

Oologah High School Band
The "Stallion Battalion"
2013 - 2014 Handbook

INTENSITY
&
PURPOSE

Oologah-Talala Public Schools
High School Band

Director: Mr. Jon Matthews

Assistant Director: Mr. Brian Hayes

Additional Staff: Mr. Bob Gregston,
Ms. Krysten Conkling, Mr. Reyes Valdez

Phone: (918)443-6218

Email: Jon.Matthews@oologah.k12.ok.us

Website: www.stallionbattalion.edublogs.org



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/stallionbattalion/>

“For the LOVE of...”

Fall 2013 Stallion Battalion Schedule

Friday August 2	6:00pm	Parent/Student Meeting
Sunday – Friday Aug. 4 – Aug. 9		Summer Band Camp
Tuesday August 20	8:00am	School Starts (Yes, we are playing!)
Tuesday August 27	4:00pm – 7:00pm	Evening Practice
Friday August 30	6:00pm	Meet the Mustangs

Tuesday Sept. 3	4:00pm – 7:00pm	Evening Practice
Thursday Sept. 5	4:00pm	Away Game @ Claremore
Tuesday Sept. 10	4:00pm – 7:00pm	Evening Practice
Friday Sept. 13	4:00pm	Away Game @ Skiatook
Tuesday Sept. 17	4:00pm – 7:00pm	Evening Practice
Friday Sept. 20	4:00pm	Home Game vs. Collinsville
Tuesday Sept. 24	4:00pm – 7:00pm	Evening Practice
Friday Sept. 27	4:00pm	***Homecoming vs. Vinita*** Parade etc. before the game
Saturday Sept 28	ALL DAY	7th Annual “Stallion Battalion” Marching Invitational

Tuesday October 1	4:00pm – 7:00pm	Evening Practice
Friday October 5	4:00pm	Away Game @ Tulsa Webster
Saturday Oct. 5	ALL DAY	Bixby Battle of the Bands
Tuesday October 8	4:00 – 7:00pm	Evening Practice
Thursday Oct. 10	TBD	Verdigris Contest
Friday October 11	4:00pm	Home Game vs. Cleveland
Saturday Oct. 12	ALL DAY	Pryor Band Day
Tuesday Oct. 15	TBD (during the day)	OSSAA NE Regional Marching
Thursday Oct. 17	5:00pm	Away Game @ Wagoner
Tuesday Oct. 22	4:00pm – 7:00pm	Evening Practice
Thursday Oct. 24	4:00pm – 7:00pm	Evening Practice
Friday Oct. 25	4:00pm	Home Game vs. McLain
Saturday Oct. 26	ALL DAY	OBA Marching Championships

Friday Nov. 1	4:00pm	Away Game @ Miami
Friday Nov. 8	4:00pm	Home Game Vs. Catoosa*** Senior Night, Mass Band, Glo Show
Saturday Nov. 9	TBD	NBDA / OMEA 1 st Round Auditions
Monday Nov. 11	10am-1pm	Claremore Veteran’s Day Parade

TBD		Oologah Christmas Parade
Saturday Dec 7	ALL DAY	All-State Final Round
Thursday Dec. 19	7:00pm	Christmas Concert

PLEASE POST ON YOUR FRIDGE
and share with your employer!

Mission Statement

I want each and every member of the Oologah band program to have an experience which will last a lifetime. Band members should gain an appreciation for music and the fine arts by playing an integral part of an ensemble. **(There is no “second string” in band; everyone starts!!)** This year we will set our goals together, we will become a better band together, and we will perform together and do our very best to reach said goals. If we can get every band member on the same page, we should be able to reach any realistic goal we set our minds to. **THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN LEARN FROM THIS YEAR IS TO HAVE FUN WHILE HELPING THE BAND IMPROVE.**

How do we have an excellent band?

- **Cooperate** with staff, leadership and your fellow students. We are all human and make mistakes, but if we all work together we can reach excellence.
- **Work with INTENSITY AND PURPOSE** during every rehearsal – play, talk, scratch, whistle, whine, etc. some other time. We have to practice well in order to have the fun of a rock solid performance.
- **BE ABLE TO SEE IMPROVEMENT IN YOUR SKILLS EACH DAY.** The band’s quality of performance improves at the same rate as the individual performers improve. Develop confidence by doing your job as well as it can be done. During the band rehearsal time, band members’ priorities are (A) the mission, (B) the band, and (C) him/herself. *(Please note, I am not asking you to make band the most important part of your life all of the time, just during rehearsals and performances.)*

5 Simple Rules

1. **BE ON TIME** – we can not be consistently starting rehearsal late. Get there early so that you can be ready to participate at the first downbeat. I understand that you may have a good excuse that you are late, but in the end you are still taking away from rehearsal time.
 2. **BE RESPECTFUL** – “If you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say anything.” There are ways to make PRODUCTIVE comments and to help one another without being degrading. Nothing can tear a band apart faster than when a student is negative towards his/her peers.
 3. **NO FOOD OR DRINK** – in the band room please. DO NOT bring in food, drink, gum, etc. into your band room. Oologah has one of the nicest band rooms in Northeast Oklahoma. We have to keep it that way.
 4. **TAKE CARE OF YOUR EQUIPMENT & FACILITY** – Put your instrument away correctly after every rehearsal. *If I let you out late, I will talk to your 2nd hour teacher and apologize, but I will try my hardest to give you time to pack up. If we start rehearsal on time, than we can end on time!* Keep your uniform CLEAN and put away in the proper area. Keep the band room CLEAN. The first mark of a bad band is a messy band room.
 5. **HAVE FUN MAKING MUSIC** – We WILL have fun this year. The best feeling you can get is the feeling when everyone is giving 100% and we succeed.
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Rehearsals

I will do my very best to be at the band room EARLY so that you can have enough time to get everything you need ready before rehearsal starts. If you want a good band, you must ATTEND ALL REHEARSALS. I will do my best to notify you well in advance about rehearsal times. PLEASE make plans to adjust your schedule accordingly.

Marching Season: Students in high school band will be members of the marching band. During marching season, our rehearsals will start at **7:30 AM every school day until we complete our football schedule (including playoffs if necessary).**

We will also have weekly evening practices on Tuesday nights during marching season. These rehearsals will start at 4pm and last until 7pm. Additional rehearsals may be necessary. I will let everyone know WELL in advance.

Concert Season: Begins the week after the final football game. Rehearsals will begin every day at 8:00 AM. We will have less time, so we must work more diligently. I will schedule sectionals as necessary before or after school.

Jazz Band: Jazz band will not be in the schedule this year. We will start jazz band rehearsals after school as soon as FB season is over.

Grading Policy

Your grade in high school band will be determined as follows:

1. **Daily Grades** – Max. 20 points a day. Be on time, in class, and doing what you are expected to do.
2. **Extra Rehearsals** – Max. 50 points a rehearsal. Extra rehearsals include: game day rehearsals, sectionals, clinics, night rehearsals, etc. I will let you know in advance when these rehearsals will be.
3. **Appearances** – Max. 200 points per appearance. All concerts, contests, parades, football games, pep rallies, etc will count as appearance grades.
4. **Playing tests &/or written tests** – Max. 100 points. There will be the occasional playing or written test on an as needed basis. These can either really help your grade, or can really hurt your grade.
5. **Extra Credit** – Variable points. Participation in honor bands or solo & ensemble contest will count as extra credit. I will possibly allow you to do other extra credit assignments on an as needed basis.

The total number of points earned will be divided by the total number of points available. Your percentage and letter grade will be assigned per school policy.

Please understand that you are participating in a unique class. Many of our activities will be outside of the normal school day, and you are required to attend those activities for your grade.

Attendance Policies:

Attendance is **required** at all rehearsals and performances.

You are an important part of a high quality performance ensemble. Extra rehearsals outside school and regular band time are required also. You must let me know at least 48 hours in advance **IN WRITING** if you know you will be absent.

These are considered examples of excusable absences:

1. Serious illness making you contagious to the group or that renders you unable to attend class all day. **Must be approved by the office as an excused absence.**
2. Death or serious emergency in the immediate family.

These are examples of absences that are NOT excusable:

1. "It's my birthday"
2. Non-emergency Dr.'s Appointments (please schedule wisely!)
3. "I overslept" or "I forgot" – take some responsibility
4. **"I had to work"** – I know your job is important, but you are still a student in school. Band is school. **SCHOOL COMES FIRST.** You will have your schedule of band events. Give a copy to your boss. He or she will appreciate the responsibility you are taking. The quickest way to lose a job is to not let the boss know **IN ADVANCE** when you need off. You have chosen to work and go to school, now be responsible, figure out your priorities, (**SCHOOL COMES FIRST**), and act accordingly. I will be glad to talk to your employer if school a problem.

All rehearsals and performances are valuable to the entire band! REMEMBER if you are absent or tardy you are letting down the ENTIRE band.

Section T-shirt Rule**

All Section T-shirts **MUST** be pre-approved by Mr. Matthews **BEFORE** they are ordered.

Failure to do so could result in confiscation of the shirts.

We are representing the band, and must represent the band well.

What you NEED

1. Band T-Shirt – \$12.00 – we will use these as uniforms at certain appearances, and also as part of our travel uniform. (You may want more than one).
2. Band shorts – \$25.00 – we will use these as uniforms at certain appearances, and also as part of our travel uniform. They will be soccer style nylon shorts that are to be worn **UNDERNEATH** your uniform. (You may want more than one pair).
3. Band Cap -- \$15 – This will be part of the uniform to be worn in the stands at football games.
4. **BLACK** Marching Shoes – approximately \$30.00 – we all need to be wearing marching shoes. Dress shoes don't work!! Put your name on the inside of each shoe with a permanent marker.
5. Black Socks to be worn with the uniform
6. Your instrument and accessories – reeds, oils, grease, drum sticks/mallets, etc.
7. Flip Folder for marching band – Available at most music stores. Please put your name on your flip folder with a paint pen etc.
8. Canvas Nail Bag to hold marching music, drill, pencil, poker chips, water bottle – Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Lowes should have them pretty cheap.

Fundraising Goal / Band Fee

Each HS band student is responsible for an additional \$150 for band operating expenses. This can either be achieved through fundraising or through payments made to Oologah Band. We will be doing several fundraisers this year!

1st payment/goal reached of \$50 – September 15th

2nd payment/goal reached of \$50 – October 15th

3rd payment/goal reached of \$50 – February 15th

IMPORTANT:

- This fee is in addition to any Trip account payments.
- This is considered a participation fee for high school band. That being said, if this fee is not paid, a student indebtedness form will be attached to the student's permanent record and records will not be released until the debt is removed.
- Only **fundraisers** through the HS band activity account will go toward this payment. Parents will still be asked to volunteer for concession, fireworks stand etc., but no money will go to your students account for you volunteering. Examples of activity account fundraisers are: tumbler sales, Cherrydale brochures, bedlam shirts, Allison's Fun Company events

Statement of Acknowledgement

Please sign and return this sheet.

I have read and understand the rules and regulations of this organization and agree to follow the guidelines herein.

_____	<u>2013-2014</u>
Student's Name (Please Print)	School Year
_____	_____
Student's Signature	Date
_____	_____
Parent/Guardian's Signature	Date
_____	_____
Parent/Guardian's Signature	Date

How do you intend to handle your band fees?

_____	One Payment of \$150 now
_____	Payment plan as listed above
_____	Fundraising w/ any outstanding balance paid by Feb. 15 th