

BROWNSBURG
EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL



BEGINNING BAND
HANDBOOK 2024 - 2025



Dear BEMS Band Members and Parents,

We are glad that you have chosen to be a part of the Brownsburg band program! This document will serve as our handbook for the 2023-2024 school year. It's shaping up to be an exciting year! In this document, you will see our goals, helpful information for your developing student, and a schedule of events.

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

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

By the end of the year, we want you to have learned the basics of how to make a great sound on your instrument, and have a blast being a part of a music ensemble. Here are our specific goals:

1. To develop musical skills in performance, theory, and appreciation
2. To promote a positive self-image in each student
3. To develop in each student a sense of responsibility and being a vital part of a team
4. To instill in each student the importance of their role and commitment to the goals and success of the organization
5. To build a standard of excellence in music, and in everyday life

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.

Violation of classroom procedures will be handled according to the school-wide discipline program.

GRADES

Grades will consist of the following parts:

Quizzes/written work	10%
Daily Contribution	20%
Assessment (playing tests)	35%
Performance (concerts)	35%

****Concert performances are part of the music curriculum and student attendance is a graded expectation of the class.***

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 (folder, 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. This includes in-person and video assignments placed on Schoology.

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. **2023-2024 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

September

30 **Beginning Band Open Rehearsal** **7:00 PM** **BEMS Cafe**

January

24 **Beginning Band Elementary Convocation Concerts** **BEMS Gymnasium**

February

1 **ISSMA Solo & Ensemble** **TBD**

May

14 **Pops Rehearsal (6th, 7th, 8th)** **7:00 PM** **BHS Stadium**

15 **Pops Festival (6th, 7th, 8th) \$5 admission** **7:00 PM** **BHS Stadium**

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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 6 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 (use your book for help)
4. Finger the notes (use your book for help)
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. Learning your instrument is a marathon, not a sprint. There will be moments that might be difficult, but working through it a huge part of developing problem-solving skills. 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. It's better to do a little each day, than one long practice session.
2. PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE PLACE TO PRACTICE.
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! There's a good chance you will recognize some of our music this year.
5. HAVE PATIENCE IN REMINDING YOUR CHILD TO PRACTICE DAILY.
6. MAKE MUSIC A FAMILY ACTIVITY. Take your child to hear a concert. Use YouTube or other resources to check out great music.
7. ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD – “Way to go! I'm so proud of you!!!”

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.

***UNIFORMS***

Sixth graders will receive new band shirts to be worn for the 5th grade convocation concert. Sizing information will be sent home when all specifics have been finalized.

WEBSITE & TWITTER

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.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

All band students are encouraged to enter the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) Solo and Ensemble contest. Events include solos, trios, quartets, etc. Soloists play with a piano accompaniment. Students arrange their own practice time after school. More complete information will be distributed in late October.

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 BWMS 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 orchestra room on the third Thursday of each month.

FUNDRAISING

Each year the boosters sponsor several fund-raising events to meet the expenses incurred by all the bands. A list of scheduled fundraisers and their start and end dates can be found in the calendar. 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.



**BEMS Beginning 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.**

9/30 – Beginning Band Open Rehearsal	7:00 PM	BEMS Café
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