all band functions, including trips, performances, and special events.
6. **Volunteer Basis:** Chaperone opportunities are offered on a volunteer basis. All sign-ups will be managed through *SignUpGenius*.
7. **Rotation:** Chaperones will be scheduled on a rotating basis to ensure fairness and to provide opportunities for all interested volunteers.
8. **Concession Stand Requirement:** To be eligible to chaperone, volunteers must work or be signed up to work **two (2)** concession stand events prior to chaperoning.
9. **Concessions Back-Up:** If additional help is needed, chaperones may be asked to assist in the concession stand during home games.
10. **Identification:** All chaperones are required to wear an official name tag while volunteering at band events.
11. **Flexibility:** Chaperones are expected to assist as needed in various capacities throughout the event.
12. **Communication:** Clear and respectful communication with students, staff, and fellow volunteers is essential.
13. **Professional Conduct:** The use of profane language is strictly prohibited.
14. **No Smoking, Vaping, or Substance Use:** Smoking, vaping, the use of any tobacco products, illegal substances, or alcohol is strictly prohibited while chaperoning any band activity.

We appreciate your commitment to supporting our band program and ensuring a positive and safe environment for all students!

Instrumentalists Expenses Explained

Often there are expenses that must be paid on the part of the student that are nearly impossible for the band to budget based off of band fees collected alone. This is an abridged list that will give both the parent/guardian and the student an idea of the types of expenses that will be incurred throughout the course of the year.

These numbers are estimates ONLY!

All State Audition Fee: \$20 - All State auditions are required for principal players in Wind Ensemble and ALL instrumental leadership, but are open to all students.

Loss/Replacement Fees: Students misplacing provided materials such as, but not limited to, books of drill, instrumentalist audition packets, coordinate sheets, and music will be responsible for paying for a replacement copy of the lost item. Costs for these items vary and are proportional to the cost of supplies.

Band Trips: The THS Band plans to travel and participate in various musical performance outlets every 1-2 years. The costs for these trips are NOT covered in the band fees collected for that year and will be made available upon reveal of the trip.

Food: Food before/after rehearsals and/or performances will not always be provided to students. If your student plans to eat at any of these times, please be sure to provide money for them to purchase something to eat.

Marching Shoes/Gloves: \$36 Shoes/\$4 Gloves - "Dinkles" is the official shoe of the Marching Southern Sounds and are purchased by them on behalf of the student. All incoming freshmen will be responsible for purchasing their band performance shoes from us. The students will be sized at Band Camp and the cost is \$36 per pair. The first pair of the band gloves are included in the band membership fees. Replacement gloves will be available for \$4 a pair.

School-Owned Instrument Rental Fee (included in band fee): \$100 - Students wishing to (and who are eligible to) play school-owned instruments must pay a \$100 rental fee before acquiring/using the instrument. This annual fee is included in the band fees and covers the expense of making sure the instrument is in solid working condition. Instruments that fall into this category include, but are not limited to, all drumline instruments, sousaphones, baritones, tenor saxophones, trombones, mellophones, piccolos, oboes, bass clarinets, contra clarinets, and French horns. Mouthpieces, reeds, and/or sticks are to be provided by the student. This \$100 rental fee is charged to each instrument, not each student. Repairs for any damage inflicted upon these instruments by the student is not covered in this rental fee. In the event that damage may occur, the directors will determine the party (or parties) at fault, seek a repair estimate, and bill the party (or parties) for the repairs.

MSS Band Banquet Fee: TBD based on the catering prices. All attendees will have to purchase a ticket regardless of if they chose to eat or not.

Honor Bands: All fees associated with honor bands are to be paid by the participant. Honor Band Fees are not included in the band fees. National and State honor such as all-state or national honor band may be defrayed by the Band Boosters.

Consult the "Band Fee Participation Agreement" for the band fee payment schedule. These payments are split up to allow families to plan and prepare financially. Fees MUST be paid or fundraised in full by "September 15, 2025" or the student may not be eligible to participate in the performances until the balance is paid in full (at discretion of band directors). In order to participate the following year, ALL of the previous year's balance must be paid in full.

How to Pay Band Fees

There are two ways to pay band fees. Band students' My School Bucks accounts will have their band fees invoiced. We strongly recommend that you take advantage of the online system for payment through My School Bucks. In person payments must be made at the THS Band Room Office with all checks made payable to **THS Band**, have student name in memo area, and have at least one phone number on check. Please note that NO cash is accepted, as cash does not meet record keeping requirements.

- Band Fees will be added to student's accounts in My School Bucks. The link for My School Bucks is on the THS Website. Parents can make payments online at the My School Bucks account. If the charges do not appear on your student's account please contact the THS Band treasurers at treasurer@marchingsouthernsounds.org.

2025-2026 Thompson High School Band Fee and Participation Agreement

The THS Band performs at the highest levels in both concert and marching venues, promotes the growth of the band program and each individual student, as well as represents the Alabaster School System throughout the state and nation. The Band's annual operating budget exceeds \$150,000.00 each year. This budget includes but is not limited to: instructors, clinicians, music literature, drill and choreography, transportation, food, uniforms, and instrument purchases and repairs. These operating funds are primarily collected through annual fees from each student. The annual budget does not include special trips as selected by the directors. Special trips have their own budget with funds primarily collected from each participating student. There will be opportunities to participate in fundraisers to assist with fees and trip expenses.

The 2nd way the band is funded is through home football game concessions (TMS, Freshmen, JV, and Varsity). Given this we must have every band student represented by adults (18 and older) in the concession stands at games. Each family **MUST** work one game during the weekday evening game (TMS, Freshman, JV) and one Friday evening Varsity game, OR two Varsity games.

We need YOU to help make our concessions fundraiser possible! This is how we keep band fees LOW!!

Concessions will be requested/scheduled via Sign-up Genius and will be tracked by a sign-in sheet at games.

2025-2026 Band Fees

Fees must be paid in full **no later than Sept 15, 2025** and can be paid online at MySchoolBucks. Fee installments are due per the schedule below and remaining balances may be paid in full prior to the final payment date.

Check the Applicable Student Band Participation Level and Instrument Ownership Box Below

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Marching & Concert - School-Owned | \$700.00 (\$140/ month ...2025 Due: May 15, June 15, July 15, August 15, Sept 15) |
| ☐ Marching & Concert - Self-Owned | \$600.00 (\$120/ month ...2025 Due: May 15, June 15, July 15, August 15, Sept 15) |
| ☐ Concert only - School-Owned | \$500.00 (\$100/ month ...2025 Due: May 15, June 15, July 15, August 15, Sept 15) |
| ☐ Concert only - Self-Owned | \$400.00 (\$80/ month ...2025 Due: May 15, June 15, July 15, August 15, Sept 15) |
| ☐ Visual Ensemble | \$400.00 (To be collected by VE sponsor once Visual Ensemble selection is made) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>This amount covers shared costs: instructors, transportation, food etc.</i>• <i>If you are participating in VE and a concert ensemble, please select this option.</i> | |

Band fees are due in full no later than Sept 15, 2025

It is critical that every student pay all of their required fees on time and turn in this form!

Refusal/omission to sign this form does not relieve you of the financial responsibility; participation in band signifies concurrence with this participation agreement. If a student has any hardship that would require a deviation from this payment schedule a parent /guardian must contact Mr. Graham Bennett by May 16, 2025 to discuss the situation and make formal payment arrangements. All band fees must be paid In full by Sept 15, 2025, unless otherwise arranged with Mr. Bennett. Return signed form by May 22, 2025.

Student Name (Print)

Student Instrument/Section

Student Grade Level (2025 -26 School Year)

Parent Signature

Parent Name (Print)

____/____/____
Date (MM/ DD/YYYY)

Parent Email

Parent Phone Number

Emergency and Medical Form

Needed to participate in MSS, travel or after school activities with the program.
MUST HAVE COPY OF

Print, Complete and return to Band

AUTHORIZATION AND CONSENT FOR MINORS

STUDENT NAME _____

In consideration of the benefit to be derived, and in view of the fact that the THOMPSON HIGH SCHOOL BAND is an educational institution, membership in which is voluntary and having full confidence that every precaution will be taken to insure the safety and well being of my son/daughter in activities conducted by the THOMPSON HIGH SCHOOL BAND, I hereby agree to his/her participation in such activities, and waive all claims against the volunteer leaders of the THOMPSON HIGH SCHOOL BAND and officers, agents and representatives of the THOMPSON HIGH SCHOOL BAND. I hereby authorize the volunteer leaders of the THOMPSON HIGH SCHOOL BAND or such representatives of the THOMPSON HIGH SCHOOL BAND as my agent, to consent to such medical or dental examination and treatment and emergency transportation as may be necessary as a result of illness or injury to:

(Student name) _____

which might occur while he/she is participating in a THOMPSON HIGH SCHOOL BAND activity. I further agree to assume responsibility for all expenses incurred as a result of such treatment and shall indemnify the volunteer leaders of the THOMPSON HIGH SCHOOL BAND for any expense they might incur as a result of such illness or injury.

Parent or Guardian Signature _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Office Phone _____

STUDENT NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

MOTHER'S NAME _____

HOME # _____ CELL # _____

WORK # _____

FATHER'S NAME _____

HOME # _____ CELL # _____

WORK # _____

***In an emergency, if parents cannot be contacted, NOTIFY:**

NAME _____

PHONE (DAY) _____ (NIGHT) _____

PREFERRED HOSPITAL _____

FAMILY DOCTOR _____ PHONE _____

ALLERGIES

SPECIAL HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

PRIMARY INSURANCE COMPANY

POLICY HOLDER'S NAME _____

POLICY # _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN
SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

PLEASE MAKE A COPY OF YOUR INSURANCE CARD, CUT IT OUT AND TAPE IT TO THE BACK OF THIS FORM

INSURANCE CARD ATTACHED TO BACK

**ALABASTER CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STUDENT CONSENT/RELEASE FORM**

I have read and understand the Alabaster City Competitive Extracurricular Substance Abuse Program policy procedures and penalties and agree to abide by these rules regarding the possession and use of prohibited substances.

I agree to submit to prohibited substance screenings as outlined in the Alabaster City Competitive Extracurricular Substance Abuse Program Policy and Procedures as a condition for my initial or continued participation in competitive extracurricular activities. I specifically consent to allow urine, breath, saliva, and/or hair samples to be taken in accordance with the Board's Drug Testing Agency for testing to determine the existence of prohibited substances. I authorize any laboratory or medical provider to release test results to the Board, the Medical Review Officer, the Drug Program Coordinator, and to local school officials who have a need to know.

I also expressly authorize the Board and/or the MRO to release any test-related information, including positive results (a) as directed by my specific, written consent authorizing release of the information to an identified person, (b) to the finder of fact in any lawsuit, grievance, or other proceeding initiated by or on behalf of myself, and/or (c) under compulsion of law.

I understand that the refusal to submit to testing for the use of prohibited substances will prohibit me from my initial and continued participation in the competitive extracurricular programs offered by the Alabaster City Board of Education.

I understand that it is a privilege, not a right, to participate in the competitive extracurricular programs offered by the Alabaster City Board of Education, and that I must comply with the Competitive Extracurricular Substance Abuse Policy in order to be given the privilege to participate in these events.

If I choose not to participate in competitive extracurricular programs in the Alabaster City School System, then my parent/guardian must contact the drug testing coordinator and make a formal request (in writing) to have my name and social security number removed from the testing pool. If I am removed from a competitive extracurricular program by a coach or sponsor for any reason, my name will continue to be in the testing pool. This will allow me to be eligible if I participate in the next seasonal sport.

Student _____

Date _____

Parent/Legal Guardian _____

Date _____

MARCHING SOUTHERN SOUNDS

SUMMER PRACTICE SCHEDULE 2025-2026

Night Music Practices (MANDATORY to attend at least 2!) @ Thompson High School

Tuesday, July 8 th Winds AND Percussion	MSS Music Rehearsal	6pm-8pm
Thursday, July 10 th Winds AND Percussion	MSS Music Rehearsal	6pm-8pm
Tuesday, July 15 th Winds ONLY	MSS Music Rehearsal	6pm-8pm
Thursday, July 17 th Winds ONLY	MSS Music Rehearsal	6pm-8pm

Rookie Camp/Percussion Camp/Leadership Camp @ Thompson High School

Monday, July 14 th	Rookie Camp Perc. Camp Leadership camp	8am-11am 8am-4:30pm 1pm-3pm
Tuesday, July 15 th	Rookie Camp Perc. Camp Leadership <u>MSS Music Rehearsal (WINDS)</u>	8am-11am 8am-4:30pm 1pm-3pm 6pm-8pm
Wednesday, July 16 th	Rookie Camp Perc. Camp Leadership	8am-11am 8am-4:30pm 1pm-3pm
Thursday, July 17 th	Rookie Camp Perc. Camp Leadership <u>MSS Music Rehearsal (WINDS)</u>	8am-11am 8am-4:30pm 1pm-3pm 6pm-8pm

BAND CAMP

1st week (BOTH WEEKS MANDATORY) @ Thompson High School

Monday, July 21 st	Band Camp	7:00am-11:00am 1:00pm-3:00pm 5:00pm-8:00pm
Tuesday, July 22 nd	Band Camp	7:00am-11:00am 1:00pm-3:00pm 5:00pm-8:00pm
Wednesday, July 23 rd	Band Camp	7:00am-11:00am 1:00pm-2:00pm 2:00pm-3:00pm (SnapRaise FR Setup!)
Thursday, July 24 th	Band Camp	7:00am-11:00am

		1:00pm-3:00pm (Dinkle sizing) 5:00pm-8:00pm
Friday, July 25 th	Band Camp	7:00am-11:00am 1:00pm-3:00pm
<u>BAND CAMP</u>	<u>2nd week (BOTH WEEKS MANDATORY) @ Thompson High School</u>	
Monday, July 28 th	Band Camp	7:00am-11:00am 1:00pm-3:00pm 5:00pm-8:00pm
Tuesday, July 29 th	Band Camp	7:00am-11:00am 1:00pm-3:00pm 5:00pm-8:00pm
Wednesday, July 30 th	Band Camp (1-4PM block @ THS for pics! TBD)	7:00 am-11:00am 1:00pm-4:00pm (Pictures THS Arena) w/ Frank Couch
Thursday, July 31 st	Band Camp	7:00 am-11:00 am 1:00pm-2:30pm 2:30pm-3:00pm (SnapRaise FR Kick Off!) 5:00pm- 8:00pm
Friday, Aug. 1 st	Band Camp	7:00-am-11:00am 1:00pm-3:00pm 6:00pm-8:00pm 7:00pm Parent Show in Warrior Stadium TBD

Band Camp Meal/Break Time Details:

We DO NOT provide lunches or dinners during the band camp breaks from 11AM-1PM and 3PM-5PM to the students. It is the parent(s)/guardian(s) responsibility to make sure that their student(s) have food/water during this time daily. We will however have staff in the Thompson High School Band Room during this time in order to provide a place in which students may eat/rest during the breaks. The CNP also does not provide food during these times.

After School Schedule:

Because the Marching Southern Sounds does not meet during the school day we will have rehearsal after school at the band practice field. The schedule below will be used until after the last marching competition in late October.

Mondays	After school	3:30pm-5:45pm
Tuesdays	After school	3:30pm-5:45pm
Thursdays	After school	3:30pm-5:45pm
Friday	Game days!	

Percussion and Visual Ensemble may have extra rehearsals as deemed by their instructors on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30pm

THS Band Schedule 2025-2026

(Dates are tentative and all are subject to change)

Varsity Football Schedule

DATE	SPORT	OPPONENT	LOCATION
8/21 (Thurs)	VFB	Carver-Montgomery	Home
8/29	VFB	Grayson Academy	Away (Milton, GA)
9/5	VFB	Tuscaloosa County	Home
9/12	VFB	Oak Mountain	Away
9/19	VFB	Vestavia Hills	Home
9/26	VFB	Clay-Chalkville	Away
10/3	VFB	Hewitt-Trussville	Away
10/10	VFB	Hillcrest	Home
10/17	VFB	Hoover	Away
10/24	VFB	Prattville	Away
10/31	VFB	BYE WEEK	BYE WEEK

Varsity Football PLAYOFFS!

EXPECT that we will go to the state championship game!

Round 1	Nov. 7
Round 2	Nov. 14
Round 3	Nov. 21 and/or Nov. 28 (Round 4 possibly?)
7A State Championship	Dec. 3

Contest Schedule (Will participate in 3)

Possible Dates (Will take place ALL DAY)

Sept. 27
Oct. 4
Oct. 18
Oct. 25

Parade Schedule (not limited to)

Homecoming parade	TBD
Alabaster Christmas Parade	Sat. Dec. 6
Parade of Graduates	TBD

Band Concert Schedule (not limited to)

Fall Concert - Thurs, Nov. 6 7pm (Wind Ens, Symphonic, Concert)
Veterans Day Program - (Tentative Nov.) (Wind Ensemble Only)
Christmas Concert - Tues, Dec. 9 6pm (Wind Ens, Symphonic, Concert w/ Choir, Orchestra)

Winter Pre-MPA Concert - Thurs, Feb. 19 7pm (Wind Ens, Symphonic, Concert)
Music Performance Assessment - Mar. 2-6 TBD (Wind Ens, Symphonic, Concert)
Swing Into Spring - Thurs, Apr. 2 approx 6pm (Jazz Program)
Spring Concert - Thurs, May 7 6pm (Wind Ens, Symphonic, Concert)