



AUBURN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

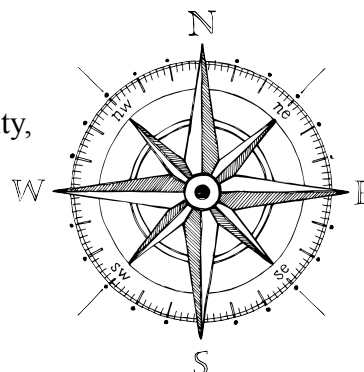
BAND SYLLABUS & HANDBOOK

2025-2026

AJHS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Auburn Junior High School, *the compass towards excellence*, is to ensure each student navigates the future with curiosity, knowledge, and passion through a system distinguished by:

- Guided opportunities
- Respectful relationships
- Openness to diversity
- Worthwhile innovation
- Technology-infused instruction
- Healthy, compassionate community



AJHS BANDS VISION STATEMENT

The primary goal of all band classes at Auburn Junior High School is to heighten the students' aesthetic awareness through the musical arts and connect with their peers and community through music-making. This is primarily viewed through the lens of the framework known as ***Comprehensive Musicianship through Performance (CMP)***. While there are many secondary objectives that are also set for the students, using sound as a means to communicate the intentions embodied in a musical work is always the ultimate focus.

We believe that junior high students are not too young to begin exploring the meaning of music as art. We also believe there is no better way to accomplish that than to develop the ability to perform - to take the creation of an artist and bring it to life. At the junior high level, we attempt to develop the musical skills necessary to recreate meaningful music and listen critically to both ourselves and others as they perform. The AJHS Band Program tradition of excellence is attributed to the high level of expectation that is shared by directors, students, administrators and parents.

<u>THREE GUIDING CURRICULAR GOALS</u>	<u>THREE ULTIMATE PROGRAM OUTCOMES</u>
Knowledge, Skills, Understanding	Attitudes, Habits, Appreciation

YEARLY OBJECTIVES OF THE AJHS BAND PROGRAM

- To teach music through actual performance. (*NCMS Artistic Process "Creating"*)
- To develop individual performance skills & technique. (*NCMS Artistic Process "Performing"*)
- To acquaint students with elements of music theory, aural skills, cultural diversity, and music history and how they relate to performance. (*NCMS Artistic Process "Responding" and "Connecting"*)

- To develop the ability to function as a responsible member/citizen of a group, enhance interaction, and develop cooperation with their classmates.
- To foster leadership skills and mental/physical discipline within each student.
- To provide students with a worthy use of their time, a means for self-expression, and a healthy social experience.
- To provide for the musical needs of our school and community.

OUR PROGRAM'S STRUCTURE

CONCERT ENSEMBLES

Students at AJHS are auditioned and placed into one of three concert ensembles: **Concert Band**, **Symphonic Band**, and **Wind Symphony**.

Placement in these three ensembles is designed not to divide students within the program, but facilitate the most successful learning environment for students and fulfill the instrumental needs of the ensembles. This allows for students to learn alongside students that are most like them in ability level, fostering the maximum level of progress. All ensembles play a variety of challenging music, spanning multiple styles and genres, and all groups are equally integral parts of the AJHS band family.

PERCUSSION METHODS

All AJHS Percussionists are enrolled in the Percussion Methods course. Since the skills involved in playing percussion are so different than winds, a separate course is offered to give those students the attention needed for well-rounded Percussion instruction. While in this course, Percussionists will be assigned which concert group they will perform with on concerts, but will learn that music in the context of Percussion class to allow for varieties in learning pace.

JAZZ BAND

The AJHS Jazz Band is a unique supplementary ensemble that meets before school during zero period to study the genre of jazz and its importance in American culture. This group explores and performs a variety of styles including but not limited to: jazz, swing, latin, rock, pop, and many others. This ensemble functions using mostly traditional jazz instrumentation (trumpets, trombone/baritone, saxophones, bass, guitar, drum-set, percussion, and piano).

ALL-STATE, DISTRICT, HONOR BANDS, & SOLO/ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

All members of the band program are eligible to apply and audition for the all-state and district honor bands. All-State Orchestra and All-State Jazz Band auditions are held in the Fall (November). All-District/All-State Concert Band auditions are held early in the Spring (January). Other honor bands sponsored by regional universities are also encouraged for students to apply and audition. Additionally, students from all over our district have the option to participate in Solo & Ensemble Festival (typically in April) to play solos and small ensembles (Duets, Trios, etc.) for an adjudicator and will receive feedback on their performance, including a rating. Students who receive a Superior rating (I) on their event will receive a medal to commemorate their achievement.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the *individual*.

Because of this, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the AJHS Bands. *These classroom rules are in *addition* to those set out in the AJHS Pupil Progression Plan (PPP)

GUIDING BAND RULES

1. All sounds cease immediately when signaled by the teacher. *Listening & Self-control* is key to our success.
2. Be *respectful* to all people, equipment, and the band room. Always project a positive *attitude* in your words and actions.
3. Strive for *excellence* and make the best possible music at all times.
4. Other rules decided upon and added to our class social contract with students.



CONSEQUENCES

Including but not limited to:

- Student Conference
- Parent Communication or Face to Face Conference
- School Detention
- Discipline Referral
- Loss of Travel Opportunities
- Dismissal from Band Program

CARE OF FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

- No gum, food (aside from lunch), or non-clear drinks in the Band Room except when authorized by Mr. Wine.
- All trash should be thrown away immediately in the designated trash cans without being asked.
- Students should never touch an instrument, equipment, or belongings that do not belong to them or not been assigned to them.
- Small rehearsal/practice rooms can only be used with permission from Mr. Wine.
- No students in the Music Library/workroom without permission from Mr. Wine.
- Percussion Studio and Instrument Storage Locker areas are not social spaces.

ATTENDANCE

The AJHS Band program follows the attendance policies and procedures set forth by the Auburn City Schools student handbook. All other emergency absences may be excused only with parent/director communication. Failure to have all required materials at rehearsal will result in the student receiving a lowered daily class grade. All unexcused absences will affect the students grade and/or participation in band. Excessive absences, whether excused or unexcused, may affect the student's performance eligibility and/or placement within the Auburn Band Program. Specifics on attendance for zero-period jazz band can be found in the zero-period contract.

Student attendance at performances is mandatory, GRADED, and every member is vital!

Students who miss a scheduled rehearsal or performance without excuse may forfeit their opportunity to participate in future concerts or trips.

GRADING

Students' grades in band will be composed of the following two areas:

MAJOR GRADES – 60% (Include but are not limited to)

- Playing Assessments (Tests)
 - An evaluation of this improvement may include pass-offs, recorded music tests, listening activities, individual playing tests, section tests, scale tests, bell-ringers, and written tests.
- Written Assessments (Tests)
- Band Projects
- Exams
 - Performances or select rehearsals/recording projects

MINOR GRADES – 40% (Include but are not limited to)

- Classroom Contribution (Participation)
 - The student will be on task and focused during all rehearsals/class.
 - The student will have instrument at school, music, pencil, and supplies.
 - The student will be prepared to play his/her part successfully.
 - The student will be evaluated on improvement of his/her ensemble skills during daily rehearsals (formative assessments)
 - Student posture, hand position, embouchure, tone production, and articulation will be constantly monitored during rehearsals for improvement.
- Quizzes
- Daily Work
- Listening Activities
- Practice Logs
- Notebooks/Portfolios

GRADING SCALE

90-100 (A) 80-89 (B) 70-79 (C) 60-69 (D) 59 & below (F)

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR CLASSES

Please see the full supply list on AuburnBands.org for detailed items

ALL STUDENTS

- ✓ Instrument/case in proper working order (with a name tag)
- ✓ Band Notebook (*provided by Mr. Wine*)
- ✓ Method Book (*provided by Mr. Wine*)
- ✓ All Required Music/Materials

- ✓ Plastic Sheet Protectors
- ✓ Pencils (must have in every rehearsal)
- ✓ Highlighter
- ✓ Instrument Accessories (valve oil, reeds, tuner, mutes, etc.)
- ✓ Cleaning Materials for instrument

PERCUSSION STUDENTS

- ✓ Vic Firth SD-1 General Snare Drum Sticks (used at ESS)
- ✓ Rubber tipped Xylophone Mallets (ex. Mike Balter BB8)
- ✓ Standing-Height Snare Drum Stand (used at ESS)
- ✓ 12” Pad (ex. Vic Firth or Evans “Real Feel” Pad)
- ✓ Medium-Hard Yarn Marimba Mallets (ex. Balter Ensemble Series Birch 13B)
- ✓ Stick/Mallet Bag

ORDERING SUPPLIES

Technicians from Art's Music in Montgomery and Gadsden Music in Gadsden come to the school each week on Thursdays and Fridays to bring supplies and to repair instruments. If you need to order supplies, please feel free to call these companies to order them. They will be brought to the school. You may send a check (payable to the company) to pay for the supplies.

- **Art’s Music Shop (Montgomery) - 1-800-341-2787**
- **Gadsden Music (Gadsden) - 1-(800) 264-7228**

Music Stores in Auburn:

- **Spicer’s Music - (334) 329-7529 www.spicersmusic.com**

Web-based dealers:

- **Music & Arts - musicarts.com **free shipping for orders over \$49***
- **Steve Weiss Music (mostly for Percussion) - www.steveweissmusic.com**

FINANCIAL OBLIGATION – “FAIR SHARE”

Every band member is responsible for a **“Fair Share” band fee of \$70** for the school-year. This fee is used for the purchase of the student’s black binder, band T-shirt, method book, sheet music, and a myriad of other yearly supplies. E-payments will be available on MySchoolBucks.com

Additional Fees (If Applicable) - All Available on MySchoolBucks.com

- **Uniform Fees (See “Uniform” Section Below)**
- **Instrument Rental Fees (See “Instruments” Section Below)**
- **Jazz Band Fee - \$25**

The Auburn Junior High School Band is structured to be available to **ALL** students who wish to participate, regardless of family financial situations. If an expense causes a legitimate

and dire financial hardship, **please reach out to the band director**. Arrangements can be made for extended payment time, delayed payment, or other means of financial assistance.

CONCERT UNIFORMS

The formal concert uniform for the Auburn Junior High School Band is as follows:

For Young Men:

- White Dress Shirt, Long-sleeved
- Black Dress Slacks
- Black Dress Shoes and Socks
- Black Bow Tie (can be ordered through Mr. Wine for \$5.00)
- Black Concert Vest (must order through Mr. Wine for \$25.00)

For Young Ladies:

- Black Concert Dress (must order through Mr. Wine for \$60)
- Black Dress Shoes

The student/parent is responsible for coordinating all of the student's uniform parts.

TRAVEL

When traveling with the AJHS Band, always recognize that your behavior never reflects only upon yourself, but on the AJHS Band, Auburn Junior High School, and our community.

Here are some ground rules to observe and follow:

- Listen to and respect all chaperones and bus drivers at all times.
- Be in rooms with lights out at the times assigned.
- Bring all necessary items (instruments, music, uniform parts, etc.).
- Always be attentive and ready for instructions.
- When allowed free time, always travel with a chaperone or a large group, never alone.

INSTRUMENTS

School-owned instruments may be available for the students that require them. An instrument rental fee of \$60 per instrument is required for the whole year to maintain and possibly clean instruments at the year's end. Instruments are expected to be cared for, cleaned, polished, and stored in a proper manner to maximize performance efficiency. All repair needs and accidents are to be immediately reported to the band director for evaluation. If it is determined by the band director that negligence on the student's part has lead to misuse of this equipment, then the student/parent will be held responsible for paying to have the equipment repaired or replaced. The band director will determine where the equipment will be repaired or from which company it will be replaced.

Any lost equipment will be paid for by the student/parent to whom it was checked out. Every student's instrument case should have a tag attached with his/her name and Auburn Junior High

School Band written clearly on the tag. Each student should record their instrument's serial number and keep this in a safe place in case it is lost.

PRACTICING

In order for the AJHS band, or any performing group for that matter, to reach its full potential, careful time must be taken outside of class to practice music. Remember that performing music is more fun when you do it well. Success in music requires you to set goals and practice regularly. Constant progress and growth is a huge part of what we try to achieve. This effort and progress will be monitored by regular playing assessments. A recommended regular practice time for junior high students is 20-30 minutes per day.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private study outside of class with an instrumental professional can be extremely beneficial. Though private lessons are not required for band membership (except in the case of late entrance into the program by a beginner), those families who elect to invest in private lessons tend to see their student excel at a much faster rate. There are many qualified professionals in the area who provide private instruction at very affordable rates. There is a comprehensive list of local private instructors on our website: auburnbands.org

AFTER-SCHOOL REHEARSALS

After-school sectional and full band rehearsals are necessary to work out logistics and allow the students to practice the music together in preparation for concerts. As this is an extension of the classroom, **attendance at after-school rehearsals is REQUIRED**. The only excuses for missing after-school rehearsals is illness, a game/tournament with a school-sponsored sports team (NOT simply practices or work-outs), or representing the school in some other official capacity (Science Olympiad regionals, etc.). Conflicts with sports practices must be handled on a case by case basis to ensure that time is split fairly. Band and sports work very well together as long as all parties involved communicate.

CONCERTS & PERFORMANCES

Concerts & performances are major grades as they are the culmination of the work we put in during a long concert cycle. Performance is the goal, as we try and instill confidence in our students to share their gifts with the world and public. **Student attendance at performances is mandatory, GRADED, and every member is vital!** Punctuality is essential. A concert concludes when the last group performs and director has given permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP!

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in the syllabus are followed. Each parent is responsible for the attendance of his or her child at all band functions. It is the responsibility of each parent to see that the child practices his or her instrument daily. The band cannot reach its full potential without the help of our students' biggest advocates: the parents. Some ideas on how you can help us include:

- Show an interest in the musical study of your child.
- Help arrange a regular time for your child to practice.
- Find a quiet place where he or she can practice without interruption.
- Listen to performances of practiced material when asked.
- Help keep the instrument in good paying condition.
- Help remind your child to be prepared and on-time for every rehearsal or lesson.
- Make faithful attendance at all band activities important.
- Please consider your child's band performance schedule when setting dental/orthodontic work/appointments.
- Notify the director in advance if the student is to be absent from rehearsal.

IN THE MORNINGS

Band students will be allowed to drop off **their own** instrument in the band room beginning at **7:45 am**. For security reasons, students not in band will not be allowed to enter the band room for any reason. **Students must have their name somewhere on their case at all times.** Students should be respectful and quiet if dropping off an instrument while the zero-period jazz band is rehearsing before the regular school day starts

IN THE AFTERNOONS

Students may pick up **their own** instrument on their way out to the parking lots or bus lines. Non-Band students will not be allowed in the band room. Students should not linger in the band room. Marching Band students will be offered transportation via athletic bus on days they have after-school rehearsal at AHS.

CHECK-LIST OF HOW TO STAY INFORMED

- Make sure contact information is always up to date. If you are not receiving Mr. Wine's weekly e-mails during the school year, let him know!
- When dealing with & communicating with students, Mr. Wine will primarily use the online learning system, Schoology, that has been adopted by Auburn City Schools.
- Check the calendar on auburnbands.org/ajhs regularly for upcoming events.
- Sign up for easy text message reminders from Mr. Wine (instructions on our website)
- For the Social Media-minded: You can follow the AJHS Bands on Twitter/X @AJHSBands and Instagram @AuburnJHBands
- Keep an eye on PowerSchools (ACS' online grade book) to make sure that students are submitting all required assignments.

AUBURN BAND BOOSTERS ASSOCIATION (ABBA)

You are already a member of the Auburn Band Boosters Association, so get involved! This organization advocates on behalf of the students to serve all of the bands in Auburn City Schools and keep band fees some of the lowest of band program of this size in the state. For more information please visit their website at auburbands.org/abba or follow them on Facebook!