

# *Thompson High School*

***“Marching Southern Sounds”***

## ***Band Handbook***

2009 - 2010

***Pride is a personal commitment; it is an attitude that separates excellence from mediocrity.***

Thompson High School  
100 Warrior Road  
Alabaster, Al 35007

Jon Bubbett, Band Director  
Tim Hammond, Assistant Band Director  
Connie Hammond, Assistance Band Director

# *Thompson High School Band*

## **“Marching Southern Sounds”**

100 Warrior Road  
Alabaster, Al 35007

Telephone 682-5700  
Band Room 682-5707

Dear Parents and Students,

***Welcome to the Thompson High School Band Program!*** We are very glad that you have chosen to be a part of our musical family. The Thompson Band has always enjoyed an outstanding tradition of excellence that most certainly will continue with your participation. We can only maintain and improve our standards with parent and students working together for a common goal----to be the very best that we can be!

There is plenty of fun to be had and even more work to be done. But with all of us working together, we can do it. The dedication and the spirit of our students and parents are absolutely unsurpassed by any other extracurricular activity ***anywhere!***

We are glad you are here! Set the bar high! Roll up your sleeves and get to work as friends, neighbors, parents and children! You are the reason that we are about to get even better!

If I can ever be of service to you, please don't hesitate to call!

Sincerely,

Jon Bubbett  
Band Director

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## ***Philosophy***

All people are emotional as well as thinking and analytical beings. Through music we strive to develop the creative and expressive outlets for our emotional side while at the same time developing a comprehensive body of knowledge about music to further our understanding and enjoyment of the arts...for a lifetime!

## ***Mission Statement***

To provide for students, who have the desire to be musicians, a nurturing, instructional and challenging environment in order that they may develop their talents to the best of their abilities. To develop and reinforce the building of individual character necessary to be a productive member of society. To encourage the development of young people into magnificent human beings through participation in the performing arts.

## ***Commitment***

**PRIDE** is a personal commitment. IT is an attitude that separates excellence from mediocrity.

## ***Expectations***

***“The most effective leadership is leadership by example, it isn’t what you say that make the difference.... it’s what you do”***

## **Seniors**

### **“Leads through experience and maturity”**

Seniors are the most experienced members of the band program. As such you bring a wealth of experiences and maturity to the rest of the membership and have a duty to use that experience and knowledge in helping to develop the younger members of our organization. This is your year to influence the others with your experience and wisdom.

A student’s senior year is a year of leadership. It is the culmination of years of band experiences and traditions that must be passed along in a positive and productive manner. This is not an either/or situation. This is what must be done. This is not a “coasting year” but is just the opposite. This is your busiest year. This is the year seniors are expected to “step up” and fill the shoes of all the student leaders that have come before them and add your “name” and your experiences to the traditions that have made our organization what it is today.

Our band program is today...what our students make it to be.

Seniors are expected to:

- Assume leadership roles when required of them
- Fill all duty roster leadership spots
- Be the first to learn and pass off all music and drill
- Remain respectful of all underclassmen
- Tutor the freshman musicians on music and drill
- Remain a positive influence on the rehearsal process
- Assist the assigned student leadership whenever possible

Seniors may have called meetings with the leadership as needed to discuss needs and ideas that will promote the well being of the entire band program.

## **Juniors**

### **“Lead through example and by actions”**

Juniors are the next most experienced members of the band program. You also bring experience to the rest of the membership and have a duty to use that experience and knowledge in helping to develop the younger members of our organization.

While our juniors have experience you are also still “learning”. Juniors should be turning your eyes to the future leadership roles that await you during your senior year. You should be watching and observing the things that worked well and those that don’t, making notes on how to improve the process for your senior year. You should attend as many leadership training clinics and seminars as possible. You should be trying out for as many music related activities as possible i.e. All County Band, All District Band, All State, and Solo & Ensemble etc.

Juniors are expected to:

- Assume leadership roles when required of you
- Remain respectful to seniors and senior leadership
- Be a positive and encouraging influence to all sophomores and freshmen
- Fill all duty roster spots when needed
- Be among the first to learn and pass off all music and drill
- Tutor the freshman musicians on music and drill
- Remain a positive influence on the rehearsal process
- Assist the assigned student leadership and seniors whenever possible.

## **Sophomores**

### **“Making a difference through developing and nurturing”**

Sophomores are generally second year members of the band program. You bring a year of experience to the rest of the membership.

While our sophomores have one year of experience they are still “learning”. Sophomores should still be focusing on developing your own skills and concentrating on making yourselves the best you can be. As such you are not necessarily ready for, or should

assume be default any leadership role until asked to do so. You should consider attending as many leadership training clinics and seminars as possible. You should be trying out for any music related activities as possible i.e. All County Band, All District Band, All State, and Solo & Ensemble etc.

Sophomores are expected to:

- Fill all duty roster spots when needed
- Pass off all music and drill as soon as possible
- Be a positive and encouraging influence to the freshman class
- Be respectful of the junior and senior leadership classes
- Remain a positive influence on the rehearsal process
- Assist the assigned student leadership and seniors if needed

## **Freshmen**

### **“Making a difference through learning and growing”**

Freshmen are the newest members of the band program. You are on the threshold of a lifetime of new experiences.

All of the coming band experiences are “brand new” to the freshman class. The experience they have this year will likely set the tone for the rest of their band career. Be positive and be patient. You will amaze yourself at how much you will learn, develop and have grown by the end of this year. You, as freshmen, should also be trying out for as many music related activities as possible i.e. All County Band, All District Band, All State, and Solo & Ensemble etc.

Freshman are expected to:

- Fill all duty roster spots
- Pass off all music and drill in a timely fashion
- Be respectful of the sophomore, junior and senior leadership classes
- Remain a positive influence on the rehearsal process
- Learn as much as you can as fast as you can

## ***Academics***

### **Extracurricular Activity Eligibility Guidelines**

The Shelby County Board of Education recognizes the value of extracurricular activities as they relate to the total education of the students; however, the students' pursuit of their academics must be the first and foremost and take a priority over participation in extracurricular activities.

In order for students in grades 10 through 12 to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities during an academic school year the students must, for the immediate preceding school year, have maintained a passing grade in each of at least six Carnegie unit credit courses and a composite numerical average of 70 for all of the Carnegie unit credit courses.

In order for students in grades 8 and 9 to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities during an academic year, the student must for the immediately preceding year have a passing grade in at least five subjects with a composite grade average of 70 or higher in the five courses.

Of the courses used to determine eligibility, students must have credits for at least four core curriculum courses (English, Science, Social Studies and Math). A student may be exempt from the core curriculum requirements if the student is otherwise on track with the Shelby County Board of Education graduation requirements in the core curriculum courses.

The use of up to two Carnegie unit credits and the accompanying cumulative grades obtained during summer school may be used in computing the credits needed for eligibility.

At the end of each grading period, the head coach and/or sponsor of each extracurricular activity shall check the current grades of all students participating in their extracurricular activity. If a student fails to maintain a passing grade in all of his/her courses during the preceding grading period, the student will be placed on probation from extracurricular activities.

When a student is placed on probation from extracurricular activities, the head coach and/or sponsor of the extracurricular activity will notify the principal. The principal or his designee will then meet with the student (and the student's parent/guardian if deemed necessary) to implement a required academic remediation program to address the academic performance of the student.

When a student is on probation from extracurricular activities, the principal may also mandate modifications in the student's participation in extracurricular activities if the principal feels that the modifications is necessary to insure the student's ability to increase his/her academic performance during the probation period.

If, at the end of an subsequent grading period, the student makes another failing grade in the same subject, the student must show evidence of satisfactory participation in the remediation program in order to maintain participation in all extracurricular activities. A student who fails to show evidence of satisfactory participation in the mandated remediation program will automatically be suspended from all extracurricular activities.

### **Grades**

Grading for the Thompson High School Band varies depending on the number of performances that fall within a particular grading period and the nature and character of outside rehearsals and performances.

While a point system will be used, **required performances will count a minimum of 40% of a student's nine weeks grade** regardless of the points accumulated.

Ideally, each individual would be evaluated on his/her individual progress throughout the entire year and will be when feasible. Realistically, students are graded on attendance at rehearsals and performances and on whether or not required materials have been passed-off.

### **Tutoring Program**

The Tutoring Program has been established to take advantage of the academic opportunities within the band program for those students who wish to do so. Every year several of the Honor Graduates, Valedictorians and Salutatorians are selected from the Thompson High School Music Programs. The Tutoring Program is designed to help pair these academic achievers with those in need of help. Students may make a request for assistance from the director who will in turn pair that student with an academic tutor. Tutoring sessions are to take place outside of class and/or rehearsal time. However if the student feels it is merited then rehearsal and/or class time will be given for tutoring.

***If we believe that we become better by surrounding ourselves with successful people and recognize that environment plays an important role in our success, then parents and students should strive to stay in musical organizations because of their grades and not quit those programs because of the time spent in preparatiosn for these organizations.***

The director will monitor all students' grades and may place students in the tutoring program before requested to do so by either the student or the parent.

## ***Membership***

### **Marching Band**

Membership in the Thompson High School "Marching Southern Sounds" is required of all students in Thompson High School Band program. This includes all members of the Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble and Southern Knights Jazz Band (some exceptions for the jazz band may apply for instrumentation needs pertaining to the rhythm section). The band program is very much a team and/or group activity where the participation of a single individual does in fact directly affect all other members of the band. Therefore all members must assume their responsibility to the organization and fully participate in as many activities as may be required of them. A student may be excused from participation in the marching band if they are involved in another school related activity that directly conflicts with rehearsals and/or performances on a regular basis. The following are activities that are currently recognized; football, cheerleading and girls volleyball.

Students who participate in the marching program for two years will receive credit for the PE requirement. Participation in marching band must be continuous.

### **Wind Ensemble**

The Wind Ensemble is a select group of instrumentalists dedicated to the study, understanding and performance of standard symphonic band and wind ensemble literature. Orchestral transcriptions and original band compositions are studied and performed. Music difficulty varies from grade levels 4, 5 and 6.

Students may be considered for membership when one or more of the following criteria have been met.

- Audition for and score acceptable for All State Band
- Audition for and score acceptably for All County Band
- Participations in Solo & Ensemble
- Completion of all twelve major scales and arpeggios
- Study with a private teacher or substitute or another individualized improvement program.
- Teacher recommendation

### **Symphonic Band**

The Symphonic Band is a large group setting dedicated to the study, understanding and performance of standard symphonic band literature. Orchestral transcriptions and original band compositions are studied and performed. Music difficulty varies from grade levels 3, 4 and 5. Students may be considered for membership when one or more of the following criteria have been met.

- Teacher recommendation

### **Band Tech**

Band Techniques is a small rehearsal setting where students can focus on specific performance problems. Students will also use this time to pass off required music and to receive more individual instruction not possible in large group settings.

### **Jazz Band**

The Jazz Band is a select group of instrumentalists dedicated to the student, understanding and performance of standard jazz band literature. Students are expected to study and perform the many different styles associated with the jazz idiom. Music difficulty varies from grade levels 2 – 6. Improvisation is studied and encouraged among all students. The instrumentation for the jazz band is a set number. Students may be considered for membership when positions become available. Membership is by invitation of the director. When one or more students desire consideration in a particular position, then auditions will be held.

### **Pep Band**

The Pep Band is a small group of instrumentalists who will perform at certain school and community functions where it is not appropriate or feasible to use any of the other ensembles. Students are expected to serve in the pep band a minimum of twice per year. Performance for the Pep Band will include but are not limited to:

- Basketball games
- City Wide functions

## ***Rehearsals***

Rehearsals are mandatory if a student expects to participate in any performance. A student should not miss rehearsals and expect to perform. Individual performances will count 40% of a students' grade. Unexcused absences will receive a grade of 0.

**Students who miss a rehearsal must have either a school excuse or a doctor's excuse.**

**Any student with unexcused absences to rehearsal may be subject to the following disciplinary actions:**

- 1. Suspension from performances**
- 2. Dismissal from band**

**Dismissal from band will require a schedule change and the student will not participate in any facet of the band program.**

### **Marching Band**

Rehearsals are vitally important to the success of any program. Summer rehearsals tend to move very quickly and cover a lot of material. Students who are absent miss this opportunity and in reality never do catch up.

**Rookie/Music Camp** generally begins during the third or fourth week of July. This camp is required of all students and is dedicated to the learning of all music to be performed and to teach new members the techniques needed for marching. Hours are generally 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM daily.

**Band Camp** generally is held the first and second full week of August. This is required of all students involved in all facets of the marching band. Rehearsals are 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM and from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM daily or 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM daily.

### **After School Rehearsals**

Rehearsals are held Monday through Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30 PM. Percussion has an additional rehearsal on Tuesday from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Students are expected to attend all rehearsals.

Students who miss one rehearsal a week with an excused absence may perform with the approval of the director.

Students who miss two or more rehearsals in a week with an excused absence may not perform.

**Doctors' appointments that cannot be schedule during the school day must be scheduled for Wednesdays.**

### **Sectionals**

Sectionals may be called in order to review music and/or marching assignments. Sectionals will generally be held immediately at the conclusion of marching band rehearsals, but will not extend past 5:30 PM.

### **Wind Ensemble / Symphonic Band**

Students may be required to attend two section rehearsals per week at the conclusions of the marching season. Grades will be given for attendance and sectionals are required for performance in concerts.

### ***All State Band***

The purpose of the All-State Festival is to distinguish the most outstanding band members in the State of Alabama and to give them the opportunity for a musical experience of the highest caliber.

The All-State Festival will include four bands; Red Band, Blue Band, White Band and Junior High Band. Those students with the highest scores will be assigned to the Red Band, next highest scores will be assigned to the White Band and the next highest scores will be assigned to the Blue Band. Students in the ninth grade and below will be eligible to audition for either the Junior High Bands or the other bands, but no student may audition for both.

All-State Jazz Band is available to those students who are actively participating in Jazz band. Audition requirements are available from the director.

Auditions are normally held during the month of January.

### ***All-County Band***

The purpose of the All-County Band is to distinguish the most outstanding band members in Shelby County and to give them the opportunity for a musical experience of the highest caliber.

The All-County Band will include two bands; High School Band and the Junior High Band. Auditions will be held in March of each year. All Thompson High Band students may be expected to audition for All-County Band. The results from this audition may be used for chair placement in Symphonic and Wind Ensemble. Audition requirements are available from the director.

## ***Honor Bands***

Students will have the opportunity to submit applications to many of the various honor bands sponsored by state universities. Selection into these groups is solely the right and responsibility of the host university and should in no way reflect upon the recommendations or quality of the students within the Thompson High School band Program.

Because of the vast number of honor students throughout the school year. Each student and parent will be responsible for making their own travel and lodging arrangements.

Students who are selected for an honor band are expected to fulfill that commitment. Failure to do so may limit the students' ability to apply for other similar activities.

## ***Football Games***

Students will receive an itinerary before each game, the itinerary will detail times and expectations for all students. It will be the students' responsibility to adhere to and follow those time and guidelines set forth.

### **Inspection**

Students may go through a uniform inspection prior to every game. Students will be expected to have: required shoes polished, tall black socks, stand music, extra reeds (if required) and horn polished. Failing inspection can result in cleaning the band room or other service related deeds.

### **Stand Rules**

1. Only play with the band! No unorganized "doodling" and/or "pecking".
2. Food and drinks are allowed only during third quarter break.
3. No visitors from outside the band allowed into the band section.
4. All members should stay within their sections in the position designated by their section leader.
5. Cheer as a band and with the cheerleaders. No "cross" or "click" cheering.
6. **Be ready to play at all times. Do not set your horns down. Hold them in your hand or in your lap!**
7. Students will be allowed to visit the restrooms before the game and during the third quarter. Students **will not be allowed to visit restrooms during the first half.**
8. Students need to make certain that they eat before reporting to the band room to dress in uniforms.
9. **Stay in uniform at all times!!!**

***Act with the class and dignity that a person from Thompson High School and Alabaster, Al should have.***

## ***Attendance***

Band is a group activity and rehearsals are vitally important to the growth and quality of our organization. All students depend on one another to be there to do their part for the enhancement of all members through a quality performance. All students are expected to attend all rehearsal and performance understanding that at times it means putting the needs of the group ahead of personal concerns. A student should not have joined band for their own convenience.

### **Concerts**

All concerts are the culmination of the skill, knowledge and talents developed in and out of school. Concerts are extensions of the school day and therefore are co-curricular in nature. All concerts are required by all members of the band.

**Individual performance will count at least 40% of a student's nine weeks grade for the grading period in which the performance falls.**

### **Marching Band**

Marching Band rehearsals begin in July on the first Tuesday after Independence Day. These weekly rehearsals are not mandatory but are strongly encouraged. Mandatory rehearsals begin with Music Camp and continue through the remainder of the school year.

### **Performances**

Performances are at every football game through out the football season including any and all post-season games. The band will also perform in two or three marching contests per year which are held on Saturdays. Students who miss a performance must have either a school excuse or a doctor's excuse.

**Individual performance will count at least 40% of a student's nine weeks grade for the grading period in which the performance falls.**

**Any student with an unexcused absence to a performance may be subject to dismissal from band.**

**Dismissal from band will require a schedule change and the student will not participate in any facet of the band program.**

### **Sectionals**

Sectionals may be called by either the band director and/or the section leaders. Attendance to sectionals is mandatory when notice is given in a timely manner.

#### **Marching Band**

Sectionals may be called in order to review music and/or marching assignments. Sectionals will generally be held on Wednesdays or immediately at the conclusion of marching band rehearsals but will not extend past 5:30.

### **Wind Ensemble / Symphonic Band**

Students will be required to attend one section rehearsal per week at the conclusion of the marching season. Grades will be given for attendance and /or sectionals are required for performance in concerts.

## ***Competitions & Festivals***

### **Marching Band Contests**

The marching band will participate in two to three marching contests in any given fall. The purpose of the contests is to allow the band and all components of the band to be evaluated by qualified adjudicators on the quality of their performance.

### **District Competition Festival**

The purpose of the District Competition Festival is to evaluate and qualify bands for the State Competition Festival. A panel of three adjudicators will be selected and will evaluate the performance of each band. Bands will be given ratings of I – Superior, II – Excellent, III – Good or IV – Fair by each adjudicator.

### **State Competition Festival**

The purpose of the State Competition Festival is to give qualified bands the opportunity to be evaluated and constructively criticized by a panel of qualified adjudicators.

### **Regional/National Competition Festival**

The band may be selected or enter into a regional and/or national level festival on a yearly basis. Such contests will usually be held in conjunction with any spring trip that may be planned. Symphonic band festivals will be open to all students in Symphonic and Wind Ensemble who meet the criteria to attend.

### **Solo & Ensemble Festival**

The purpose of this festival is to encourage band students to perform solos and ensembles in a Festival in order to broaden their musical education. Students will perform an approved piece of music for a judge who will then assign a rating of I, II, III or IV.

## ***Chair Placement***

Chair placement within a given section is vital to those students who wish to advance and who desire the opportunity to do so. Advancement may be obtained through two methods: Chair Auditions and Challenges.

### **Chair Auditions (Individual Evaluations)**

Chair auditions will be held twice per school year. The first audition will be held in November following the Fall Concert and the second may be in March in conjunction with

All County Try-outs or another locally held audition. Chair auditions are required, and failure to audition will result in a substantial decrease in the individual's nine weeks grade.

Students will be ranked according to the score received in the audition. Those students who refuse to audition will be seated alphabetically after the last person with an audition score. Students who transfer in will be evaluated by the director and seated accordingly. Fall chair placement will take effect immediately upon conclusion of the audition and before Christmas Concert preparation. The second chair placement will take effect immediately after State Contest and/or after any other regional contest the band may be participating in but before Spring concert preparation.

## ***Awards***

### **Service Award**

Service awards will be given periodically to students who perform a service and/or services to the band above and beyond the active participation in rehearsals. Such activities may include but are not limited to: field clean-up, bus captain, taking care of PA and /or ladder at rehearsals, field markers, uniform box managers, taking care of water at rehearsals, librarian, loading crew, pit helpers, etc.

### **Pride Award**

Pride Awards are given periodically to those students who have, by a consensus of the peers and teacher, demonstrated through deed and action those qualities most sought after by the membership of the Thompson High School Band program.

### **John Philip Sousa Award**

The John Philip Sousa Award is a nationally recognized award given to a senior in recognitions of outstanding achievement and interest in instrumental music and for singular merit in loyalty and cooperation and for displaying those high qualities of conduct that school instrumental music requires.

### **Louis Armstrong Jazz Award**

The Louis Armstrong Jazz Award is awarded to jazz students who have displayed outstanding achievement on their instrument through superior musicianship, character and individual creativity.

### **Outstanding Musician Award**

Outstanding Musician Awards are given at the end of the school year to the student(s) who has demonstrated through performance and leadership, that he/she is the "Best of the Best" on their particular instrument at Thompson High School. Selection is by consensus of the students and the approval of the director.

### **Most Improved Musician Award**

Most Improved Musician Awards are given at the end of the school year to the student(s) who has demonstrated through performances that he/she excelled to a high degree on their particular instrument at Thompson High School. Students selected for this award may not be the best in their section but have achieved more skill than others in the given amount of time. Selection is by consensus of the students and the approval of the director.

## ***Discipline***

### **Shelby County Code of Conduct**

The Shelby County Code of Conduct is the principle guide for disciplinary action and standards for all students in the Shelby County School system. The code of conduct will be in effect during all band functions, formal or otherwise, at all times on or off campus.

### **Extracurricular**

In as much as band is a co-curricular activity it does have an extra curricular component to the program (i.e. marching band, dance team, color guard and majorettes). Some disciplinary action may be deemed necessary that is not governed by the Shelby County Code of Conduct. Such actions may include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Running laps
2. Cleaning the band room and/or practice field
3. Cleaning busses after away performances
4. Suspension from performances
5. Suspension from band and/or auxiliary team for remainder of year.
6. Suspension from band and/or auxiliary team for one calendar year.

Such actions may be taken for, but are not limited to the following infractions:

1. Lack of cooperation.
2. Failure to properly wear uniform
3. Insubordination
4. Disrespect shown to the director, instructors/sponsors, student leaders, adult volunteers and classroom teachers
5. Unexcused absences to either rehearsals and/or performances
6. Conduct unbecoming a band member
7. Use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco products.

## ***Student Leaders***

Student leaders are a vital and a necessary part of the band infrastructure. They are necessary to the teaching and discipline process of the band. A student leader's authority is a direct link to the band director, sponsors and instructors, and all subordinate students should act accordingly.

Student leaders, from time to time, will make requests of their sections and/or subordinates. All students are expected to comply with those requests. Should a subordinate student feel that a request made by a student leader is unreasonable, then that individual should bring it to the attention of the band director in a timely manner.

All student leaders are required and expected to work with their subordinates with a positive, co-operative and nurturing attitude demonstrating a work ethic that is conducive to the promotion of excellence within the Thompson High School Band Program.

### **Drum Major**

Drum Major is the highest ranking student leadership position in the Thompson High School Band Program. The Drum Major is expected to assist in making the program run as smoothly as possible in whatever endeavor that may be required of him/her. The Drum Major and the Band Director work very closely in all matters that directly affect the band or the performance of the membership. The Drum Major's authority is a direct link to the Band Director, and subordinate students should act accordingly.

The Drum Major is not only a conductor for the music, but should also try to be the motivational leader of the band. The Drum Major, like the Band Director, should be as equally concerned with the "heart" of the band as well as the music.

#### **Responsibilities**

The Drum Major's responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, the following:

Conducting the field music at all marching band performances and rehearsals.

Supervising section leaders and assisting with music and marching.

Supervising the various duty managers and assisting with the organization of their job descriptions.

Assisting the band director in logistical and other areas that are deemed necessary.

### **Drum Major Tryouts**

Tryouts will be held in either March or April for the following year. The term of office will run from the beginning of summer vacation to the end of the following school year.

#### **Audition Requirements**

Must be a sophomore in good standing with the Thompson High School Band Program.

Must be making satisfactory academic progress.

Must be making exemplary progress musically on their major instrument. (Musical leadership; i.e. trying out for All State, All District and All County Bands, be able to play all 12 major scales, participate in Solo & Ensemble etc).

Must have one year of marching experience with the Thompson High School "Marching Southern Sounds"

Must have displayed a character of leadership and cooperativeness through out the previous year.

Maybe asked to produce a resume of other activities and leadership responsibilities.

### **Audition Procedure**

The Shelby County Board of Education makes no provisions for the selection of student leaders. As such each school is allowed to select whatever method deemed best for their particular needs. The number of drum majors used will be determined by the band director on a year-to-year basis. The following procedure will be used at Thompson High School:

#### **Audition for judge 1/3 of total score**

Candidate will prepare a conducting routine to an acceptable selection of “marching” literature

Candidate will prepare a salute.

#### **Audition for band 1/3 of total score**

Candidate will perform a conducting routine for the band membership at large. Members will nominate their choice of drum major by secret ballot. Ballots to be counted by the band director or his designee.

#### **Band Director 1/3 of total score**

The opinion of the band director will also be considered.

**The Band Director has the right and responsibility to suspend this process at any time and appoint any and all student leaders if deemed necessary.**

#### **Drum Major Uniforms**

See “Uniforms”

#### **Field Captain/Assistant Drum Major/Other**

The Field Captain is the second highest ranking student leadership position in the Thompson High School Band Program. The Field Captain is expected to assist in making the program run as smoothly as possible in whatever endeavor that may be required of him/her. The Field Captain, Drum Major and the Band Director work very closely in all matters that directly affect the band or the performance of the membership. The Field Captain’s authority is a direct link to the Band Director and the Drum Major. Subordinate students should act accordingly.

#### **Responsibilities**

The Field Captain/Assistant Drum Major’s responsibilities will include, but are not limited to the following:

Fulfill the duties of drum major when the drum major is incapacitated or is unable to fulfill the duties as expected.

Supervising section leaders with intersection problems as well as assist with music and marching.

Supervising the various duty managers and assisting with the organization of their job descriptions.

Assisting the band director in logistical and other areas that are deemed necessary.

### **Selection/Requirements**

Must be a sophomore in good standing with the Thompson High School Band Program.

Must meet the requirements for and audition for the position of drum major.

Must be making satisfactory academic progress.

Must be making exemplary progress musically on their major instrument. (Musical leadership)

Must have one year of marching experience with the Thompson High School "Marching Southern Sounds"

Must have displayed a character of leadership and cooperativeness through out the previous year.

Selection will be made by the band director at the time that the drum major is selected.

Other officers may be appointed by the band director as the need and the opportunity arises.

### **Section Leader**

Section Leader is the third highest ranking student leadership position in the Thompson High School Band Program. The section Leader is expected to assist in making the program run as smoothly as possible in whatever endeavor that may be required of them. The Section Leaders, Field Captain, Drum Major and the Band Director work very closely in all matters that directly affect the band or the performance of the membership. The Section Leader's authority is a direct link the Band Director, Drum Major and Field Captain. Subordinate students should act accordingly.

### **Responsibilities**

The Section Leader's responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, the following:

Supervise and assume responsibility of their sections in terms of marching and musical assignments.

Assist the band director in logistical and other areas that are deemed necessary.

**Selection/Requirements**

Must be a senior, junior or sophomore in good standing with the Thompson High School Band Program.

Must be making satisfactory academic progress.

Must be at or near the top of their section in terms of musical skill, development and expertise.

Must have one year of marching experience with the Thompson High School "Marching Southern Sounds".

Must have displayed a character of leadership and cooperativeness through the previous year.

Selection of Section Leaders will be made by the Band director in a timely fashion.

Must meet leadership requirements as set forth by the Band director,.

**Squad Leader**

~~Squad Leader is the fourth highest ranking student leadership position in the Thompson High School Band Program. The Squad Leader is expected to assist in making the program run as smoothly as possible on the field. The Squad Leaders primary function is to assist with the teaching of the marching and maneuvering aspects of the field show. The Squad Leaders; authority is a direct link to the Band Director, Drum Major, Field Captain and Section Leader. Subordinate students should act accordingly.~~

**Responsibilities**

~~The Squad Leaders' responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, the following:~~

~~Supervise and assume responsibility of their squads in terms of marching and maneuvering assignments.~~

~~Assist the band director in logistical and other areas that are deemed necessary.~~

**Selection/Requirements**

~~Must be a sophomore in good standing with the Thompson High School Band Program.~~

~~Must be making satisfactory academic progress.~~

~~Must have one year of marching experience with the Thompson High School "Marching Southern Sounds".~~

~~Must have displayed a character of leadership and cooperativeness throughout the previous year.~~

~~Selection of Squad Leaders will be made by the band director in a timely fashion.~~

~~Must meet leadership requirements as set forth by the band director.~~

### **Leadership Requirements/Clinics**

Students who wish to assume leadership roles will be asked to attend and complete designated training sessions. Certain tasks must be mastered before students will be eligible to assume leadership responsibilities. Such tasks may include, but are not limited to:

- Passing off required scales
- Attending and watching various videos
- Attending clinics held locally
- Demonstrating appropriate teaching techniques
- Anything else that the band director deems necessary to leadership development.

### **Duty Rosters**

All students will be required to help with various aspects of the band program in order for the program to run smoothly. The following is a list and a description of possible duties that may be required of students.

#### **Yard Markers**

Responsibility of setting up and picking up yard markers before and after each marching rehearsals.

#### **PA System**

Responsible for setting up and taking down of portable PA system before and after each rehearsal.

#### **Loading Crew**

Responsible for loading and unloading the equipment truck before and after every performance.

#### **Field Maintenance**

Responsible for lining the practice field.

#### **Water**

Responsible for providing water for the band at rehearsals and at performances as directed by the band director.

#### **Field Clean-Up**

Responsible for keeping the band practice field and surrounding area picked up and free of litter.

#### **Rear Area Clean-Up**

Responsible for keeping the area directly behind the school picked up and free of litter.

#### **Band Room Maintenance**

Responsible for keeping the band room clean and picked up.

### **Uniform Committee**

Responsible for the organization, distribution and collection of band uniforms.

### **Pride Committee**

Responsible for recognizing those students who are deserving of recognition for service which best exemplifies the meaning of "Pride" as it pertains to the Thompson High School Band.

### **Podium**

Responsible for setting up and taking down of the drum major's podium at each and every rehearsal.

### **Bus Captain**

Responsible for the checking of roll anytime students are transported via bus.

### **Security**

Responsible for securing the band room before, during and after outside rehearsals.

### **Prayer Coordinator**

Responsible for the selection and coordination of all prayers and devotions before all performances for those students who wish to participate.

## ***Lockers***

Instrument lockers will be provided for students at no charge. Students will need to provide their own lock. The director will assign lockers based on the size of the instrument. Students should keep their lockers orderly and free from trash at all times. **Under no circumstances should students keep food or other related products that would attract insects.**

## ***School Owned Equipment***

The band does provide equipment rental for the larger band instruments and for percussion. The rental rate is included in the yearly band fees per person per year regardless of the number of instruments the student may be assigned. Students will assume responsibility for the care and maintenance of the instrument while in their position.

### **Transportation**

Transportation to all band activities will be via Shelby County School bus unless other charter arrangements have been made by the proper school authorities.

Only Thompson High School Band students and the designated chaperones will be allowed to ride the busses.

Students will ride to and from all activities with the band.

Students will not be released until all equipment and uniforms have been properly stored. Students will be dismissed by the band director.

Parents may sign their child out during roll call **at the conclusion of an event with the band director's approval**. No one other than the parent will be allowed to sign a child out. This is for everyone's safety. Parents may not send a note requesting that their child ride home with someone else. Only the parents may sign their child out and only their child.

Procedure to sign out students:

1. Parents will meet the band director at the busses during roll call.
2. Parents must have a note stating that they are taking their child.
3. Note must be initialized by the band director.
4. Parents will then take the note to the appropriate chaperone who will collect the note and release the child to the parents.

All rules and regulations pertaining to school bus behavior and expectations will be observed as per the Shelby County Code of Conduct.

1. Students will not be allowed to eat and drink on the busses.
2. Radios, tape players and CDs permitted **only with headphones**.
3. Student will obey the bus driver and chaperones at all times showing the courtesy and respect expected from a Thompson High School band member.

Students assume full responsibility for the security of their possessions on the bus. Students will not be allowed to carry personal items to the performance area, nor should they expect chaperones to care for their personal property.

### **Bus Drivers**

Bus drivers are selected on a year to year basis. The band uses busses for all games, home and away, and for various contests throughout the school year.

Pay rates for bus drivers is set as per Shelby County Board of Education policy.

### **Chaperones**

Chaperones are selected on an event-to event basis. Chaperones are to ride on the busses with the students and to help out as needed with transporting equipment, etc. Chaperones are there to help the students and the organization to run smoothly by helping in whatever areas may need attention. A chaperone's first priority is always the welfare and the safety of our students. Second priority is the logical needs of the organization.

## ***Uniforms***

### **Ownership**

Uniforms are owned and maintained by Thompson High School Band. Maintenance includes all cleaning and repairs within normal usage by members of the Thompson High School Band. A uniform rental and cleaning fee is included in the cost of yearly fees.

Auxiliary members who are instrumentalists in either Wind Ensemble and/or Symphonic Band will pay ½ the uniform rental and cleaning fees annually and is included in the annual fees for band membership. Students who transfer in will pay rental and cleaning fees on a prorated basis depending on the time of year they transfer in and the number of performance remaining for the school year.

Thompson High School does not own the auxiliary uniforms. Those uniforms are owned and maintained by the individual auxiliary member.

### **Displaying**

The uniforms worn by the members of the Thompson High School Band are an outward and visible sign of the pride and dedication of our organization. It is a visible symbol of that which we stand for and the standard of excellence that we are trying to achieve and maintain. The public recognizes and judges us by how we look as a group. When in uniform we as individuals are acknowledging that we are a part of an organization and will conform to the needs and wished to the betterment of that organization. As such the uniform shall always be worn in a manner consistent with these beliefs and high ideals.

1. Students will pick-up and return uniforms before and after every performance from their assigned uniform storage place (box or closet). Students must properly return the uniform to the proper storage place (i.e. hanging properly on hanger and in the correct order).
2. Students will wear only approved clothes under the band uniform (i.e. shorts and t-shirts provided by the band). Students will arrive at all performance sites wearing these clothes in order to change into the uniforms.
3. Students will not eat, drink or chew gum in uniform unless directed to by the band director.
4. Students will refrain from public displays of affection while in uniform.
5. Students will remain in full uniform as directed by the band director. Costs are to remain buttoned and collars fastened unless told otherwise by the director.
6. Students may not ever display the uniform in a haphazard casual or unsightly manner.

### **Repair / Replacement**

Uniforms are routinely repaired and replaced by the Band Boosters. However, in the event that repairs are required and parts need to be replaced due to negligence on the part of the student, that student may be charged for the repairs and / or replacement parts.

### **Drum Major Uniforms**

Drum Major uniforms are also owned and maintained by the Band Boosters. Student will pay the same fees as stated above.

If the student wants an additional cleaning on their uniform they will be allowed to do so, at their own expense. However, this is in addition to the cleaning fee and not in place of our substitution of that fee.

Students who cannot wear the uniform with pride and dignity upholding the high ideals and beliefs of our organization will be denied the privilege of wearing the uniform.

### ***Band Boosters***

The Thompson High School Band Boosters are the support organization for the Thompson High School Band Program. They contribute support personnel, chaperones, concession stand workers and hundreds of other duties all vital to the success of the Thompson High School Band. Participation of ALL parents is vital to the success and well being of the Thompson High School band. Simply paying fees and dues that are required and providing the student are not enough to make the program successful. Most children are more successful in any endeavor when the parents get involved with their lives.

### ***Fee Structure***

#### **Band Fees**

Band Fees are required of all students participating in any area of the Thompson High School Band Program. The fees for each student are as follows:

Auxiliary member	\$300
Auxiliary / Instrumentalist (school instrument)	\$400
Fall Athlete (own instrument)	\$300
Fall Athlete (school instrument)	\$400
Instrumentalist (own instrument)	\$500
Instrumentalist (school instrument)	\$600

No uniforms or instruments will be issued to an instrumentalist or drum major until all fees have been paid in full. Auxiliary members who owe fees will not be allowed to perform until fees have been paid to both auxiliary and band.

# *Thompson High School*

## *“Marching Southern Sounds”*

100 Warrior Road  
Alabaster, Al 35007

Telephone 682-5700  
Band Room 682-5707

Please read over the Band Handbook carefully. We have made every effort to be as detailed and thorough as possible. Please fill out the form below and return as soon as possible.

I have read the above letter and understand band policies and procedures concerning curriculum, performances, grading, money, uniforms and other information.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date