

**BROWNSBURG
EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL**



**BAND HANDBOOK
2024 - 2025**



Dear BEMS Band Members and Parents,

Welcome back to an exciting year in the Brownsburg East Middle School Band Program! We are excited that you have chosen or are continuing to be a part of the band program and look forward to a year filled with educational, musical, and fun experiences!

Your child's participation in our band program is beneficial in many ways. Band students are engaged daily in a highly creative performing art that stimulates growth in areas of the human brain that no other discipline can. This growth effortlessly transfers into your student's academic life. In addition, our band students will develop traits such as teamwork, responsibility, dedication, self-discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership and dependability. Membership in our band program will give all a sense of accomplishment, pride, and respect as the students develop musical and personal skills that will enrich their lives.

The purpose of this handbook is to outline the guidelines and expectations for making this year a success for all involved, and to serve as a guide and resource for students and parents. Both students and their parents should take the time to thoroughly read this handbook. Upon completion the contract on the last page of this handbook should be signed and returned to school, indicating your understanding of these guidelines and expectations.

We would like to encourage your input. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us anytime at cbrinkman@brownsburg.k12.in.us and trunyon@brownsburg.k12.in.us.

Sincerely,
Chad Brinkman
Tracy Runyon
BEMS Band Directors

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

Making music is a lot of fun! However, as you know it also involves a lot of hard work. With your help, we can establish and maintain the right kinds of attitudes and the best possible musical habits. It is important that we as musicians understand and practice proper classroom procedures in order for each of us to receive the maximum benefit from the rehearsal. Classroom procedures include the following:

1. Come to class ready to participate and participate.
2. Respect other people and their property.
3. Respect others' right to learn.
4. Follow directions the first time they are given.

GRADES

Grades will consist of the following parts:

Practice (daily contribution points/ classwork) – 20%

Mastery Assessments (playing assessments/ performances) – 80%

DAILY CONTRIBUTION POINTS – Earn 10 points per day by demonstrating the following strategies:

- Positively and actively engage in classroom tasks: be a good role model.
- **Do not disrupt** class climate or talk at inappropriate times.
- **Participate** with proper instrumental technique, posture, etc.
- Come to class with **ALL class materials** and be in your seat with instrument two minutes after the bell (binder, passport, pencil, instrument and all supplies).
- Support the success of the band with respectful words and actions.
- Support the success of the band by following directions.
- Support the success of the band by completing given tasks.

ASSESSMENT (Playing tests) – Playing tests will be given periodically to assess each student’s progress and to determine chair placement. These tests may or may not be announced in advance.

PERFORMANCES – Performing is a very important part of band class. Performances are listed in **bold dates** on the calendar below for families to mark on their calendars. **2024-2025 construction is impacting several campuses of BCSC. Bold dates are tentative, with more information to be communicated as we get closer to the event.** If an absence is to be excused, please notify Mr. Brinkman and Mr. Runyon through email cbrinkman@brownsburg.k12.in.us & trunyon@brownsburg.k12.in.us prior to the event.

CALENDAR/IMPORTANT DATES (all dates/times tentative)

September

13	8th Grade Performance @ Varsity Football	BHS Stadium
13	All-Region Honor Band Entry Deadline	

November

15	IBA Junior All-State Band Entry Deadline	
16	IBA All-Region Honor Band	Zionsville West Middle School
17	IBA All-Region Honor Band Performance	Zionsville West Middle School
18	7th & 8th Grade Fall Concert	6:30 PM BHS Auditorium
19	8 th St. Louis Trip Parent Info Meeting	7:00 PM BEMS Cafeteria

January

16 - 18 IBA Junior All-State Band Ft. Wayne

February

1 ISSMA Solo & Ensemble TBD
4 Young Artist Solo Competition 7:00 PM BWMS Cafetorium
15 Pendleton Heights Jazz Festival (*Jazz Band*) Pendleton Heights HS

March

5 7th & 8th Grade Contest Concert 7:30 PM BEMS Cafetorium
7 Brownsburg Jazz Finale (*Jazz Band*) BHS Auditorium
14 or 15 ISSMA Contest (8th only) TBD

May

6 8th Grade St. Louis Rehearsal/ Parent mtg. 7:00 PM BEMS Band Room
9 - 10 8th Grade St. Louis Trip
14 Pops Rehearsal (6th, 7th, 8th) 7:00 PM BHS Stadium
15 Pops Festival (6th, 7th, 8th) - \$5 admission 7:00 PM BHS Stadium
17 7th Grade Kings Island Trip
27 Awards Night (*Jazz Band*) 6:00 PM BEMS Main Gym

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PRACTICE

Progress on a musical instrument depends a great deal on what is achieved during **daily** home practice sessions. The rewards of playing a musical instrument increase in direct proportion to the number of hours invested in individual practice. The key is to set aside a designated time every day for practice. Set up a daily schedule to ensure that practice is an important part of your daily studies. 30 minutes of practice 4-5 days a week is a good goal. Band students will have an instrument locker at school for storage during the school day, but instruments should go home each evening. The following tips are given to help students practice at home:

HOW TO PRACTICE:

1. Study it.
2. Count it out loud.
3. Name the notes.
4. Finger the notes.
5. Play it! Start each line slowly with a feeling of good rhythm. Use a metronome to keep a steady beat. Repeat the part of the line that is difficult. Write in the counting on difficult parts. Increase your speed only after you can play it perfectly.

BAND PARENTS: YOU CAN HELP!

Playing a band instrument involves an investment of both time and money. In order for your child to be successful it is important that you offer encouragement and support. Your child will catch on to some things very easily. There will be times when your child finds a technique or concept to be difficult to learn. There were times in my education when I felt like tossing my flute out the window! Thankfully I had supportive parents who encouraged me to see it through. Besides giving your child moral support, you can help your child develop good practice habits. Here are some suggestions on how to help your child achieve good practice habits:

1. **HAVE A SET TIME TO PRACTICE EACH DAY.** Help your child make a wise choice about when this time will be.
2. **PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE PLACE TO PRACTICE.** Your child should have a straight chair to sit on and ample lighting.
3. **HELP MAKE PRACTICE TIME FREE OF INTERRUPTIONS.**
4. **ASK YOUR CHILD TO PLAY THE BAND MUSIC FOR YOU.** If you are not able to monitor your child's practice, ask him/her to make a recording for you to listen to on your way to work!
5. **HAVE PATIENCE IN REMINDING YOUR CHILD TO PRACTICE DAILY.**
6. **MAKE MUSIC A FAMILY ACTIVITY.** Take your child to hear a concert, or find great performances online.
7. **ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD.** Hey, that sounds great!!

UNIFORMS

We will be wearing a "uniform" for many of the Brownsburg MS band events. This will be used in grades 7-8. Concert Black is required for each performance.

- Black dress shirt (students provide their own)
- Black dress pants (students provide their own)
- Black socks (students provide their own)
- Black dress shoes (students provide their own)

STAY CONNECTED!

The Brownsburg Bands website is available to give you access to a variety of information about our instrumental music program. The full year calendar of events is now available, and you may sign up for the Brownsburg Bands newsletter. There are also numerous links to websites related to our curriculum. You may access the website from any of the individual school websites or directly at: www.brownsburgbands.com.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Brownsburg's private lesson program is a district wide program that provides a high-quality enhancement to classroom instruction. Most of our teachers are professional musicians in the Indianapolis area and have advanced degrees in the performance of their instruments. Lessons are extremely valuable to the individual student. ALL students are highly encouraged to take individualized private instruction. Lessons will be given weekly during the band classes, before, and after school. Please contact the individual teacher to set up a lesson time.

Flute:

Kendra Phillips- 317-258-2714 – flutetimes3@gmail.com @ BEMS

Oboe:

Cameron Storey – cestorey@butler.edu @ BEMS

Rebecca McGuire - rlmcguire89@gmail.com

Bassoon:

Emily Prochaska – emily.bassoon@gmail.com

Ntinyari Miriti – nmiriti@butler.edu

Candi Granlund – 317-727-1275

Clarinet:

Sondra Hardisty (219-393-0646)

Saxophone:

Sondra Hardisty (219-393-0646)

Mack Gillespie (317-727-1275)

Trumpet:

Ziggy Garcia – 915-422-8853 – ziggygarcia@gmail.com @ BEMS

French Horn:

Christopher Williams - cbwilliamsmusic@gmail.com

Trombone/Baritone/Tuba:

Josh Davis – joshd2ba@gmail.com @ BEMS

Dan Wilhelm – 317-697-2927 - wilhel1dc@gmail.com @ BEMS

Percussion (all at BEMS):

Kyler Altenhof - kdaltenhof@gmail.com

Andrew Fortuna - andrewfortuna1.1@gmail.com

Chris Murphree - cmurph3268@gmail.com

Zach Schlicher - zschlicher@gmail.com

SUPPLIES AND INSTRUMENT REPAIRS

Paige's Music will pick up and deliver items and repairs on Thursday of each week. Loaner instruments can be easily ordered off of the Paige's website (www.paigesmusic.com), or by calling 1-800-382-1099. Other supplies may be ordered and delivered to the school from Paige's Music in Indianapolis. Please visit the Paige's Music website or call Paige's to order supplies.



JAZZ BAND

Jazz Band information will be distributed near fall break.

ALL-REGION HONOR BAND

Each year the Indiana Bandmasters Association sponsors All-Region Honor Bands throughout the state. The band is selected from applications submitted in September. Interested students are encouraged to submit an application. Applications will be available during the first few weeks of school. This year's All-Region Band will be held at Zionsville West Middle School.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

All band students are encouraged to enter the ISSMA Solo & Ensemble contest. Events include solos, trios, quartets, etc. Soloists have the option to play with a piano accompaniment. Students arrange their own practice time after school, and with their private lesson teachers. More complete information will be distributed in late October.

BROWNSBURG YOUNG ARTIST CONTEST

Open to all ISSMA Solo & Ensemble soloists, this local contest is held following the ISSMA Solo & Ensemble Contest. All entrants receive a participation award. The first-place winners in each grade receive a scholarship (up to \$500) to a summer music camp.

ISSMA ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEST

Our 8th grade band attends the ISSMA Organizational Contest each year in the month of March. This is an opportunity for our full 8th grade band to receive feedback and adjudication on our concert performance. We will request the Friday performance date (March 14), but a Saturday performance is a possibility. If you have a direct conflict with either date, please let Mr. Brinkman know ASAP so that we can put your conflict details in our registration. Students will ride the bus to this event and there will be a transportation fee collected prior to our contest.

REWARD TRIPS

Each year a reward fun trip is planned for each band. **The reward trips are open to all band members who have no unexcused absences from any performance.** An excused absence is defined as a personal illness (bring a doctor's note when returning to school.) or a family emergency. **Email cbrinkman@brownsburg.k12.in.us and trunyon@brownsburg.k12.in.us before the scheduled performance if the absence is to be excused.** The BEMS Academic Eligibility Requirements and Behavior Expectations also apply to fun and overnight trips. To meet the behavior expectation, students may have no more than two (2) office discipline referral logs. See the Student Handbook section for complete details. Additional information about these reward trips will be sent home at a later date.

BROWNSBURG BAND AND ORCHESTRA PARENTS (BBOP)

You are a member of Brownsburg Band and Orchestra Parents (BBOP) because your child is a member of the BEMS Band! We need you to: attend meetings, work when called, support funding projects, and to attend all band programs. Please plan to attend the meetings in the high school band room on the third Thursday of every-other month. The exact dates can be found in the calendar on www.brownsburgbands.com.

FUNDRAISING

Each year the boosters sponsor several fund-raising events to meet the expenses incurred by all the bands. We will do a fundraiser at the start of the school year and then a second later this fall. Students may earn funds, to be used for trips, for their individual booster accounts. Please do your part in helping meet the band's financial needs.

8th Grade Only

BROWNSBURG MS BAND & ORCHESTRA MEDICAL FORM

Name of student _____

Student Cell phone # _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Age _____

Date of Birth _____

Grade _____

Parent(s) full names _____

Main contact Number _____ (name) _____

Secondary contact Number _____ (name) _____

Health Insurance Company _____

Health Insurance Member ID _____

Health Insurance Group Number _____

Date of last tetanus booster _____

List any special health conditions that your child may have:

(diabetes, epilepsy, allergies to food or medicines, bleeding tendency, etc.)

I hereby authorize the personnel in charge of this field trip to release the above information to medical authorities and to obtain medical care and/or hospitalization should illness or accident occur while my child is engaged in this field trip. I accept the responsibility for payment of any medical expenses.

Signature - Parent/Guardian

Date signed

Please return this form by Friday, August 9



**BEMS Band Handbook
Acknowledgement of Receipt**

We hereby acknowledge that we have received a copy of the 2024 - 2025 BEMS Band Handbook for review. We have read the handbook and agree to comply with its provisions. **2024-2025 construction is impacting several campuses of BCSC. Bold dates are tentative, with more information to be communicated as we get closer to the event.**

9/13 – 8th Grade Perform @ Varsity Football Game		BHS Stadium
11/18 – 7th & 8th Grade Concert	6:30 PM	BHS Auditorium
3/5 - 7th & 8th Grade Concert	7:30 PM	BEMS Cafetorium
3/14 or 3/15 – 8th Grade ISSMA Contest		TBD
5/14 – Band Pops Rehearsal (6-12)	7:00 PM	BHS Stadium
5/15 - Band Pops Festival (6-12) \$5 admission	7:00 PM	BHS Stadium

Student Name Printed

Student Signature

Parent Name Printed

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent Name Printed

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date _____ Grade _____

ADULT Shirt Size (circle one) – AS AM AL AXL AXXL AXXXL

Period _____ Purple/White _____

Please return this form by Friday, August 9