

Dear Blue Jay Band Member and Band Parents:

Welcome to the 2004-2005 edition of the Junction City High School Band. We are anticipating a great year from the first marching band rehearsal through the last note played following the 2004 commencement exercises. Band enrollment is over 200 this year and we expect a higher level of enthusiasm throughout the entire band department.

Parents, your support is essential to your student's successful participation in band. Ideally, all parents would be involved, and we look forward to your participation. Your contribution to your student's band experience goes far beyond your financial involvement. You will have opportunities to join us as trip chaperones, in performance preparations, with transportation needs, and in other areas requiring specific skills. Thank you for sharing your time, skills, and energy. We look forward to working with you. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

Students, we hope that you are excited about the upcoming year and are ready to bring your ideas, dedication, and hard work into the program. Remember, there may be many individual members in the band, BUT there is only ONE band. We must work together as WE take the JCHS Bands to the NEXT LEVEL!

T. J. Taylor

Band Director

717-4264

tjtaylor@usd475.org

Sharyn Worcester

Asst. Band Director

717-4264

sharynworcester@usd475.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Blue Jay Band prides itself by living up to the following EXPECTATIONS:

- Attainment in leadership,
- Achievement in academics,
- Perfection in musicianship,
- Dedication to service,
- Quality of character.

The PURPOSE of the Blue Jay Bands is to:

- Create school spirit, pride, and loyalty.
- Promote interest in school activities and perform at school and community activities.
- Develop responsibility, teach self-respect, encourage honest effort, strive for perfection, and develop character.
- Teach teamwork and pride in a quality performance through maintaining high standards.

ALL BAND STUDENTS MUST MAINTAIN KSHSAA & JCHS ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN BAND!

CHARACTER

- A. Band members should be leaders within the school and set a good example at all times.
- B. Band members should be above reproach maintaining good personal appearance and habits that cannot be criticized.
- C. Each member must abide by those standards set by Junction City High School which are found in the Student Handbook.
- D. Band members must be courteous and friendly to all other band members, as well as the student body.
- E. A member must be courteous and friendly to other bands and visitors.
- F. A member must be respectful to the Director and a credit to the school.

PRACTICE EXPECTATION

Rehearsal is what the band does as a group. Practice is what an individual does on his or her own time. Band rehearsals are every other day with block schedule. Daily practice is very important to the success of the band program. Students are expected to have all marching band music memorized for performances. Therefore, all band members need to practice at home. There are VERY few times when an instrument should stay at school overnight. There are a few extra school-owned instruments, such as tubas, that may be checked out for use at home. Students, PLEASE remember to bring your instrument back to school for rehearsal.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is expected and is very necessary to the success of any performing group.

Each and every student is expected to be at each assigned performance.

1. Absence from a performance due to another school activity results in no point deduction. Notification must be given at least one week in advance in writing in the case of conflicting school activities.
2. Other absences from a performance due to illness or family circumstances will be excused with a written note or phone call from the parent, but will still result in the loss of points. However, 100 % of those points can be recovered through make up work as assigned by the teacher.
3. Unexcused absences from a performance will result in the loss of points with no recovery of points possible.
4. In emergency situations please make every effort to contact the director before the performance if at all possible. The school phones have voice mail. Please call 717-4264. **Leave a message if necessary.**

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Everyone must understand that we must work together to have a successful band program. Students are expected to treat each person with respect – respect for the person as well as his or her property. No food or drink is allowed in the band room. At the end of each rehearsal and performance everything is to be put away securely before being dismissed. Lockers and locks maybe checked out in the band office.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS – Student's are expected to:

1. Respect each other's time, space, and property.
2. Be on time, be prepared, have necessary materials, equipment, and instrument.
3. Be flexible, be a team player, be enthusiastic, have a sense of humor.
4. *KDI* – Keep the Director Informed! Communication is important.

GRADES will be determined by the following criteria:

PARTICIPATION – Students are expected to make a positive contribution to the band during class and other rehearsals. If students do not do so, either by being disruptive or by nonparticipation, they will be evaluated accordingly. Student gets 10 points daily. Points are deducted for gum/talking/behavior/tardy.

PERFORMANCE – Students are expected to make a positive contribution to the band during ALL performances. (Performances = 50 or 100 points)

MUSIC TESTS – Students will be expected to play their assigned part. All pre-game and halftime music must be memorized. Other playing tests may be assigned as well.

GRADES will be assigned as follows:

A = 90% & up	C = 70 to 79%	F = 59% & lower
B = 80 to 89%	D = 60 to 69%	

MUSIC

Each student will be issued a folder of music for the group her or she is in and will be responsible to return it in good condition. Please mark music with PENCIL ONLY! Cost of missing music or a missing folder will be added to the student's account after check in. A complete folder of music missing or not turned in can be very expensive.

SUPPLIES

Supplies such as reeds and valve oil are the responsibility of the individual student. We keep only a minimum emergency supply available. Please make sure your student has what they need for rehearsals and performances. Reed players should always have at least two working reeds with their instrument. Marching band students need a music LYRE and FLIP FOLDER.

REPAIR

Repair of student-owned instruments is the sole responsibility of the student. Glenn's Music in Junction City or Manhattan and Midwest Music in Salina provide repair service. Student instruments need to be repaired as soon as possible to keep them from falling behind in class. School-owned instruments must be brought to the band office as soon as repair becomes necessary.

INSURANCE INFORMATION

Included with this handbook is an insurance registration form for student-owned band instruments. (See Band Director for forms)

Student-owned band instruments will be insured by the school district. The policy covers the instrument for many types of loss or damage including fire, wind, hail, explosion, theft, vandalism and the dropping of the instrument causing breakage. There is a \$100.00 per loss deductible (which your home owners policy may cover – please check) Please note that there will be no coverage for normal wear and tear, nor is there coverage if the instrument is being used while playing for money. The policy will be in effect from the date (not before the first day of band camp) that the student turns in the registration form until the end of the school year. This policy is offered at NO COST to you. Please be sure that your instrument is registered. NOTE: A new registration form must be completed at the beginning of each school year. See Forms Packet from director.

CALENDAR / SCHEDULES

Please see the calendar on this website for the rehearsal and performance dates for the entire school year. Parent meetings will be announced well ahead of time and are generally held in the JCHS band room. Trip schedules will be handed a week before the trip and will be posted on the band website as well.

TRAVEL

Prior to the first trip, students will be allowed to sign up for a seat on a bus. This will be done on a seniority basis. Students will not be allowed to change buses following this sign up. Sponsors will have the authority to assign students particular seats should the need arise. Personal audio/video players, etc. will be allowed provided that headphones are used. However, neither the school nor the transportation company can be held responsibility for lost or stolen items. Students are expected to ride to the event on school transportation. With prior written approval students may be released to a parent only (please make visual contact with the director) for the ride home.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsors are needed for every single performance. Trip sponsors will also be needed for Band Day, Marching Festivals, Parades, etc. If you wish to volunteer for a specific date, please contact us in the band office at 717-4264. If you have sewing, carpentry, fundraising, or other specific skills, and would like to use them to help the band, please let us know.

UNIFORMS

Each student will be issued a uniform, which will be kept in the uniform room in the HS band room. Uniforms will be distributed before performances or prior to loading buses for trips. Students will be required to stay in the band room following performances until all uniforms are accounted for and appropriately stored. The uniform will consist of pants, vest, jacket, and hat. The student is responsible for BLACK GLOVES, BLACK SHOES, and BLACK SOCKS. Shoes and gloves will be ordered through the band office so that all students' shoes and gloves will look the same.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT (make checks payable to JCHS Band)

SHOES will be ordered through the school. Cost TBA

GLOVES will be ordered through the school. Cost TBA

BAND T-SHIRT - The cost is \$10.00.

The price is reduced by \$1.00 for each day of attendance to the Early Band Camp.

MEALS – On occasion students will be asked to supply their own meals or bring \$\$ for meals. We hope we don't have to do this very often.

UNIFORM CLEANING

Uniform cleaning instructions can be found in the Forms Packet. Uniforms **SHOULD NOT** be dry-cleaned. They are machine washable, but please follow our instructions. If you have a question, please call us.

FUNDRAISING

The students will have several opportunities to raise money. This will go towards the next major trip or may be used to help pay for shoes or T-shirts or jackets. Student accounts will be kept in the band office. The parent organization may also have other fundraisers to supplement the band's general account fund.

OTHER BANDS

PEP BANDS

Band member will have the opportunity to join the pep band. This organization rehearses during the seminar time. Band students may be a part of the pep band even if they are not enrolled in band for the spring semester. Students will receive extra letter points for playing in all the pep band performances.

WIND ENSEMBLE / CONCERT BAND

Wind Ensemble is the select concert band at JCHS. Participation is by audition only. (See calendar) Students not selected to the Wind Ensemble should continue to participate in Concert Band, which may require a schedule change at semester.

JAZZ BAND

This group is selected by audition and is in high demand for performances. This is a year course. Several concerts, clinics and festivals as well as many local performances are scheduled throughout the year.

KMEA District and State Honor Bands

Each year the Kansas Music Educators association sponsors honor groups including concert bands, jazz bands, orchestras, and choirs. The students for these groups are selected through an audition process. The audition consists of specific music to prepare ahead of time, plus scales and sight-reading. Students selected to our North Central District honor band or jazz band may then prepare for a live audition for the State band or jazz band. The dates for these auditions and honor band performance dates may be found on the performance calendar included in this book. Music for these auditions is available in the band office. All students who audition must be available to participate in the clinic/rehearsals and the performance. Audition fees will be paid by the school.

KSU Concert Band Clinic

The KSU Music Department will sponsor a clinic in January in which students will be placed in one of five concert bands for a weekend of intense rehearsal with nationally-known clinicians. Auditions occur on the KSU campus Friday afternoon and rehearsals begin that evening for a performance on Sunday afternoon. Students are placed in bands in an effort to provide balance, so the audition process is not intense. Participation is based upon recommendation of the HS band director. The participation fee (approx. \$30.00) is the responsibility of the student. Scholarship money may be available to help those with financial need. Transportation to and from Manhattan will be provided each day of the clinic.

KSHSAA Regional and State Music Festival for Solos and Small Ensembles

The Kansas State High School Activities Association sponsors music festivals for soloists and small ensembles (3 – 24) in the spring of each year. Students receiving a “I” rating at the regional will be eligible to participate at the state level. Our Regional festival is usually at Manhattan HS and the State festival is usually at Emporia State University . Some solo and ensemble music is available in the band library, but students are encouraged to look for other music as well. The band will pay the entry fee; however, a student failing to perform due to neglect on his or her part will be expected to pay back the entry fee.

Pit Band (JCHS Musical)

The pit band for the musical will be determined through instrumentation needs and possible auditions. The rehearsal schedule will be posted in advance to allow students to decide whether or not they have time to commit to being a part of the group. The size of the pit band will be determined by the musical being performed.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance will be taken at all rehearsals and performances. It is the student’s personal responsibility to be in his/her assigned place at the assigned time. Tardiness will be dealt with according to school policy. In fact, you should be early, because **IF YOU ARE ON TIME YOU ARE LATE!**

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is expected and is very necessary and important to the success of any performing group.

LETTERING

Students can receive a band letter by earning a minimum of 250 points from the following:

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>Points per Event</u>	<u>Max Points Allowed</u>
Marching Band Performance	10	100
Pep Band Performance	10	100 + 25 extra
All Other Concerts	10	50
KMEA District Band	25	25
KMEA State Band	50	50
Summer Camp (NOT JCHS Early Camp)	20	40
Summer City Band (at least half)	20	20
Other Honor Bands	10	20
Work KMEA Auditions	10	20
Regional Solo	20	40
Ensemble	10	20
State Solo	40	80
Ensemble	20	40
Musical Pit Band	40	40
Marching Band Section Leader	50	50
Event Set Up or Clean Up	5	25

Unforeseen events may be assigned points at the director's discretion!

An unexcused absence from a performance will disqualify a student from lettering.

Drum Majors will receive a band letter upon successful completion of the marching season.

SPECIAL AWARDS

MOST IMPROVED PLAYER AWARD is given the student chosen by the director who has shown the most improvement during the year. All students are eligible.

THE DIRECTOR'S AWARD is given to the outstanding member of Concert Band as voted by the students. Only Juniors and Seniors are eligible.

THE LOUIS ARMSTRONG JAZZ AWARD is given to the outstanding member of the Jazz Band as voted by the students. Only Seniors are eligible.

THE JOHN PHILIP SOUSA AWARD is given the outstanding member of Wind Ensemble as voted by the students. Only Seniors are eligible.

MARCHING BAND AWARDS

SECTION LEADER OF THE YEAR is voted by the students.

ASSISTANT SECTION LEADER OF THE YEAR is voted by the students

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR is given to the outstanding newcomer – freshman or transfer. Voted by the students

BLUE JAY SPIRIT AWARD is given to the upperclassmen that show the most school spirit. It is voted on by the students.

MARCHING PRIDE is given to the section that shows the most commitment, dedication and hard work through the season. It is voted on by the students – but they cannot vote for own section.

SECTION OF THE YEAR is given to the section that demonstrates the best musicianship and marching skills through the season. It is voted on by the students – but they cannot vote for own section.