
◆Mr. Austin's Note's◆

2011-2012 school year: 2nd letter

January 2012

From the podium

Music Boosters

Music Boosters hold meetings every second Wednesday of the month except April 4th due to the Extravaganza.

Boosters and I discuss performance and trip plans. Parents are urged to attend meetings as well as work as chaperones, ticket takers, sewing helpers, concession stand workers and other jobs supporting our program.

Evening practice

Drumline meets Tuesday nights and does competitions in Bakersfield plus concerts in Ridgecrest in addition to all Symphonic Band performances. The Arizona trip band may have one or two Wednesday evening (5:30 to 7:30) practices depending on how well morning breakout sessions and Smartmusic assignments work.

Stage Band meets afterschool (to be announced) to prepare for performances including the May 4 Spring Showcase, May 23 Spring Concert and jazz festival TBD. Audition with Smartmusic is required.

Cadet Band Members

are required to attend the 3 performances outside of the school day on:
April 11, Extravaganza 6pm
May 23, Band Spring Concert
June 8, Graduation

CHARMS via our website:



For trip details, uniforms, downloads, attendance at performances... login with the student permanent ID# (from student ID card) to use our Charms site linked to <http://burrosband.org>.

Calendar online

updated throughout the year.
Please go online to the web site:
<http://burrosband.org>

Band Festival

Band members who paid \$550 each, have a 3.0 gpa, completed Smartmusic tests (70%) & submitted forms by January 11 have Festival plans including the March 19-23, 2012 Arizona trip during Spring Break.

Symphonic Band dates:

January 26 due date for *Solo/Ensemble Festival forms and money
February 11, *Solo/ens. Festival
March 2, Mike Stone Band Clinic
March 29, Barstow Band Exchange concert afterschool (at Burroughs)
April 11, Band Extravaganza 5:30pm call (7pm concert) in the gymnasium
May 23, Spring Concert
June 8, Graduation

*Solo/Ensemble Festival is optional

Inside This Letter

Schedules
Policies
Behavior contract
General program information

nuts and bolts from Mr. Austin to parents

ATTENDANCE

The biggest challenge for our program is working around people's schedules. The worst thing I've dealt with has been cancelled performance because of too many schedule conflicts. Several important resources including time & money were wasted as a result.

Owing to the obvious need for us to be efficient and effective, I've adopted an attendance policy that ties grades to attendance.

1. All practices and performances known to this date are mandatory. If for any reason, a student must be late or absent, the written note/excuse must be signed by a parent and if the excuse is too late or unreasonable, full credit will be lost.

2. No student will be allowed to make up performance credit without a parent-teacher conference.

3. A second tardy earns detention and three unexcused tardies earn OCS (On Campus Suspension).

Grades reflect the individual student's attendance as well as performance and learning.

FESTIVAL DRESS AND UNIFORMS

ALL musicians must wear concert black for Graduation. Grades suffer for inappropriate dress.

The band members' manual has much regarding marching band uniforms. For Festivals and Graduation, ALL musicians must wear black clothes except white shirts for stage performances. **Girls are required to wear LONG dresses/skirts/slacks to the ankles.** No bare shoulders, bare backs, short "V" neck, long slits, no flip flops, tennis shoes or jeans. Any attire that "shows off" skin is inappropriate.

Guys wear black jackets with long black ties.

SOLO and ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL:

The most significant element of our music program curriculum:

BHS Band members are invited to perform in a sanctioned solo/ensemble festival like the one we host on Saturday, February 11, 2012. An SCSBOA (Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association) judge listens to our students play their solo and/or ensemble music. After the performance, the judge gives verbal and written comments. The application for our February S/E festival is available for download from burrosband.org and is due with payment on or before January 26. The S/E may *qualify for the performance part of our letter "B" requirement (see the band manual).

**Drumline members attend PPAACC competition instead of the SCSBOA festival at BHS. Honor group or college auditions meet the [letter/performance] requirement.*

Summer music camp?

Last summer, BHS Band members enjoyed music study at DMA/Riverside, Wildwood Music Camp and other summer music opportunities.

If you'd like to keep the music playing during the summer, please get info as soon as possible, apply [to the camp] and when possible, audition/apply for scholarships. Let me know what assistance I may provide regarding summer music study.

Rules and the Parent/Guardian form

Burroughs Band members are expected to follow these rules:

1. Be safe.
2. Be on time.
3. Be productive.

Grades are based on attendance, Smartmusic testing, uniform care and performances.

Parents' advance written excuse may earn makeup assignment (5 concert reports) for the student.

Consequences for breaking rules may include detention and/or point loss.

A = 90% - 100%

B = 80% - 89.99%

C = 70% - 79.99%

D = 60% - 69.99%

F = below 60%

In order to assure that each student's parent/guardian is aware of the class rules, the following contract is required and failure of a student to deliver this form within five days of receipt will result in points lost.

The Burroughs Band rules are:

1. Be safe
2. Be on time
3. Be productive

..... Cut here then return the bottom form (signed) to Simon Austin.....

Agreed to and accepted by:

student signature parent/guardian signature email date

instrument brand name _____ serial number _____

The BHS website publishes band photos which may include the student: Yes No

Circle one

Comments:

I want to know

Inside this newsletter, you will find lots of information. Let's keep positive communication flowing. I hope that you will feel motivated to share with us what's going on, went before and/or what your hopes are for BHS music students in the future.

PARENT/GUARDIAN:

Please sign the contract (page 3) and return it today.

Keep in touch

ON THE INTERNET?: Our web site is at:

<http://burrosband.org>

Boosters meet
every 2nd Wednesday
of the month
at
6:30 p.m.

Other items:

If you have an item you would like to donate to our program, contact me at 375-4476 ext. 288 to make arrangements. Once paperwork is complete, you will receive a letter regarding your donation from BHS and/or the Sierra Sands Unified School District. All donations must be approved by the S.S.U.S.D. school board. Please let me know if you do not receive a letter of donation acknowledgement within a few weeks of your donation to our program. Thanks in advance for your support!

From SIMON J. AUSTIN

Sherman E. Burroughs High School Band

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without postage

Is your address label correct? If incorrect, please write cross out wrong information and write your updated correction/s.