

***Brandon High School
Marching Eagles Band***



2011-2012

Handbook

**If you have any questions about this handbook,
please call the Band Office.**

Director of Bands: Ms. Melanie Driscoll
(813) 744-8120, ext. 311
melanie.driscoll@sdhc.k12.fl.us
www.brandoneaglesband.com

Colorguard Sponsor: Erin Wright
Erin.Wright@sdhc.k12.fl.us

Communication is the key to success.

I am responsible for my behavior and the results of that behavior.

I am responsible for what I become in life.

Life does not accept excuses.

**I will not let my need to be accepted by others
keep me from doing what is right.**

I am somebody.

Losers let it happen, winners make it happen.

Therefore, when faced with a mountain, I will not quit.

**I will keep on striving until I climb over,
find a pass through, tunnel underneath, or
simply stay and turn the mountain into a gold mine...**

I will do my best. I know I can. I am a winner.

I am somebody.

I am an integral part of the Brandon Marching Eagles Band.

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www.brandoneaglesband.com



Brandon High School Marching Eagles Band

Melanie Driscoll, Director of Bands

1101 Victoria Street – Brandon, FL 33510

Phone: (813) 744-8120, ext. 311

melanie.driscoll@sdhc.k12.fl.us

www.brandoneaglesband.com

Dear Brandon High School Eagle Band Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome to the Brandon High School Band program! Congratulations on your decision to be a part of one of the finest organizations in Hillsborough County. The Brandon Eagles Band Program provides a variety of musical opportunities including Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Colorguard giving students a venue to develop leadership skills reaching their highest potential.

The Marching, Concert and Jazz ensembles give students the opportunity to explore different types of music repertoire. These ensembles will perform in different public venues and Music Performance Assessments (MPA) at District and State levels. The Colorguard will perform with the Marching Band in the Fall and compete in the Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit (FFCC) in the Spring.

Additional individual performance opportunities include the All-State Honor Band, All-County Honor Band, Solo and Ensemble Festival, Honor Bands at Florida universities, as well as the Master Musician Program.

Success is a direct result from a committed staff, student body, and an active parental involvement, all striving for the highest goals. Through hard work and dedication students will develop indispensable life skills and will achieve the reward of being part of something bigger than anyone can accomplish alone. Involvement in music provides a disciplined environment for students to learn musical skills and interact with others in a respectful manner.

Please keep this handbook and review its contents periodically. It is intended to be a convenient source of information regarding the Brandon Band Program. Communication is essential to the success of our band, please feel free to contact me regarding any questions or concerns you may have.

Musically Yours,

Melanie Driscoll
Director of Bands

Basic Band Principles **“The Three A’s”**

ATTITUDE: Loyalty, spirit, unity, cooperation, self-control, patience, and good conduct as reflected in your willingness to work for the band, accept responsibility, and account for yourself according to good citizenship, tradition, and policies.

ATTENDANCE: Dependability and accountability as an individual to be present and punctual at all events, rehearsals, and performances. “If you’re early, you’re on time; if you’re on time, you’re late!”

ABILITY: Execution of your assigned musical and visual role through the progress you make in the execution of your assignment and responsibilities on a continuing basis. Dedicating time for individual practice and group rehearsal has a direct effect on the development of ability.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BRANDON BAND PROGRAM

- To improve and cultivate individual musicianship and performance.
- To continuously strive for musical excellence through individual and group performance and commitment.
- To develop character, leadership, and professionalism through the maintenance of high moral standards, discipline and teamwork.
- To promote school spirit.
- To provide entertainment for both school and community activities.

MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS IN THE EAGLE BAND PROGRAM

Any student of Brandon High School may be a member of the BHS Eagles Band Program under the following stipulations:

1. Must be legally registered for Band 1, 2, 3, 4, Instrumental Ensemble (for percussionists) or Eurhythmics (for Colorguard) within the regular school day.
2. Must maintain an acceptable 2.0 grade point average to be eligible to participate in outside-of-school activities. (Per Hillsborough County School Board)
3. Must accept financial responsibilities for instrument, equipment, uniform, cleaning, and travel charges.
4. Must meet minimum performance/audition standards set by the Director.
5. Must participate in both the marching and concert band (excludes Colorguard students).

EXPECTATIONS

1. Tennis shoes and socks **MUST BE** worn at all times for all marching band rehearsals and events.
2. Chewing gum is **NOT PERMITTED** in the band room, choir room, auditorium or during any rehearsal. It is a safety issue.
3. No food, candy or drink of any kind (except bottled water) is allowed inside the band room, choir room, auditorium, or on the rehearsal field.
4. If it is not yours, **DO NOT TOUCH IT!** (This includes all school instruments you do not have explicit permission to handle.) Respect other people's property.
5. There will be **NO** hazing of band members. The school board takes a strict stance against bullying.
6. Be in your designated seat or warm up block position, warmed up, and ready to begin **ON TIME**.
7. Insubordination will not be tolerated.
8. Public displays of affection **ARE NOT** allowed on 'band time.' Band functions are not dates.
9. A band member will wear no jewelry, finger nail polish, or excessive make-up while in uniform.
10. **ALWAYS** respect and support another band and its members...**ALWAYS!**
11. Show respect to all directors, administrators, teachers, band staff, and parents at all times.
12. Keep your language clean! Remember, you are representing the entire group.
13. The rehearsal room and field are academic classrooms, not a playground.
14. Remember, you are an Ambassador of Brandon High School. Do not do anything that would have to be explained to the director or an administrator or parent. Always conduct yourselves as ladies and gentlemen.
15. No cell phone usage during rehearsals.
16. Come prepared to rehearsals with all the required supplies and be ready to work.
17. Strive for excellence by referring to The Three A's at all times.

AWARDS POLICIES

Awards are earned on the basis of participation and outstanding performance. Awards are presented at the discretion of the band director. Awards are presented at the end of the year Band Banquet. The Awards Program is funded solely by the Brandon Band Boosters.

In order to be eligible to receive an award, the following criteria must be met:

- A student must have been actively participating in the marching, concert, or winter guard activities of the band for the entire school year and must be a current member of the band in good standing at the time of the award presentation.
- A student must have at least a "C" average in band. Students who do not meet this requirement may receive only a certificate of participation.
- Any student who drops band or is dismissed from band for any reason will **NOT** be eligible for any band award.
- Any student who has not cleared his/her individual band account by returning items checked out or who have not paid fees owed for lost, damaged or purchased items will have his/her awards held until the records are cleared.

Service Awards

- Letter Award & Band/Colorguard Pin - will be presented to each first year student who has been in band for a minimum of two semesters.
- Second Year Pin - will be presented to each second year student who has been in band for a minimum of four semesters.
- Third Year Pin Award - will be presented to each third year student who has been in band for a minimum of six semesters.
- Fourth Year Pin Award - will be presented to each fourth year student who has been in band for a minimum of eight semesters.
- Senior Award – will be presented to each graduating senior from the band/colorguard.
- Most Improved Award - will be presented to the most improved person from each of the following groups: Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, & Colorguard.
- Most Outstanding Award – will be presented to the most outstanding person from each of the following groups: Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, & Colorguard.
- Most Improved Section – will be presented to the section that shows the most improvement throughout the year.
- Most Outstanding Sections – will be presented to the section that proves to be the most outstanding throughout the year.
- Highest Section GPA Award – will be presented to each member of the section with the highest average GPA.
- Colorguard Rookie of the Year – will be presented to the most outstanding 1st year member of the colorguard.
- The Louis Armstrong Jazz Award- will be presented to the outstanding member of the Jazz ensemble.
- Band Director Award – will be presented to the outstanding senior who best represents the ideals of the Florida Bandmasters Association through their bands-men-ship.
- The John Philip Sousa Award- recognizes superior musicianship and outstanding dedication of a graduating senior and is the highest high school band award in the nation.
- Additional Awards- may be presented at the discretion of the band director(s) to meet the needs of deserving students.

Activity Awards

- Bronze Activity Award- will be presented to each wind or percussion student who has earned a minimum of 15 activity points during the course of one year (12 points for 9th graders).
- Silver Activity Award- will be presented to each wind or percussion student who has earned a minimum of 20 activity points during the course of the year (16 points for 9th graders).
- Gold Activity Award- will be presented to each wind or percussion student who has earned a minimum of 25 points during the course of the year (20 points for 9th graders).
- Emerald Activity Award- will be presented to any wind and percussion student who has earned a total of 90 activity points through their senior year.
- Diamond Activity Award- will be presented to any wind or percussion student who has earned a total of 100 or more activity points through their senior year.

*Activity Point List (Winds and Percussion)

Numbers in () parenthesis indicate point total for receiving a superior rating in the activity.

<u>Points</u>	<u>Activity</u>
2	Band member both semesters
1	Band Leadership
1 (2)	Participation Marching Band MPA
3 (4)	Each entry at Dist. Solo/Ensemble
1 (2)	Participation District Concert Band MPA
2 (3)	Each entry at State Solo/Ensemble Festival
1	Audition for All-County Honor Band
2	All-County Honor Band Participant
1	Audition for All-State Band
3	All-State Band Participant (auditioned band)
2	Master Musician
1	Switch over to another instrument at director's request
3	Straight A's in band
3	Perfect attendance at all rehearsals and performances (no absences of any kind)
1	Other Honor Band(s)
1 (2)	Play off 12 Major Scales (Bonus for Memory)
2	Private lessons (minimum 1/2 year w/ letter from teacher)
1 (4)	Fundraising the goal amounts on selected fundraisers (TBA)
1 (3)	Special Projects
	A. Five 100 word summaries of articles from the Instrumentalist or School Musician Magazine (typed). Include a photo copy of article.
	B. A 500 word essay on the history and development of your instrument (typed with bibliography).
	C. Band service project as approved by director

- Colorguard Activity Award- will be presented to any auxiliary unit member who has earned minimum of 15 activity points throughout the course of one year
- Colorguard Achievement Award- will be presented to any auxiliary unit member who has earned minimum of 20 activity points throughout the course of one year
- Colorguard Award of Excellence- will be presented to any auxiliary unit member who has earned a minimum of 40 or more activity points through their senior year.

*Activity Point List (Colorguard)

Numbers in () parenthesis indicate point total for receiving a superior rating in the activity.

<u>Points</u>	<u>Activity</u>
2	Colorguard member both semesters
1	Band Leadership
2 (3)	Participation at District Marching Band MPA
2 (3)	Participation at Winter Guard Circuit / Competitions 3 rd Place or higher
3	Perfect Attendance at all rehearsals and performances (no absences of any kind)
1 (4)	Fundraising the goal amounts on selected fundraisers (TBA)
1 (4)	Special Projects
	A. Choreograph and successfully perform a routine with music (minimum two minutes, solo)
	B. Same as "A", but with a group of four members in an ensemble
	C. A 500 word essay on any topic related to dance (typed with bibliography).
	D. Band Service project approved by the director

BRANDON HIGH SCHOOL BAND STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Each student leader position comes with specific duties for which the officer is responsible the entire school year. Each position is listed below with its responsibilities and requirements. Band members should feel confident to go to any of the officers, at any time, for any questions they may have about schedules, procedures, etc.

ALL OFFICERS have the following responsibilities:

- 1) Serve as a role model in individual success on his/her instrument, behavior and commitment to the BHS Band
- 2) Attend all officer meetings
- 3) Attend band camp
- 4) Maintain momentum for all rehearsals and performances
- 5) Participate in all band activities, including fundraising or volunteer work
- 6) Communicate regularly with the band director and the colorguard sponsor
- 7) Participate at Solo & Ensemble

<p style="text-align: center;">Band Captain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presides over all band officers and affairs concerning the BHS Band. • Supervise all other student leaders • Responsible for aiding in teaching drill and fundamentals during marching season to all band and auxiliary members • Assemble stage crews during concert season • Any other duties deemed necessary by the band director 	<p style="text-align: center;">Drum Major</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attends drum major camp • Supervises Section Leaders • Responsible for aiding in teaching drill and marching fundamentals as well as assisting other band members in being prepared at every rehearsal and performance • Responsible for organization of inspection before each performance • Any other duties deemed necessary by the band director • Assist director with attendance for rehearsals and performances 	<p style="text-align: center;">Section Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for all musical aspects of the marching show • Responsible for scheduling and conducting sectionals • Communicates regularly with the Band Captain • Responsible for making sure each member in their section has instrument that is in good playing condition • Assist with inspection process before performances • Any other duties deemed necessary by the band director
<p style="text-align: center;">Colorguard Captain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicates regularly with the Band Captain and Colorguard Sponsor • Responsible for making sure each member in their section has equipment that is in good condition • Assist with inspection process before performances • Any other duties deemed necessary by the band director 	<p style="text-align: center;">Equipment Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for all equipment used by the BHS Band (including the sound system for every rehearsal) • Assists director with keeping a record of school owned instrument usage and forms • Responsible for loading and unloading of all equipment needed at rehearsal and performances and securing a crew for each event. • Any other duties deemed necessary by the band director 	<p style="text-align: center;">Librarian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for all music used throughout the year by the BHS Band • Responsible for keeping record of music assigned and collected • Responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the band library as well as organizing a filing system and updating the database of the music library regularly • Any other duties deemed necessary by the band director
<p style="text-align: center;">Secretary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist director with attendance for rehearsals and performances • Responsible for keeping record of music/colorguard equipment assigned and collected • Assist director and sponsor with record keeping • Any other duties deemed necessary by the band director 	<p style="text-align: center;">Uniform Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for all uniforms used by the BHS Band • Assist director with keeping record of school owned uniform usage and forms • Responsible for inspection of uniforms at all performances for officers and members • Any other duties deemed necessary by the band director 	<p style="text-align: center;">Historian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for maintaining the band bulletin board • Responsible for collecting and documenting band activities and organizing them in a creative way • Any other duties deemed necessary by the band director

FOOTBALL GAME PROCEDURES

- Call times will be announced prior to each game. Most of the time home games will be at 5:30 p.m. and away games will be at 5:00 p.m.
- Students will report to the band room at call time for all games.
- Students should arrive at the school wearing their maroon athletic shorts and the current band t-shirt (“Rain Gear”), which will be worn underneath their uniform. They should also be in tall, black athletic socks and their black marching shoes when they arrive.
- All long hair must be pulled back with a black hair tie. No hair ribbons. Hair colored bobby pins will be permitted.
- No jewelry will be permitted, except for watches. Earrings that cannot be removed must be covered by flesh colored band-aids before the call time.
- Brass and woodwind players must bring their clean white gloves. Woodwinds cut the fingertips off their gloves above the second knuckle.
- For those members who have their fingertips showing or do not wear gloves, fingernail polish is not permitted.
- For home games, students line up for inspection completely dressed with instruments and flip folders at the designated time.
- For away games, students will report to the band room in their band T-shirt, maroon athletic shorts, shoes, and tall black socks for warm-up. Students then load the truck with their instruments (in cases), put on uniform pants and report to the band room to be sent to their assigned bus with their hat boxes, gloves, and jackets (on the hangers).
- On the busses after the game, students will take off their jackets and hang them on their hangers in the correct manner. Each student is responsible for his or her own uniform and instrument. Instruments are to be returned to the band room after we unload at school.
- No food or drink, with the exception of water, will be permitted in the band section of the stands. Water will be provided in the stands by the chaperones.
- Once all students are seated back in the stands after the halftime performance, the band will be dismissed as a group to take a break. During this break, all students must remember to conduct themselves as representatives of the band. No student may leave the stadium. Please take great care in how you treat your uniform during this break.
- If all students are not back in their assigned seats in the stands by the time the clock hits zero from the third quarter, the entire band will lose their third quarter break privileges for the next game, whether they are home or away. No exceptions. Remember that a third quarter break is a privilege; many bands don’t even take a break.
- As long as you are in uniform, you are performing. This includes before, during, and after the game.
- No band member is permitted to leave the game or event before group dismissal at any time; unless permission is granted by the director (an email from a parent is required).
- While seated in the stands, only band members are allowed in the ranks. Alumni, family and friends are always welcome to watch us perform, but will not be allowed to sit in the ranks of the band while in the stands.
- While seated in the stands, the band members will always sit in assigned sections.
- We will play as a group while in the stands. **Solo performances are not permitted.**
- No inappropriate cheers will be allowed.
- In order to move in a safe and organized fashion, instructions may be given where a rapid response is necessary.
- Everyone must pay attention to the director, student leadership, and chaperones when instructions are being given. Please stay flexible.
- After games and performances, which can sometimes be late, parents are expected to pick

up their students in a timely manner at the band room door. The band room will be open for a short time so students may store instruments and gather belongings.

- Chaperones are needed for home and away games. Parents/Guardians may volunteer for this by viewing the Band Booster page of the website and contacting Mrs. Clements, the Booster President and chaperone coordinator at eaglesbandboosters@gmail.com. All chaperones must have a SERVE form turned in to Ms. Driscoll and a Band Booster form and \$5 fee turned in to Mrs. Clements.

REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

- The required rehearsals are scheduled on Monday and Thursday after school until 6:00 p.m.
- Students are required to be on the field in their assigned attendance block position 30 minutes after the school dismissal bell with their instrument, music in flip folder, drill book on string, pencil, and water bottle that can be worn.
- 30 minutes after the school dismissal bell the attendance whistle will sound, section leaders will begin inspections and the band will begin warming-up as a group. Students not in their assigned attendance block position will be considered tardy. Being on time is extremely important because the band room will be locked due to the distance of the field from the band room.
- Rehearsals will never be cancelled due to bad weather. We will have full music rehearsals or sectionals in the band room if the weather is bad.
- Students will wear cool, light colored, non-restrictive, non-revealing clothing, and tennis shoes. Students are required to wear socks to prevent blistering.
- School dress code also applies to rehearsals.
- Sunscreen and bug spray is also needed at times. Students are encouraged to eat a healthy snack or meal and to drink water before practice.
- Students are responsible for bringing their own filled water bottle. We will provide water coolers for refills.
- Students are required to attend every rehearsal. A new part of the show is added at each practice, so please schedule work and other appointments accordingly.
- The percussion and the colorguard may have additional practices with the days and times being announced as the season progresses.
- There will also be optional “sectionals” with dates and times announced in advance.
- The school board policy on cell phones applies to after school rehearsals as well.

BAND WEBSITE

Please check the website regularly. There is a calendar, announcements, upcoming events, music, pictures, booster information, and much more.

The band website is www.brandoneaglesband.com.

The Student Username is “eagles.”

The Student Password is “band2012.”

BAND MEMBER FEES

The band offers payment plans as well as numerous fundraisers to try to offset some of these expenses. Families experiencing extreme financial hardships should see Ms. Driscoll privately for possible alternative arrangements. Fees should never be the reason for a student not to be able to participate in band.

Checks should be made payable to *Brandon Band Boosters* (except for **Instrument and Uniform Rental checks**, those are made to *Brandon High School*). Please put your student’s name and what the check is for in the memo area.

Payments must be put in an envelope labeled with the student’s name, the amount, and what the payment is for. The envelope should be placed in the black lock box on Ms. Driscoll’s office door or mailed to the following address:

Brandon High School Band
 ATTN: Melanie Driscoll
 1101 Victoria St.
 Brandon, FL 33510

Fee	Amount	Due	Cash or Check to:
<u>Marching Season</u>			
Band Camp	\$180.00	July 29	Brandon Band Boosters
Band Rain Gear (T-shirt & Shorts)	\$15.00	July 29	Brandon Band Boosters
Marching Uniform Cleaning**	\$35.00	Aug. 31	Brandon Band Boosters
Marching Uniform Rental	\$37.45	Aug. 31	Brandon High School
Instrument Rental (if provided by BHS, includes all percussion.)	\$42.80	Aug. 31	Brandon High School
Gloves	\$5.00	Aug. 31	Brandon Band Boosters
Marching Shoes	\$34.20	Aug. 31	Brandon Band Boosters
<u>Concert Season</u>			
Rent Concert Uniform	\$30.00	Nov. 1	Brandon Band Boosters
	or		
Purchase Tux (includes all parts)	\$99.00	Nov. 1	Brandon Band Boosters
	or		
Purchase Dress	\$66.00	Nov. 1	Brandon Band Boosters

** A\$35 credit will be applied to the student’s account if a parent/guardian volunteers for two Music Box Fundraising times. Please contact Mrs. Clements at cclements@tgh.org to schedule a time. The \$35 credit will only be applied to the student’s account once a school year; no matter how many additional Music Boxes have been worked.

If you have any questions about your student’s account, please contact our Band Treasurer, Mrs. Jody Bone at jbone@levyawards.com.

OPTIONAL SPECIALTY ITEMS (available through *Brandon Band Boosters*)

- BHS Tattoos -- \$0.25
- Brandon Eagles Hoodie -- \$30.00
- Car Decal -- \$1.00
- Brandon Band Hoodie -- \$30.00
- Chaperone Polo -- \$25.00
- Short Sleeve Brandon Eagle T-Shirt -- \$10.00
- Eagle Jewelry (Bracelet and/or Necklace) \$7 each or 2 or \$12

COLORGUARD MEMBER FEES

The band offers payment plans as well as numerous fundraisers to try to offset some of these expenses. Families experiencing extreme financial hardships should see Ms. Driscoll privately for possible alternative arrangements. Fees should never be the reason for a student not to be able to participate in colorguard.

Checks should be made payable to *Brandon Band Boosters* (except for *Auxiliary Marching Uniform Rental* checks, those are made to *Brandon High School*). Please put your student’s name and what the check is for in the memo area. Please keep in mind that the Fall & Spring Colorguard Expenses must be paid before the student receives the product.

Payments must be put in an envelope labeled with the student’s name, the amount, and what the payment is for. The envelope should be placed in the black lock box on Ms. Driscoll’s office door or mailed to the following address:

Brandon High School Band
 ATTN: Melanie Driscoll
 1101 Victoria St.
 Brandon, FL 33510

<u>Yearly Fee</u>
Instructional, Equipment & Dues Fee = 9 monthly payments starting in Sept. of \$45 due at the beginning of each month (or one payment of \$405)

<u>Summer Colorguard Expenses</u>
\$180 Band Camp

<u>Spring Colorguard Expenses</u>
\$150 Winter Guard Costume

<u>Fall Colorguard Expenses</u>
\$42.80 Auxiliary Marching Uniform Rental Fee (Rental Fee paid to Brandon H. S.)
\$12 School Uniform Cleaning Fee
\$135 Marching Show Uniform
\$25 Personalized Duffle Bag
\$10 Colorguard T-Shirt
\$13 Gloves (as needed)
\$25 Shoes (as needed)
\$55 Warm-Up Jacket (as needed)

**A\$35 credit will be applied to the students account if a parent/guardian volunteers for two Music Box Fundraising times. Please contact Mrs. Clements at cclements@tgh.org to schedule a time. The \$35 credit will only be applied to the student’s account once a school year; no matter how many additional Music Boxes have been worked.

If you have any questions about your student’s account, please contact our Band Treasurer, Mrs. Jody Bone at jbone@levyawards.com.

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Guidelines for students receiving a percentage of fundraising profits

This program is designed to help defray the costs of band camp, band fees, and field trips for all students.

- Selected individual fundraisers will be split with 50% of the profit going to the student's individual band account and 50% going to the general band booster account.
- 50% of the profit of selected group fundraisers (Ex. Car Wash, Yankees Games, etc.) will be split in equal shares among the fully participating volunteers at that event.
- Each student who fully participates in a fundraising event will receive one share of the 50% split of profit.
- For group fundraisers (Ex. Car Wash, Yankees Games, etc.) students must be signed up for the event to receive credit; you may not simply show up.
- One parent per family who fully participates in a fundraising event will receive one share of the 50% split for their child.
- In a multiple band student family, when both parents fully participate, they will receive two shares.
- In a single band student family, if both parents fully participate, they will receive one share.
- Chaperoning at a car wash counts as participation for a parent, but you must be an approved chaperone for that event.
- ALL participating students and parents MUST sign in, or they will NOT receive any shares.
- Money raised from fundraisers in the student's individual account may only go toward required band fees. For example, a student may not use fundraised money to go toward an optional band item such as a Marching Band Halftime Show T-shirt, Band Sweatshirt, etc.
- When a student graduates or leaves the band program, any left over money in the student's individual account will be rolled into the general band booster fund. The only exception would be for the money to transfer to a sibling already in the band program or entering the following year. No exceptions.

If you have any question about the amount in your account,
please contact the treasurer, Mrs. Bone at jbone@levyawards.com.

Brandon High School Band/Eurhythmics

Syllabus

Director of Bands: Ms. Melanie Driscoll
(813) 744-8120, ext. 311
melanie.driscoll@sdhc.k12.fl.us
www.brandoneaglesband.com

Course Description:

The Brandon Eagle Band is under the direction of Ms. Driscoll. It is open to all 9th-12th graders. Placement within the ensemble is audition-based. Every student is required to audition. Members are required to attend the out-of-school and class rehearsals. Members are also required to participate in all concerts and out-of-school performances. Being a member of the Eagle Band consists of participating in both the marching and concert band.

Assessment Plan:

40% Performances
25% Rehearsal Participation and Preparation
25% Class Participation and Preparation
10% Class Work and Performance Assessments (Pass-Offs)

Grading Scale:

90% - 100% - A
80% - 89% - B
70% - 79% - C
60% - 69% - D
59% - Lower - F

In addition, there is a county-mandated semester final exam designed specifically for the Band or Eurhythmics classes. This material will be taught throughout the term, and will be reviewed at the end of the semester.

Students in all grades will:

Study and use basic music theory
Develop their musical vocabulary
Study the historical aspects of the music performed
Participate in Music Performance Assessments
Perform in concerts and at football games
Audition for chair placement

Students in all grades will have an opportunity to:

Perform as a group for different audiences
Perform in small groups
Audition for All-County and/or All-State
Prepare for Master Musician
Prepare solos & ensembles

* Attendance at all after school rehearsals and performances are MANDATORY. Please refer to the Band Handbook for the attendance policies and procedures.

Course Calendar

2011 Football Schedule

Game Time: 7:30pm Band Call Time: TBA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Friday, Sept. 2	Armwood	Home	7:30 pm
Friday, Sept. 9	No Game	-----	-----
Friday, Sept. 16	Freedom	Away	7:30 pm
Friday, Sept. 23	Durant	Away	7:30 pm
Friday, Sept. 30	Sickles (No Band)	Away	7:30 pm
Friday, Oct. 7	Newsome	Home	7:30 pm
Friday, Oct. 14	Plant	Home	7:30 pm
Friday, Oct. 21	Riverview	Away	7:30 pm
Friday, Oct. 28	Plant City	Away	7:30 pm
Friday, Nov. 4	East Bay	Home	7:30 pm
Friday, Nov. 11	Jefferson	Home	7:30 pm

*Call times for away games will be announced the week of the away game.

Other Important Dates

Aug. 23	Students' First Day Back at School
Sept. 10	HOT DAY @ USF
Sept. 24	All-State Auditions – Burns M.S.
Oct. 14	Middle School Band Night
Oct. 22	Lion's Pride Marching Band Competition
Oct. 29	Marching Band MPA – Manatee H.S.
Dec. 7	Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal
Dec. 8	Winter Band Concert
Jan. 19-21	All-County Honor Band
Feb. 10	Jazz MPA at Florida State Fair
Feb. 17 & 18	Solo & Ensemble – Armwood H.S.
February 23	Pre-MPA Band Concert
March 1-3	Concert Band MPA – USF
May 3	Spring Band Concert
May 18	Band Awards Banquet

* Recruiting Performances will be held during the year at the local middle schools.

**Homework Due Dates will be given when the assignment is assigned.

Marching Band Rehearsals **Monday & Thursday** **After School until 6:00pm**

Please check the website frequently for all announcements and calendar information.

www.brandoneaglesband.com

ATTENDANCE

Participation in all music functions (rehearsals and performances) is crucial, as the group is interdependent upon all of its members. All students will be expected to participate in a concert ensemble, and the marching band. Because other students are counting on each individual to pull their weight, participation and attendance at functions will weigh heavily upon a student's grade in their respective music class. Non-Emergency medical appointments, lack of transportation, working at a job, or lack of proper attire/uniform will be counted as unexcused and will result in the student's grade being lowered. If a student needs to miss a rehearsal for any reason, they should give written notice to the director from their parents in the form of the "*Request to be excused from an event form*" found on the band website 3 days in advance. If the absence is excused, a make-up assignment will be given. This assignment must be completed within 3 school days of the absence. Only medical emergencies and family emergencies will be excused for music performance absences, with proper written notification to the director. Please note; bringing in a note does not necessarily excuse an absence – This is at the discretion of the director. Requests will not be excused after an absence has already occurred. Emergencies will require students to submit the form 24 hours after a student returns to school. Please attach any paperwork to the form verifying absence. The director has the right to approve or deny any request at any time for any reason.

An unexcused tardy will automatically lower the performance, rehearsal, or class grade by 10%. A missed Thursday rehearsal will result in the student not being able to march the halftime show at that Friday's game. This is for the safety of the student and the other band members around them. The student will still be required to perform with the band in the stands.

Students who are "sick" MUST provide the proper form within 24 hours of returning back to school AND must have also missed school either that same day of the missed rehearsal or the day after in order to be excused from the rehearsal. If a student is well enough to attend school, they are well enough to attend rehearsal. If the student attends school both those days but not rehearsal, the illness is considered unexcused.

Marching events and concert band dress rehearsals that are held the day before a competition or concert are required in order for the student to perform the following day. No exceptions. Everyone needs to be there.

Learning time management early will help you for a lifetime!

First and Second Unexcused Absence (from rehearsal) – Student is not allowed to march during halftime and they receive a zero for the rehearsal grade.

Third Unexcused Absence – Removal from the band program.

Students are responsible for arriving at each rehearsal and performance on time and properly prepared (properly dressed, instrument ready, water, music ready, and all other supplies).

Communication with the director is key!

The schedule will always be announced far enough in advance to avoid conflicts.

Calendars are sent home regularly and are always posted on Edline,
the bulletin board in the band room, and the band website

www.brandoneaglesband.com

Brandon High School Band

Request to be excused from an event

Student Name _____

Phone Number where a parent/guardian can be reached _____

Today's Date: _____ Date of Requested Absence: _____

Event You Would Miss (circle one): Rehearsal Performance Trip Other: _____

Before filing out this section, please refer to the handbook regarding excused and unexcused absences.

Detailed Reason for Absence: _____

Prearranged absent requests must be turned in at least 3 school days prior to the event. Emergencies will require the student to submit this sheet 24 hours after the student returns to school from said emergency. Please make sure the appropriate documentation has been attached, or else this form will not be considered. Failure to follow procedure for approval for a missed event will result in an unexcused absence and will affect the 9 weeks grade (please refer to Band Handbook for policies). I, the undersigned understand it is my responsibility to request to miss an activity with the Brandon High School Band. I also understand that my director has the right to approve or deny any request at any time for any reason.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

* If this absence is approved, an alternative assignment will be assigned by the Director. The student will have three days from the absence to complete the alternative assignment.

(Director Use Only)

_____ Approved

_____ Denied

Documentation: _____

Meets Requirements: _____

Alternative Assignment:

LIFE AFTER MARCHING BAND

The emphasis of concert ensembles begins when school starts. The first performance is the Winter Concert before our Winter Break. Students will be involved in preparing for concerts, assessments, and individual solo and ensemble performances. Students may begin now to prepare a selection of music for individual solo or ensemble assessment in February. Playing from an approved list of musical selections, students play before a judge and are assessed. Please see Ms. Driscoll now for help with selecting a solo or ensemble to prepare. Solo & Ensemble information is posted on the band website with a link to the list of music to choose from. Students may also audition for the All-State and All-County Honor Bands. (To participate, an audition is held in the fall with the concert taking place just after winter break. The dates of auditions are on the calendar.) The Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA) holds Music Performance Assessments (MPA) at area high schools. There are 3 MPA's that we participate in: Marching Band, Jazz Band and Concert Band. At these assessments, the band is given ratings from a panel of adjudicators on their performance.

TRAVEL

The Brandon High School band travels frequently during the year, in county, out-of-county, and occasionally out of state. Trip fees pay the cost of transportation and lodging. In the event of an overnight trip, a detailed itinerary will be distributed to all students and parents. All Hillsborough County, Brandon High School, and Brandon Eagle Band policies are in effect for the duration of the trip. We will be representing ourselves, Brandon High School Band, Brandon High School, the city of Brandon, Hillsborough County, and the State of Florida whenever we step off the bus; we will all do our best to maintain the highest of standards.

Travel Policies

1. Possession/consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or any drugs not prescribed by a physician (over the counter medications will have a parent note and will be turned in to the director) will not be tolerated. Administrative action will occur in addition to notification of the proper authorities.
2. No tobacco products will be tolerated.
3. Students will behave in the hotel at all times. Any students that cannot behave and/or follow directions will be sent home at the parent's expense.
4. Band members are not permitted in any other rooms other than their assigned rooms after hours. At no time will students be allowed onto/into a floor/room of the opposite sex. No unauthorized persons will be allowed to visit.
5. Parents and students will be held responsible for any property damaged or lost (this includes room keys).
6. Proper dress code will be required at all times.
7. Please refrain from playing instruments while in your room.
8. No students are allowed to leave the hotel unless given permission from the director.
9. Students will always travel in groups of at least four or more.
10. Follow all instructions of directors and chaperones at all times. If you do not understand, ask.

The director is ultimately responsible for the students' safety and well-being. Therefore, the director reserves the right to dismiss and send home any student who disobeys the rules and whose general conduct and attitude towards the trip and its participants is determined to be detrimental to that individual or to the rest of the group. In the event a student must be sent home, all travel expenses to send the student home will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

SOLO & ENSEMBLE

Solo and Ensemble is an opportunity for individual growth and development in music. Solo and Ensemble is an optional performance. Students prepare a solo on their instrument. There are piano accompaniments that go along with these solos. Students are responsible for learning their solo. Solos can be practiced with Smart Music at home. The accompaniment will follow you. This will give you an advantage over practicing without the piano part. For the actual performance at solo and ensemble, students can choose to play with a live accompanist or the Smart Music computer. There may be a small fee for the piano accompaniment which students will be responsible for. Students perform for a judge from the Florida Bandmaster's Association, who will give the student feedback on what they are doing correctly, and provide feedback on what they could improve on. Students can also participate in ensembles, where they play with other students in a small group. The types of groups vary, and have all different numbers and mixes of instruments. Students may participate in up to three events at solo and ensemble. Students are responsible for entry fee. It is around \$6.00 per student in each event.

If a student receives a rating of a "superior" at district on a grade 5 piece of literature or higher, they may opt to participate in state-level solo and ensemble. This is typically held right before spring break each year at two different sites in the state. College professors serve as the judges, and student expectations are much more rigorous. Performing at state solo and ensemble is quite an honor, and students should be thoroughly prepared when facing an expert on their instrument. Students must be well prepared for this event. The director reserves the right to deny unprepared students from participating.

You must select a piece of music from the FBA Solo & Ensemble Music List. These pieces are divided by Grade Level (Ability Levels 1-7). Please see Ms. Driscoll if you have a question of which Grade Level you should play. This music list can be found at the following website under the Music List page: <http://flmusiced.org/fba/dnn/>

ALL-COUNTY HONOR BAND

The Hillsborough County All-County Band is a great individual honor for students, as well as for the Band Program here at Brandon. Students complete a live audition for judges behind a screen. Selected students then attend rehearsals in January for the All-County Honor Band, and perform a concert. Experienced Directors from other parts of the state and country are flown in to work with our students for three days. The director reserves the right to deny unprepared students from participating in the audition process.

ALL-STATE BAND

The All-State band is the highest honor in the Florida Bandmaster's Association. This is a VERY prestigious group, and it is no easy feat to be selected. Students must have their auditions recorded at a live site. Music requirements are posted on the Florida Bandmaster's Association website and given out by the band director at the beginning of the school year. Students selected participate in rehearsals at the annual Florida Music Educators' Association annual convention, here in Tampa. Prestigious conductors are flown in from around the globe to work with students for four days. Students selected are responsible for transportation to and from the convention center, convention registration fees, and must have a chaperone with them. Directors are required to be at the convention, and will check in on students in rehearsals periodically. The director reserves the right to deny unprepared students from auditioning.

HOW PARENTS/GUARDIANS CAN BE INVLOVED

Parental involvement is a vital aspect to band organizations. Following are some ways in which you may want to be involved. Remember many hands make light work, the more people that help out the less any one person has to do. A little goes a long way. The Brandon High School Band Boosters were established to provide assistance to the band director and band program in any way they can. Some of the ways the Band Boosters provide assistance are chaperoning events, helping to secure funds for instrument/equipment replacement and repair, uniform replacement and upkeep, and providing venues to award individual and group accomplishments.

Please refer to the “Band Booster” page of the band website for the Band Booster application and required SERVE Volunteer form.

Please contact the Booster Board at eaglesbandboosters@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer or if you have any volunteering questions:

Brandon Band Booster Association, Inc.:

<u>Officers:</u>	<u>Description of duty:</u>
President: Carol Clements cclements@tgh.org eaglesbandboosters@gmail.com	Responsible for organizing booster activities and chaperones for the benefit of the Brandon Band Program. She will work closely with the Director, the Board and Committees.
Vice President: Melanie Gicker	Responsible for supporting and assisting the president as well as presiding over fundraising activities.
Treasurer: Jody Bone jbone@levyawards.com	Responsible for keeping clear records of all transactions or monies made through the booster organization and reporting them to parents/guardians.
Secretary: Nancy Epps	Responsible for documenting and reporting meeting information to parents.

Committees you can be involved in:

<u>Committees:</u>	<u>Description:</u>
Parking:	Volunteers help with parking at all home football games. Jobs include collecting money and directing traffic.
Fundraising:	Organizing and executing several fundraising projects throughout the year.
Music Box:	A lucrative fundraiser for us! Please make a point to sign up for a night or two. Basically, we sell food items to night schoolers on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Mrs. Clements will help communicate dates and remind participants.
Chaperone:	Responsible for having volunteers available at football games, rehearsals, concerts, trips, etc.
Physical Support/Equipment:	Helping supervise equipment transport, loading/unloading procedures and halftime set-up.
Uniform:	Coordinating fitting and distribution of uniforms as well as cleaning schedules.
Website:	Updating and maintaining the band website.
Field Maintenance:	Mowing the marching field and repainting the lines.

Brandon High School Band Program

Parent/Student Handbook Agreement

The information contained in this handbook is to give parents/guardians and students information regarding the Brandon Eagles Band Program and to have one central location for all important policies and dates. Thank you for your time and commitment in creating a family atmosphere as well as a community symbol that is the Brandon Band.

My student and I have read the Brandon Eagle Band Handbook. We understand the policies outlined including:

- What is expected of students in the band program at Brandon High School both in and outside the classroom.
- The attendance policy and procedures
- Band is a co-curricular class, meaning students are expected to participate in all after-school rehearsals and performances throughout the school year.
- It is necessary for any Hillsborough County student to maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average in order to participate in any sport or co-curricular activity.
- The Brandon Band program maintains a website, www.brandoneaglesband.com, where information is posted throughout the year including important dates, news, accomplishments, etc.
- The band director reserves the right to assign, modify, or remove individual part or chair assignments for any reason.
- That it is my, the parent/guardian, responsibility to make the director aware if I do not want my son/daughter individually pictured on the website.
- The important dates are listed here in the handbook and will continue to be updated on the website calendar. We have seen the dates and understand that all performances/competitions are required.

Print Student's Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please return this page to Ms. Driscoll by Friday, September 2, 2011.