

## How to become a member of the Bishop Bands

Membership is open to any interested student who has a positive attitude and is willing to work towards outstanding results. Students are placed in the band at the discretion of the BAND DIRECTORS. Orientation for new band members is in the spring prior to the next school year. All students (wind players & percussionists) who are accepted as members of the band program must be members ENROLLED IN THE APPROPRIATE BAND CLASS. It should be noted that the Concert & Symphonic Bands occasionally rehearse and perform outside of school hours. A Summer Band Academy is also offered for those students who wish to continue to develop their musical skills throughout the summer months.

### Course Offerings

There are three levels of bands offered within the Howard Bishop Band Program. **Beginning Band (Band I)** is an entry-level course offered to any interested students. No prior musical experience is necessary to be in this class. Skills covered include basic entry-level instrumental techniques and music comprehension. The Beginning Band presents a minimum of two performances each year (including one in the winter and one in the spring). **Concert Band (Band II)** is our intermediate level course for students who have completed Beginning Band or who have prior musical training. **Symphonic Winds (Band III)** is comprised of our most advanced musicians. Membership is determined through band director recommendation. Both the **Concert Band** and **Symphonic Winds** are performance ensembles that periodically require rehearsals and performances that take place outside of the normal school day. Some of the performances include: Open House, Alachua County Fair, Winter Concert, Pre-Festival Concert, Festival Concert, Spring Concert and Festival Performance Trip.

### Additional Performance Opportunities

Each year, there are many additional performance opportunities for Bishop Band members that are interested in furthering their musical ability. Some of these opportunities include:

#### Alachua County Youth Orchestra

The Alachua County Youth Orchestra is an ensemble comprised of the finest young musicians in Alachua County. The youth orchestra holds auditions at the beginning of each school year for available spots on all woodwind, brass, string and percussion instruments. This group rehearses every Sunday at the University of Florida and gives several performances throughout the year. More information can be found at [www.acyo.org](http://www.acyo.org).

#### Alachua County Middle School Honor Band

The Alachua County Middle School Honor Band is an auditioned performing ensemble comprised of the finest musicians from each of Alachua County's middle school band programs. Auditions are on January 22, 2009. This group usually has three Wednesday afternoon rehearsals in March/April and then has a day-long rehearsal with a guest conductor. This event culminates with a performance for parents/community members, along with the high school honor band at the Phillips Center for Performing Arts. This group currently holds auditions and rehearsals right here at Howard Bishop Middle School! The Bishop Bands have a tradition of having the most students accepted into the honor band out of all of the Alachua County Middle Schools!

#### Florida All-State Middle School Band

The Florida All-State Middle School Band is a very elite performance ensemble comprised of the finest middle-school band musicians in the state. Students are chosen for this ensemble through a rigorous audition process that takes place in mid-September. The audition process involves performing scales, a prepared exercise and sightreading which is recorded on CD locally and then sent to the Florida Bandmasters Association who has professionals evaluate each recording and make the appropriate selections. Students who are selected to the All-State Band attend two days of rehearsals in Tampa in early January and give a performance at the Florida Music Educators Association Clinic/Conference. In recent years, the Bishop Bands have had the most students selected to the Florida All-State Band than any other middle school in Alachua County!

## Florida Bandmasters Association Solo & Ensemble Music Performance Assessment

Solo & Ensemble Performance Assessment is an activity that involves the band member preparing a piece of solo (by themselves) or ensemble (with a small group) music. Most solos require a piano accompaniment. The student prepares the solo or ensemble music and then performs it in front of a certified judge. This judge then evaluates the performance and offers each student written and verbal comments. At the conclusion of the performance, the judge then issues the performance a rating ranging from Superior (the best) to Poor (not the best!). Students earning a superior rating receive a medal for their accomplishment. The Bishop Bands have a rich tradition of having the most superior ratings out of all of the middle school band programs in our entire district! Solo & Ensemble Performance Assessment takes place on February 20-21, 2009 at Kanapaha Middle School in Gainesville.

### Eligibility

The School Board of Alachua County as well as our governing state music organizations requires that our students carry a minimum grade point average of 2.0 out of a 4 point scale. We ask that our students do not carry less than a 2.5 G.P.A. Students must also be enrolled in their respective band class during the course of the regular school day. It is a privilege to be a member of the Bishop Bands. Therefore, in order to remain eligible to be in the band program, students must be a model student. A model student is one that maintains a clean discipline record and shows respect for school property, themselves and others. Students must also make adequate progress on their instrument (as determined by the band directors). All students must exhibit **positive behavior and attitude** to be considered for participation in any band events throughout the year.

### Summer Band Academy

All students that desire to participate in the **Bishop Bands** are highly encouraged to attend the summer band academy. Students that attend the camp will gain the necessary skills to continue their musical development throughout the summer months. Beginning Band students who attend the summer band academy usually get their first choice of instrument as well. Many instructional staff members are hired to teach during the summer band academy. Band academy applications will be sent out to each student in early spring. The cost for this two-week academy is approximately \$175.00. For 2008, The Summer Band Academy will be held from June 15-26.

### Absences

Band is performance. Missing rehearsals/class means missing instruction. Practice time should be made up at home. **Performances are a required part of the curriculum and should be equated to a unit test.** Conflicts should be worked out in advance. If emergency/conflict is unavoidable, **let the directors know in advance with an e-mail/note/phone call.** The day of the event (other than accident/emergency) is not considered advance notice. Failure to perform will result in lowered grades and possible removal from the Bishop Band program.

### Grading Policy

Class Participation = **50 points**

Playing Tests/ Performances = **40 points**

Prepared With All Materials\*\* =**10points**

A=90-100
B+=87-89
B=80-86
C+=77-79
C=70-76
D= DROP BAND!

\*\*Band students should have all necessary items at stand to include: 1” 3-ring black binder, clear page protectors, assigned music, books, tuner w/pickup, spit rag, pencil and highlighter. Instrument should be in performance condition.

**Quality of participation** is required for full points to be awarded. Missing items will result in a deduction of points. Keep up with what is going on in class and on the band calendar. Check the board for announcements. **BE ON TIME!**

**Students must practice 20 minutes per day, six days per week.** Practice time should be devoted to things that need improvement. **Playing favorite selections from music already mastered is NOT practice.** For those students who cannot find the time to practice at home, the bandroom is open **AT LEAST** 4 days per week at 8:30am to allow students individual practice time/help. *Students are encouraged to utilize the morning practice hours (as listed on the band calendar) for additional help from the directors and/or student mentors.*

### Classroom Procedures

- 1.) **NO FOOD, DRINK, GUM OR CANDY!**
- 2.) Enter classroom **QUIETLY!**
- 3.) **Backpacks** in the **cubbies!**
- 4.) Be **on time** for all rehearsals and performances!
- 5.) Come to every class **prepared!** Have all necessary equipment and supplies listed on supplies list at your seat.
- 6.) Check board for **assignments/announcements.**
- 7.) No talking during instruction.
- 8.) Do not play instruments without permission.
- 9.) Students are to show complete respect for those who working with you in our program.
- 10.) Never play on any instrument that does not belong to you.
11. **DO NOT PACK UP** until directed to do so!
- 12.) Exit **CALMLY!**

### Uniforms

This activity is a performance ART oriented activity. APPEARANCE counts greatly and is a large part of the overall PACKAGE. Students must be presentable by maintaining proper hygiene, which INCLUDES HAIR LONGER THAN SHOULDER LENGTH be pulled back. Haircuts/trims will be required before performances. Any student that desires to participate in this activity is subject to the rules as specified in regards to hygiene and appearance. Please note that jeans (denim of any sort) or sneakers (athletic shoes) are not acceptable uniform attire.

### Beginning Band /Concert Band/Symphonic Winds

Students will need to provide a white long sleeve wing tipped collar TUXEDO SHIRT, Black Dress Slacks (for boys), Black Floor Length formal skirt (for girls), black bowtie, black cummerbund, black socks and black closed-toe dress shoes. Students are to wear a PLAIN WHITE T-SHIRT under the tux shirt. The official uniform package is available for purchase through the band boosters. In addition, all band members are expected to obtain the official band polo shirt and khaki pants for outdoor/casual performances and other band events.

### Rehearsal and Performance Requirements

Early morning and/or afterschool rehearsals may be scheduled on occasion (depending upon the amount of progress made during class). Notice will be given to all band members and their parents well in advance. Attendance at these rehearsals outside of school time is **MANDATORY** as per the guidelines stated in the Course Description for Band provided by the Florida Department of Education and the School Board of Alachua County.

The Beginning Band performs twice during the year. The first performance is in December and then again in May. In addition to the winter and spring performances, the Concert Band & Symphonic Winds performs at the

Florida Bandmasters Association Concert Band Music Performance Assessment. This is a performance that is a statewide event held through district divisions. The performance consists of three prepared pieces selected from a list of stringent guidelines. The bands are evaluated by three judges on musical style, interpretation, and overall performance. After the band leaves the stage, they travel to another room and sight-read (music they have never played) two pieces for another judge. These two scores are combined for an overall rating of Superior (I), Excellent (II), Good (III), Fair (IV) or Poor (V). It is a method of accountability and of evaluating a director and band program by our professional organization. This is our program's most important performance of the year. It is our FCAT! As per tradition, the Concert Band & Symphonic Winds usually travels at the end of the school year to a national festival competition at the end of April or in Early May.

Students that miss performances will have a grade lowered for lack of participation. This is a team-oriented activity and all students are expected to place the team goals first in order to achieve the standard of success that has become a tradition for our great program.

### **Fair Share**

The band parent organization (your parents) helps to provide many things that cannot be provided through the school. The program relies heavily on the parent booster organization as we receive very little funding from the school. Budgeted items include: instruments, music, repairs, MPA entry fees, travel, tutoring/instruction, All-State, student awards, media, etc... The band program *spends* an average of \$500.00 on each student in the program. We are asking each student to raise \$100.00, which is a small portion, and **HOPE** they will go over and above to **HELP** meet the band's needs (unselfish members = GREAT BAND!!!). Each student is **REQUIRED** to participate in our "fair share" program. Many fundraising **OPPORTUNITIES** are made available to each student, and it is the responsibility of each student to raise a **MINIMUM OF \$100.00** during the course of the year. We have many activities planned in order to help you make this happen. As an **INCENTIVE** to continue helping the band, students that earn over \$150.00 in fair share will earn 100% above the \$150.00 toward their end-of-year band trip. Personal payments are accepted if you choose not to utilize the opportunity to raise the funds. Checks should be made payable to **HOWARD BISHOP BAND BOOSTERS**. Fees and fair share payments are non-refundable. Students who do not meet fair share will not be eligible for the Fair Share End-of-Year trip or awards in May. **EXCESS FAIR SHARE ACCOUNTS WILL NOT CARRY OVER FROM YEAR TO YEAR AND ARE NON-TRANSFERABLE BETWEEN STUDENT ACCOUNTS.**

### **Fair Share Trip**

The Fair Share Trip is for all students who have met:

- Fair Share/Fee Requirements
- Performance Requirements
- Discipline/Eligibility Requirements (positive behavior and attitude throughout the year)
- **Plus the cost of the trip!**

Trips are Blizzard Beach for the non-festival band members (approx. \$75.00) and the Festival Adjudication Trip for the members of the Festival Bands (3 days/approx.\$300.00). The Festival Bands will consist of students chosen through audition and hard work to play at FBA Concert MPA and represent the school in competition. These students may be in Grades 6-8. Symphonic Winds is already a part of the Festival Band.

### **Field Trip Procedures**

The logistics of traveling with a large number of students and the amount of instruments and equipment we must travel with requires us to have a set list of field trip procedures to ensure the safety of our students and for the sake of efficiency.

- All students participating in a trip/performance **MUST** travel with the group (everyone rides on the bus!). This ensures that all performers/participants arrive and depart at the same time!

- Unless otherwise specified, all parent chaperones must also ride on the bus. The role of the chaperone is to assist the directors in supervising the students and ensuring their safety. Parent chaperones must have a completed school volunteer form on file in the front office.
- It is expected that any field trips requiring payment be done so in a timely fashion. The band booster organization has payment deadlines to meet themselves so it is essential that each band family submit the necessary trip costs as stated in the trip information provided to you by the directors.
- All trip participants must wear the requested attire (i.e. Bishop Band t-shirt or polo). This attire is requested so we can easily identify our students/chaperones.
- Other guidelines for chaperones are outlined in the Chaperone Procedures document that is distributed to parent chaperones before each trip.

### Fundraisers

- ♪ Gator Game Concession Booths (all home UF games)
- ♪ Yankee Candles (August 18-September 5th) – 30% profit is credited to each child’s “fair share”.
- ♪ Cookie Dough Sale (October 6-20th) – 30% profit is credited to each child’s “fair share”.
  - We expect cookie dough to be delivered in Mid-November.
- ♪ Alachua County Fair Gates (October 17-26) – Workers receive approx. \$5-7 per hour worked.
- ♪ Gator’s Dockside Pancake Breakfasts (November 8<sup>th</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup>)
- ♪ SCRIP Gift Cards (Year-Long) – profit earned varies
- ♪ Other Events – TBA

**All money for fundraisers/fees/fair share should be sent to the band room in the form of a check or money order made out to: HOWARD BISHOP BAND BOOSTERS, INC.** Checks and money orders should be placed in an envelope (plenty are available in the band room) labeled as such:

Student’s Name Student’s Band Amount Enclosed Purpose of payment (name of fundraiser, contribution, fair share, etc.)
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**Please DO NOT send in CASH for any fundraisers, fees or fair share!**

### Fees/Costs

As with any first class successful organization, there are some student expenses to HELP pay for general items. The Howard Bishop Band cannot possibly raise ALL funds needed to function at the level that is expected from this program. The band parent organization does a phenomenal job in providing a wide variety and great amount of fundraising projects to allow all members the opportunity to RAISE all necessary funds to participate in this program. **No student should feel that they cannot participate in the Howard Bishop Band Program due to funding issues AS LONG AS THEY CHOOSE TO UTILIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED TO HIM/HER. FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE IN THE EVENT THAT A STUDENT CANNOT FULFILL THE COMMITMENT THAT THEY MADE TO THE BAND.** The following will serve as an **APPROXIMATE GUIDELINE:** (all expenses may be paid by check or money order)

- § Summer Band Academy Tuition (**\$175**)
- § Bishop Band Travel Polo Shirt (**\$18**) - required for all band members and parents who desire to chaperone Bishop Band events.
- § Official Bishop Band T-Shirts (**\$10**) - **\*\*T-Shirt is the same design as the 07-08 t-shirt.**
- § Uniform Fee (**each student is responsible for the purchase of their own specified uniform items**)
- § School Equipment Usage Fee (**\$35 per semester, per instrument**) **\*this includes percussion.**
- § Fair Share Trip (Blizzard Beach – non-festival band members) – **approx. \$75.00 (in addition to the fair share amount)**
- § Fair Share Competition Trip (Festival Bands) - (**Cost: approx. \$300.00**)

## Payment Coupons

For your convenience, we are providing each band family with a series of payment coupons to help parents/guardians keep track of “fair share” and band fees owed. These coupons should be used as a guideline to assist you in satisfying your financial obligations to the band. Payments may be made by check, money order or through fundraising profits earned. Parents/Guardians may choose to make more than one payment at a time.

## Use of School Owned Instruments

The band has a **VERY LIMITED** variety of the larger, more expensive instruments. These are available to the students for a usage fee of \$35 per semester/per instrument at the discretion of the band directors. Depending on availability, those students who would like the **CONVENIENCE** of having an instrument at home and at school will be expected to pay the usage fee for each instrument that has been issued to them. This includes students who play percussion as they use several pieces of school-owned equipment in class every day. The usage agreement allows the student to use the instrument with the stipulation that he/she is financially responsible for any damage or loss incurred during the usage period. The instrument must be returned in the same condition that it was in when checked out. Students that play on a school instrument need to provide their own mouthpiece for sanitary reasons. Please note that the band does not normally provide the following instruments: flute, piccolo, clarinet, alto sax or trumpet. **IF YOUR CHILD REALLY DESIRES TO PARTICIPATE IN BAND...WE WILL GIVE HIM OR HER EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO!**

## Band Parents Organization

Behind every great band is a great parent support system. We simply cannot survive if it weren't for our band booster parents. This organization is responsible for 99.9% of our needs. We highly encourage you to get involved as **EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING** to help out. Our kids are awesome kids and we can promise you that you will know that you made a difference with your positive participation! **Parents are welcome here! We need you!!!!** It is not uncommon for parents to be around the band during practices and performances...there is always something to be done. Parents are also encouraged to watch as the band practices for upcoming performances. For more information on how you can get involved or offer your assistance, e-mail us at [howardbishopband@aol.com](mailto:howardbishopband@aol.com) or [bishopband2@aol.com](mailto:bishopband2@aol.com) and we will hook you up!

The band parent organization meets **at 7:00pm in the band room.**

Dates for the meetings are:

October 6, 2008

December 1, 2008

February 2, 2009

April 13, 2009

June 1, 2009

Some of the committees that parents are able to volunteer for are:

- ♪ **Chaperones** – for concerts & trips.
- ♪ **Day Helpers** – for parents who are available to assist the directors with various tasks during the school day.
- ♪ **Cookie Dough** – verify order forms and assist with distribution of cookie dough upon arrival.
- ♪ **Yankee Candles** – verify order forms and assist with distribution of items upon arrival.
- ♪ **Pancake Breakfast** – make tickets, cook, bus/serve tables, publicity, etc.
- ♪ **Socials** – help organize receptions, dances & clean-up!
- ♪ **Publicity** – submit articles/pictures to the Gainesville Sun, radio stations, etc.
- ♪ **Uniforms** – trade sizes, help measure students and distribute uniforms. Organize sale of polo shirts & band t-shirts.
- ♪ **Concert Videotaping/ Recording** – videotape & audio-record each performance so that students are able to critique their performance in class the next day.
- ♪ **Maintenance** – painting, building, and upkeep of band facility/instruments.
- ♪ **Transportation/Equipment** – arrange for loading/unloading & transport of equipment to performances.
- ♪ **Web Page** – maintain the Bishop Band website at [www.howardbishopband.com](http://www.howardbishopband.com).

## **DID YOU KNOW.....**

That when children study music in school, they also improve their reading, spelling and math skills? Educators agree that abstract concepts such as counting, fractions and ratios become more concrete when applied in a musical context, making the relationship between mathematical theory and practice noticeably clearer. Music increases a student's learning capabilities in many other areas, as various studies show:

- ♪ Students who have taken music courses score an average of 20-40 points higher on both verbal and math portions of the SAT's than students who have NOT taken arts courses.
- ♪ Students who take more than four years of music and the other arts score 34 points better on verbal SAT's than those who take music for less than a year.
- ♪ Students who participate in their school band or orchestra are 53% more likely to go on to college and graduate.
- ♪ A recent Rockefeller Foundation study discovered that music students have the highest rate of admittance to medical schools.

Studies in other countries have demonstrated that along with these benefits, there is a significant relationship between music instruction and education performance in reading, spelling, mathematics, listening and verbal abilities, and motor skills.

## **Music – Its Creative and Advances Learning Ability**

Children have a natural curiosity, and curiosity is the seed of creativity. Music offers the child an exciting opportunity to channel the natural curiosity into creative endeavor. It nurtures independent thinking that will carry over into other aspects of the child's curriculum and be applied to many subjects other than music.

It is more than coincidental that nationwide studies have shown that students in school music programs have achieved higher averages in all subjects and develop academically more rapidly than others. Direct correlations between music instruction and spelling and math skills underscore music study as a decisive factor in a student's educational success.

## **The Important Role of the Parent**

Your child's success in playing an instrument depends a lot on you. Your involvement is vital to your child's attitude and progress. Encourage your child to play for you every day. Be generous with enthusiastic praise. Offer your support when your child becomes discouraged. Above all, participate...meet the music teacher and attend concerts and recitals. Regardless of your own musical background, you will derive great satisfaction and enjoyment from following your child's progress.

## **Keeping The Opportunity Alive**

Despite the obvious values of a musical education, some school districts are cutting school band budgets --- or worse, cutting out entire music programs, simply because some school officials don't understand these benefits. Fortunately there are ways parents can help improve these conditions in your community:

- ♪ Strike an alliance with your school music directors. Find out how you can support, at home, what the teachers are trying to accomplish at school.
- ♪ Make sure your local school board, administrators and public officials know of your commitment to music education as a matter of educational principle.
- ♪ Work with your band parent's organization to prevent music from becoming a "bargaining chip" in school budget battles.

**Middle School Band will offer many activities and maintains a "fun"  
atmosphere for learning!**