

BROWNSBURG
WEST MIDDLE
SCHOOL



BROWNSBURG
BANDS

BEGINNING BAND
HANDBOOK
2024-2025



Dear Beginning Band Members and Parents,

Welcome to Beginning Band! We are excited that you have chosen 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 ccummings@brownsburg.k12.in.us or jvann@brownsburg.k12.in.us, or call 852-3143 ext. 2532.

Sincerely,
Courtney Cummings
Jasmine Vann
BWMS 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.

PLAYING ASSESSMENTS – Playing assessments will be assigned periodically to assess each student’s progress. Students are asked to submit their playing assignments through Schoology or ParentSquare.

PERFORMANCES – Performing is a very important part of band class. *Performances are listed in bold dates on the calendar below and are an expectation of the class outside the regular school day. **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.*** Please mark these dates on your calendar! *If an absence is to be excused, please notify Mrs. Cummings or Ms. Vann through email prior to the event.*

CALENDAR/IMPORTANT DATES

September

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| 30 | Beginning Band Open Rehearsal | 7:00 PM | BEMS Cafe |
|----|-------------------------------|---------|-----------|

January

| | | | |
|----|--|--|--|
| 17 | Beginning Band-Elementary Convocation Concerts | | |
|----|--|--|--|

February

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|--------------|
| 1 | ISSMA Solo/Ensemble Contest | | Location TBD |
|---|-----------------------------|--|--------------|

May

| | | | |
|----|--|---------|----------------|
| 14 | Pops Rehearsal (6 th , 7 th , 8 th) | 7:00 PM | BHS Fieldhouse |
| 15 | Pops Festival (6 th , 7 th , 8 th) \$5 admission | 7:00 PM | BHS Stadium |

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.
4. Finger the notes.
5. Play it! Start each line slowly with a feeling of good rhythm. Tap your foot. 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. Purchase CDs or recordings of good musical performances.
7. **ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD.** Hey, that sounds great!

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 (317-892-3998) flutetimes3@gmail.com @BWMS |
| Oboe | Cameron Storey cestorey@butler.edu 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) |
| Sax | Sondra Hardisty (219-393-0646) Mack Gillespie (317-500-1253) |
| Trumpet | Ziggy Garcia (915-422-8853) ziggygarcia@gmail.com @BWMS |
| French Horn | Christopher Williams cbwilliamsmusic@gmail.com |
| Trombone | Josh Davis joshd2ba@gmail.com @BWMS Dan Wilhelm (317-697-2927) wilhel1dc@gmail.com |
| Baritone | Josh Davis joshd2ba@gmail.com @BWMS Dan Wilhelm (317-697-2927) wilhel1dc@gmail.com |
| Tuba | Josh Davis joshd2ba@gmail.com @BWMS Dan Wilhelm (317-697-2927) wilhel1dc@gmail.com |
| Percussion | Kyler Altenhof kdaltenhof@gmail.com @BWMS 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 from 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 band t-shirts to be worn for the 5th grade convocation concert.

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. You can also follow Brownsburg West Bands on Instagram: @bburgwestband. ParentSquare will be used for much of our communication year.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

6th graders who are studying privately are encouraged to enter the ISSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest. Events include solos, trios, quartets, etc. Soloists have the option to play with a piano accompanist. Students arrange their own practice time after school and with their private lessons teacher. 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. You are invited to attend the meetings in the high school band room (see website calendar for meeting dates).

FUNDRAISING

Each year the boosters sponsor several fundraising events to meet the expenses incurred by all the bands. 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.





**BWMS Beginning Band Handbook
Acknowledgement of Receipt**

We hereby acknowledge that we have received a copy of the 2024 - 2025 BWMS Beginning Band Handbook for review. We have read the handbook and agree to comply with its provisions. We understand that the dates below are an expectation of the class outside the regular school day. **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.**

| | | |
|--|----------------|------------------------|
| 9/30 – 6th Grade Band Open Rehearsal | 7:00 PM | BEMS Cafetorium |
| 5/14 – Band Pops Rehearsal (6-12) | 7:00 PM | BHS Fieldhouse |
| 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

Shirt Size (please circle-adult sizes): S M L XL XXL

Date _____ Grade _____ Period _____ P/W _____

Please return this form by Friday, August 9, 2024