

Gentry Public Schools  
High School Band  
2009-2010 Handbook

“We are the music makers and we are the dreamers  
of dreams.” Arthur O’Shaughnessy

Ms. Michelle Slayton, Director of Bands  
Mrs. Judy Winslett, High School Principal  
Mr. Brae Harper, Athletic Director  
Dr. Randy Barrett, Superintendent

## WELCOME

We are very excited about the 2009-2010 school year. I hope to see many great things in the high school band this year. The purpose of this handbook is to answer some of the most frequently asked questions about the band. It is my hope that the information will enable you to get the most enjoyment and educational benefit from the school year.

## PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the Gentry Band is to provide young people with an experience in music that is both enjoyable and educational. The life skills and musical skills that one obtains in band programs will benefit students now and in their adult lives.

Another purpose of the band is to support the Gentry High School athletic teams. We will make every effort to help the teams in any way that we can whether it be with our instruments or with our voices. The purpose of the marching band is to perform marching shows at half-time during football games and to compete in contests in the fall semester. The concert band's purpose is to perform music that is entertaining, musically challenging, and enlightening. This group also goes to contests in the spring semester.

The band is very special to me, the community, and the school. A certain mindset or attitude is required in order to be a successful member and a successful band.

- We always give 100%.
- We are an example of the band, the school, the community, and Northwest Arkansas and must act accordingly.
- We are a family.
- We always strive for excellence and continuous improvement.
- We always come prepared.

## UNIFORM

The band uniform, this includes the color guard uniform, is something that we wear with pride and respect. This uniform not only represents the hard work one has put in to wear this uniform, but the hard work of students, parents, administrators, and band directors to raise money for them. A uniform that is clean and sharp is one of the most impressive things that there can be. There will be no public displays of affection while wearing the uniform. No ball caps, hats, or sunglasses will be allowed in conjunction with the uniform. If such accessories are called for in a show, it will be allowed only after approval of the director. The uniform will be worn at all times during football games. Students are not to take off the jacket or any part of the uniform during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter breaks unless instructed to do so.

Everyone must own black marching band shoes, black socks that reach up to mid-calf, black gloves, and a band polo. These items will be available to order at the beginning of summer band rehearsals with the exception of black socks.

All parts of the uniform that are issued to you are your responsibility. They will be cleaned by the band boosters periodically. Care for your uniform in a responsible manner. The uniforms will be kept in the uniform room at the band room. They **MUST** be on a hanger and hung up neatly. The uniforms are **NOT** to be taken home for any reason unless approved ahead of time.

Your instrument is an extension of your uniform. Take the same care for its appearance as with the uniform. Always make sure your instrument is in good working

condition and you have the proper essentials such as reeds, valve oil, slide oil, lyre, flip folder, and cork grease. You must have your own music and keep track of it.

Inspections will be held prior to each performance and will check at least the following areas: correct type of shoes properly polished, uniform in good order and being worn properly, clean black gloves (fingers cut short for clarinet players), clean and polished instrument.

## TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

Good reputations are made after years of hard work and effort. They can be destroyed in a matter of seconds. The Gentry Band has begun a history of representing our school and town in a positive light. To continue that history, certain guidelines will be enforced. Students must behave respectfully on the bus to one another, the driver, and the director.

There will be a performance curfew for trips involving an overnight stay. Band members will be in their own room with lights out at curfew time the night before a performance.

When a bus is provided, all performers will ride the bus to and from the event. This can only be adjusted by a parent checking out their son or daughter at the event. Only the parent has the power to do this and he or she must check out in person with the director. If a parent is not available a letter from the parent to the director is acceptable. This letter must be in the band office 24 hours before the trip.

Behavior on the bus is a true reflection of the attitude of the band. MP3 players are allowed but **MUST** have headphones. If a radio is seen or heard without headphones, it will be taken away from the student. Food and drink are allowed on the bus but you must throw your trash away. All trash on the bus must be picked up before we leave for home. Therefore, it will be to our benefit to put all trash in the trash receptacles on the bus. We will have a bus seating arrangement that will be used to assist in checking roll. When we leave a location on the bus, all students must be in their assigned seats. The director will inform the students if it is possible to change seats. You are responsible for your bus seat and for what happens to it during a trip. If there is a tear in your seat, you are responsible for paying for it. This cost is usually around \$50.00.

## REHEARSALS

The band rehearses one hour each school day. The full band will also practice one day after school. Color Guard and Percussion will have an additional rehearsal after school. All marching band members must attend as marching band is a team effort and everyone must attend for a steady rate of improvement. This allows us to compete at the necessary level of excellence. All band members are required to be at all rehearsals. Extra rehearsals may be called if needed, but if we work hard in the time allowed, this may not be necessary.

Students are expected to have all material needed for rehearsals. The following items are required for every rehearsal: instrument/flag in good working order, music, pencil, drill charts, and a positive attitude. The last item of the list is the most important. Without the proper attitude, rehearsal is just a waste of our time.

Rehearsal will start and end promptly at the times indicated. When you reach a certain number of tardies, you will get a form for detention. When you are tardy for an extra rehearsal, your grade for that rehearsal will drop.

\*\*\*\*\*NO FOOD OR DRINK WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE BAND ROOM – WE HAVE NICE NEW CARPET AND WE WANT IT TO STAY THAT WAY! Water will be allowed, but nothing else!

\*\*\*\*\*NO PERSON is to enter the director's office or the music library and uniform room without permission. There is no reason a student should be in the music library anyway. The phone in the director's office is NOT for student use during school hours. Students must use the phone in the school office for any phone calls. After games, students may use the band office phone to call parents.

To be a good band certain things must happen. Cooperate with your director and student leaders. They are human and make mistakes, but overall will provide the leadership necessary for excellence. Work with intensity and direction during each rehearsal – play and talk some other time. Be sure to see improvement in your skills and attitude each day. The band's quality of performance improves at the same rate as the individual performers improve.

BE AT THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME, WITH THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT, AND THE RIGHT ATTITUDE!!!!

*To be early is to be on time and to be on time is to be late.*

*Famous Band Director*

ALL REHEARSALS ARE CLOSED. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP THE BAND, PLEASE ATTEND THE BOOSTER MEETINGS (FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 7PM). I NEED YOUR CHILD'S FULL ATTENTION IN REHEARSALS!

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals and performances. Failure to attend rehearsals without any notification will result in a 0 for that particular event. If you know that you will be absent and it is not excused if you notify the director ahead of time you will receive a 60%. It is common courtesy to notify the director of any absence that you may have. If you are late to a performance or rehearsal your grade will be docked 15 points. If you notify the director ahead of time that you will be late, your grade will be docked 10 points.

The band will report to the stands to play during third quarter. A third quarter break may be given to the band for a job well done during the week and at halftime. This is a reward, not a right. Students will have a required manner in which to wear the uniform on third quarter break! Students must be in their place at the beginning of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter ready to perform. The consequence for being tardy will be the loss of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter privilege for the following game.

I will give you a list of dates for the year during the first week of school. Watch the board for updates and changes. If I do not give you 2 weeks notice and you cannot get off work, then the absence will not count against you. I will always try to give at least two weeks notice to avoid such problems (sorry, sometimes I don't even know two weeks in advance). If I do give at least 2 weeks notice and you still cannot rearrange your work schedule then the absence will be considered unexcused. It is impossible to work around everyone's work schedule and therefore work is not considered excusable if you have more than 2 weeks notice. Take the band calendar to your job the first week of school and take off all the performance dates early to make your life easier. If you put this off, this is your problem, not the directors. Hair cut appointments are not excused.

Color Guard members will learn the show tunes and stand tunes and will play their instruments at football and basketball games. We are all musicians and need to keep up our playing skills even if we choose to audition for the color guard.

## CONDUCT

Students are to practice the music provided for them. Memorization is required for half-time shows, and select stand tunes. If a student does not memorize the music in the amount of time allotted, that student will not perform. We are all important in this band and all must contribute our musical parts to make music. Do not depend on everyone else to cover your part for you.

Students are not allowed to use the director's computer unless given special permission (this is rare, don't even ask). Students should not even be in the director's office for any reason unless the director is in there. You will be written up for being in there without permission. The copier is not for student use at his/her leisure. Students must ask permission to use the copier and then it is only to be used for band class.

Basically, have respect for your director and peers and we will all get along fine.

## SUPPLIES

Every student needs to have a horn in working condition, reeds, valve oil, slide oil, lyre, flip folder, pencil, ligature, mouthpiece, etc. I am sorry, but I cannot be a music supply store and run everyone's errands to the music store every day. Take responsibility and get these items before school starts. I will have reeds to sell, but for emergency use only. Do not take advantage of this and use me as your reed provider. Get your money in on time for shoes, gloves, and band polo's. The band cannot provide this for you. If you have a problem financially, see the director.

## ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND DRUG POLICY

The purchase, possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or any other controlled substance that are regulated by Arkansas statutes, city ordinances, and Gentry Public Schools is strictly forbidden. Any student found breaking this rule shall be referred to the principal, to the local authorities, and shall be suspended from all band activities outside of class.

The use of alcohol or any illegal drug outside of school resulting in an arrest will result in not performing at the next two major band events. The student will attend the event, but not represent the school by wearing the uniform or performing. Make wise decisions both in and out of school. If you have questions regarding this new policy, see the Arkansas Activities Association Handbook.

Drugs that have a doctor's prescription are allowed but must be reported to the director before departure on band trips.

## General Grading Guidelines (subject to change)

Late for performance –10 (If you let the director know ahead of time)

Late for performance –15 (If you do not notify director)

Late for Competition – 20

Lose music excessively – 10 (per piece)

No Uniform -25 (polo, black socks, gloves, jeans at a concert)

Unexcused Absence – (and you do not tell Director) Will receive a 0 for the performance

Unexcused Absence (and you tell the director AHEAD of TIME) – You receive 60%

No Horn – 50

Not sitting in section in stands – 20

**ADVICE!!!! BE ON TIME, IN THE CORRECT PLACE, WITH THE CORRECT UNIFORM, WITH ALL MATERIALS AND HAVE A GOOD ATTITUDE.**

## Band Officers

The Band President and Vice President are elected by the students of the band. Students desiring to run for membership must do so at the beginning of the year. They will be called upon to assist the director in many decision making areas. These are students that you should see to present ideas, thoughts, and address problems you may have within the Gentry Band.

**Band President:** This individual will be a Senior or Junior band member elected by majority vote from all members of the band. The president will be presiding officer and will be the official representative of the Gentry Band on the Student Council.

**Band Vice-President –** This student will work with the president and assist them in any way possible.

**Band Secretary –** This student will assist in taking roll before concerts, rehearsals, and any performance. They will count tardiness and absences and report these to the director.

**Band Librarian –** This person is responsible for filing music and making copies for students. This person will be responsible for keeping track of who has lost their music for grading purposes as well.

**Band Uniform Coordinator(s) –** These students are responsible for making sure that all uniforms are stored properly after each performance. They are responsible for keeping the uniform room clean and orderly and for finding parts to all of the uniforms.

# Gentry Band Boosters

Band Booster Officers  
President, Eddy Rotramel  
President Elect, Lana Huckleberry  
Treasurer, Kathy Hogan  
Reporter, Betty Rotramel  
Secretary, Allison Mourning

## Scholarship Opportunities

\*Amounts of scholarships are determined each year according to Band Booster budget and band booster attendee votes.

The Band Boosters offers a scholarship to Band Camp for the summers. The requirements to apply for this scholarship are as follows:

- 1) Enrolled in Gentry band for the complete school year
- 2) Audition for All-Region (7-12 grade)
- 3) Participate in Solo and Ensemble (7-12 grade)
- 4) Beginning Band Students must have completed over 80% of pass-offs and consistently turned in their practice cards
- 5) Perform in all concerts, contests, halftime shows
- 6) Participate in all fundraisers
- 7) Submit application with required documentation ON TIME.

The Band Boosters also awards 2 Senior Scholarships.

### Requirements for the first Senior Scholarship

- 1) Must be a senior planning to attend college the following year
- 2) Must participate in a college band program
- 3) Participate in all fundraisers for the band
- 4) Submit application with required documentation ON TIME.

### Requirements for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Senior Scholarship

- 1) Must be a senior planning to attend a 4 year college or university
- 2) Must participate in a college band program
- 3) Must be declared as an Instrumental Music Major
- 4) Audition for Region and Solo and Ensemble
- 5) Must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- 6) Participate in all Band fundraisers
- 7) Consistent effort in band, must show progress musically
- 8) Submit application with required documentation ON TIME.

GENTRY BAND HANDBOOK  
SIGNATURE FORM

This statement must be signed and returned to the band director stating that each parent/guardian has received, read, and understands the band policies handbook on a yearly basis.

Please complete the information and return it promptly.  
Please retain this handbook for future reference.

Students Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**GENTRY BAND  
HEALTH FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ S.S. # \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Work Address \_\_\_\_\_

In case of an EMERGENCY contact: (list TWO persons)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Is there any health problem that we need to be aware of for your safety at rehearsals, performances, and road trips? \_\_\_\_\_

Medication that you are currently taking: \_\_\_\_\_

Medication that you are allergic to: \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned student, parent, or guardian grants authority to any authorized hospital or medical center and its staff to perform those procedures and treatments deemed necessary for the student named above and as are generally used in the care of patients in this and similar hospitals and clinics. The undersigned also agrees to financial responsibility for procedures and treatment administered to themselves or their child at any authorized medical establishment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

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

Address of Family Doctor \_\_\_\_\_

Phone of Family Doctor \_\_\_\_\_

What medication is normally kept on your person? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you covered by Health or Accident Insurance? \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_ Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

(All Information is Confidential)

