



***Better People First***

***Better Musicians Second***

# **QHS Band Handbook**

**2021-2022**

**Superintendent:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal:** Tommy Molden

**Asst. Principal:** Dr. Tamekia Lyons

**Directors:** Charlie Sorto and Greg Haskins

## 2021-22 Fall Band Events

<b>July</b>	<b>19-23</b>	Guard/Percussion Camp (8:00-11:30/1:00-5:00)
	<b>22-23</b>	Freshman Camp/Percussion (8:00-11:30 A.M.) Soph., Jr., Sr./Guard (1-5:00)
	<b>26-30</b>	FULL BAND CAMP (8:00-11:30/1:00-5:00)
	<b>29</b>	Parent Performance/Band Parent Meeting 6:00 P.M. (Handbook Issued) <b>Parent(s) MUST attend this meeting!</b> Lots of Information about the semester.
<b>August</b>	<b>2</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> day for Teachers (could play at the opening teacher convocation) Time TBA
	<b>5</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> day for Students
	<b>TBA</b>	Meet the Panthers
	<b>2,9,16,23,30</b>	Percussion (5:00-7:00)/ Guard Rehearsal (3:30-5:00)
	<b>3,10,17,24,31</b>	Woodwind/Brass Sectional (3:30-5:00)
	<b>5,12,19,26</b>	Full Band Rehearsal (5:00-7:00)
	<b>28</b>	Saturday Home Football Game vs. Wayne County
<b>September</b>	<b>6,13,20,27</b>	Percussion (5:00-7:00)/ Guard Rehearsal (3:30-5:00)
	<b>7,14,21,28</b>	Woodwind/Brass Sectional (3:30-5:00)
	<b>2,9,16,23,30</b>	Full Band Rehearsal (5:00-7:00)
	<b>3</b>	Home Football Game vs. Heidelberg
	<b>10</b>	Away Football Game @ Newton
	<b>17</b>	Away Football Game @ Kemper County
	<b>24</b>	Away Football Game @ Enterprise
	<b>18,25</b>	Potential Contest Dates
<b>October</b>	<b>4,11,18,25</b>	Percussion (5:00-7:00)/ Guard Rehearsal (3:30-5:00)
	<b>5,12,19,26</b>	Woodwind/Brass Sectional (3:30-5:00)
	<b>7,14,21,28</b>	Full Band Rehearsal (5:00-7:00)
	<b>1</b>	Home Football Game vs. Northeast Jones
	<b>8</b>	<b>Friday Morning Rehearsal (9:00-12:00) This is over Fall Break</b>
	<b>9</b>	<b>State Marching Evaluation @ Neshoba Central</b>
	<b>15</b>	Away Football Game @ Mendenhall
	<b>16</b>	Itawamba Community College Marching Contest
	<b>22</b>	Away Football Game @ Newton County
	<b>29</b>	Home Football Game vs. Richland
	<b>30</b>	MHSAA Marching Championships
<b>November</b>	<b>15-19</b>	HS Symphonic/Concert Band Chair Auditions
	<b>TBA</b>	Quitman Christmas Parade
<b>December</b>	<b>TBA</b>	Quitman Christmas Parade
	<b>8-11</b>	MBA Honors Band Clinic – Natchez, MS

**\*\* Dates for play-off games are: November 5,12,19,26 and December 3.  
ALL playoff performances are required.**

**\*\*\* After school rehearsals will begin the week of Aug. 2, 2021. We Will Follow This Schedule:**  
*Mondays: Guard 3:30-5:30 and Percussion 5-7*  
*Tuesdays: Woodwinds and Brass 3:30-5:00*  
*Thursdays: Full Band 5:00-7:00      Dates: Aug. 5,12,19,26    Sept. 2,9,16,23,30    Oct. 7,14,21,28*

Some rehearsal times may be altered due to other QHS/QJH/MHSAA sanctioned activities.

#### **COVID-19 Statement**

It is essential for the school community to work together to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment and in the community while still providing a quality education program. To view the Quitman School District Reopening School Plan, visit our school website at [www.quitmanschool.org](http://www.quitmanschool.org).

## **Preface**

This handbook has been written for the Quitman High School Band members and parents. Our goal is to provide the necessary information to understand each phase and activity of the band program at Quitman High School. These policies have been set in order to assure that each member of the band program has the opportunity to gain the highest educational experience possible. The Quitman High School Administration has also approved these policies.

Each band member and band parent is urged to read the **ENTIRE HANDBOOK CAREFULLY** in order to understand the expectations, procedures, and policies concerning the Quitman High School Band. It is our hope that this manual will help us to avoid conflicts at all phases of our program.

## **Purpose**

The Quitman High School Band program shall provide each student with the opportunity to develop an appreciation for music education, as well as, an opportunity to learn cooperative skills that will lead to a lifetime of successful endeavors. In our classroom, words such as commitment, desire, dedication, discipline, professionalism and sacrifice become reality on a daily basis. We strive to meet our goal of becoming better people and better musicians while also learning the value of friendship, enjoyment, honesty, confidence and courage. It is our continuing hope as band directors that the Quitman Band Program will allow each member the opportunity to reach his/her maximum potential as a human-being and as a musician.

## **Defining Image of the QHS Big Blue Crew**

***Responsible, Respectful, Obedient, Trustworthy***

***Desire, Unity, Professionalism***

## **Membership Requirements**

All QHS Band students must have successfully completed the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade bands at Quitman Jr. High. Each student must also be in good standing behaviorally, academically, and musically while also having a well maintained instrument (use of school owned instruments will be issued by the band staff). Any student joining the band from another school district may obtain membership by audition and/or recommendation from their previous director(s). All rules from the MHSAA concerning transfer students will apply.

Students in the band program will be required to participate in both marching and concert band. Chair placement in the QHS Symphonic/Concert Band will be based on an audition score and instrumentation requirements.

In order for continued membership in the QHS Band, each student will be evaluated (by the directors) on a yearly basis in the areas of behavior/attitude, academics, attendance, and musicianship. The following cases could result in dismissal from the band: classroom misconduct, ISS, home suspension, alternative school, and/or failing grades in band/ academic subjects.



## General Expectations/ Member Guidelines

1. Be Honest, Responsible, Courteous, and Helpful at all times.
2. Remain positive about yourself, your teammates, and our organization.  
(No foul or perverse language will be permitted at any time)
3. Improve daily by being diligent, persistent, and obedient. (Always 100% EFFORT!!)
4. Show proper Respect toward all directors, teachers, administration, chaperones, and other students.
5. Follow all classroom rules and school policies. (All infractions will be documented)
6. Maintain academic grades/ standards as stated by the MHSAA and the QHS school handbook.
7. Be present, on-time, and prepared for all rehearsals and performances.  
*\*\*This includes equipment maintenance.*
8. No displays of relationships or personal affection will be permitted during school/band time.
9. Cell-phones & other electronic devices are prohibited from rehearsals and performances unless given permission by a director to use as an educational tool. (**This includes the stands at football games**) All electronic devices used without permission will be taken by the director(s). Return of such devices will occur at a parent conference.  
*\*\* Cell-phones may be taken on band trips for the sole purpose of alerting parents of arrival times and/or emergencies.*
10. Any student receiving an out-of-school suspension or ISS will also be suspended from band activities. The student(s) must conference with the director(s) before returning to the group. If a student receives multiple ISS infractions or out-of-school suspensions, the band directors will review the student's disciplinary situation. At that point, the student may be excused from the band program.
11. Any student sent to alternative school will be suspended from band activities. The band directors will review the student's disciplinary situation. At that point, the student may be excused from the band program.
12. ABSOLUTELY NO POSSESSION, DISTRIBUTION, OR CONSUMPTION OF ANY ALCOHOLIC SUBSTANCE, TOBACCO, DRUGS OR ILLEGAL OBJECT WILL BE TOLERATED. (Immediate dismissal from band will result.)

## Rehearsal & Performance Expectations

In order for us to be able to reflect on this season as meaningful and successful, we have to be willing to seek out solutions to problems rather than making excuses for failure. When things go wrong in a rehearsal the way in which we fix the problem will reveal our character and also lead to how well we perform on the concert stage, on the field, in the stands, or at a contest. Please make the commitment NOW to **work together** so that rehearsals will move smoothly and efficiently.

Follow these basic procedures to help rehearsals move quickly:

1. NEVER talk while instructions are being given.
2. Follow instructions the FIRST time given.
3. After rehearsing a segment remain at the "ATTENTION/SET" position until the "RELAX" command is given.
4. Do Not Complain.
5. Do Not Listen to anyone who is complaining to you.
6. BE PREPARED. (Know your music, drill charts, have pencils, etc.)
7. Be Early for Rehearsals.
8. Give 100% EFFORT. (Remember that how well we play and march in rehearsal is EXACTLY how well we will perform)
9. Our rehearsal schedule will be as follows:  
MONDAYS — Percussion 5:00-7:00 p.m. Color Guard 3:30-5:30 p.m.  
TUESDAYS — Woodwind/Brass 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
THURSDAYS – Full Group 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
*\* All times may be amended due to other school activities and/or emergencies.*

Lastly, any behavior that disrupts rehearsal will not be tolerated. If this occurs, the student will be removed from rehearsal and will not be allowed to return to a rehearsal or performance until after a parent conference has occurred. (This may occur over the phone or in person) Continued disruptive behavior will result in the student being removed from band.

## **Attendance Policy**

### ***Rehearsal and Performance attendance is REQUIRED!!!***

Our success as an organization rests largely on participation and cooperation. There is no substitute for you being present. Unlike many other subject tests, band performances cannot be “made-up.” There is also no “BENCH” in a band performance!! When you are absent all other members are affected. We will follow this policy regarding attendance to rehearsals/performances:

**\*\*Attendance at ALL rehearsals and performances is REQUIRED unless excused by the director(s) PRIOR to the absence (Except in the case of emergencies). Request and permission must be in writing.**

Any **unexcused absence(s)** could result in being placed on alternate status or dismissal from band.

The attendance policy will be enforced from the first day of band camp and continue throughout the school year. The director(s) must be contacted (601-776-5120) **prior** to any perceived absence from a rehearsal or performance.

## **Grading Policy**

**2/3 Test Average :** football games, concerts, parades, pep-rallies, community events, auditions, scale pass-offs, music pass-offs, term tests, etc. (Winter and Spring concerts, solo etudes, and or written tests may be counted as the semester exam grade.)

**1/3 Daily Average:** Participation- includes being at each rehearsal/ performance on time, with the proper materials, and exhibiting proper conduct. (Damaged instruments should be repaired within seven school days.) Also includes worksheets, homework assignments, pass-offs, etc.

## **Football Game/ Trip Guidelines**

1. Medical form and band contract must be signed and turned-in before being allowed to perform or travel with the band.
2. All students will ride in school provided transportation on band trips. The Quitman School District is responsible for each student traveling with the group. Students must depart and return as a group with the following exception: students may **return** with their parent or guardian if a written note has been provided to the director(s) prior to departure. This note relieves the Quitman School District of all responsibility for the child. The parent or guardian must pick the student up after the director(s) releases the child from band duties.
3. Students will board the bus only when instructed to do so and will remain seated until instructed otherwise.
4. Students will be assigned a specific bus prior to departure and will not be allowed to switch buses unless instructed to do so by the director(s).
5. We will observe the following bus rules:
  - a. Stay Seated
  - b. Silent in the city limits
  - c. No Co-Ed seating after dark
  - d. No Food or Drink on the bus. (special considerations will be determined by director(s).)
  - e. Assigned cleaning crews will check each bus for cleanliness at the conclusion of each trip.
6. The Quitman High School Band will sit together in the stadium at all times during games.  
Non-band persons will not be allowed to sit with the band. (Only current band members, chaperones, & directors)
7. **STANDS:** We will only play as a group in the stands. You are not allowed to play another student's instrument nor are you allowed to let another person play your instrument. We will cheer and support our team in a dignified manner. Rude comments will not be allowed. Any choreography to a cheer, drum-beat, or piece of music must be approved by the director(s) prior to the game. **ABSOLUTELY NO CELL- PHONE USAGE ALLOWED IN THE STANDS!!!**

**\*\*\* Remember that your actions represent you, your parents, your directors, our school, and our community.**

**Always act in a dignified, respectful manner.**

## **Facility/Uniform/Equipment Care**

**Facility:** Any area that we use (Band hall, field, storage, etc.) must be kept clean and free of litter. Each individual will be responsible for their area. NO FOOD or DRINK will be allowed in the band room/ rehearsal area unless otherwise instructed by the director(s).

**Uniform:** All uniforms are the property of the Quitman School District. Each member is responsible for the care and maintenance of the uniform. Uniforms will be washed and dried at the band hall during the school year. Uniforms will be worn in their entirety unless otherwise directed by the director(s).

**\*All fees must be paid and the uniform- agreement contract turned-in before a uniform will be issued to a student.**

**\*\* Jewelry, piercings, unnatural hair color or any accessories and excessive make-up will not be permitted in uniform unless it is a part of an approved costume. Appropriate grooming is always expected. All members will need to purchase band shoes.**

(We will arrange a band shoe-fitting service during band camp.)

**Instruments:** School owned instruments will be issued by the band staff. School owned instruments include, but are not limited to the following:

Tubas/ Sousaphones, Marching Baritones/ Concert Baritones, Mellophones,  
French Horns, Bass Clarinets, Bassoons, Oboes, Tenor Saxophones,  
Baritone Saxophones, and all percussion equipment (marching/concert).

**\*\*All instruments are to be returned in good working condition and properly sterilized at the conclusion of each semester.**

## **Band Fees**

**Band Camp Fee \$75.00:** This is due by the end of band camp July 30, 2020. Checks are to be made out to **QHS Band Boosters**. This is to help defray the cost of band camp expenses like hiring additional staff for instruction, music/drill/guard work written specifically for our band, DCI ticket, etc.

**QHS Band Fee \$35.00:** This is due on the first day of school. Please make checks to **Quitman School District**.

**Fair Share Fee \$100:** Fair share represents your portion of the “per student” cost for participation in band. This fee will be used to cover the cost of band apparel, contest entry fees, music supplies, uniform cleaning, snacks during band camp, meals during contests. This fee may be paid in cash, check, and/or fundraised (profit). Half (50%) of the band fee will be due **September 4, 2020**. After attending band camp, students whom drop or are removed from band will still be responsible for payment of the band fee.

## **Fundraising**

Fundraising is an important part of our organization. Many needs arise throughout a school year that will require us to raise extra funds. Each band student will be required to participate in **EACH** fundraising project respective to the band program. The profit raised may be applied toward the \$100.00 fair share fee.

## **Media-Postings**

All photographic, sound, or computer-generated images of any group/individual of the Quitman Band Program must be approved by the band directors and school administration prior to any postings for public view. Public postings include but are not limited to the following: television broadcast, radio broadcast, newspaper photographs-articles, and/ or various internet postings through social-media (facebook, web-pages, etc.)

## **Parent-Booster Organization**

All band parents are members of the band booster club. The booster club acts as an integral part of the band program by organizing activities & fundraisers, serving as chaperones, and providing assistance with special projects. Please plan to attend meetings as well as be involved with these activities.

**2021-2022**

## **Media Release**

There are several times throughout the school year in which pictures and/or sounds are recorded for the purpose of notifying the community of accomplishments and/or upcoming events. Occasionally, a reporter may ask to interview a member of our band or print a picture image for the newspaper. This media-release form will serve as permission to post such information for public view.

I hereby give permission to the Quitman School District to photograph, record, interview my child. It is my understanding that these images/ sounds or portions thereof may be used for public view.

I agree to participate in these projects without financial remuneration and I understand that this agreement releases the school district, photographer, recorder, interviewer from any future claims, as well as from any liability, arising from the use of the said images/ sounds.

## **Quitman Band Contract**

My signature below indicates that I have read, understand, and will fully comply with ALL of the procedures, guidelines, expectations, fees and policies stated in this handbook.

(Please make sure that both student and parent have read the handbook before signing)

**Student Signature:**

**Parent/Guardian Signature:**

**Date:**

This contract, along with the medical release form, must be signed and returned in order to participate in any activities of the QHS/QJHS Band.





STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

### PARENTAL CONSENT AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION

For school trips/ activities sponsored by the Quitman High School Band

Trip or Activity Planned	2021-2022 Band Camp, Football Games, Marching/Concert Competitions, Ensemble Performances, Honor Bands, Spring Trip, Rehearsals
Purpose of Trip or Activity	Practice, All Rehearsals, All Performances, Loading-Transporting-Repairing Equipment
Method(s) of Transportation	Quitman School District buses, charter or contract buses, or private vehicles*
Teacher(s) Responsible	Charlie Sorto, Greg Haskins Directors of Band Program

\*When private vehicles are used for transportation, the vehicle owner's liability coverage is applicable in the event of any vehicular accident. When students are transported by Quitman School District buses, the school system vehicle liability coverage is applicable in the event of any vehicular accident.

#### Changes/Cancellations:

I understand that school trips may be cancelled when necessary by the board of education, superintendent, principal, directors, or other. Reimbursement cannot be guaranteed when such cancellations occur. Notification will be given ASAP.

#### Expectations and Instructions:

I understand the following is expected of the student: 1) to follow instructions given by the teacher(s) and/or chaperones, 2) not to leave or separate from the group without appropriate authorization from a teacher or chaperone, and 3) to comply with ALL QSD policies and rules of conduct. In the event any of the above expectations or instructions are violated, I understand school officials reserve the right to remove the student from the trip (at parent/guardian expense) and the student will be subject to school disciplinary actions. Possible removal from band may result.

#### Parental/Guardian Authorization:

I request that the above-named student be allowed to participate in the planned trip(s), I understand the change/cancellation information, expectations and instructions, and confirm the student has insurance coverage. I specifically consent to the student's participation in the planned trip(s) and release and hold harmless Quitman School District and its agents from any responsibility in the event of an accident. I also consent/ release to the band any use of the above-named student's photo as needed.

PARENT/GUARDIAN Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell-phone \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*SIGNATURE, EMAIL, and PHONE NUMBER are REQUIRED before this form can be submitted\*\*\*\*\*

#### Special Conditions:

If the trip(s) includes water related activities (such as swimming, diving, boating, sailing, etc.) or participation in amusement park rides, I acknowledge the inherent risks in these activities and give my express permission for the student to participate in those activities, and release Quitman School District, Quitman Band Boosters, and its agents from any responsibility in the event of an accident.

I AGREE \_\_\_\_\_ I DO NOT AGREE \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE ABOVE "SPECIAL CONDITIONS"

#### Parent /Guardian Medical Emergency Authorization:

In the event of a medical emergency while my child is participating in a school trip, I authorize Quitman School District officials to release the following information to the healthcare provider. I understand school officials will use the contact information provided below to contact me in the event of such an emergency. If any emergency medical procedures or treatment are required during the trip, I consent to the trip supervisor(s) arranging for and consenting to the procedures or treatment in the supervisor's discretion. I will pay the cost of any such medical procedures or treatment not fully covered by my insurance provider.

#### Emergency Contact Information (2 contacts):

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Night \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Night \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

#### Emergency Medical Information (complete as applicable, you may attach another sheet if needed):

Family Physician & Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Known Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Medications, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Special Health Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company & Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



# QHS High School Band

## Uniform Agreement

2021-2022

This form must be returned to the band department signed by both the **student and parent** in order for a uniform to be issued to the student.

I understand that the *Quitman School District* has provided for all high school band students a complete uniform and garment bag to ensure that our band has the best possible visual image. In order for this uniform to last a period of eight to ten years, there are certain responsibilities that each student will have to assume.

Those responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

1--- Uniforms will not be taken home at any time unless given permission by a band director.

2--- All students will be required to change in and out of uniforms at the band hall.

3--- Any damage due to negligence of the student will require replacement or repair at the discretion of the band directors. This expense will be the responsibility of the student/ parent.

Listed below is the cost of each item. Realize that this was the bid price and not actual retail cost. If individual items have to be ordered, the cost will be significantly greater.

(If you take care of the uniform, this will not be an issue.)

___ Uniform Total	\$ 375.00	JACKET # _____
___ Hat	\$ 39.00	
___ Hat Box	\$ 9.00	
___ Plume	\$ 12.00	PANT # _____
___ Coat	\$ 184.00	
___ Pants	\$ 86.00	
___ Gauntlets	\$ 31.00	GUANTLET s/ # _____
___ Garment Bag	\$ 11.00	
___ Hanger	\$ 5.00	

\*\* Leaving the uniform on the floor, on the bus, or out of place (meaning not hung properly in bag and placed on the uniform racks) is considered negligence. Not keeping the uniform clean is also considered negligence, and we, as a group, cannot allow this to take place. If you are guilty of any of these actions, be prepared to assume financial and personal responsibility of said uniform.

I agree to the following guidelines listed above. I understand that this is a commitment to maintain the uniform at a level consistent with the excellence of this band program.

***Band fees must be paid "up to date" before a student will be issued a uniform.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date