



**DISTRICT #12**

**BOBCAT BAND &  
CHORUS**

**HANDBOOK**

**2019-2020**



# Bobcat Music Handbook 2019-2020

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Welcome to the District #12 Band & Chorus! In Band & Chorus you will be learning a great deal this year while still having lots of fun. Our activities will include concerts, festivals, contests, parades and a few other fun activities. Some junior high musicians will be taking part in the ILMEA Festival and the Clinton County Music Festival.

The District #12 Band or Chorus is a group that will take much hard work and dedication. With this kind of work, though, the rewards will be so great that the work won't really seem to matter. If we all do our part and do the best we can, the District #12 Band & Chorus will be better than ever!!!!

## UNIFORMS

The District #12 Band has a required uniform shirt that is to be worn by the Advanced Band only. The uniform shirt is worn for all band concerts, parades, festivals and group contest performances. Black pants, black shoes and black socks are to be worn with the required band shirt. All items are to be furnished by the student. An order form will be sent home at the beginning of the year. Beginning Band & Chorus Students will wear a nice white dress shirt along with black bottoms. The director will send a note and determine the proper dress before each performance.

## MUSIC

Music will be issued to the musicians for each ensemble he/she participates in. For the most part, the director will make copies and keep the originals on file. To save on the cost of copying, please take care of your music and do not fold, bend or lose it. Please put your name on all of your music and number the measures. Students are also encouraged to make performance notations on their music at band rehearsals, lessons, and at home as necessary to improve performance. "Don't practice mistakes. Use a pencil." Music folders/binders will be provided to everyone.

## FUNDRAISERS

From time to time, the District #12 Music Boosters organization will be holding or participating in fundraisers. As this is our means of supporting the band program, it is desirable to have everyone (students and parents) participate in these activities. The monies we raise allow us to buy music, supplies, and instruments as well as pay for fees to contests, festivals, and provide fun activities and awards.

The Music Boosters meet throughout the year. These meetings are a great source of information about upcoming events. A reminder note and mass email about a meeting will be sent home with your child each time a meeting is set.

## **EVENTS**

There are many events the District #12 Band & Chorus members participate in each year. There are individual events, such as solo and ensemble contests, the Clinton County Music Festival, the ILMEA auditions and festival. There are group events, such as the IGSMA organizational contests, numerous parades, ball-game performances, Spring & Christmas Concerts and other performances at local community events.

When a student signs up for an event, except in the case of an emergency, he/she is expected to carry out the plans for the event. If an entry fee has been paid for a student by the Music Boosters, and the student chooses, after the announced deadline, not to attend the event, he/she will be responsible for repaying the entry fee to the Boosters.

It is absolutely necessary that ALL Music students attend ALL performances that they are involved in. We spend our rehearsal time in preparation for these performances in order to produce the highest quality results possible.

If a student cannot avoid an absence from a performance he/she should notify Mrs. Schrand at least 24 hours in advance, in writing, prior to the performance date. Absences will be excused if they are due to death in the family, illness or an unavoidable emergency. Please plan accordingly in advance to attend all band performances.

If a student misses a performance without notifying Mrs. Schrand 24 hours in advance, it will be considered an unexcused absence. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in the loss of TWO letter grades for that quarter. Two unexcused absences during your Junior High School Career, will result in the removal of your child from the performing organization, permanently.

## **LESSONS**

There are many opportunities for individual lessons through area music stores, local musicians and other sources, and the director encourages students to take private lessons to advance their playing skills. If interested, contact the director. Oftentimes, private lessons are what make the difference between a good band and a great band!

## **PRACTICE AND GRADING SCALE**

In order to improve one's playing skills, every student must practice regularly. Ideally, the same time of day that is practical should be set aside for practicing. This brings about better progress than practicing one or two hours for one day, and then not playing again for several days. Practice should take place in a quiet room with little or no distractions, with good lighting, a chair that promotes good posture and a music stand. Parents are asked to participate in their child's practice from time to time. Help them if you can, and encourage them always. Never tease your child, or let other siblings or members of the household tease them about 'funny' sounds coming from the practice room.

Weekly grades will be given to each student for participation in sectionals and for how they play the assigned music for the week. In Fifth Grade, practice sheets will be checked weekly during your lesson and need to be filled out and signed by a parent. Quizzes and tests will be given periodically and graded for credit. (Playing and Written). Attendance and participation in performances will also be taken in account. Unexcused absence results in the loss of two letter grades.

### **CLASSROOM GENERAL RULES**

1. No food, beverages, candy or gum in the band room.
2. Do not abuse music stands, chairs, instruments, or other equipment.
3. No talking while the director is on the podium.
4. Everyone must be in their seat with instrument, music and pencil at the start of rehearsal or a notice of concern will be administered.
5. Everyone must use the seat that is assigned to them.
6. Everyone must have a pencil at each rehearsal.
7. Do not touch or play anyone's instrument but your own!
8. Everyone is responsible for putting away their own materials after every rehearsal.
9. All instruments are to be stored in the room on a shelf.
10. Band Folders/music binders should be stored on the instrument shelf next to their instrument or in your locker, not left on the music stands. Chorus folders should be put back inside the choral cabinet on their assigned numerical shelf.
11. New music should be put into the Music Binder in alphabetical order.
12. Horns must go home each weekend!
13. The area by and behind the teacher's desk is COMPLETELY OFF LIMITS to any student unless given permission by the director.
14. Cell phones are not allowed out during the band & chorus rehearsals.
15. If a need comes to use the restroom, you must sign-out on the sheet before leaving the room.

Mrs. Schrand's Email and phone Number: [eschrand@d12bobcats.org](mailto:eschrand@d12bobcats.org) 526-7128 x 101

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Please sign below that you have read, understood and agree to follow all of the details included within this handbook.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_